

CRETAN TIMES

PERIODICAL OF THE CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

ISSUE 14 - DECEMBER 2024





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PRESIDENTS MESSAGES



Dear fellow Cretans and Friends of Crete,

As 2024 draws to a close, let us all reflect on how lucky we are to still be here. Unfortunately, we have lost more of our parent's generation again this year. A generation that left their villages and homes, travelled to the other side of the planet and established families and vibrant, active and respected Cretan Communities in every major city in Australia and New Zealand. We should all be grateful to this generation for establishing our Associations and passing on their customs and traditions.

I wish to thank all of our Presidents, committees, volunteers, sponsors and supporters for all of their hard work during the year, in keeping the Cretan spirit alive throughout Oceania. You have all worked tirelessly to promote our Community and to encourage our youth to participate.

Again, I'd like to single out our President in the Northern Territory, Mr George Mamounis, for his hard work in putting together and preparing for the 43rd Annual Cretan Convention in Darwin in early January. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible up there.

Congratulations to the Pancretan Association of Melbourne and the Cretan Association of Sydney and New South Wales for their Commemoration of the Arkadi Monastery Holocaust. Their special guests, the Tzanidakis Dance Group from Rethymno added prestige and colour to all of the planned events during the 2 week period in early November.

Congratulations also, for the Cretan Association of Sydney and NSW on marking their 65th Anniversary. An historic milestone reached and celebrated in November as well. This is on the back of the Cretan Association of Queensland's landmark 50th Anniversary earlier in the year.

Thank you again to all the youth who participated in this year's Cretan Youth Trip to Athens and Crete. You made us all very proud. I hope you remember the experience forever! We are now advertising for next year's trip (see inside this issue).

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry and Holy Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Please stay safe during this holiday season.

Emmanuel Mountakis
National President



Dear Fellow Cretan Youth,

With 2024 coming to a close, I would like to thank all of our youth who have maintained their efforts in their respective clubs throughout the year. Successful dances, commemorative events, public and private performances and most importantly youth connection and bonding have been some of the excellent outcomes of everyone's efforts.

Our committee has their sights set on a productive 2025 with some initiatives targeted at getting our youth to connect, particularly through online platforms, as a means of maintaining connections throughout the year. The importance of keeping regular contact and engagement with all states under the Federation is essential to the preservation of our well-established connections with one another.

The Darwin Convention will be an excellent means of kickstarting our year and catching up with some familiar and new faces. I wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year, with best wishes for what 2025 has to offer.

Ari Paraskakis
National Youth President

HISTORICAL ARMS AND MILITARY SOCIETY OF TASMANIA CHRISTMAS DINNER

Members of the Cretan Association of Tasmania were invited to attend the Historical Arms & Military Society of Tasmania Christmas Dinner, Friday 30 November 2024.

This is a club for those interested in military history and collecting of militaria. They promote the lawful interest of Military Medals, Uniforms, Vehicles, Ammunition, Bayonets, Artillery, Swords, Helmets, Headware, Knives and War.

Their theme this year was about Greece and they approached our association requesting someone to talk about the Battle of Crete/War in Greece.

Guest speaker was our member Mr Andonny Papastamatis who spoke about the Battle of Crete and we thank him for his incredible presentation.

A big thank you to our host Mr Stephen Denham and his committee for a wonderful evening.



ANNUAL CRETAN BARBEQUE

The Cretan Association of Tasmania annual barbeque was held Sunday 8 December 2024, Tolosa Reserve, Hut no: 10.

It was a wonderful get together, the weather was on our side, and our committee and friends helped cook up a storm.

Our ladies made some delicious desserts and some great prizes were donated for our raffle.

Thank you to all our volunteers who work so hard each year, our members and families for all their support and for all the wonderful donations we received.

Looking forward to a happy and prosperous 2025.

Merry Christmas, Χρονια Πολλα, και Καλή Χρονιά.



ΕΝΤΥΠΩΣ'ΙΑΣΕ Ο ΛΑΟΓΡΑΦΙΚ'ΟΣ ΌΜΙΛΟΣ «ΤΖΑΝΙΔ'ΑΚΗΣ» ΤΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΪΟ OAKLEIGH GRAMMAR



Επίσημη επίσκεψη πραγματοποίησε ο Λαογραφικός Όμιλος «Τζανιδάκης» στο ελληνορθόδοξο σχολείο Oakleigh Grammar λίγο πριν την επιστροφή τους στην Κρήτη αφήνοντας τις καλύτερες εντυπώσεις στους μαθητές.

