

CRETAN TIMES

PERIODICAL OF THE CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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Celebrating 45 Years of the
**CRETAN FEDERATION OF
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**



CRETAN FEDERATION OF
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND





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PRESIDENTS MESSAGES



Dear fellow Cretans and Friends of Crete,

Welcome to our second issue of the Cretan Times magazine for 2025. The whole Board of the Federation and all of our Member Organisations have been working hard since our last issue, preparing for the 84th Anniversary Commemorations for the Battle of Crete.

Everyone's efforts resulted in a very successful nationwide program this May. Our special VIP delegation from the Hellenic Defence General Staff headed by the Deputy Chief, Vice-Admiral Mikropoulos honoured our commemorations in Hobart, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. We were also pleased to host invited Cretan musicians, Georgos Alexantonakis and Nikos Papadogiannis who played at our Annual Dinners in Hobart, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

I am very proud of all of our Member Organisations, their Committees, volunteers and sponsors! Their dedication in organising their various events was outstanding and left a great impression on our guests and on the greater Greek and Australian Communities. Congratulations to you all!! Through our combined efforts, have won the admiration of many of our political, ecclesiastical, diplomatic, military and community leaders and we are gaining new "friends" every year. We now turn our attention to the 85th Anniversary in 2026.

As discussed at our recent Darwin Convention, we will be celebrating our Federation's 45th Anniversary in Canberra, together with the Cretan Association of Canberra and District's 40th Anniversary. Many people will be travelling from interstate to attend the "Cretans in Canberra Weekend". It will be a great weekend showcasing our history here in Oceania!

We will continue working on our various endeavours in the background over the next few months, planning and organising the next Convention in Sydney, the 2026 Battle of Crete Commemorations, the 2026 Cretan Youth Trip, lobbying for funding, etc.

Finally, I wish all those travelling to Greece and Crete this summer, a happy and enjoyable time and most of all, a safe return home.

Emmanuel Mountakis
National President



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Ο ΠΡΩΘΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ

Αθήνα, 20 Μαΐου
2025

*«Πάρε της Κρήτης τα βουνά και ανέβα πέτρα- πέτρα/
σε όποια πέτρα και αν θα βγεις, έναν αγώνα μέτρα».*

Έναν τέτοιον αγώνα τιμούμε και φέτος: τη μάχη της Κρήτης! Ως υπερήφανος Κρητικός και εγώ, υποκλίνομαι μαζί σας στη γενναιότητα όσων αντιτάχθηκαν στη ναζιστική θηριωδία τον Μάιο του 1941. Έγραψαν, έτσι, μία απ' τις ενδοξότερες σελίδες όχι μόνο της μεγαλονήσου και της Ελλάδας. Αλλά και ολόκληρου του πολιτισμένου κόσμου.

Οι συνεχιστές του Δασκαλογιάννη και του Κόρακα απέδειξαν με το αίμα και την τόλμη τους το ανυποχώρητο πνεύμα του κρητικού λαού και την δίψα του για ελευθερία. Στο πλευρό τους, μάλιστα, είχαν τότε γενναίους Αυστραλούς και Νεοζηλανδούς μαχητές της ANZAC που πολέμησαν με την ίδια αυτοθυσία και αφοσίωση.

Εκείνοι οι δεσμοί αδελφότητας και αλληλεγγύης που σφυρηλατήθηκαν στο πεδίο της μάχης, παραμένουν μέχρι και σήμερα ζωντανοί. Θεμελιωμένοι στις κοινές αξίες και στη φιλία των δύο λαών, αποτελούν τη βάση για τη διαχρονική συμπόρευσή τους. Μία συμπόρευση που έχει, πλέον, και τη σφραγίδα πολλών συμπατριωτών μας που μετανάστευσαν και πρόκοψαν στην Αυστραλία και στη Νέα Ζηλανδία.

