



ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ
ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΑ ΖΗΛΑΝΔΙΑΣ

83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE



CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 2024

THE ODE

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

Η ΩΔΗ

*Δεν θα γεράσουν σαν εμάς, που μείναμε να γεράσουμε,
Τα γηρατειά δεν θα τους κουράσουν, Ούτε τα χρόνια θα τους καταδικάσουν
Κατά την δύση του ηλίου, και το πρωί,
Θα τους θυμόμαστε*

**PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION
OF MELBOURNE - AUSTRALIA**

P.O. BOX 4512,
KNOX CITY CENTRE, VIC. 3152

**CRETAN FEDERATION OF
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

ΕΤΩΣ ΙΔΡΥΣΕΩΣ 1980

**CRETAN BROTHERHOOD
OF MELBOURNE & VICTORIA**

148 - 150 NICHOLSON STREET,
EAST BRUNSWICK, VIC. 3057

**CRETAN ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND**

P.O. BOX 5172,
WEST END, QLD. 4101

POSTAL ADDRESS :

Unit 1 / 57 Sydenham Road,
Marrickville NSW 2204

**CRETAN ASSOCIATION
OF SYDNEY & N.S.W.**

1/57 SYDENHAM ROAD,
MARRICKVILLE, N.S.W. 2204

OFFICE :

Unit 1 / 57 Sydenham Road,
Marrickville NSW 2204

**CRETAN ASSOCIATION
OF CANBERRA & DISTRICTS**

G.P.O. BOX 2128,
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2601

MOBILE :

+ 61 418 125 081

**CRETAN ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND**

P. O. BOX 6050
WELLINGTON 6011, N.Z.

EMAIL :

president@cretan.com.au

EMAIL :

admin@cretan.com.au

**CRETAN ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

220 PORT ROAD,
ALBERTON, S.A. 5014

WEBSITE :

www.cretan.com.au

**CRETAN ASSOCIATION
OF TASMANIA**

54 LIPSCOMBE AVENUE,
SANDY BAY, TAS. 7005

FACEBOOK :

Cretan Federation of
Australia and New Zealand

**CRETAN BROTHERHOOD
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

39 PAPERBARK WAY,
MORLEY, W.A. 6062

**CRETAN ASSOCIATION
OF NORTHERN TERRITORY**

P.O. BOX 1720,
BERRIMAH, N.T. 0828

INSTAGRAM :

Cretan Federation of Australia
and New Zealand (@cretanfedausz)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Cretans and Friends,

83 years have passed, since the historic Battle of Crete. A terrible period in World History that unfortunately arrived on the shores of our island in May 1941.

The geographical position of our island in the Mediterranean Sea, has been both a blessing and a curse. Our island has always caught the eye of would-be invaders for its geo-strategic value.

Nazi Germany was no exception. Hitler and his Generals new Crete must be taken and held, if they were to eventually expand south and eastward.

Once again, the brave and defiant people of Crete were called upon to defend her honour. This time, they had next to them, the equally brave and defiant men and women of the Australian and New Zealand Armies, supported by other Commonwealth and British Forces.

All of the defenders knew beforehand, that they would be out-resourced and out-gunned by the until-then undefeated German Army. But that didn't matter! They prepared as best they could with what they had brought with them from their withdrawal from Mainland Greece.

The defenders of Crete, from Australia and New Zealand fought side by side with the local Cretan population for 12 days. The Germans faced fierce and ferocious resistance, suffering just over 30% casualties. This was unheard of prior to May 1941.

Yes, the Battle ended in defeat for the Allies, but the friendships forged between the "ANZACS" and the Cretans have lasted - 83yrs and counting.

I am extremely proud, as an Australian born Cretan, of both the brave soldiers from the country of my birth and the people of my heritage. I honour their sacrifice and will always remember what they did.

ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ

LEST WE FORGET.

Emmanuel Mountakis
President



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA

Dearly beloved fellow Cretans,

Christ is Risen!

With great spiritual joy and profound honour and pride, I take the opportunity to communicate with you once again to express my wishes and convey to you my paternal blessings on the occasion of the 83rd anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

The famous quote that exclaims: "Greeks fight like Heroes but Heroes fight like Greeks" runs true for the courage and self-sacrifice of both the Greek soldiers and the Cretan civilians, men and women, who defended the island of Crete, together with the Allied forces against the German invasion which began on the 20th of May 1941. The valiant spirit of the Cretans was truly inspired by their faith in God and their love for their homeland. The bravery of the Cretans and of the Greeks at large during the Second World War truly inspired people of other nations, and even the adversaries, to admire their valor and spirit of defiance.

We give praise and thanksgiving to our all-compassionate Lord God Jesus Christ, and we entreat Him that He grants eternal repose to our fellow Cretans for their great sacrifice, and to all those who fought alongside them, in defending our motherland.

I wish to express my sincere congratulations to the President, Board Members, and all the members and supporters of the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand for their passion, commitment and dedication in annually commemorating the Battle of Crete, as it is fundamentally vital for all of us to remember, honour, and pray for the souls of our ancestors who fought, defended and fell, so that freedom may abound abundantly for all of us today.

I convey to you all my paternal blessings, and I pray that Christ our Risen Lord, who is the source of life and love, the truth and the resurrection, may grant all of you heavenly joy, health, spiritual prosperity, and the abundance of divine blessings.

With much love in Christ our God, I remain,

In Sydney, on the 7th day of May, 2024

With fervent paternal prayers

† **Archbishop MAKARIOS of Australia**



HOLY ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ZEALAND



Αγαπητοί μου Κρήτες της Ωκεανίας, Κρήτες του κόσμου όλου, ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ !

Οι μέρες αυτές κάνουν τη σκέψη και την αμφίβολη μας να τρέχουν στην Κρήτη μας, στους γενναίους προγόνους μας, στην ένδοξη ιστορία μας για να αντλήσουμε διδάγματα, δύναμη, κουράγιο και έμπνευση.

83 έτη μετά. Χιλιάδες χιλιόμετρα μακριά. Ζούμε την πίστη μας. Αφουγκραζόμαστε την ιστορία. Διατηρούμε ζωντανή τη μνήμη. Αισθανόμαστε την υπερηφάνεια της καταγωγής μας.

Εμφορούμαστε με την ίδια αγάπη για την ελευθερία. Διαπνεόμαστε από τα ίδια ιδανικά. Υιοθετούμε το ίδιο φρόνημα. Μεταλαμπαδεύουμε το πνεύμα τους.

Απειρη η ευγνωμοσύνη μας και αμέτρητα τα ευχαριστώ μας προς όλους τους γενναίους της Κρήτης. Μας έδωσαν ύπαρξη και ελευθερία. Μας έμαθαν την προσπάθεια για το αδύνατο. Με όποιο κόστος. Μα με πίστη. Πίστη ζωντανή, αταλάντευτη, αληθινή.

Ας είναι αιωνία η μνήμη και η τιμή των ηρωικώς αγωνισαμένων και των ευκλεώς πεσόντων στην Μάχη της Κρήτης το 1941.

Εν Ουέλλινγκτον 1^η Μαΐου 2024

Μετά θερμών και εγκαρδίων ευχών

† Νέας Ζηλανδίας Μύρων





GOVERNOR GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA

It is a privilege for me to contribute a message for the 83rd anniversary of the Battle of Crete. I commend the Cretan Federation of Australia & New Zealand for commemorating the battle in this way.

The experiences on the battlefields of Heraklion, Rethymno and 42nd Street during the Battle of Crete helped forge the enduring bonds of friendship between Australia and Greece.

Australians and Greeks fought together. Locals, based in the mountains, provided a haven for wounded and sick allied soldiers, putting their own lives at risk. These acts of bravery and kindness helped create the mutual respect that exists between Australia and Greece today.

This is now our common history.

In May last year Linda and I were proud to be able to commemorate that history during an official visit to Greece by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Syntagma Square, Athens.

In this 83rd anniversary year of the Battle of Crete, we remember and honour the service and sacrifice of Australian, British, New Zealand and Greek soldiers who fought in World War II. And in honouring our service men and women, we recognise the impact of that service on their families.

LEST WE FORGET.

**His Excellency General
The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)**



MINISTER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

There are few moments in history that better embody the Anzac and Greek spirits of resilience and mateship like the Battle of Crete.

In May 1941, Australian, New Zealand, British and Greek forces and local Cretans stood together to make a final stand against the German and Italian invasion of Greece.

Poorly-armed and with little to no support, these soldiers fought valiantly against a better supplied enemy, fresh from victories across Europe.

Almost 800 Australians were killed or wounded in the Battle of Crete, and some 3,000 were captured.

While the island ultimately fell, the Cretan people never gave up the defence of their homeland.

Many continued to fight with, support and shelter the rag-tag groups of Allied soldiers who evaded the occupying forces for several months, living in the island's rugged mountain ranges.

As our friend, 105 year old veteran of the Battle of Crete Arthur Leggett, has shared, the Cretan villagers were unbelievably generous, risking their own lives to provide food and shelter for Aussie troops hiding out on the island.

The Aussies and the Greeks worked hand in hand in that battle and long after, our close friendship continues today.

Eighty three years on, as the great nephew of one of the Australian fallen in Crete, I'm proud to join you to unveil a new memorial to commemorate our enduring relationship here in WA.

A relationship forged in the most difficult of circumstances.

Thank you to all those that have helped make this memorial a reality including the Battle of Crete Memorial Committee WA, The Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand, and many others.

Your dedication to preserving the memory of those that fought and died in defence of Crete stands as an inspiration to us all.

LEST WE FORGET.

Hon. Matt Keogh MP





MINISTER OF DEFENCE NEW ZEALAND

More than 80 years may have passed since the Greek Campaign and Battle of Crete, but the bonds of friendship and mutual respect first forged between New Zealand and the Greek community have defied distance and the passage of time. They will continue to do so.

In 1941 New Zealand, and its British and Australian allies, fought alongside the Greek Army and the people of Greece in a desperate struggle to stave off the advance of fascism. The defenders of Crete showed great valour and suffered grievous losses. They may have been beaten on the battlefield, but their spirit was never conquered. Nothing shows this better than the way in which the men and women of Crete risked their lives and everything that was most precious to them to hide and care for New Zealanders evading the occupying forces. These ordinary people were heroes who, over weeks, months and years, endured great hardship and showed tremendous courage in order to do what was right in the face of brutal repression.

After the fall of Crete, New Zealanders continued to support the Greek resistance by being part of the Special Operations Group operating on the Greek mainland and on Crete. Notable among this group was renowned New Zealand author Lieutenant Colonel John Mulgan and Captain Donald Stott, recommended for the Victoria Cross and twice awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his exploits behind enemy lines.

In 1945 a large party of New Zealand veterans, led by Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Freyberg VC, returned to Crete to pay their respects at the graves of their fallen comrades and to thank all those who had supported and fought with them. They brought with them a message from the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Peter Fraser. In part his message read:

We are deeply conscious of New Zealand's debt to the Greek nation for their gallantry and self-sacrifice in sheltering many of our men. . . . I send sincerest wishes for the happiness and prosperity of your country from your friends and comrades in New Zealand.

Today the memory of our shared ordeal during the Second World War remains a key strand in the strong and diverse bonds that link New Zealand with Crete and the rest of Greece.

The very core of this relationship remains the same now as it was then and will continue to be a shared commitment and willingness to defend freedom and human rights.

Hon. Judith Collins KC



CHIEF OF HELLENIC NATIONAL DEFENCE

General Dimitrios Choupis was born in 1965 at Nea Kerdyllia, Serres. He was admitted to the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon) in 1983 and graduated in 1987 as Signals Second Lieutenant. As a fourth class cadet (1986-1987) he was First Captain of the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon).

He graduated with honours from all schools and courses of his Branch, from the two-year long Signals Officers Telecommunications and Electronics School course (as an RF Electrical Engineer, A Class), as well as from the Army War College with distinction. He attended Signals and Special Forces Courses in Greece and respective NATO courses in Germany (Long Range Patrol, Communications – Cryptography, Electronic Warfare Operations Planning, Human Resources Management). He is an active freefall parachutist. In 2012, he was selected to attend the NATO Defence College (SC-121).

