

# A CULTURAL WEEKEND AT THE HELLENIC CLUB OF CANBERRA FOR THE WIDER COMMUNITY OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL

*The Hellenic Club of Canberra once again actively showed its multi-cultural contribution to the wider community of the Australian Capital.*

On Saturday, 28 November the Exhibition/Fair of books in Greek and in English, CDs and DVDs opened its doors with great success. The Exhibition/Fair remained open till Sunday. The well known Greek Book Importers of Melbourne invited by the Hellenic Club, brought a wide variety of books, CDs and DVDs. As this event and the following two events were kindly advertised by all multi-cultural organisations and bodies in the Australian Capital including the City News attracted many people of non Greek background. After the enormous success of this event it was decided that such an event will be organised twice every year.

On Saturday 28 November in the Greek Kafeneio which is located on the first floor of the Hellenic Club a Greek Music Evening was organised. Panagiotis Kalandranis, Georgette Giatis and Antonis Kekatos joined forces with our local Antonis Karagiannakis playing and singing beautiful Greek songs till 2:30 in the morning! Entry was free to members and friends with a full bar at normal Hellenic Club prices. This was a pilot event. The enthusiasm, the kefi and the response of the



one of the smaller rooms of the Club, the Aegean Room which was full to capacity

audience, again of people of Greek and non Greek background prompted the Board of Directors to turned it into the regular event from February next year "Greek Music Evenings in the Kafeneio"!

On Sunday 29 November, another pilot cultural event took place at the Hellenic Club of Canberra. AT 3:00 pm, the film "First Time Godfather" was screened. The success of the screening which

commenced with two documentaries on the New Museum of the Acropolis, one on the building of it brought from Greece by the cultural advisor of the Club and the other by the Mr Papakosrtas, the Counsellor of the Greek Embassy, was unprecedented. As this event was a pilot one took place in

with a lot of people standing! A very pleasant surprise was that entire families attended the screening from grandparents to grandchildren. For this event entree

was also free to members and friends. From February next year the "Sunday Afternoons at the Greek Movies" will become a permanent cultural event at the Hellenic Club.

On Tuesday, 24 November the traditional dinner in the Trattoria Restaurant of the Hellenic Club was organised to mark the end for this year of the Greek Language and Culture Courses which have been conducted with great success at the Hellenic Club since 2000. The more than 45 students who attended the dinner had the opportunity to sample a wide variety of Greek dishes and sweets especially prepared by the Restaurant for the occasion. This year four classes

es were held each week, two for beginners, one for intermediate and one for advance students. More than 120 students attended the three terms this year. There three terms each year each of 12 weeks duration. In 2010 the classes

will commence on 8 February and there will be 4 classes. Two for beginners, one for intermediate and one for advance students.

## Elati: A jewel in the southern Pindus mountain range



*The village of Elati, one of the most popular tourist destinations during the Christmas holidays but also the year-round, is an exceptionally picturesque small village nestled in the southern part of the Pindus mountain range in Trikala prefecture, central Greece. It is built at an altitude of 950m in the middle of a fir forest, in an environment of exceptional natural beauty. Visitors have many options to experience sports such as mountaineering, skiing, trekking, cycling, horseback riding and climbing. The area is also noted for its diverse fauna and flora, including bears, wild pigs, wolves and jackals, while partridges and woodcocks nest in the woods. A plethora of cafes, traditional settlements and restaurants offering home made products are some of the treats the area may offer to visitors.*