



**Stylish:** Anna Vissi's Melbourne Park show was claimed by many to be the Greek performance of 1997.

## SEPTEMBER

- Greek songstress Anna Vissi zeroes in on Melbourne and delights the crowd with her show at the Melbourne Entertainment Centre. She also makes a shopping centre appearance and a performance on Channel Nine's In Melbourne Tonight.
- Shadow Foreign Minister Laurie Brereton visits Cyprus with Shadow Attorney-General Nick Bolkus. They meet with Cypriot president Glafcos Clerides and visit the Green Line.
- Melbourne joins in the celebrations as Athens wins the right to host the 2004 Olympics. The Modern Games return to their birthplace for the first time since 1896.
- Stella Axarlis is the only Greek-Australian appointed to Prime Minister John Howard's list of delegates for the 1998 Constitutional Convention.



**Amicable meeting:** Apostolos Kakiamanos and Jeff Kennett.

## OCTOBER

- The Parliamentary President of Greece, Apostolos Kakiamanos visits Australia and meets with Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Opposition Leader Kim Beazley and Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett.
- Isak Ketsakidis returns from a Brisbane to Melbourne run in support of the Run For Life charity. Isak's run was in memory of Damanda Kambouropoulos who died of cancer earlier this year.
- The Greek Orthodox Church is delighted to see the closure of the controversial Andres Serrano exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria which featured the *Piss Christ* photograph. The Church had sent letters to Prime Minister John Howard and Gallery Director Dr Timothy Potts, expressing outrage at the photograph of a crucifix in urine.
- Greek-Australian Arthur Sinodinos is appointed Prime Minister John Howard's Chief of Staff, replacing Grahame Morris.
- Controversial Greek singer Sakis Rouvas is joined on an Australian tour by Christina Maragoi. Their performances did not attract praise.

## NOVEMBER

- The winning model for the Australian Hellenic Memorial which will be placed in the Domain Gardens, is unveiled on the Navy Ship HMAS Torrens. RSL State President Bruce Ruxton and Consul General George Veis unveil the winning design, created by Evangelos Sakaris.
- Stellos Rokkos performs a Melbourne Cup Eve show at a packed Metro, two days after a successful performance for the Lemnian community at Grand Star Receptions.
- Might And Power, owned by Sydney businessman Nick Moraitis, wins the Melbourne Cup. The four-year-old's gutsy win saw him take out the Caulfield-Melbourne Cup double.
- The team headed by reigning president George Fountas wins the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria elections with a considerable margin from the New Beginning group.
- Former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam pledges his support to an Australian group formed to apply pressure on the British Government for the return of the Elgin Marbles. Victorian and New South Welsh Premiers Jeff Kennett and Bob Carr also endorse the group's objectives.



**Winning model:** Evangelos Sakaris' design for the Australian Hellenic Memorial Foundation.