During his career as a junior and senior Officer, he served in Signals, Electronic Warfare, Electronic Surveillance, and Special Forces Units. He served for three years as Squad Leader in the Special Parachutist Unit. As a Staff Officer, he served in Formation and Major Formation staffs and the Hellenic Army General Staff. As a Commander, he served for two years in the EW Company of D Army Corps (Xanthi), as Commander of the Signals Company of the Hellenic Contingent in Cyprus, Signals Commander of the II Mechanised Infantry Division (Edessa), and Unit Commander of the 472nd Surveillance/Intelligence Battalion of the Higher Military Command of Interior and Islands (UAV). He served for three years in the International Staff of the Hellenic Military Delegation in NATO (Brussels, 2006-2009) as Allied Communications Planning Staff Officer in Afghanistan (ISAF) following his successful certification as Project Manager Practitioner by NATO, Chief of Staff of the 80th Higher National Guard Battalions Command (2013-2014), Section Chief for Current Operations (HAGS/A1) in the Hellenic Army General Staff (2014-2015), and Director of the Executive Office of the 1st Deputy Chief of HAGS (Operations – Defence Planning – Training) (2015-2016).

As a General Officer (Brigadier General) as of 2016, he was assigned as Director of the Recruited Soldiers Division of HAGS (2016-2017), Commanding General of the 80th Higher National Guard Battalions Command (2017-2018), and Deputy Commandant of the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon) (2018-2019). In 2019, he was promoted to Major General and assigned as Commandant of the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon), in 2020 as Commanding General of the 95th Higher National Guard Battalions Command (Diagoridon), and in 2021 as Director of the E Staff Directorate (Military Intelligence – Security) of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff.

On 9 April 2022, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and assigned as Commanding General of the Higher Military Command of Interior and Islands.

On 17 January 2023, he was assigned as Commanding General of the Special Warfare Command.

On 12 January 2024, upon decision of the Governmental National Security Council, he was promoted to General and appointed as Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (HNDGS).

He has been awarded all decorations, medals, and commendations provided for his rank, as well as the Parachutist badge of 5 NATO nations.

He holds a PhD with distinction from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens on Information Dissemination Systems. He holds Masters degrees on “Strategy and Diplomacy” and “Strategic Planning and Crisis Management” and has graduated from the postgraduate “lifelong learning” seminar of the Continuing Education Institute, under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence. He is a regular member of the Air Academy and has published numerous scientific papers, articles, studies, and articles for international journals and conferences on matters related to his PhD, cryptosecurity (chaotic cryptology – fractals), cyber warfare strategy, and special UAV matters.

He is fluent in English and French. He is married with 3 children (one daughter, a clinical dietician, and two sons, Special Forces Officers).

General Dimitrios Choupis





HELLENIC NATIONAL DEFENCE

Ο Αντιναύαρχος Χρήστος Σασιάκος ΠΝ κατάγεται από την Κ. Τιθορέα Φθιώτιδος και εισήχθη στη Σχολή Ναυτικών Δοκίμων το 1984, από την οποία αποφοίτησε και ονομάσθηκε Μάχιμος Σημαιοφόρος το 1988.

Η επιχειρησιακή του εμπειρία περιλαμβάνει υπηρεσία σε Φρεγάτες (Φ/Γ) του Στόλου ως Αξιωματικός Κέντρου Επιχειρήσεων (ΚΕΠΙΧ), Αξιωματικός Συνεννόησης (Σν), Διευθυντής Επιχειρήσεων και Ύπαρχος ενώ διετέλεσε Κυβερνήτης στην Κ/Φ ΝΙΚΗ και στη Φ/Γ ΕΛΛΗ.

Έχει υπηρετήσει ως Τμηματάρχης και Διευθυντής σε Διευθύνσεις Επικοινωνιών και Επιχειρήσεων του ΑΣ (ΑΣ/Α4 και ΑΣ/Α3), ως Τμηματάρχης και Διευθυντής σε Διευθύνσεις, Σταδιοδρομίας (ΓΕΝ/Β3), ως Διευθυντής του Επιτελικού Γραφείου Α/ΓΕΝ, ως Διευθυντής Επιχειρησιακής Αξιολογήσεως του Στόλου (ΑΣ/ΔΕΠΑ), ως Διευθυντής Κλάδου Οπλικών και Ηλεκτρονικών Συστημάτων, Πολιτικής ΔΜ, Υποδομών και Δημοσίων Έργων (ΔΚΓ/ΓΕΝ) καθώς και ως Διευθυντής Εξοπλισμών (ΓΕΝ/ΔΕΞ). Επίσης υπηρέτησε ως επιτελής στο Στρατιωτικό Επιτελείο της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης και συγκεκριμένα στη διεύθυνση Plans and Policy Directorate of the European Military Staff.

Έχει διατελέσει Διοικητής 1ης Μοίρας Φρεγατών, Διοικητής Διοικήσεως Φρεγατών και Διοικητής Σχολής Ναυτικών Δοκίμων.

Με την υπ' αριθμ. 2/2024 από φαση ΚΥΣΕΑ, ανέλαβε τα καθήκοντα του Υπαρχηγού ΓΕΕΘΑ.

Έχει διέλθει όλα τα απαιτούμενα σταδιοδρομικά σχολεία του Πολεμικού Ναυτικού και των Ενόπλων Δυνάμεων συμπεριλαμβανομένης της Ανώτατης Διακλαδικής Σχολής Πολέμου (ΑΔΙΣΠΟ).

Τέλος είναι κάτοχος μεταπτυχιακού τίτλου Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering.

Κατέχει όλα τα προβλεπόμενα από το βαθμό του Μετάλλια και Παράσημα των ελληνικών Ενόπλων Δυνάμεων, καθώς και Διαμνημονεύσεις συμμετοχής σε Επιχειρήσεις Διατήρησης Ειρήνης ΟΗΕ.

Είναι έγγαμος και έχει δύο υιούς.

Ομιλεί την Αγγλική γλώσσα.

**Αντιναύαρχος
Χρήστος Σασιάκος**



HELLENIC NATIONAL DEFENCE

Captain Pavlos Angelopoulos GRC N, was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1971. He joined the Hellenic Naval Academy in 1990 and graduated in 1994 as Ensign of the Hellenic Navy.

His operational service includes assignments on board surface units, mainly on Frigates. He served as Executive Officer of HS NAVARINON, and as Commanding Officer of FPB XENOS. During his sea-service he took part in operations “SHARP GUARD”, “OCEAN SHIELD”, and “UNIFIL”.

His staff assignments include tours in the Hellenic Navy General Staff (HNGS), as Aide-de-camp, to the Chief of HNGS, and as Staff Officer responsible for NATO & EU affairs, in the Policy Section. He also served as Deputy Director in the Executive Office of the Chief of Hellenic National Defense General Staff (HNDGS).

Stationed abroad, he served as Maritime Operations Section Head, in the Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Center of Excellence (CJOS COE), in Norfolk, USA.

Captain Pavlos Angelopoulos is a graduate of the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College and the Hellenic National Defence College.

He holds Master’s degrees in Electrical Engineering (MSEE) and in Engineering Acoustics (MSEA), both obtained by the US Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).

He has been awarded with all the Hellenic medals, decorations, and commendations stipulated for an officer of his rank, including the Meritorious Service Medal of the United States.

Captain Angelopoulos is married and has one son and one daughter.

He speaks English.

Captain Pavlos Angelopoulos GRC N





HELLENIC NATIONAL DEFENCE

Ο Πλωτάρχης (Ε) Στυλιανός Μητσιώτης ΠΝ είναι Επιτελής του 1ου Τμήματος της Διεύθυνσης Δημοσίων Σχέσεων του ΓΕΕΘΑ από τον Αύγουστο του 2017.

Γεννήθηκε στις 15 Νοεμβρίου του 1973 στα Ιωάννινα. Εισήχθη στη Σχολή Μονίμων Υπαξιωματικών Ναυτικού το 1990 και ονομάστηκε Κελευστής Μηχανικός, το 1993.

Έχει φοιτήσει σε όλα τα προβλεπόμενα σταδιοδρομικά σχολεία του Πολεμικού Ναυτικού, συμπεριλαμβανομένων του Σχολείου Διοίκησης και Επιτελών Ναυτικού (ΣΔΙΕΠΝ), του Διακλαδικού Ινστιτούτου Γλωσσομάθειας Ενόπλων Δυνάμεων, Σχολείου επιστασίας βλαβών (Ε/Β) και Ραδιοβιοχημικού Πολέμου του Βασιλικού Ναυτικού του Ην. Βασιλείου και τη Νατοϊκή Σχολή Oberammergau με αντικείμενο «NATO Public Affairs Officer».

Έχει υπηρετήσει σε πλοία του Πολεμικού Ναυτικού, Φ/Γ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑ, Πυραυλακάτους και Πλοία Υποστήριξης για περισσότερα από 17 χρόνια, εκ των οποίων τα 3 έτη συνολικά ως Αοσ Μηχανικός.

Επιπρόσθετα έχει διατελέσει ως Επιτελής στο Γενικό Επιτελείο Ναυτικού στη Διεύθυνση Δημοσίων Σχέσεων και στο Γραφείο Εθιμοτυπίας και Δημοσίων Σχέσεων του Υπουργείου Εθνικής Άμυνας.

Μιλάει Αγγλικά και Κινεζικά. Είναι έγγαμος. Κατέχει όλα τα προβλεπόμενα από το βαθμό του Μετάλλια και Διαμνημονεύσεις των Ελληνικών Ενόπλων Δυνάμεων.

Πλωτάρχης
Στυλιανός Μητσιώτης



HELLENIC NATIONAL DEFENCE



Colonel Ioannis Fasianos entered the Hellenic Army Academy “EVELPIDON” in 1988 and graduated in 1992, as an Infantry officer. Upon completion of the Infantry School training, he served as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander in various Infantry Units, an instructor at the “EVELPIDON” Academy and Deputy Commander, Chief S2 (Intelligence) /Chief S3 (Operations) of the Island Defense Command “MEGISTI”. During his career as a junior officer, he participated in various Field Training Exercises (FTX) of NATO, Partnership for Peace Initiative (PfP) and South East Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG).

From 2004 to 2006, he served as Aide-de-Camp to the Chief of Hellenic Army General Staff (HAGS), and in 2005 he was promoted to the rank of Major.

The period 2006-2008, he served as a Strategic Policy officer in the HAGS and in 2009, he was appointed Chief G5 (Plans) of the 31st Mechanized Infantry Brigade.

In 2010, he was appointed Deputy Commander of the 535 Mechanized Infantry Battalion. In 2011, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and he assumed the command of the Battalion for the next 2 years.

In 2013, he was assigned in Brussels at the European Union Military Staff/ Operations Directorate/Crisis Response Planning-Current Operations Branch (EUMS/OPS/CRP-COP), as Action Officer, monitoring EU Op ALTHEA in Bosnia-Herzegovina and preparing Military Advice to the EU Military Committee.

In 2016, he was appointed at the HAGS/D' Division as the General's Cabinet Director. In 2017, he was promoted to Colonel and next year he joined the Hellenic National Defence General Staff/ D4 (Defense Policy Directorate) as EU Branch Chief.

In 2019, he assumed command of “EVELPIDON” Cadet's Regiment and in 2020 he was appointed Director of Studies at the Infantry School of the Hellenic Army.

Since Oct 2021, he is the Defence Attaché of Greece in Australia.

Colonel Fasianos speaks English and French. He holds a Bachelor from the “PANTEION” University of Athens/ Department of International and European Studies, a MA in Strategic Security Studies from the same University and a MS in Management from the VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB). He is a graduate of the Hellenic Army Staff College, the College Supérieur D' État Major (CSEM) of the French Army, the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College and the National Defence Academy.

Colonel I. Fasianos is single. His hobbies include reading, jogging and painting.

Colonel

Ioannis Fasianos

Defence Atache In Canberra





AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN GREECE

As we mark 83 years since the Battle of Crete, we remember and pay tribute to the Greek, Australian, New Zealand and UK forces who fought shoulder to shoulder and gave their lives to defend freedom in the face of a looming darkness.

The Battle of Crete has been etched in history for the indomitable spirit the Cretan people displayed in the face of a disproportionately superior military power. The last bulwark in Greece, Crete was the site where Greeks defied the odds, overcame fear, and mustered all their strength to fight for their values and freedom.

Australian servicemen and women joined this desperate struggle with immense courage and sense of responsibility. Far from their homes, they were welcomed by the Cretan people who became their brothers in arms. After the battle ended, hundreds of Australian soldiers were offered shelter and protection by the Cretan people at great personal risk. The bonds that were forged during the battle and in the months that followed endure to this day.

The Battle of Crete was lost, but the sacrifice of the men and women who defended Crete has never been forgotten.

The Battle of Crete and its aftermath have come to symbolise the endless reserves of the human spirit. Across the decades, it continues to remind us of the heavy cost of war and invites us to contemplate the values that are worth fighting for.

We are forever grateful to our men and women for their service and to the Greek people for protecting them in their time of need.

HE Ms Alison Duncan



Australian Embassy
Athens

GREEK AMBASSADOR IN AUSTRALIA

Η κατοχή της Ελλάδας από τα ναζιστικά στρατεύματα έχει μείνει στη συνείδηση των Ελλήνων ως σκοτεινή περίοδος, λόγω των ανθρωπίνων θυσιών, των δεινών και των καταστροφών που υπέστη η Ελλάδα. Η Μάχη της Κρήτης τον Μάιο 1941, μετά το ελληνικό έπος στην Αλβανία, είναι μια λαμπρή σελίδα που αξίζει να θυμόμαστε κάθε χρόνο. Μπορεί να επικράτησαν οι δυνάμεις του Άξονα, η νίκη τους όμως ήταν πύρρεια. Η ηρωική Αντίσταση των Ελλήνων, Αυστραλών, Νεοζηλανδών, Βρετανών από κοινού με τον άμαχο πληθυσμό της Κρήτης προανήγγειλε ότι οι έως τότε ανίκητες γερμανικές δυνάμεις θα μπορούσαν να ηττηθούν.

Η γενναιότητα με την οποία πολέμησαν οι συμμαχικές δυνάμεις και η αντίσταση του ηρωικού κρητικού λαού, η τόλμη, το θάρρος, η αυτοθυσία του υπήρξαν ανυπέβλητες, προκαλώντας έως σήμερα τον θαυμασμό. Ιδιαίτερη μνεία θα ήθελα να κάνω στους νέους Έλληνες Ευέλπιδες που πήραν το βάπτισμα του πυρός και έχυσαν το αίμα τους στη Μάχη της Κρήτης.

Οι δέκα μέρες του ηρωικού αγώνα σμίλευσαν δεσμούς ακατάλυτους μεταξύ των Συμμάχων. Σήμερα, ογδόντα τρία χρόνια μετά, θυμόμαστε τους αγωνιστές, τιμούμε τη μνήμη τους και εορτάζουμε μαζί. Οι άνθρωποι που αντιστάθηκαν τότε στις δυνάμεις του ολοκληρωτισμού άνοιξαν το δρόμο για τις ελεύθερες και δημοκρατικές κοινωνίες στις οποίες εμείς, οι απόγονοί τους, ζούμε και τις αξίες τους μοιραζόμαστε.

Σταύρος Βενιζέλος





GREEK CONSUL-GENERAL SYDNEY

Συμπληρώνονται φέτος ογδόντα τρία έτη από την ηρωική Μάχη της Κρήτης, μιας μάχης που έμελλε να αφήσει το ανεξίτηλο σημάδι της στις σχέσεις Ελλάδος και Αυστραλίας, λειτουργώντας ως σημείο αναφοράς και πόλος έλξης για τη μετέπειτα μαζική μετανάστευση Ελλήνων προς την Πέμπτη Ήπειρο.

Αποτίουμε, λοιπόν, με την προσήκουσα ευλάβεια και σεβασμό, φόρο τιμής στους συμπατριώτες μας, αλλά και στους χιλιάδες Αυστραλούς και Νεοζηλανδούς μαχητές που στάθηκαν στο πλευρό των Ελλήνων κατά τη δύσκολη αυτή περίοδο. Μερικοί εξ αυτών άφησαν την τελευταία τους πνοή στα χώματα της Κρήτης, άλλοι τραυματίστηκαν και άλλοι αιχμαλωτίστηκαν στα ναζιστικά στρατόπεδα. Τιμούμε επίσης τη θυσία και των ηρωισμό των άμαχων Κρητών, διότι οφείλουμε να μη λησμονούμε ότι την επαύριον την Μάχης της Κρήτης ακολούθησαν μαζικά αντίποινα εις βάρος του τοπικού πληθυσμού.

Η Μάχη της Κρήτης δεν είναι μόνο σημαντική ως ιστορικό γεγονός, ως παράδειγμα ανδρείας και αυτοθυσίας, αποτελεί επίσης σημαντική παρακαταθήκη για το μέλλον. Αποτελεί γέφυρα φιλίας και περαιτέρω σύσφιξης των σχέσεων μεταξύ Ελλάδος και Αυστραλίας. Στο πλαίσιο αυτό, θα ήθελα να συγχαρώ την Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας, αλλά και την τοπική οργάνωση Κρητών της Νέας Νοτίου Ουαλίας για το γεγονός ότι κάθε χρόνο τιμούν τη Μάχη της Κρήτης, μεταλαμπαδεύοντας τα διδάγματα από την ηρωική αυτή στιγμή της σύγχρονης ιστορίας του νησιού στις νέες γενιές Ελλήνων της Αυστραλίας.

Τέλος, εύχομαι κάθε επιτυχία και στις φετινές εκδηλώσεις, όπως αρμόζει σε μια τόσο σημαντική επέτειο της ελληνικής ιστορίας. Για εμάς τους Έλληνες, η Μάχη της Κρήτης έχει χαραχθεί με χρυσά γράμματα στη συλλογική μας μνήμη και στην ιστορία του θρυλικού αυτού νησιού, πλάι στο Αρκάδι και στο έπος του Δασκαλογιάννη.

Ιωάννης Στ. Μαλλικούρτης



GREEK CONSUL-GENERAL MELBOURNE

Η Μάχη της Κρήτης, τον Μάιο του 1941, πρωτότυπη και παράτολμη μάχη στην ιστορία των πολέμων, εξακολουθεί να προκαλεί ρίγη συγκινήσεως και θαυμασμό για την γενναιότητα και το ψυχικό σθένος του κρητικού λαού.

Η ηρωική, παλλαϊκή άμυνα που δημιουργήθηκε αυθόρμητα, όταν ο ουρανός ξαφνικά σκοτεινίασε από τα σμήνη των αεροπλάνων και τον σφοδρό βομβαρδισμό και πολυβολισμό που επακολούθησε, ενώ αλεξίπτωτα παντός χρώματος μετεωρίζονταν στον ουρανό της Κρήτης, προσέδωσε ιδιαίτερη μορφή και χαρακτήρα στη μάχη.

Οι Κρήτες πάλεψαν με ηρωισμό και αυτοθυσία, στο πλευρό των συμμαχικών δυνάμεων Άγγλων, Αυστραλών, Νεοζηλανδών, αποδεικνύοντας ότι η Ελευθερία είναι ταυτόσημη με την κρητική ψυχή.

Μετά από αγώνα δέκα ημερών έληξε η μάχη, με την πύρρειο νίκη των γερμανικών δυνάμεων. Ωστόσο η μάχη αυτή αποτελεί εποποιία για την ιστορία του Έθνους και ειδικότερα για τον Κρητικό λαό και μάθημα ελευθερίας για όλους όσους έχουν προτάξει στην ζωή τους αυτό το ιδανικό.

Εμμανουήλ Κακαβελάκης



GREEK CONSUL-GENERAL ADELAIDE

Τιμούμε, αυτήν την περίοδο, την επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης, με βαθύ σεβασμό σε όσους θυσιάσαν τη ζωή τους στον βωμό της ελευθερίας και την μάχη κατά του ναζισμού. Εδώ στη Νότια Αυστραλία, τιμούμε ιδιαίτερα τους πεσόντες στρατιώτες ANZAC που πολέμησαν στα πάτρια εδάφη μας για να απωθήσουν τη γερμανική εισβολή.

Οι θηριωδίες της αιματηρής μάχης διήρκησαν από τις 20 Μαΐου μέχρι και την 1η Ιουνίου 1941. Δυστυχώς η Μάχη της Κρήτης χάθηκε, αλλά οι Σύμμαχοι κέρδισαν, τελικά, τον Β΄ Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο και πέρασαν στη σωστή πλευρά της ιστορίας.

Η συμμετοχή των Αυστραλών στρατιωτών στη Μάχη της Κρήτης είχε ως αποτέλεσμα να γνωρίσουν την όμορφη Ελλάδα και να έλθουν σε ώσμωση με τον φιλόξενο ελληνικό λαό, συντελώντας έτσι στην εμπέδωση της φιλίας μεταξύ των δύο λαών μας. Οι δεσμοί φιλίας που σφυρηλατήθηκαν εν μέσω του πολέμου έχουν χαραχθεί στις καρδιές μας μέχρι και σήμερα.

Αιώνια η μνήμη των πεσόντων!

Ζήτω η Ελλάδα!

Ζήτω η Αυστραλία!

Γιώργος Ψιάχας





GREEK CONSUL-GENERAL PERTH

Οι πιο δυνατές φιλίες είναι αυτές που δημιουργούνται και στεριώνουν μέσα από δύσκολες συνθήκες. Έτσι χτίστηκε και η φιλία μεταξύ Ελλήνων και Αυστραλών, στο πεδίο της Μάχης.

Η προσέγγιση των δύο λαών είχε ήδη αρχίσει με τις πρώτες αφίξεις των Ελλήνων σε αυτή τη μακρινή Ήπειρο, αλλά και με την παρουσία των Anzac στη μακρινή για αυτούς Λήμνο κατά τον Πρώτο Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο. Είναι όμως η Μάχη της Κρήτης που σφυρηλατήσε το δυνατό δεσμό που διαρκεί μέχρι σήμερα.

Η επέτειος της Μάχης της Κρήτης εορτάζεται με τιμή και συγκίνηση κάθε χρόνο, τόσο στην Αυστραλία και στην Ελλάδα. Όσο απομακρυνόμαστε από τα γεγονότα εκείνης της εποχής, όσο φεύγουν από κοντά μας οι άνθρωποι που τα έζησαν, ο εορτασμός αυτής της επετείου γίνεται ακόμα πιο σημαντικός, για να διατηρηθεί ζωντανή η μνήμη, για να συνεχίσουμε να τιμούμε και να ευγνωμονούμε εκείνους που θυσίασαν τόσα για έναν ελεύθερο κόσμο, για να μην επαναλάβουμε τα λάθη του παρελθόντος.

Στη Δυτική Αυστραλία έχουμε ακόμα τη χαρά να μας τιμά με την παρουσία του ο τελευταίος Βετεράνος της Μάχης της Κρήτης στην Αυστραλία, ο 105χρονος Arthur Leggett. Φέτος, στην 83η επέτειο της Μάχης, παρουσία του κ. Leggett αλλά και πλήθους Υψηλών Προσκεκλημένων, η Δυτική Αυστραλία θα ζήσει μία μοναδική, ιστορική στιγμή. Ένα όραμα που ξεκίνησε πριν από περίπου 8 χρόνια γίνεται πραγματικότητα στις 11 Μαΐου, με τα εγκαίνια του μεγαλοπρεπούς Μνημείου, αφιερωμένου ειδικά στη Μάχη της Κρήτης, στο Kings Park της πόλης της Πέρθης.

Μία στιγμή περηφάνειας για τον Ελληνισμό της Δυτικής Αυστραλίας και όχι μόνο.

Ζήτω η Αυστραλία, long live Greece!

Γεωργία Καρασιώτου



WORLD COUNCIL OF CRETANS



This year we commemorate the 83rd anniversary of the Battle of Crete. We will all again commemorate in our major Australian and New Zealand cities. We will thank those that paid the ultimate price, the 'Forgotten ANZACS' and the people of Crete for their sacrifices, their courage, their honour and their perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds so that we can be here now with the freedom we enjoy.

Some things you may not know about the Battle was that the Battle of Rethymnon was the only British victory in Crete and it was lost when the other battlefields were evacuated. The invasion plans for Crete were known to the British through the breaking of the Enigma codes. Almost 30,000 defenders from the UK, Australia, and New Zealand, 11000 from Greece and a total of 47,000 were stationed to defend Crete but the Commonwealth forces were under strict orders not to reveal the impending invasion. They outnumbered the Germans as they did not have adequate communications, or heavy weapons. Crete was vital as the crossroads of the major shipping lanes to the Black Sea and the Middle East.

The German's were aerially superior and decided to exploit the advantage by seizing the idled in a mass assault by their elite aerial troops. They paid a heavy price for their invasion with nearly 9500 landing on the first day, and while it was the first major parachute attack in the history of warfare, the allies suffered heavy losses, 9 ships sunk, 18 heavily damages, 4000 dead, 2000 wounded and 11,300 captured. The Cretan people also suffered heavy losses and was one of the highest casualty losses, nearly 3000 civilians however the Axis powers lost 7,000 of their 22,000 troops. They would never again use large-scale airborne operations because of Crete.

Crete paid a huge price however it also was instrumental in the fight back. The Germans would remain unaware that their Enigma codes had been broke providing a strategic advantage to the Allies. The Battle of Crete, with its Forgotten ANZACS would become an inspiration. The Cretan people rallied to support those who fought with them then.

