

Media Release

The Hon Danny Pearson MP
Assistant Treasurer
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WONDERS OF ANCIENT GREECE ARRIVE AT MELBOURNE MUSEUM

The Andrews Labor Government is reconnecting Victoria's Greek community with artefacts from their past while delivering Victorians a once in a lifetime opportunity to marvel at the wonders of Ancient Greece.

Open Horizons: Ancient Greek Journeys and Connections will feature 44 precious artefacts with a 400 kilogram sculpture of Greek god Zeus as the centrepiece of the Australian-first exhibition, on show exclusively at Melbourne Museum from Saturday, 23 April.

Created in partnership with Greece's National Archaeological Museum, the exhibition showcases some of the most extraordinary items from the museum's centuries-old collection, on display for the first time outside of Greece.

The exhibition includes an impressive marble sphinx with a female head and the body of a winged lion, a collection of artefacts depicting Heracles – the greatest of all Greek heroes – and many more ornate sculptures, potteries and antiquities.

Secured by the Labor Government, *Open Horizons* will connect Victoria's Greek community to stories and relics from their ancient history while introducing a new generation of visitors to a culture that continues to have an impact on the modern world.

The opening weekend program includes story time readings for children, guided exhibition tours, hands-on activities and a special guest lecture by Dr Anna Vasiliki Karapanagiotou, Director of National Archaeological Museum on the afternoon of Saturday, 23 April.

Admission to *Open Horizons* is included with general admission to Melbourne Museum, with the exhibition running from 23 April–14 August. For more information on the program, visit museums victoria.com.au/open-horizons.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson

"Victoria is home to one of the largest Greek communities in the world and this exhibition is an opportunity for the Greek community to celebrate their rich history while showcasing their culture to visitors from across the nation."

"We're proud to bring this exclusive exhibition to Victoria, providing visitors of all ages an opportunity to learn about and connect with Ancient Greek culture, and how it continues to impact our lives today."

Quote attributable to Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Steve Dimopoulos

"Open Horizons provides a unique opportunity for Victoria's Greek community to embrace the connections we share with our former homeland, while celebrating our rich history and culture with all Victorians."

Quotes attributable to Museums Victoria CEO Lynley Crosswell

"This is a rare opportunity to experience these exquisite objects from the most significant collection of Greek antiquity in the world."

"Many of the objects have never previously travelled outside of their homeland and it is a true privilege to be able to exhibit them here at Melbourne Museum."

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