Την Δευτέρα 18 Νοεμβρίου και λίγο πριν πάρουν το δρόμο της επιστροφής για τα πατρία εδάφη, τα μέλη του Λαογραφικού Ομίλου «Τζανιδάκης» επισκέφτηκαν το ελληνορθόδοξο σχολείο Oakleigh Grammar που βρίσκεται στο προάστειο του Oakleigh.

Ο Διευθυντής του σχολείου κ. Mark Robertson και η Συντονίστρια Ελληνικής Γλώσσας και Κουλτούρας κα. Νατάσα Σπανού υποδέχτηκαν τον Πρόεδρο του Ομίλου κ. Χρήστα Τζανιδάκη μαζί με την σύζυγό του κα. Όλγα Κωστάκη και την δεκαμελή ομάδα οι οποίοι συνοδεύονται από τον Πρόεδρο Ένωσης Κοινοτήτων και Ενοριών της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αυστραλίας, κ. Αντώνη Τσουρδαλάκη, έφτασαν στο σχολείο λίγο μετά τις 10:00πμ.

Να σημειωθεί το σχολείο έχει συνεργαστεί και στο παρελθόν με τον Όμιλο «Τζανιδάκη» τόσο στην Αυστραλία όσο και στην Ελλάδα. Συγκεκριμένα, χοροδιδάσκαλοι του Ομίλου είχαν παραδώσει μαθήματα στους μαθητές τον Μάιο και τον Νοέμβριο του 2018, ενώ στο ταξίδι που είχε προγραμματίσει στην Ελλάδα το 2019 οι μαθητές είχαν παρακολουθήσει σεμινάρια στην σχολή του Ομίλου στο Ρέθυμνο.

Μετά από μια σύντομη ξενάγηση στους χώρους του σχολείου και την ανταλλαγή δώρων ανάμεσα στον Διευθυντή και στον Πρόεδρο του Ομίλου, οι προσκεκλημένοι βρέθηκαν στο κλειστό αθλητικό κέντρο του σχολείου όπου και είχαν διοργανώσει σεμινάριο κρητικών χορών για τους μαθητές του Γυμνασίου. Οι μαθητές μέσα σε κλίμα γεμάτο ενθουσιασμό και πλημμυρισμένο από Κρητικές νότες, διδάχτηκαν σιγανό, συρτό και σουστά ενώ εντυπωσιάστηκαν από το πεντοζάλι που χόρεψε η χορευτική ομάδα.

Το σχολείο Oakleigh Grammar εκφράζει τις θερμές του ευχαριστίες στον Λαογραφικό Όμιλο «Τζανιδάκη» που τους επισκέφτηκε και έδωσε την ευκαιρία στους μαθητές να έρθουν σε επαφή με την Κρητική παράδοση. Τέτοιου είδους πρωτοβουλίες είναι εξαιρετικά σημαντικές για τους ομογενείς μαθητές της Αυστραλίας, καθώς τους βοηθούν να διατηρήσουν ζωντανές τις ρίζες τους και την εθνική τους ταυτότητα. Μέσα από αυτές τις ξεχωριστές δραστηριότητες, γνωρίζουν την ιστορία, τη γλώσσα, τις παραδόσεις και τις αξίες του Ελληνισμού, ενισχύοντας την περηφάνια για την κληρονομιά τους. Παράλληλα, αναπτύσσουν στενούς δεσμούς με την ελληνική παροικία και γίνονται γέφυρα πολιτισμού μέσα στην πολυπολιτισμική κοινωνία της Αυστραλίας.



Let Crete Change Your Life, NOT TAKE IT

#a_life_campaign

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**DRIVE SAFE
IN CRETE**



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CFANZ 2024 TRIP EXPERIENCE

The trip was a spectacular experience. I have experienced some group trips in Greece before, but being a Cretan-focused trip made this one uniquely memorable and impactful. From all these voyages I have learned that nothing connects the diaspora to their homeland more than these kinds of experiences where we are truly immersed in the culture and lands of our roots. This alone makes the trip especially valuable for our Cretan youth so thank you to the Cretan Federation for making the initiative to create such an opportunity in the first place. The trip opened my eyes to a new world that was the Cretan culture: the dances, the food, the drinks, the music, the land. After hearing the youth sing along to Spilio and Lemonia Mou on the bus for the first time and then dance to live music at the taverna Omalos in Athens, I had instantly fallen in love with everything Cretan and could see why everyone on this trip had such a worthy passion for the culture. Meeting so many new people and enjoying the 'parea' really made this trip the wonderful experience that it was.

