

The symposia was an ancient Athenian social activity where close friends would enjoy each other's company and drink alcohol. Compared to the modern drinking culture of New Zealand it was a little bit more elegant in some ways, but not in other ways. The symposia was only for men, and it took place in the andron (men's room) of one of the participants. The purpose was similar to the purpose of the average modern party, which was to have fun and enjoy the company of friends. At the Symposia, men would drink wine and partake in activities like reciting poems or debating politics and philosophy, events that some people still enjoy today in different settings (2). The participants of the symposia indulged in various form of entertainment from slaves, like musical performances, dance, and sexual favours. Parties in modern New Zealand include music and dancing, but sexual favours does not feature as a popular activity (1). The women of the household did not take part in the symposia, but there were certain women that were allowed to. These women were called Hetairai, and they were educated prostitutes that the participants of the symposia could have a mentally stimulating conversation with, and of course if they wanted to, have sex with. The modern New Zealand party is similar to the symposia in the way that it is an event where friends enjoy each other's company with the use of alcohol as a social catalyst (1), but for young New Zealanders and their binge drinking culture, it is the consumption of alcohol that is the main purpose of a party (2).

Unlike the symposia, both men and women partake in the modern party, and because of the irresponsible way in which people drink alcohol these parties usually get out of hand and are commonly not enjoyable this is because modern parties can be large and include people that are not close friends or even strangers to each other, violence and the involvement of the police is a common outcome (2). Modern parties are not always large, however, and a lot of the time alcohol is used responsibly. This type of small gathering of close friends usually happen because of events like birthdays, or simply to watch a rugby match between our beloved All Blacks and their rivals.