



The students after the Agiasmo in front of the All Saints Church at Belmore.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS EVENT 2011

Greek Orthodox Schools and Colleges annual meeting

From Wednesday 4 May through to Friday 6 May, All Saints Grammar (Sydney) were the honoured hosts to this year's Greek Orthodox Archdiocese NATIONAL SCHOOLS EVENT including all Archdiocese schools and colleges around Australia.

Participating schools were:

<i>St Spyridon College</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>St Euphemia College</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>All Saints Grammar</i>	<i>NSW</i>
<i>St George College</i>	<i>SA</i>
<i>Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College "Sts Anargiri"</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>St John's College</i>	<i>VIC</i>
<i>St Andrew's College</i>	<i>WA</i>

Originally created as an opportunity for St Spyridon College and St John's College to meet and have a friendly game of soccer in 1994, this Event has now grown to include all Orthodox Schools from around Australia meeting annually to participate in a variety of sporting and cultural events over a three day period. Schools compete in various sports including: Outdoor Soccer, Indoor Soccer, Bas-

ketball, Volleyball, Netball and Table Tennis. The Opening Ceremony was held in All Saints Parish Church where Fr Christos Triandafyllou performed the Ayiasmos Service and blessed all the students present prior to commencing their sporting activities later that morning. Each school also participates in a Spoken Arts Festival held during the Event which allows each participating school to showcase each and any Language taught.

This year there were performances from participating schools in Modern Greek, Classical Greek, Italian, Serbian and English. The performances included recitations of poems, short theatrical skits, musical items and short speeches. To sit and view these performances was indeed a privilege. Just to see and hear the confidence of the students during their performances in these languages was amazing.

The level of instruction by the Language Staff at each of the schools have to be congratulated, as do the parents of the students for their added encourage-

ment in supporting their child in the sustained learning of other languages. To allow a 'family' feeling to be encouraged, each Event hold a Thanksgiving Dinner where each School's teams attend with their staff at the Host School's venue to share in a meal and spend some down time relaxing and enjoying each others company along with dancing where everyone gets involved.

Our schools have so many students from so many different backgrounds, and here it was evident that the Event brings all together regardless of their ethnicity, religion or family background. All students danced the night away however the night belonged to St George College's Sudanese students present who were dancing the various Greek dances with their unique Sudanese slant – brilliant!

The final element of the event is the Presentation of Awards that occurred on Friday, 6 May in the newly built All Saints Grammar Gymnasium which saw its first formal event that day housing 350 students from seven schools, their staff and

Heads of School. Also attending were dignitaries including Very Rev Archimandrite Sofronios representing His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos, Dr Charalambos Ladopoulos Education Consul for Australia & NZ, Mr Lefteris Dimitriades Education Consul Assistant NSW Office, Mr Pol Kouroushis Chairman of All Saints Parish and Community of Belmore & Districts, Mr Peter Theophilou Chairman of Parish & Community of St Euphemia.

Whilst All Saints Grammar hosted the event this year, each of the schools get the opportunity to host on a rotational basis. The 2012 National Schools Event will be hosted by St George College in Adelaide, SA. This Event is more than is evident - it allows opportunity for friendly, competitive activities, it allows for a sharing of cultural development and it also allows for our students to meet each year to establish links and social connectivity allowing them to meet past friends and to establish new friends from students within our Orthodox Schools.