This support continues today, as is evident in the number of Cretans who call Australia and New Zealand home. Their contribution in academic, economic and cultural areas.

The first Cretan presence dates back to 1828 with the arrival of Georgios Laritsos and Georgios Vasilakis who arrived on board the ship Norfolk who were two of the seven greek convicts.

The early Cretans laid a far-reaching foundation, contributing to the multi-cultural Australian and New Zealand societies. The post World War Two migration saw the Cretans band together in various organisations.

The Battle of Crete is a significant historical event for those of us in the Australian, New Zealand diaspora. Many thanks to those who fought and those who paid the ultimate price. It has forged strong diplomatic relations based on the shared ideals and aspirations of us today and those that came before us. May we all, forever be united in our endeavours to foster connection and preserving our heritage for the generations to come.

Let us honour and commemorate those that fought for our freedoms so that we can choose the lives we now are able to live.

LEST WE FORGET.

Nick Markogiannakis
President





JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE BATTLE OF CRETE AND THE GREEK CAMPAIGN NSW

This year marks the 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign.

For over 47 years a formal wreath laying ceremony has been held in Sydney in May to commemorate the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign. Over the years, the wreath laying ceremony has grown become one of the most widely represented commemorations in Sydney after ANZAC day. This event, and all the other events held each year, pays tribute to the brave ANZACs and Greeks who took part in the defence of freedom, democracy and the rule of law

There were almost 1700 ANZACs lost in Greece. Nearly half have never been found nor their remains identified. 83% of the 6,203 Australians captured by the Italians and Germans during the second World War came from the Greek and Crete campaigns.

Most spent the remainder of the war in German POW Camps. Cretans and other Greeks sacrificed themselves to provide the ANZACS support in the armed resistance, and sanctuary after the surrender and evacuation.

Australia and Greece have never been opposed in war. In both World Wars & other conflicts, Greeks and Australians have fought side by side in common struggles. In peace time, Australians and Greeks have lived together in harmony, as immigrants and citizens.

Congratulations to the Cretan Federation of Australia & New Zealand for organising this year's events to commemorate the battle and the bravery of those involved.

Finally, and most importantly, we also acknowledge, commemorate and celebrate the enduring friendship between Greece and Australia.

James Jordan
Chairman



FORMING MEMBERS Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand, Cretan Association of Sydney and NSW Limited, 6th Australian Division Association of NSW, NSW Federation of Naval Ships Association, Naval Association of Australia (NSW Branch), Greek Sub-Branch of the RSL, New Zealand Sub-Branch RSL and the Defence Reserves Association.

BATTLE OF CRETE & GREECE COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA



Ο Ελληνισμός της Μελβούρνης και ολόκληρης της Βικτώριας μαζί με τους συμμάχους Αυστραλούς και Νεοζηλανδούς τιμάνε με σεβασμό φέτος την 83η επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης. Μέσα από μια σειρά εκδηλώσεων που έχουν προγραμματιστεί, η Μελβούρνη θα δώσει φόρο τιμής σε όσους θυσίασαν την ζωή τους στη σπουδαία μάχη για την ελευθερία της Κρήτης πριν από 83 ολόκληρα χρόνια.

Η Μάχη της Κρήτης ήταν μια περίοδος δοκιμασίας για την Ελλάδα και τον ελληνικό λαό. Αποτελεί ένα από τα σημαντικότερα κεφάλαια στην ιστορία του Β' Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου, ένα σύμβολο του ηρωισμού και της αντίστασης ενάντια στην καταπίεση και στον ναζισμό.

Οι πρόγονοί μας, οι οποίοι θυσίασαν τη ζωή τους για το κοινό καλό της πατρίδας μας, με τα ελάχιστα εφόδια που είχαν διαθέσιμα επέδειξαν θάρρος και αφοσίωση σε αυτή την άνιση και απαιτητική μάχη. Αντιμετώπισαν τον εχθρό με ηρωισμό και αξιοπρέπεια, πολεμώντας με όλες τους τις δυνάμεις για τη διατήρηση της ελευθερίας και της ανεξαρτησίας της Κρήτης μας.

Στο πλευρό των ελληνικών στρατευμάτων και του άμαχου πληθυσμού βρέθηκαν οι Αυστραλοί, οι Νεοζηλανδοί και οι Βρετανοί στρατιώτες, που με τη σθεναρή πίστη τους στις αξίες της ελευθερίας και της δικαιοσύνης, συμμετείχαν ενεργά στη μάχη για την υπεράσπιση της Κρήτης. Τα συμμαχικά στρατεύματα, παρά τις δυσκολίες και τους κινδύνους, παλέψανε δίπλα στον ελληνικό λαό, επιδεικνύοντας το αληθινό πνεύμα της αλληλεγγύης, της αμοιβαίας ανθρωπιάς και της αδελφοσύνης στις πιο σκληρές στιγμές.

83 χρόνια μετά από την Μάχη της Κρήτης και συνεχίζουμε να τιμάμε την αφοσίωση και το θάρρος των Ελλήνων και των Αυστραλών που έθεσαν τη ζωή τους στον βωμό της ελευθερίας δίνοντας το παράδειγμα της ανδρείας, της ομόνοιας και της συνεργασίας για τα πολυτιμότερα ιδανικά της ανθρωπότητας, την ελευθερία και την ειρήνη.

Το πνεύμα της Μάχης της Κρήτης είναι ζωντανό και αναπνέει μέσα από κάθε Κρητικό και κάθε Έλληνα που προσκυνά τη μνήμη των προγόνων μας που θυσιάστηκαν εκείνες τις μαύρες μέρες. Ας κάνουμε τη Μάχη της Κρήτης έναν αιώνιο φάρο έμπνευσης και αφορμής για δράση για τις μελλοντικές γενιές. Παράλληλα ας ενισχύσουμε την αλληλεγγύη και την ενότητά μας, προκειμένου να διασφαλίσουμε ότι η κληρονομιά των ηρώων μας θα παραμείνει ζωντανή και θα συνεχίσει να μας εμπνέει στο μέλλον.

Εκ μέρους της Συντονιστικής Επιτροπής της Μάχης της Κρήτης και Υπόλοιπης Ελλάδας στην Βικτώρια εκφράζω τα θερμά μου συγχαρητήρια στην Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας για την διοργάνωση των φετινών εκδηλώσεων για την Μάχη της Κρήτης σε ολόκληρη την Αυστραλία και τη Νέα Ζηλανδία.

Κλείνοντας, ευχαριστώ προσωπικά τον Πρόεδρο της Κρητικής Ομοσπονδίας, κ. Μανώλη Μουντάκη, και το Διοικητικό του Συμβούλιο για την συνεργασία μας στις φετινές επετειακές εκδηλώσεις στην Μελβούρνη.

Νατάσα Σπανού Πρόεδρος

- GREEK CONSUL IN MELBOURNE • NEW ZEALAND CONSUL IN MELBOURNE • BRITISH CONSUL IN MELBOURNE
- DANISH ROYAL CONSULATE IN MELBOURNE • CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
- VICTORIAN INTERCOMMUNITIES & PARISHES COUNCIL OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA
- PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF MELBOURNE • CRETAN BROTHERHOOD OF MELBOURNE
- VICTORIAN RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE • SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE • 2ND/2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD REGIMENT
- 2ND /1ST MACHINE GUN BATTALION • NEW ZEALAND - CRETE VETERANS ASSOCIATION
- 2ND /6TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION • GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF MELBOURNE
- AUSTRALIAN HELLENIC MEMORIAL FOUNDATION • GREEK EX-SERVICEMAN ASSOCIATION
- LEMNOS GALLIPOLI COMMITTEE • FEDERATION OF MESSINIAN ORGANISATIONS • AETOLIAN COLLEGE
- THESSALONIKI ASSOCIATION • OAKLEIGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL • AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION PONTIAN ASSOCIATIONS





NEW ZEALAND BATTLE OF CRETE COMMITTEE

Greetings from New Zealand to all our Cretan, Greek, Veterans, and all other interested parties.

My involvement in the Battle of Crete is through my father Driver JR Gradon 6629 2nd Expeditionary Force Second Echelon.

My father was attached to Petrol Company that served initially in the UK, who was eventually evacuated to Crete. Like so many returned soldiers he never spoke about his involvement. In the post war publication of the Petrol Company history he was mentioned for his action of recovering an injured Officer, carrying him under gun fire back to a R.A.P. (First Aid Post) and later rescuing other members of Petrol Company, while stationed near Galatas on Pink Hill.

Later, on 1st June 1941, he was one of the 2080 NZ soldiers taken prisoner and eventually transported via Thessaloniki to a German POW camp (Stalag V111B Lamsdorf) where he remained for the rest of the war.

We have survived a challenging past year with the passing of our dedicated President, Peter Moss and our invaluable Secretary/Treasurer Colin Henderson, both of whom contributed vast amounts of knowledge and organisation to our Association.

For 51 years, an olive tree has been slowly growing on the edge of Rotorua's War Memorial Park. Whakarewarewa resident Captain Kura Waaka of the 28th Maori Battalion received the gifted tree in 1973 after it had sat in quarantine for two years. Waaka's granddaughter Hinematiaro, said that despite 51 years passing there had been no official service around this tree. This tree was gifted by the people of Crete. The tree was to symbolize the strong bond New Zealand soldiers had with Cretans after those 12 days of 'viciousness'. 28th Maori Battalion lost 74 soldiers during the Battle of Crete.

Local resident Martyn Evans, who pushed for the Commemoration event, had been friends with Waaka and described the service as 'Glorious'. The service included representatives from Ngati Whakaeu, The New Zealand Defence Force, The British High Commission, Te Arawa Returned Services League, MP for Rotorua Todd McLay and the Mayor of Rotorua, Tania Tapsell.

In January the Southern Branch of the NZ Battle of Crete Assn we held a special lunchtime meeting at the Papanui RSA in memory of the late Neville Perkins, brother of Dudley Perkins 'Vasilis, Lion of Crete'.

Ian Frazer and John Irwin had put together a great tribute to Neville (and Dudley) in words and photos. Many of Neville's family were in attendance, making this a very special occasion.

Two more of our members John Irwin 'Wild Sweet Production' and Jeffrey Plowman, historian and author, are still working hard helping to preserve the history of the Battles for Greece and Crete.

On May 19th 2024 we will be hosted once again by the crew of HMNZS Pegasus for the 83rd Anniversary Commemoration. This is always a very solemn service, followed by fellowship over light refreshments.

We are very humbled that our friends and members are very committed to ensuring that the memory of Crete in WWII and the relationship between New Zealanders and the people of Crete is still treasured 83 years later.

Take care everyone.

Stewart Gradon
President



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BATTLE OF CRETE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



On this 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Crete and Greek Campaign of WWII we once again pay tribute to the Australian, British and New Zealand troops who fought alongside their Greek and Cretan comrades to try to hold off the overwhelming numbers of the attacking German forces.

We now know about the stories of bravery, tenacity and sacrifice demonstrated by not only the armed soldiers defending the island, but also many of the civilians and even monks who helped shelter many soldiers at great personal risk to assist them to escape.

The battle lasted only 13 days on Crete, but the Greek and allied resistance on the mainland and on Crete was much longer than was anticipated and some say indirectly contributed to a change in the course of the war.

There were many casualties on both sides, but the Greek and Australian people, and Cretans in particular, remember and honour those who fought and were lost in battle. The enduring bonds between Australia and Greece remains as an eternal legacy for our two proud peoples as we once again commemorate another anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

Bill Evangel
Chairman





CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY & N.S.W.

As we commemorate the 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Crete, we remember and honour, the brave Greek, Australian, New Zealand & British troops, who fought galantly for our freedoms. We remember and honour the brave Cretan men, women and children, who fought courageously and resisted the Nazi regime.

The ANZACS came to the aid of Crete and fought to defend the island from foreign invasion. The Greek people were extremely grateful for their support. This bond forged in 1941 formed a strong inter-generational friendship between the Greek and Australian people, which continues to grow stronger and stronger as time goes by. And is one of the reasons why so many Greeks migrated to Australia after the war. It is because of these heroes that we are here today. 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation Cretans upholding our proud traditions.

We thank them for their service and ultimate sacrifice.

May they rest in peace.



LEST WE FORGET.

Emmanuel Vitetzakis
President



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

Φέτος εορτάζουμε την ογδοηκοστή τρίτη επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης, μια από τις πιο δραματικές μάχες του Β' Παγκόσμιου Πόλεμου. Αυστραλοί, Βρετανοί, Νεοζηλανδοί, Ελληνικά στρατεύματα και άμαχοι Κρητικοί αντιπετώπισαν μια τεράστια Γερμανική αεροπορική επίθεση εισβολής δείχνοντας τεράστιο θάρρος σ' αυτόν τον συντριπτικά άνισο αγώνα.