We spent a week in Athens, staying in the Hellenic Defence Forces Beachside Resort of Agios Andreas. Our time in Athens involved visiting the Naval, Airforce and Special Forces army bases of Attica. It was really cool to see inside a real battle ship, to be told all about the specs of a Rafale fighter jet by one of Greece's 'Top Guns', to see Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets take off into the sky at such impressive speeds that they disappear into inconceivable specs in the distance, and to watch Greece's special forces soldiers undertaking intense drills. We also enjoyed the many flavours of the Greek cuisine at different taverns, listened to live music and learned all about Greece's ancient landmarks such as the Panathenaean stadium and the Acropolis. Not to mention our boat cruise visiting three islands in one day, and the scenic railbiking across the expansive landscapes of Neo Peramo.

Our second week was in Crete, where we stayed near the beautiful Venetian port of Chania, and later in Rethymno, as well as a day visit to Herakleion. Taking part in Chania's last 'Strata' for the season was a surreal opportunity where we got to sing with a live band, walking from the edges of Chania port to the town centre, stopping on the way to enjoy shots of raki with watermelon. At the centre we danced with the many Cretan dance groups of Chania before performing in front of all attending the event.

I had so much fun dancing in traditional Cretan costume to the beat of the laouto and the rhythm of the Cretan lyra as the musicians sang, seeing so many other Cretans, in their variety of traditional costumes, dancing with us, on the very land this culture came from.

In Rethymno, Laografikos Omilos Tzanidaki held a dance workshop for us in their studio, in which we learned both dances, and all about the Cretan costumes, followed by an outing in the beautiful old town. It was also wonderful being provided a tour by one of the priests of Arkadi monastery in which we got to witness the historical evidence that remains from the holocaust that occurred there in 1866.



Martha



I had the honour of representing the Cretan Association of South Australia on the 2024 CFANZ youth trip. This incredible journey was filled with unforgettable moments that many tourists don't get to experience, such as exclusive behind-the-scenes visits with the army, navy, air force, and Evzones, among others. Exploring Crete was particularly meaningful, as it allowed us to connect with our Cretan heritage and delve into the island's rich history.

One of the highlights for me was walking along the Limani for the Strata in Chania, where we sang along to live music and ended the evening with a lively *glendi*. This trip not only deepened my appreciation for my roots but also allowed me to form lifelong friendships. It has inspired me to bring the same sense of connection and cultural pride back to Adelaide, fostering a stronger community spirit.



Panayioti



2025 NATIONAL YOUTH TRIP TO GREECE

The Cretan Federation of Australia & New Zealand, in conjunction with CLIMS of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, is hosting the 2025 National Youth Trip to Greece comprising of an educational, social, informative, historical and cultural program.

This program is initially open to youth from our Federation Member Organisations in Australia and New Zealand, until the 7th of February 2025. It will then be opened to the other Greek youth. CLIMS will be covering the expenses for the Accommodation, Bus Transfers, Meals, Events and Tour Guides in Athens.

Each Youth participant, must cover their international and domestic return airfares to Greece and back, as well as from Athens to Crete and back. The trip will take place on and around the Winter School Holiday Period. The proposed dates are Wednesday 23rd July 2025 to Saturday 9th August 2025. Registration/Booking Cost is \$ 300.00 per participant. Please note, this is non-refundable except in exceptional circumstances.

As decided by the CFANZ at previous Annual General Meetings, participants must be either members of, or children of members of the Federation's Organisations. They must be between the ages of 18 and 25. Each Association has been allocated three spots up until Friday the 7th of February. After this date, all spots not taken up, will be re allocated to the other Associations. Priority will be given to Youth that did not attend the 2023 and 2024 Youth Trips and within the age bracket above.

Please register your interest via email at admin@cretan.com.au

**2025 CFANZ
YOUTH TRIP**
23 July 2025 - 9 August 2025

Expressions of Interest
Now Open

For more information contact
admin@cretan.com.au



CRETAN FEDERATION OF
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND