

# The Hoplitikon

## “Recreating the Past For Brighter Future”

Greek hoplites. Photograph courtesy Hoplitikon © 2007

Σparta is indeed very happy to present the eminent re-enacting group of the ancient Greek hoplites in Australia, Melbourne, entitled *Hoplitikon*. The group was first established in 1996 as a community of re-enactors. It was few years ago that the group, after its successful organization and extensive cultural and educational work was registered under the *Australian Register of Living History Organization* (ARLHO) as one of the four currently active Ancient societies in Australia.

One of the Hoplitikon’s founder, Athanasios Porporis, underlines for us that, “the *Sydney Ancients* have been established for many year’s and are held in high regard among us, as our web-site suggests, we promote research and awareness in our endeavours to educate the general public plus to open doors to new recruits to join the phalanx.”

In the past year, 2006, the group, was present in the *First International Greek Festival* in the United Kingdom with representatives of both the *Sydney Ancients* and the *Hoplitikon* of Melbourne. The Festival, orga-

nized by Paul Allan, which was also promoted by Σparta, gathered a great number of hoplites from all around the world. It was unique opportunity for both the spectators and participants to learn and interact. The group draw extremely positive comments and provided us with a unique sensation of the hoplites’ training and uniform.

“From my perspective it was an opportunity to meet, learn and understand the mechanic’s of Hoplite culture in a global network of Ancient Re-enactors. It proved very positive indeed!”

Athanasios states for the Festival and continues by pointing out the importance of such events;

“Paul Allen needs to be commended for his tireless efforts to bring us all together; he and his colleagues the Hoplite Association are truly an inspiration for those seeking to bring to life Ancient Greek culture. We, here of the Antipodes in Australia, are unique, as to say, that we are like a lost colony so far from all of you, now that is one gigantic ‘Frog Pond’”

The Hoplitikon re-enacts a long period of ancient Greek military culture, which covers the 5th, 4th and 3rd century B.C.E.

“We don’t want to be trapped in one period because the evolution of arms and armour technology needs to be represented here! With that said, it displays how the Greeks continued to break new ground in armour, weapons and tactics, to meet new challenges of invasion or mercenary endeavours. Considering that in the Mediterranean world Greek hoplites were the highest paid mercenaries due to the highest skill in warfare tactics they could offer. Our focus is to provide a window on the hoplite culture for the public, we are embarking on a policy of awareness and 21st century technology will help us achieve it.”

Hoplitikon can be found at the newly developed and full with information web-site at [www.hoplitikon.com](http://www.hoplitikon.com). We at Σparta we wish them the best for their future endeavours and we hope that they will be acknowledge further for their outstanding work!❖