Ενώ το Τρίτο Ράιχ τελικά κατάφερε να καταλάβει το νησί, η Κρήτη κατά τις δέκα ημέρες της αντίστασης προξένησε τόσο μεγάλες απώλειες στις Γερμανικές δυνάμεις ώστε ο Φύρερ εγκατέλειψε τα σχέδια για τυχόν παρόμοιες επιθέσεις στο μέλλον θρηνώντας την απώλεια χιλιάδων εκπαιδευμένων αλεξιπτωτιστών.

Σε αυτή την επέτειο θα σταθούμε για λίγο ευλαβικά για να τιμήσουμε όλους εκείνους που πάλεψαν θαρραλέα στη Μάχη της Κρήτης, καθώς και τους πολλούς Κρητικούς που έχασαν τη ζωή τους κατά τους μήνες μετά από τη μάχη και που με κίνδυνο της ζωής τους και των οικογενειών τους έκρυσαν τους συμμάχους και τους βοήθησαν να φύγουν από το νησί. Εκ μέρους του Συλλόγου Κρητών της Τασμανίας, θα ήθελα επίσης να εκμεταλλευτώ αυτή την ευκαιρία για να ευχαριστήσω την Κρητική Ομοσπονδία, καθώς και όλους όσους παίρνουν μέρος στην εκδήλωση μας για τη συνεχή υποστήριξή τους.



Γιάννης Φιωτάκης
Πρόεδρος

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

Με την ευκαιρία της 83ης επετείου της Μάχης της Κρήτης, ο Κρητικός Σύλλογος Κουινσλάντης απευθύνει τους θερμούς του χαιρετισμούς σε όλους τους Κρητικούς ανά τον κόσμο, με ιδιαίτερη ευγνωμοσύνη σε όσους βρίσκονται στην Αυστραλία και τη Νέα Ζηλανδία.



Καθώς γιορτάζουμε αυτή τη σημαντική επέτειο, γιορτάζουμε επίσης ένα ορόσημο για τον Σύλλογό μας, σηματοδοτώντας τα 50 χρόνια από τότε που οι Κρήτες προπάτορές μας ίδρυσαν τον οργανισμό μας. Το όραμα, η αποφασιστικότητα και η δέσμευσή τους άνοιξαν το δρόμο για να διατηρήσουμε και να αγαπήσουμε τις κρητικές παραδόσεις μας στην Αυστραλία. Χωρίς τη διορατικότητά τους, η ιστορία και η πολιτιστική μας κληρονομιά σε αυτό το μέρος του κόσμου θα ήταν αισθητά διαφορετική.

Η Μάχη της Κρήτης αποτελεί απόδειξη του αδάμαστου πνεύματος του ελληνικού λαού και της ανδρείας που επέδειξαν οι πρόγονοί μας που αντιστάθηκαν στη γερμανική κατοχή. Είναι μια κομβική στιγμή όχι μόνο στην ελληνική ιστορία αλλά και στην παγκόσμια αφήγηση του Β' Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου. Επιπλέον, η Μάχη της Κρήτης σφυρηλάτησε διαρκείς δεσμούς μεταξύ Ελλήνων, Αυστραλών, Βρετανών και Νεοζηλανδών, που πολέμησαν μαζί για την υπεράσπιση της Κρήτης. Αυτοί οι δεσμοί φιλίας, που σφυρηλατήθηκαν μέσα στην αναταραχή του πολέμου, συνεχίζουν να ευδοκμούν και να ενισχύονται κάθε χρόνο.

Καθώς αποτίουμε φόρο τιμής στο θάρρος και τις θυσίες όσων πολέμησαν στη Μάχη της Κρήτης, ας αναγνωρίσουμε επίσης τη σημασία της διατήρησης της ειρήνης και της ελευθερίας ως παγκόσμια κοινότητα. Η γενναιότητά τους χρησιμεύει ως διαχρονική υπενθύμιση των αξιών που πρέπει να υποστηρίξουμε και της ενότητας που απαιτείται για να ξεπεράσουμε τις αντιξοότητες.

Εκφράζουμε την εγκάρδια ευγνωμοσύνη μας στους Αυστραλούς, Βρετανούς και Νεοζηλανδούς συντρόφους μας που στάθηκαν πλάι με ώμο με τους Έλληνες κατά τη Μάχη της Κρήτης. Είθε η κοινή μας ιστορία και οι διαρκείς δεσμοί μας να συνεχίσουν να εμπνέουν τη συνεργασία και τη συνεργασία για ένα καλύτερο μέλλον.

Αντώνης Κατσανέβας
Πρόεδρος





CRETAN BROTHERHOOD OF MELBOURNE & VICTORIA

As we gather to reflect on the significance of the Battle of Crete and the indomitable spirit of the Greeks and Anzacs, it's essential to delve deeper into the profound lessons that this historic event imparts to us and its enduring relevance in shaping our contemporary global landscape.

The Battle of Crete stands as a poignant reminder of the valour and sacrifice of the Greek and Anzacs, whose unwavering commitment to defending freedom and democracy remains etched in the annals of history. Their bravery in the face of overwhelming odds serves as a testament to the human spirit's resilience and determination to uphold cherished values, even in the darkest of times.

In today's connected world, marked by complex geopolitical dynamics and evolving security threats, the principles embodied by the Greeks and the Anzacs—unity, cooperation, and resilience—offer invaluable guidance in navigating the challenges we face. Their unwavering resolve to stand together in the face of adversity underscores the importance of solidarity and collective action in addressing global challenges and fostering a more just and equitable world.

Moreover, the Battle of Crete serves as a sobering reminder of the devastating human cost of war and the imperative of pursuing peace through diplomatic means. As we honour the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice at Crete, we are compelled to redouble our efforts to prevent conflict and promote reconciliation, understanding, and dialogue among nations.

In commemorating the Battle of Crete and the legacy of those who fought, let us not only pay tribute to their heroism but also recommit ourselves to the values they held dear.

Freedom, justice, and democracy.

May their courage and resilience inspire us to confront the challenges of our time with fortitude and compassion, and may their sacrifice serve as a beacon of hope for future generations.

Milton Stamatakos
President



PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF MELBOURNE



Η 20η του Μάη, αποτελεί μια μέρα ορόσημο για εμάς τους Κρητικούς και ιδίως για εμάς που η Αυστραλία αποτελεί τη δεύτερη πατρίδα μας. Είναι η μέρα εκείνη, που χιλιάδες νέοι Αυστραλοί και Νεο Ζηλανδοί πολέμησαν δίπλα δίπλα με τους Κρήτες παππούδες μας για να υπερασπιστούν τη γη και τα ιδανικά μας. Παρά την υπεροχή του εχθρού, οι ήρωες αυτοί πολέμησαν με περίσσιο θάρρος και αποφασιστικότητα, αποδεικνύοντας ότι η ελευθερία είναι αξία αδιαπραγμάτευτη.

Η αντίστασή τους αντιπροσώπευε το θάρρος και τη θυσία ενάντια στην τυραννία, στην θηρωδία, στον παραλογισμό και στην παραφροσύνη των ναζιστών κατακτητών. Ο ηρωισμός τους είναι πηγή έμπνευσης για εμάς να συνεχίσουμε τον αγώνα για την ελευθερία, τη δικαιοσύνη και τη δημοκρατία.

Ας διατηρήσουμε πάντα ζωντανή τη μνήμη τους, καθώς και το θάρρος και την αφοσίωσή τους προς την πατρίδα και την ελευθερία. Ας μεταλαμπαδεύουμε στα παιδιά μας τις αξίες και τα ιδανικά των ηρώων μας, ώστε ο αγώνας αυτός να μην παραμείνει απλά στις σελίδες της ιστορίας, αλλά να ζει στις καρδιές μας, να μας καθοδηγεί στις προκλήσεις της εποχής μας και να μας εμπνέει για ένα καλύτερο αύριο.

*Ο σκλαβωμένος ουρανός
Κρήτη μου δεν σου πάει,
γ'αυτό δεν παραδόθηκες
στις 20 του Μαΐ.*

Αργυρώ Μιχελάκης
Πρόεδρος





CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

As the President of the Cretans Association of New Zealand, I am deeply moved by the opportunity to pay tribute to the brave souls who fought valiantly in defence of our homeland.

The Battle of Crete stands as a testament to the resilience, courage, and sacrifice of the Cretan people. It was a pivotal moment in our history, a time when our small island stood against overwhelming odds, demonstrating to the world the unbeatable spirit of its inhabitants.

Eighty-three years ago, Crete became the stage for one of the most significant battles of World War II. Against the might of the Axis powers, the people of Crete, alongside their Allied comrades, displayed extraordinary bravery and determination. They fought with unwavering resolve, refusing to yield in the face of adversity.

We remember those who gave their lives on the rocky shores and rugged mountains of our beloved island. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten, and their memory will continue to inspire future generations of Cretans.

As we reflect on the events of the past, let us also reaffirm our commitment to peace, freedom, and unity. Let us honour the legacy of those who came before us by upholding the values they held dear – courage, resilience, and solidarity.

As Cretans living in New Zealand, we carry the spirit of our ancestors within us. We are bound by a common heritage and a shared sense of identity. Let us embrace our cultural heritage with pride and celebrate the rich tapestry of traditions that define us as a people.

In commemorating the Battle of Crete, we also extend our gratitude to the Allied forces who fought alongside our Cretan soldiers and civilians. Their support and sacrifice played a crucial role in shaping the outcome of the battle, and we are forever indebted to their bravery and camaraderie.

Let us remember the Battle of Crete with pride and all it means to our nations while looking towards the future with hope and optimism. Let us honour the memory of those who came before us by striving to build a world where peace, justice and democracy prevail.



Vasilis (Bill) Giannakakis
President



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This year 2024 we are celebrating the 83rd anniversary of the Battle of Crete. We are honoured to pay tribute to our war veterans of the allied forces and the Cretan civilian's that fought in WW II for main land Greece & Crete.

This year it's also a privilege to attend the unveiling of the Battle of Crete memorial in Kings Park on the 11th of May with the Battle of Crete ceremony the same day.

In 2024 we hope new opportunities and growth with our Australian Cretan youth.



Manoli Yeroyianakis
President

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

As we mark the 83rd anniversary of the Battle of Crete, we remember the valour and resilience shown during those harrowing days in May 1941. This battle exemplifies the indomitable spirit of the Cretan people, who, alongside Allied forces, displayed extraordinary courage in the face of overwhelming odds. We pay tribute to the heroes who fought for freedom on Crete's rugged terrains and honour their legacy of bravery and sacrifice. As the President of the Cretan Association of South Australia, I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Cretan and wider community and pledge to keep their memories alive, ensuring that future generations understand the significance of this pivotal moment in our history.

Pantelis Fridakis
President



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY

Ογδόντα τρία χρόνια συμπληρώνονται από την Μάχη της Κρήτης, το κορυφαίο αυτό ιστορικό γεγονός του 20ού αιώνα, που αποτελεί διαρκές ορόσημο της συλλογικής μας μνήμης, και παράδειγμα φιλοπατρίας και αντίστασης. Εδώ, από την Βόρεια Επικράτεια της Αυστραλίας τιμούμε και παραδειγματιζόμαστε από τους ήρωες της Μάχης της Κρήτης και στέλνουμε ένα ισχυρό μήνυμα ότι ο Ελληνικός λαός ενωμένος, μπορεί να αντιμετωπίσει οποιαδήποτε πρόκληση

Η Κρητική αδελφότητα της Βόρειας Επικράτειας τιμά όλους τους αγωνιστές, Έλληνες και Συμμάχους, που συμμετείχαν σε έναν αγώνα τιτάνιο, απέναντι στο ναζισμό. Βρετανοί, Αυστραλοί και Νεοζηλανδοί αγωνίστηκαν πλάι - πλάι με τους κατοίκους της Κρήτης και έδωσαν ακόμα και τη ζωή τους για την ελευθερία μας!

Αποτίνουμε με ευλάβεια φόρο τιμής στους ήρωες της Μάχης της Κρήτης και τους είμαστε ευγνώμονες που αντιστάθηκαν, πάλεψαν και θυσιάστηκαν αφήνοντας το δικό τους πολύτιμο αποτύπωμα στην Ιστορία.

Τιμή και Δόξα στους ήρωες της Μάχης της Κρήτης!

Γιώργος Μαμουλής
Πρόεδρος





CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA & DISTRICTS

Καθώς το 2024 ξετυλίγεται, θυμόμαστε εκείνους στην κοινότητά μας που ήρθαν πριν από εμάς, παρέχοντας δομή, σταθερότητα και παραδόσεις για την επόμενη γενιά περήφανων Ελλήνων να σφυρηλατήσουν τη δική τους κρητική ιστορία. Είναι καιρός να αναλογιστούμε γεγονότα του παρελθόντος που έχουν διαμορφώσει τη ζωή μας εδώ στην Αυστραλία να βοηθήσουμε την επόμενη γενιά της οποίας οι καινοτόμες ιδέες, οι σκέψεις και η αγάπη για την Κρήτη θα χτίσουν μια ισχυρότερη κοινότητα. Είναι σημαντικό να καλλιεργήσουμε την Κρητική μας κληρονομιά και παραδόσεις μέσω κοινωτικών εκδηλώσεων, χορού, φαγητού και θρησκείας. Έχουμε την τιμή να αποτίσουμε φόρο τιμής στους βετεράνους των συμμαχικών δυνάμεων και στους Κρητικούς πολίτες κατά τη διάρκεια του Β' Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου, που σχημάτισαν άρρηκτους δεσμούς φιλίας μεταξύ Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας και Ελλάδας. Ωστόσο, οι πιο σημαντικοί δημιουργοί ιστορίας είναι οι γονείς, οι παππούδες και οι πρόγονοί μας που ήρθαν στην Αυστραλία χωρίς τίποτα και έχτισαν μια καλύτερη ζωή και μια κοινότητα χωρίς αποκλεισμούς για τις σημερινές Ελληνοαυστραλιανές γενιές. Ποτέ δεν αισθανθήκαμε πιο περήφανοι από τώρα που είμαστε Έλληνες, Κρητικοί, Αυστραλοί με πλούσια και ποικιλόμορφη ιστορία που βασίζεται στην Ορθόδοξη θρησκεία, τη γλώσσα και τον πολιτισμό μας. Η Επιτροπή Καμπέρα θυμάται αυτές τις θυσίες που αναδεικνύουν την ελληνική επιμονή να είναι ελεύθερη.

Στα τέλη του 2023 ο κ. Ιωσήφ (Σήφη) Κατσανεβάκης πέθανε ειρηνικά περικυκλωμένος από την οικογένειά του στις 27/09/2023. Ήταν ένα από τα αρχικά μέλη του Συλλόγου όταν ιδρύθηκε στην Καμπέρα. Η δέσμευσή του στον Σύλλογό μας βοήθησε στη δημιουργία ισχυρών δεσμών και αιώνιων φιλιών. Οι μεγάλες του αγάπες ήταν η οικογένεια και οι φίλοι του, παίζοντας κιθάρα, γράφοντας και κυρίως φτιάχνοντας μαντινάδες της αγαπημένης του Κρήτης. Η μνήμη και οι θυσίες σας θα μείνουν στη μνήμη όλης της οικογένειας και των φίλων σας που μοιράστηκαν τη ζωή σας μαζί σας. Αναπαύσου εν ειρήνη.

Γεώργιος Α Καθεκλάκης
Πρόεδρος



CRETAN YOUTH OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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CRETAN YOUTH OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

The acts of heroism and defiance from the local populace and Allied forces within the region of Maleme, Chania and surrounding areas epitomises the strength of the Cretan spirit against the tyranny of an invading force. My grandfather was 8 years old in Xamoudochori (less than 3 km from Maleme Airport), when he recalls the Germans first landing and beginning their assault. Fortunately, he and my other 7 great aunties and uncles survived with my great grandmother. However, my great grandfather (Mixalis Paraskakis) was taken as a prison of war and was declared missing for a number of years. His death was only confirmed as part of a book written by a Greek survivor of a German concentration camp, confirming that he was killed during his imprisonment in a German prison.

It is important for us to remember that the events of the Battle of Crete and the second World War are still within living memory of many of those close to us, or those we have known who are no longer with us.

The preservation of our cultural identity is intrinsically linked with the sacrifice and loss endured by our loved ones before us, who's actions have allowed us to continue to practice our cultural traditions and flourish in foreign lands outside of Crete and Greece in its entirety.

The Battle of Crete serves as a reminder that we are privileged to be able to love our Cretan heritage and be active members in our local and international communities, due to the unwavering determination of people protecting their island, villages and families.

Ari Paraskakis
President

CRETAN BROTHERHOOD YOUTH OF MELBOURNE

We celebrate the battle of Crete every year to honour the incredible bravery of those who fought in the Battle of Crete. It's more than just a history lesson; it's a story of young people like us standing up against impossible odds and showing unimaginable courage.

Think about it: young soldiers, just like us, from different backgrounds, came together to defend their home. They faced fear and uncertainty but stood strong, united in their determination to protect what they believed in.

Their sacrifice reminds us that even in the toughest times, we have the power to make a difference. It's up to us to carry on their legacy by standing up for what's right, supporting each other, and never giving up hope.

So today, let's remember the heroes of the Battle of Crete and let their courage inspire us to keep fighting for a better world.

Stay strong and never forget,

Aristea Nikolakakis
President





CRETAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY

Η Μάχη της Κρήτης, μια από τις ενδοξότερες και ηρωικότερες σελίδες στην εποποιία του Δευτέρου Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου, είναι για κάθε Ελληνίδα και κάθε Έλληνα πηγή υπερηφάνειας και έμπνευσης. Αποτελεί ένα ηχηρό παράδειγμα αυτών που μπορεί να πετύχει ένας λαός που αγωνίζεται για την ελευθερία και την αξιοπρέπειά του.

Με τα διαχρονικά μηνύματα της ιστορικής επετείου για τα ιδανικά της ελευθερίας της αλληλεγγύης και της συμπόρευσης όλων των Ελλήνων μπορούμε να προχωρήσουμε ενωμένοι για την πρόοδο και το κοινό.

Τιμούμε με ευλάβεια την επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης, με βαθύ σεβασμό σε όσους θυσίασαν τη ζωή τους στον βωμό της ελευθερίας και στην μάχη κατά του ναζισμού.

Εδώ στη Βόρεια Αυστραλία, τιμούμε ιδιαίτερα τους πεσόντες στρατιώτες ANZAC που πολέμησαν στα πάτρια εδάφη μας για να απωθήσουν τη γερμανική εισβολή.

Ζήτω η Ελλάδα!
Ζήτω η Αυστραλία!

Mr Vlassis Zaimakis
President



CRETAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA & DISTRICTS

The youth of Canberra participated in many dance performances and cultural events both at home and interstate in 2023. Highlights from our senior dance group Atalanti included the Agora performance at the National Museum of Australia and the Brisbane Paniyiri performance in May, our annual Bouzouki Night performance in October, and our annual Family Night performance in December. We performed Cretan brackets at many of these performances which allowed the group to hone in on their Cretan dance skills. Of particular note is the fact that we performed dances taught to us by Cretan dance teachers Sifi and Eleftheria from their time in Australia. This was an invaluable experience for our dance group as we represent all regions in Greece, and it felt special to apply our newly learned Cretan dance knowledge.

The biggest highlight for the Cretan Association of Canberra was by far our 'From Pontos to Crete' event held in September. This attracted many youth and interstate guests and was the first time the Cretan and Pontian Associations of Canberra had partnered up to host a joint event, complete with rich live music from two regions in Greece. We hope to host more joint dance events in the future.

In addition, Canberra's resident Greek band, known as 'Kefi Band' reformed after a restructure and has now started playing at events again. The band, which I am a part of, plays a mixture of traditional and modern Greek music. We recently performed at the National Multicultural Festival and will soon be available to hire out for both public and private events!

2024 will see similar levels of participation in dance performances and cultural events for our youth here in Canberra.

Katie Merkoureas
President



CRETAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

The year 2024 marks the 83rd anniversary of the Battle of Crete, a pivotal moment in history. For 13 days, from May 20th to June 1st, 1941, German paratroopers encountered fierce resistance from Greek and Allied soldiers, in the first major airborne invasion in history. The ensuing battle resulted in an immense loss of life and convinced Adolf Hitler never again to conduct an airborne invasion. This battle was a turning point, as German forces faced determined civilian resistance. Cretan men, women, and children took up arms, despite the odds, defending their homeland with old muskets, kitchen knives, and pitchforks.

The Battle of Crete has become an enduring symbol of heroism, inspiring people around the world, akin to the ancient Spartans at Thermopylae or the medieval Romaioi at Constantinople. As each year passes since this historic battle, it remains a moment of immense pride for Greeks, particularly Cretans. We must never forget the sacrifices made by those who took up arms to defend their homeland. Their bravery should inspire us to always stand up to oppression and defend our values. May the memory of their heroic sacrifice be eternal, and may we always celebrate their bravery.

Georgia Ross
Youth Member – Tasmania



CRETAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

As we gather to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of the Battle of Crete, we pay respect to the courageous souls who stood valiantly to defend our beloved island. Today, as we reflect on the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought in the Battle of Crete, we must also acknowledge the enduring legacy they have left behind. Their heroic deeds serve as a reminder of the importance of courage, unity, and sacrifice in the face of tyranny.

As the President of the Cretan Youth Committee, it is my responsibility to ensure that the memory of the Battle of Crete lives on. Through educational initiatives, commemorative events, and acts of remembrance, we strive to honor the sacrifices of those who came before us and to pass on their legacy to future generations.

As we commemorate the 83rd anniversary of this pivotal moment in our history, let us vow to never forget the sacrifices made by those who came before us.

LEST WE FORGET.

Melina Kalykakis
President





CRETAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

On behalf of the Cretan youth of Sydney and NSW I like to explain what the Battle of Crete means to me.

To me, the Battle of Crete is an extremely important part of our history that we need to remember and commemorate.

We must never forget the sacrifices made by the ANZACS, British Commonwealth forces and the local Cretan population. My generation must continue to honour the bravery and courage of all those who fought and died and are buried.

I urge all our youth who go to Crete to visit the commonwealth war graves and say a prayer and pay their respects. When I visited the commonwealth grave in Souda, I discovered how young some of the men who defended my grandparent's home. It was a surreal and emotional experience.



LEST WE FORGET.

Alexander Mountakis
President



CRETAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This year we commemorate the 83rd Battle of Crete, where Australian and Cretan soldiers bravely fought for our freedom during WWII. We owe them our deepest gratitude and respect for all that they sacrificed.

The Battle of Crete began on the morning of 20th May 1941 with multiple German airborne landings on Crete. Greek and allied forces along with Cretan civilians defended the island for 12 long days and nights. Many Greeks, Cretans, Australian, New Zealand and British Soldiers risked and lost their lives. The battle ended in defeat with the evacuation of Allied forces.

The bravery of all the soldiers and the hardships they endured, is embedded in our hearts and history. We acknowledge their heroic efforts today by hosting events and memorials on their behalf. We honour their sacrifices with pride and remembrance, for future generations to come.

LEST WE FORGET.

Nicholas Constantinou
President



AUSTRALIA TOUR 2024

83th BATTLE OF CRETE

 **DARWIN 11th May**

*Greek Church Hall
92 Cavenagh Street*

 **SYDNEY 18th May**

*The Grand Vaudeville
178 Eldridge Rd, Condell Park*

GIANNIS GIANNAKAKIS

 **MELBOURNE 25th May**

*Cretan Village, 90 Cathies Lane
Wantirna South*

 **BRISBANE 1st June**

*St. Anna's Function Centre,
Gold Coast*

**STELIOS
PAPADAKIS**



83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANZAC BATTLE OF CRETE

NATIONAL PROGRAM

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Saturday 11 May 2024

The Greek Australian RSL and Battle of Crete Memorial Committee are co-hosting the formal dedication of the new Battle of Crete Memorial at the Saw Avenue precinct at Kings Park, performed by the Hon. Roger Cook MLA, Premier of WA and His Excellency Mr. Stavros Venizelos, Ambassador of Greece. His Eminence, Archbishop Makarios, co-patron of the memorial will also be attending. The event will take place at 9.45am at the Saw Ave Precinct, Kings Park.

Sunday 12 May 2024

A commemorative church service will be held at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Evangelismos 57 Carr Street, West Perth at 9:00am.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Saturday 11 May 2024

The Cretan Association of Northern Territory is holding a commemorative dinner dance at the Greek Church Hall 92 Cavenagh Street, Darwin City at 6:30pm.

Sunday 2 June 2024

The Cretan Association of Northern Territory will be holding a commemorative doxology and church service at the Parish of Saint Savva of Kalymnos 2 Palmerston Cct, Palmerston at 9:30am.

Following the church service, the Cretan Association of Northern Territory will be holding a commemorative wreath laying ceremony at the Darwin Cenotaph War Memorial at 11:30am.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Friday 17 May 2024

The Cretan Association of Sydney in conjunction with the Consulate General of Greece in Sydney are co-hosting a presentation by author Craig Collie and commemorative cocktail party at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney at 6:00pm.

83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANZAC BATTLE OF CRETE

NATIONAL PROGRAM

Saturday 18 May 2024

The Joint Committee for the Commemoration of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign is holding the annual commemorative wreath laying ceremony at the Martin Place Cenotaph Monument at 1:45pm.

The Cretan Association of Sydney & New South Wales is holding its annual commemorative ball, at the Grand Vaudeville 178 Eldridge Road, Condell Park at 7:00pm.

Sunday 19 May 2024

The Joint Committee for the Commemoration of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign in conjunction with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia are holding a commemorative doxology and church service at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, 242 Cleveland Street, Redfern at 9:00am.

Sunday 26 May 2024

The Joint Committee for the Commemoration of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign is holding a commemorative church service at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 60 Lower Fort Street, Millers Point at 10:45m.

NEW ZEALAND

Sunday 19 May 2024

The Cretans Association of New Zealand is hosting a commemorative doxology and church service at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, Hania Street, Mount Wellington at 10:15am.

Following the church service, the Cretans Association of New Zealand is hosting a commemorative wreath laying ceremony at the Greek – New Zealand Memorial, Cambridge Terrace, Wellington.

Following the wreath laying ceremony, the Cretans Association of New Zealand is hosting a commemorative community lunch at the Greek Orthodox Community Function Centre, Hania Street, Mount Wellington at 12:00pm.

83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANZAC BATTLE OF CRETE

NATIONAL PROGRAM

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Wednesday 22 May 2024

The Cretan Association of Canberra and the Embassy of Greece in Canberra are co-hosting a commemorative wreath laying ceremony at the Australian Hellenic Memorial, in Anzac Parade, Reid at 12:00pm.

Following this, the Cretan Association of Canberra and the Embassy of Greece in Canberra are co-hosting a commemorative wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the unknown soldier - Australian War Memorial, in Campbell at 1:15pm.

VICTORIA

Friday 24 May 2024

The Cretan Brotherhood of Melbourne and the Pancretan Association of Melbourne are co-hosting a commemorative cocktail party at the Cretan House 148 – 150 Nicholson Street, Brunswick East at 7:00pm.

Saturday 25 May 2024

The Battle of Crete and Greece Commemorative Council is holding the official commemorative wreath laying ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance at 11:30am.

Following this, the Battle of Crete and Greece Commemorative Council is holding a commemorative wreath laying ceremony at the Australian Hellenic War Memorial at 12:30am.

The Cretan Brotherhood of Melbourne and the Pancretan Association of Melbourne are co-hosting a commemorative dinner dance at the Cretan Village 90 Cathies Lane, Wantirna South at 7:00pm.

Sunday 26 May 2024

The Battle of Crete and Greece Commemorative Council and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia are holding a commemorative church service & doxology at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord 45 Poplar Street, Thomastown at 9:00am.

The Battle of Crete and Greece Commemorative Council and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANZAC BATTLE OF CRETE

NATIONAL PROGRAM

of Australia are co-hosting the official opening of the ANZAC Hellenic Memorial of Northern Suburbs at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord 45 Poplar Street, Thomastown at 11:30am.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sunday 26 May 2024

The Cretan Association of South Australia in conjunction with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia – District of Adelaide are hosting a commemorative doxology and church service at the Greek Orthodox Archiepiscopal Church of Saint Sophia 100 Drayton Street, Bowden at 9:00am.

Saturday 15 June 2024

The Cretan Association of South Australia is hosting it's annual commemorative dinner dance at the Festival Centre, Adelaide City Centre at 6:30pm.

QUEENSLAND

Saturday 01 June 2024

The Cretan Association of Queensland is hosting its annual commemorative dinner dance at St Anna's Function Centre, 31a Crombie Avenue, Bundall at 6:30pm.

TASMANIA

Sunday 02 June 2024

The Cretan Association of Tasmania in conjunction with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia – District of Tasmania and together with the Greek Community of Tasmania are hosting a commemorative doxology and church service at the Greek Orthodox Church of Street George Church, Antill Street Hobart at 9:00am.

The Cretan Association of Tasmania are hosting a commemorative wreath laying Ceremony at the Domain Cenotaph, ANZAC Parade at 1:30pm.

The Cretan Association of Tasmania are hosting a commemorative reception at the Hellenic Hall 67 Federal Street, North Hobart at 2.30pm.



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY & N.S.W.

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΥΔΝΕΥ & Ν.Ν.Ο.

1 / 57 SYDENHAM ROAD, MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

MOBILE : 0407 316 605

EMAIL : PRESIDENT@CRETANNSW.COM.AU

Back Row L to R:

Dimi Bourel, Nina Saisanas,
Amanda Salmon, Vicky Vitetzakis, Maria
Townsend, Nectaria Frayne

Front Row L to R:

Ari Paraskakis,
Emmanuel Vitetzakis (President),
Angelo Siganakis (Vice President), Terry
Saviolakis

Absent:

Maria Lagoudakis



Senior Executive Committee



L to R:

Danny Venizelou,
Michaela Margiankakos,
Alexander Mountakis (President),
Angelique Belivanis (Vice President),
George Siganakis, Irene Vitetzakis,
Christopher Townsend

Youth Committee

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY & N.S.W.

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΥΔΝΕΥ & Ν.Ν.Ο.

1 / 57 SYDENHAM ROAD, MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204
MOBILE : 0407 316 605
EMAIL : PRESIDENT@CRETANNSW.COM.AU



Senior Dance Group

L to R:

Anthony Vitetzakis, Danny Venizelou, Alexander Moutakis, Christopher Townsend, George Siganakis, Dylan Giannoulis, Paul Spanopudakis (Teacher), Vayia Spanoudakis, Irene Vitetzakis, Cleopatra Kounellis, Elen Salmon, Michaela Margiankakos, Konstantina Siganakis, Iliana Jane, Nina Saisanas (Co-Ordinator)



Intermediate Dance Group

L to R:

Christopher Townsend (Teacher), Jonathan Lagoudakis, Eva Tsonis, Sebastian Maladakis, Raphaella Alvanos, Ageaus Tsonis, Mikayla Kyriakou, Amalia Siganakis, David Salmon, Sophia Tsagarakis, William Kounellis, Alexandra Margiankakos, Vayia Spanoudakis (Teacher)

Absent:

Marianne Margiankakos, Jonny Venizelou



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY & N.S.W.

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΥΔΝΕΥ & Ν.Ν.Ο.

1 / 57 SYDENHAM ROAD, MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

MOBILE : 0407 316 605

EMAIL : PRESIDENT@CRETANNSW.COM.AU

Back Row L to R:

Maria Bakis, Alana Bandounas,
Emmanuel Mathioulantonakis, Dimitrios
Alvanos, Rianna Limberis, Zachariah
Maladakis, Costa Vitetzakis, Stephanie
Kappas,
Irene Vitetzakis (Teacher),
Christopher Townsend (Teacher)

Front Row L to R:

Harrison Kyriakou, Evangelos
Tsoukarellis, Carissa Kolokotronis, Dimi-
try Tsoukarellis, Evie Bandounas, Dean
Kappas, Teah Bandounas,
Sam Limberis, George Siganakis

Absent:

Christopher Miyakis



Junior Dance Group



Performing Group in Crete 2023

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΚΑΜΠΕΡΡΑΣ

G. P. O. BOX 2128, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2601
MOBILE : 0450 960 220
EMAIL : GEORGEAK@KDNGROUP.COM.AU



Senior Executive Committee



Dancing Group



CRETAN BROTHERHOOD OF MELBOURNE VICTORIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΜΕΛΒΟΥΡΝΗΣ ΒΙΚΤΩΡΙΑΣ

148 - 150 NICHOLSON STREET, EAST BRUNSWICK VIC 3057

MOBILE : 0408 315 070

EMAIL : SECRETARY@CRETANBROTHERHOOD.COM.AU



Senior Executive Committee



Youth Committee

CRETAN BROTHERHOOD OF MELBOURNE VICTORIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΜΕΛΒΟΥΡΝΗΣ ΒΙΚΤΩΡΙΑΣ

148 - 150 NICHOLSON STREET, EAST BRUNSWICK VIC 3057
MOBILE : 0408 315 070
EMAIL : SECRETARY@CRETANBROTHERHOOD.COM.AU



Senior Dancing Group



Members and Youth Members enjoying a social event



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΝΕΑΣ ΖΗΛΑΝΔΙΑΣ

P. O. BOX 6050, WELLINGTON NZ 6011
MOBILE : +64 21 727 238
EMAIL : BILL.GIANNAKAKIS@GMAIL.COM



President Bill, laying a wreath at the 2024 ANZAC Day commemorations



Greek Orthodox Youth of Wellington Dance group performing in Cretan costumes at the 2024 Waitangi Day celebrations

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΝΟΤΙΑΣ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΣ

220 PORT ROAD ALBERTON, S.A. 5014
MOBILE : 0416 947 817
EMAIL : P.FRIDAKIS777@GMAIL.COM



Senior Executive Committee



Senior Dance Group



PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF MELBOURNE

ΠΑΓΚΡΗΤΙΑ ΕΝΩΣΗ ΜΕΛΒΟΥΡΝΗΣ

OFFICE: CRETAN VILLAGE, 90 CATHIES LANE WANTIRNA SOUTH VIC 3152
TELEPHONE : (03) 9800 0148 MOBILE : 0439 324 445
EMAIL : INFO@PANCRETAN.COM.AU



Senior Executive Committee



Dance Group

PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF MELBOURNE

ΠΑΓΚΡΗΤΙΑ ΕΝΩΣΗ ΜΕΛΒΟΥΡΝΗΣ

OFFICE: CRETAN VILLAGE, 90 CATHIES LANE WANTIRNA SOUTH VIC 3152
TELEPHONE : (03) 9800 0148 MOBILE : 0439 324 445
EMAIL : INFO@PANCRETAN.COM.AU



Dance Group



Dancing Groups performing at Antipodes 2024



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΒΟΡΕΙΑΣ ΕΠΙΚΡΑΤΕΙΑΣ

P.O. BOX 1720, BERRIMAH, N.T. 0828
MOBILE : 0411 739 335
EMAIL : GMAMOUNIS21@YAHOO.GR



Senior Executive Committee



Senior Dance Group

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΒΟΡΕΙΑΣ ΕΠΙΚΡΑΤΕΙΑΣ

P.O. BOX 1720, BERRIMAH, N.T. 0828
MOBILE : 0411 739 335
EMAIL : GMAMOUNIS21@YAHOO.GR



Intermediate Dance Group



Junior- Intermediate Dance Group



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΚΟΥΙΣΛΑΝΔΗΣ

P.O. BOX 5172, WEST END, QLD 4101

MOBILE : 0403 533 407

EMAIL : ANTHONY.KATSANEVAS@TARONGENERGY.COM.AU

Front Row L to R:

Herc Kaselakis (Treasurer),
Filia Ghorayeb (Secretary),
Anthony Katsanevas (President),
Katerina Varnava (Vice President),
Miron Katsanevas

Back Row L to R:

Patrisia Arvanitagis,
Penelope Barimis (Public Relations),
John Karalis (Vice Treasurer),
Anna Ghorayeb (Public Relations),
Anastasia Karalis (Public Relations),
Melina Kalykakis (Vice Secretary),

Absent:

Costa Kaselakis, Nekta Vitetzakis,
Monica Katsanevas



Senior Executive Committee

Front Row L to R:

Antonio Arvanitagis, Miro Katsanevas,
Kosta Katsanevas, Anthony Vitetzakis,
Lefteri Stamatis, Luke Karalis,
Harrison Vitetzakis

Back Row L to R:

Anna Ghorayeb, Patrisia Arvanitagis,
Katerina Varnava, Zoe Karalis,
Ari Katsanevas, Melina Kalykakis,
Jennifer Sakley, Anastasia Karalis,
Victoria Ghorayeb

Absent:

Alexia Georgas



Senior Dance Group

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΚΟΥΙΣΛΑΝΔΗΣ

P.O. BOX 5172, WEST END, QLD 4101

MOBILE : 0403 533 407

EMAIL : ANTHONY.KATSANEVAS@TARONGENERGY.COM.AU



Junior Dance Group

L to R:

Elias Park, Marissa Park,
Elisavet Kladas, Fotini Symons,
Despina Varnava, Stavros Varnava



The Cretan Association of Queensland at the 2023 Brisbane Paniyiri



**CRETAN ASSOCIATION
OF TASMANIA**

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΑΣΜΑΝΙΑΣ

54 LIPSCOMBE AVENUE, SANDY BAY TASMANIA 7005

TELEPHONE : (03) 6225 4891 MOBILE : 0419 575 441

EMAIL : VICKI.SAMK@BIGPOND.COM

Back Row L to R:

Terry Skoulakis, Nick Alexakis,
Stan Tsakiris, Sotiris Kalogeropoulos

Front Row L to R:

Vicki Kalogeropoulos, John Fiotakis,
Harry Fiotakis, Nick Gonianakis



Senior Executive Committee

Back Row L to R:

Andreas Kalogeropoulos,
Yianna Nikitaras, Mario Burgess,
Dimitri Diafokeris,
Stavros Kalogeropoulos

Middle Row L to R:

Eliana Diafokeris, Eleni Anagnostis,
Paola Varveris, Elenie Kothris,
Alexandra Dellas, Natalia Polikretis,
Christina Martinez

Front Row L to R: Kallia Gonianakis,
Maria Papadelias, Georgia Ross,
Georgia Nikitaras



Senior Dance Group

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΑΣΜΑΝΙΑΣ

54 LIPSCOMBE AVENUE, SANDY BAY TASMANIA 7005
TELEPHONE : (03) 6225 4891 MOBILE : 0419 575 441
EMAIL : VICKI.SAMK@BIGPOND.COM



2023 Battle of Crete –Wreath laying ceremony at Hobart Cenotaph



Battle of Crete Reception 2023 – Hellenic House



CRETAN BROTHERHOOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΣ

39 PAPERBARK WAY MORLEY, WA 6062
MOBILE : 0474 446 185
EMAIL : CBHWA@OUTLOOK.COM



Youth President laying a Wreath at 25th March Commemorations 2024



Dance Group

CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

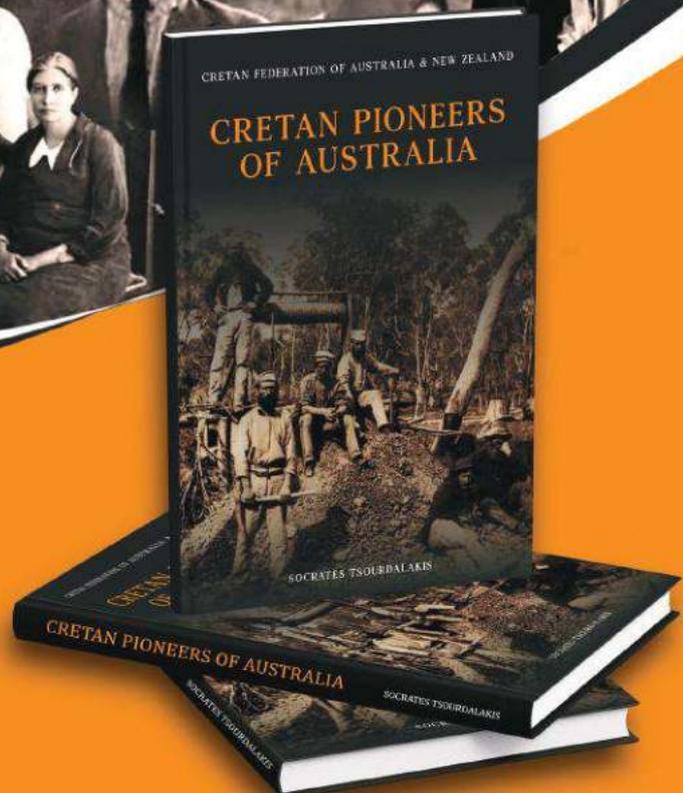
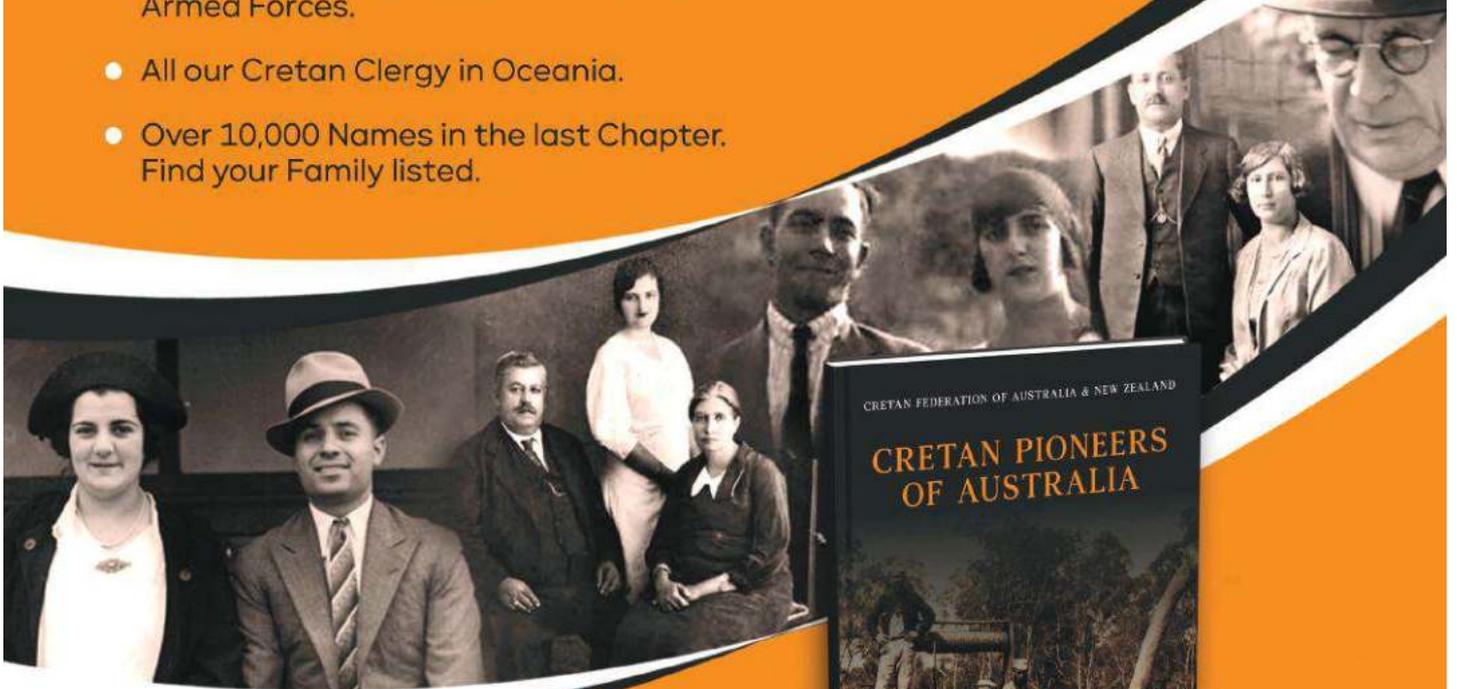
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The value of the Greek language is priceless. It is a language that has been spoken continuously for 40 centuries until the present day which has contributed to the development of European and world culture

With the main goal, to preserve and pass on the Greek language, our cultural identity and heritage, through Orthodox religious values, the Holy Archdiocese of Australia, in Victoria, has united all the after hour schools of the Parishes and Communities reating a new «Aetolian College».

AN ACTIVITY OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA

The College operates after hours during the week and on Saturday mornings in various suburbs throughout the Melbourne Metropolitan Area. Classes are offered from Kindergarten to VCE. In order to achieve the preservation of the Greek language and identity to the next generations, students will be taught Greek, through academic programs tailored to their needs. The lessons take place in a pleasant environment with suitable facilities.

Aetolian College Goals

The goals of "Aetolian College" are:

- TO TEACH STUDENTS** the Greek language through remarkable programs that follow the core curriculum of the Department of Education, Victoria. The programs cover basic communication skills (comprehension, oral and written) as well as intercultural skills.
- TO FOCUS** on the design of the curriculum as well as the class structure and the individual student needs.
- TO FURTHER CREATE** cultural content programs, in order for students to come in direct contact with the Greek culture and the Orthodox faith.
- TO PROVIDE STUDENTS** with the necessary assistance, in order to fulfill their personal goals, focusing on obtaining an achievable result to assist them in their higher education studies.
- TO PROMOTE** our cultural identity through the teachings of the traditions, Greek history and Greek customs.



Brunswick
St Vasilios,
15 Blyth Street,
Brunswick

Coburg
Presentation of our Lord,
29 Victoria Street,
Coburg

East Burwood
St Andrews, Blackburn
English Language
School, 120 Eley Road,
East Burwood

East Keilor
Panagia Soumela,
Essendon Keilor College,
82-84 Quinn Grove,
East Keilor

East Malvern
St Catherine,
3B Epping Street,
East Malvern

Fawkner
St Nektarios,
138-144 Major Road,
Fawkner

Moonee Ponds
St Dimitrios,
319 Ascot Vale Road,
Moonee Ponds

Noble Park North
St Athanasios,
Carwatha College P-12,
43-81 Browns Road,
Noble Park North

Reservoir
Transfiguration of our
Lord, William Ruthven
Secondary College, 60
Merrilands Road,
Reservoir

Richmond
Holy Trinity,
319 Burnley Street,
Richmond

St Albans
St Paraskevi, Taylors
Lakes Secondary College,
1-39 Parmelia Drive,
Taylors Lake

Vermont South
St Andrews, Livingstone
Primary School,
25-29 Livingstone Road,
Vermont South

Yarraville
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MORE INFO

admin@aetoliancollege.com.au
Website: www.aetoliancollege.com.au

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On this the 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Crete:

*“Heroism doesn’t always happen in a burst of glory.
Sometimes small triumphs and large hearts
change the course of history”*

**Congratulations to the CFANZ & CYANZ for the
ongoing commemorative events of the Battle of Crete
and not forgetting the sacrifices of so many.**



Paul Spanoudakis

Principal/Auctioneer

M 0411 50 60 07

T 02 9349 6922

D 02 8347 6411

paul@rhmaroubra.com.au

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Jim Markakis
Principal & Managing Director

Email
jm@rwnewtown.com.au

Telephone
02 8596 2766



Anthony Markakis
Director
B.Comm/LLB
UNSW

Email
anthony@rwnewtown.com.au

Telephone
02 8596 2770



Matthew Markakis
Executive Director
B.Comm/LLB
Macquarie University

Email
matthew@rwnewtown.com.au

Telephone
02 8596 2740

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Richardson & Wrench together with Lepouris Markakis Solicitors
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on the 83rd Anniversary of The Battle of Crete.

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ACCOUNTANT &
TAX AGENT

Nick Janes

Accountant & Tax Agent

109 Ogilvy Street
Peakhurst NSW 2210

M: 0439 665 011

T: 02 9596 1562

nickjanes@optusnet.com.au

Terry Saviolakis

Accountant

109 Ogilvy Street
Peakhurst NSW 2210

M: 0407 316 605

saviolt@bigpond.com

Eva Gotsis

Accredited Education Agent Counsellor

✉ eva@enosii.com

🌐 www.enosii.com

☎ +61 403218812

📍 PO Box 457, Balwyn 3103, Victoria, Australia

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M 0419 401 783

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KOGARAH NSW 2217

DX 11101 KOGARAH

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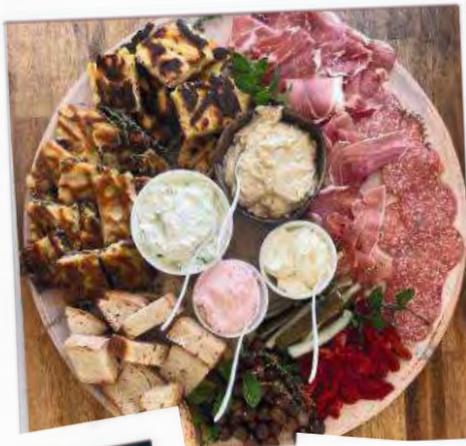
*Ἡρωες πολεμήσανε για λευτεριά στην Κρήτη
απ' την Μαδάρα ως την κορφή του Γέρο Ψηλορείτη
Την μάχη την εδώσανε μεσ' το 41
και τον εχθρό χτυπήσανε με βόλια ένα – ένα
Αντίσταση εφέρανε και τα μικρά Κοπέλια
κι όλοι μαζί στηρίζανε τση Κρήτης τα θεμέλια*

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