Είναι οι δικές σας οικογένειες που έφτασαν στις νέες τους πατρίδες, αλλά δεν ξέχασαν ποτέ τη μητέρα-πατρίδα. Γιατί οι πρόγονοί σας όσο και εσείς κρατήσατε και κρατάτε πάντα ζωντανή τη γαλανόλευκη κληρονομιά, τον πολιτισμό και όλα όσα συγκροτούν το έθνος μας μέσα στο χρόνο. Ενώ οι επιτυχίες σας γίνονται κρίκοι που σας συνδέουν με την πατρώα γη και, ταυτόχρονα, με την πρόοδο των χωρών όπου ζείτε.

Είμαι βαθιά ευγνώμων σε όλους τους ομογενείς μας και ιδίως στα μέλη της Κρητικής Ομοσπονδίας Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας. Όλοι εσείς, έχετε πετύχει με τη δράση σας να γεφυρώσετε τη μεγάλη γεωγραφική απόσταση που μας χωρίζει. Με όπλα την φιλοπατρία, τη γλώσσα και τη διατήρηση των παραδόσεών μας. Είστε ένα από τα πιο ζωντανά κύτταρα του ελληνισμού. Και η Ελλάδα δεν θα πάψει να μένει δίπλα σας.

Κυριάκος Μητσοτάκης



**EMBASSY OF GREECE
CANBERRA**

Canberra, 1st May 2025

Commemorative message for the 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete

This year, we solemnly mark the anniversary of the Battle of Crete, a defining moment of courage and sacrifice during the Second World War. In May 1941, the island of Crete became the stage of a fierce battle, as the Second Anzac Corps—comprising brave Australian and New Zealand troops—stood shoulder to shoulder with Greek and British forces against the ferocious airborne assault of Nazi Germany.

Formed from units that had already fought valiantly in the defence of mainland Greece, the Anzacs were evacuated across the Aegean to Crete. There, they once again faced overwhelming odds. Their heroism, determination, and resilience became a lasting symbol of freedom.

Of the Australians and New Zealanders who served in the Greek campaign, the Anzacs suffered thousands of casualties—killed, wounded, and taken prisoner. Today, 646 Australians lie at rest in the Commonwealth War Graves at Phaleron Athens, Rhodes, and Suda Bay Crete. We also honour the passing this year of the last surviving Anzac of the Battle of Crete, Arthur Leggett, OAM, a prisoner of war and a man of extraordinary spirit. May their memory be eternal.

The bravery of the Cretan people during this time will never be forgotten. Often fighting without weapons, they resisted the Nazis with unbreakable courage. In the face of occupation, they risked everything to shelter and assist Anzac soldiers, helping many evade capture. Their courage and humanity bound our nations together in an unbreakable bond — one that endures to this day. The descendants of the Anzacs and Australian dignitaries still visit the places where their forefathers fought. Meanwhile, senior members of the Greek military travel to Australia each year to commemorate the Battle and honour the shared sacrifice of our peoples.

Today, Greece and Australia remain close partners, united in their shared commitment to freedom and democracy. We remember with deep gratitude those who gave their lives and those who stood firm together in the darkest days. Their legacy lives on in the enduring friendship between our peoples.

Stavros Venizelos
Ambassador of Greece to Australia and New Zealand

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW ZEALAND BATTLE OF CRETE ASSOCIATION

Greetings from the New Zealand Battle of Crete Association

Ki Ora Kalimera

At the time of writing this we are preparing for our 84th Commemoration Memorial Service to be held at the Mt Maunganui RSA on May 18 2025. Lt Col Warren Banks will emcee our Memorial. Our guest speaker will be Mr Charles Blackie QSO VRD who has a Naval background and will share information of the Navy's involvement in the Battle of Crete. After the formal part of the Commemoration Memorial we will be entertained by the local Athena Greek Dance Group, which is always a colourful and much-loved performance.

There are quite a few Kiwis in Crete for this year's Commemoration Memorials and we have a NZBOC delegate who will lay wreaths at each Memorial.

Sadly, we have no known Battle of Crete Veterans left with us. Our last two veterans, Brant Robinson and Tony Madden were our last heroes to leave this earthly battlefield and go to their rest. At one of our meetings last year, our Vice President Robin Lloyd spoke of his visit to Germany with NZBOC Veteran Tony Madden, and their extraordinary adventures there.

At our last AGM in 2024 we had a most interesting presentation by NZ Historian Andrew Holyoake who spoke of the 'Tymbakion Shorts Project' and he had in his possession the actual pair of shorts, tailored by a soldier taken prisoner during the Battle of Crete in 1941, and which were signed by 127 POWs! Andrew is still researching this project for more information on these POW soldiers.

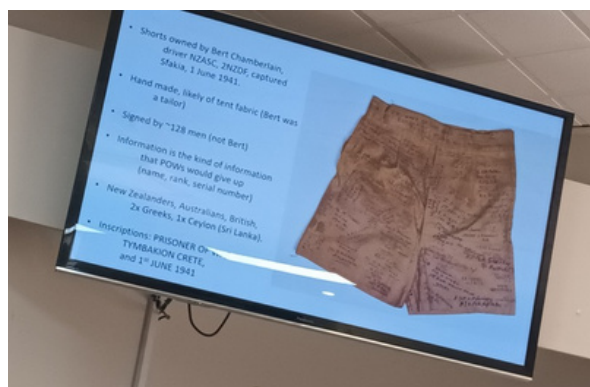
The Southern Branch led by Doug and Lynne McMillan continues to be enthusiastically involved with matters pertaining to the Battle of Crete. In September, they had a presentation from NZ Historian John Irwin who showed a brief overview of 34 years of researching and filming significant aspects of the ANZAC experience in Greece from 1915 – 1945. John has recently completed a 90 minute documentary entitled 'ANZAC – The Greek Chapter.'

Our Committee is small but at each meeting we seem to have new guests who link up with others who have stories to tell of their family members who were involved in the Battle of Crete. We endeavour always to keep and honour our Battle of Crete memories alive, along with our shared friendship with and gratitude to the people of Greece and Crete. Lest we forget.

With sincere and kind regards ,

Stewart Gradon President NZBOC

Jeannie Overall Hon Secretary



VALE ARTHUR LEGGETT OAM: A TRIBUTE TO A HERO OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

The Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand wishes to formally acknowledge the passing of Mr. Arthur Leggett OAM, a distinguished Australian veteran of the Second World War and one of the last surviving servicemen who fought in the Battle of Crete.

Born on 8 September 1918, Mr. Leggett served with honour and courage during one of the most pivotal campaigns of the war. Captured during the Battle of Crete in 1941, he endured more than four years as a prisoner of war, including forced labour in the coal mines of Poland. His resilience in the face of great adversity became a hallmark of his character.

In the years following the war, Mr. Leggett dedicated himself to the remembrance of those who served and fell. He became a tireless advocate for veterans and a passionate supporter of commemorative initiatives that honoured the unique bond between Australia and Greece, particularly the people of Crete who bravely stood alongside the ANZACs.

Mr. Leggett's legacy extends beyond his military service. His commitment to peace, education, and reconciliation made him a respected figure not only within the veteran community but across generations of Australians and Greek-Australians.

His passing marks the end of an era, and the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand extends its deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who were inspired by his extraordinary life.

Αιώνια του η μνήμη — May his memory be eternal.



FAREWELL TO ARTHUR LEGGETT OAM: A LEGACY OF COURAGE AND REMEMBRANCE

We pay tribute to Mr. Arthur Leggett OAM, born on 8 September 1918 and passing away on 6 April 2025, at the remarkable age of 106.

At just 22, Mr. Leggett enlisted in the Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia before joining the first AIF unit raised in WA during World War II — the 2/11th Battalion, 6th Division. Trained as a signaller, he played a vital role in maintaining communications between companies and battalion headquarters during campaigns in the Middle East.

Mr. Leggett served with distinction in Libya, Greece, and Crete. Following the Battle of Crete, he was captured by German forces and spent nearly four years as a prisoner of war in Europe. He endured the infamous Lamsdorf Death March — an 800 km journey through rugged, mountainous terrain during one of the coldest European winters in half a century.

To honour his extraordinary life and service, a State Funeral was held at St George's Cathedral in Perth, Western Australia. The ceremony reflected the high esteem in which he was held by his community, state, and country.

The funeral began with a full military procession, featuring current and former members of the Australian Defence Force. Veterans, school students, dignitaries, and members of the public lined the streets in silent reflection as the Australian flag-draped casket, escorted by a guard of honour and accompanied by a military band, made its way to the cathedral.

Inside, the service was attended by government officials, members of the armed forces, community representatives, and members of the Cretan Brotherhood of Western Australia. Moving tributes were delivered by military representatives and by Ms Eleni Georgopoulou - Consul of Greece in Perth, on behalf of the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Mark Gibson delivered the family's eulogy. The Mount Lawley Senior High School choir performed Abide with Me, a poignant tribute from the school where Mr. Leggett had long shared his wartime experiences. His legacy as a storyteller, educator, and advocate for peace was remembered with deep respect.

A bugler played the Last Post, followed by a minute of silence and the Reveille — marking both farewell and the celebration of a life that had witnessed the worst of war yet championed the best of humanity.

Following the service, a private burial was held for family and close friends — a final act of remembrance for a man who gave so much and asked so little in return.

Arthur Leggett was more than a soldier. He was a symbol of resilience, humility, and wisdom. He found humour even in adversity, often recalling moments of mischief and camaraderie during his years as a prisoner of war. Carrying with him the weight of sacrifice and the importance of remembrance, he dedicated his later years to educating the next generation about the true cost of freedom.

His was a life well lived, and a legacy that will endure through all those he inspired. Lest we forget.



Taken by Cretan Brotherhood of Western Australia Inc - left Arthur Leggett and right WWII Vet



Taken by the western Australia paper



Taken by Western Australian Army Force - Image in front of St George's Cathedral.



Taken by Western Australian Army Force - March down St George's Terrace in the city



Inside St George's Cathedral by Australian armed forces



Taken by Armed Forces - Image of the Cameron Highlanders unit



Image by Australian Armed Forces of Eleni Georgopoulou Consul of Greece in Perth



Taken by Cretan Brotherhood of Western Australian inc - on the left Mr Graeme Johnson, Maria Constantinou, Eleni Georgopoulou, behind Michael Constantinou, Kristina Constantinou, Fr Terry Gerovasilis, Nicholas Constantinou, Mr Basil Zempris Leader for the Opposition and Manoli Yeroyianakis

84TH ANNIVERSARY – BATTLE OF CRETE



The Cretan Association of Tasmania commemorated the 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete, Saturday 10 May 2025.

Commemorations began with a wreath laying ceremony bringing together community leaders, dignitaries and descendants to honour the bravery and sacrifice of Cretan and Allied forces.

We were very honoured this year to welcome the Ambassador of Greece Mr Stavros Venizelos, Deputy Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, Vice Admiral Theodoros Mikropoulos HN, Colonel Kyriakos Kyriakakos, Defence Attache, Commander Dimitrios Lekakos and Mr Emmanuel Moundakis, President Cretan Association of Australia and New Zealand.

In the evening a dinner dance was held featuring international musicians from Crete Giorgos Alexantonakis and Nikos Papadogiannis and a wonderful display of Cretan dancing from our Hellenic Dancers.

A huge thank you to all our sponsors, the Greek Community of Tasmania, our tireless volunteers, members, family and friends for all your support.





HONOURING THE HEROES OF CRETE & GREECE: 84TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED IN CANBERRA

The 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign was marked with solemnity and pride on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at a moving commemoration held at the Australian-Hellenic Memorial, ANZAC Parade Canberra. This annual event has been co-hosted, for the past 40 years, by the Embassy of Greece and the Cretan Association of Canberra & Districts Incorporated.

The ceremony brought together a distinguished gathering of guests, dignitaries, defence representatives, and members of the Greek-Australian community, united in tribute to those who fought and fell in one of the most significant campaigns of the Second World War.

The memorial service was attended by:

- Very Reverend Father Petros Kipourou
- Mrs Dimitra Mihalopoulos, representing St Demetrios Parish, Queanbeyan
- Mrs Eleni Psychopeda, Director of the Greek Consular Office in Canberra Representing the Ambassador of Greece to Australia His Excellency Mr. Staros Venizelos
- Vice Admiral Theodoros Mikropoulos, Deputy Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff
- H.E. Mr Antonis Sammoutis, High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus
- Mr Kenneth Ryan, Deputy High Commissioner for New Zealand
- Mr Les Cook, veteran of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign
- CDRE John Stavridis CSC RAN, representing the Royal Australian Navy
- COL John Papalitsas CSC Bar, representing the Australian Army
- Mr Matthew Anderson PSM, Director of the Australian War Memorial
- Mr Paul Taylor, ACT Hellenic Sub-Branch of the RSL
- Mrs Nectaria Volis, President, Cypriot Community of Canberra
- Mr Emmanuel Mountakis, President, Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand
- Mr George A Katheklakis, President, Cretan Association of Canberra
- Mrs Angie Triandafillou, President, Canberra Association of Pontos 'Trapezounta'

- Mrs Sophia Notaras and Mr Paul Levantis, Supreme Grand President of AHEPA Australia and Grand President of AHEPA ACT
- Mr Steve Kartsonas, President, Hellenic Club Canberra
- Mrs Poli Tataraki-Sansay and Mr Michael Winters, co-authors of Into the Moonlit Village – The Battle of Crete

The ceremony was enriched by the presence of a Catafalque Party, RMC Band members, and flag orderlies, lending the event the appropriate ceremonial gravitas.

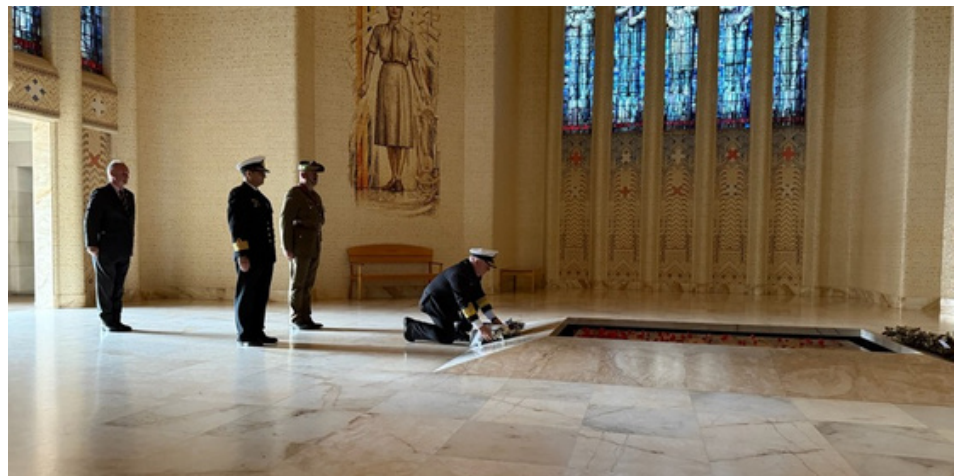
Among the most poignant moments of the day was the attendance of Mr Les Cook, 102, one of the last living veterans of both the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign. Mr Cook delivered the Ode of Remembrance, a powerful and emotional tribute that brought many in the audience to tears, as he stood as a living testament to the courage and sacrifice of 1941.

Author and poet Poli Tataraki recited Before the Skies Burned, drawn from the book Into the Moonlit Village co-authored with artist Michael Winters. The poem recounts the dramatic events of 1941 near Rethymnon, Crete, where Australian soldiers fired upon the window of the Saint George Church, a German stronghold at the time.

Later in the day, Vice Admiral Mikropoulos laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on behalf of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff. He also participated in the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, alongside David Lewis, Assistant Secretary of the Global Partners Branch in the Department of Defence. Together, they paid homage to those who laid down their lives in defence of freedom.

The commemorative events underscored the enduring bonds between Greece, Australia, and New Zealand, honouring shared histories of resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering alliance.

Lest we forget.



HONOURING HISTORY, CELEBRATING UNITY: SYDNEY MARKS 84 YEARS SINCE THE BATTLE OF CRETE

Sydney proudly welcomed Vice Admiral Theodoros Mikropoulos, Deputy Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, who led a distinguished Greek military delegation to Australia to mark the 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete. His visit, supported by the Consulate General of Greece in Sydney and Greek community organisations, was filled with heartfelt commemorations, cultural connections, and a deep sense of shared history between Greece and Australia.

Vice Admiral Mikropoulos began his official visit with a courtesy call to the Consulate General of Greece in Sydney, where he was warmly received by Consul General Ioannis Mallikourtis. The meeting included fruitful discussions around the consulate's services and the enduring strength of the Greek diaspora in Australia.



Later, the delegation visited the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, where Their Graces Bishop Christodoulos of Magnesia and Bishop Iakovos of Miletopolis welcomed them on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios. After touring the Cathedral of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, the delegation engaged in a meaningful dialogue about the Archdiocese's vital spiritual and community role.



The delegation's next stop was St Spyridon College, where they were received by Principal Mrs Amelia Katsogiannis and Parish President Mr Elia Economou. Following a campus tour, a special school assembly was held. Vice Admiral Mikropoulos delivered an inspiring address on the Battle of Crete, highlighting the powerful bond between ANZAC and Greek soldiers. His remarks were accompanied by a moving short film on the humanitarian missions of the Greek Armed Forces. The visit ended with a stirring musical performance by Year 11 and 12 students, leaving a lasting impression on all in attendance.



That afternoon, the delegation visited St Basil's NSW & ACT, where CEO Diana Horvatovic, Chairman James Jordan, and Father Miltiades Chrysavgis hosted a tour of the chapel and facilities. The Vice Admiral acknowledged the exceptional care provided by the organisation to the Greek and wider Australian community, with the visit concluding in a gift exchange.

The following day, the delegation visited the Anzac Lemnos Memorial and the Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of Kogarah, accompanied by Consul General Mallikourtis and academics from Flinders University. His Grace Bishop Christodoulos of Magnesia, Father Athanasios, and Father Socrates provided insights into the historical significance of Lemnos during World War I and the vital work of the Parish of the Resurrection—Australia's largest Greek Orthodox parish.



Friday evening's commemorative event at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park was co-hosted by the Consulate General of Greece in Sydney and the Cretan Association of Sydney and NSW. Dignitaries, defence personnel, community leaders, and descendants of ANZACs and Greek veterans gathered in a spirit of remembrance and unity.

Welcomes were offered by Consul General Mallikourtis and Association President Emmanuel Vitetzakis. Vice Admiral Mikropoulos then delivered a powerful keynote address, reflecting on the deep and lasting ties forged during the Battle of Crete between Greek civilians and soldiers and their Australian comrades-in-arms.

The program continued with a compelling presentation by Professor Peter Monteath, who brought the Battle of Crete to life through archival research, personal stories, and historical imagery. A vote of thanks was delivered by James Jordan, Chairman of the Joint Committee for the Commemoration of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign. The evening concluded with a ceremonial gift exchange and a cocktail reception, where guests shared reflections, family stories, and renewed connections.



On Saturday morning, the official commemorations continued with the annual Cenotaph Ceremony at Martin Place. Among those in attendance were Her Excellency the Hon. Margaret Beazley AC KC, Vice Admiral Mikropoulos, Bishop Iakovos of Miletoupolis, and Consul General Mallikourtis.

That evening, the Cretan Association of Sydney and NSW hosted its Annual Dance at The Grand Vaudeville in Condell Park. The night was a vibrant celebration of unity, heritage, and remembrance. Speakers included Association President Emmanuel Vitetzakis, Consul General Ioannis Mallikourtis, Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand President Emmanuel Mountakis, and Vice Admiral Mikropoulos. The Very Reverend Father Panagiotis Protopsaltis offered the blessing, and the evening was masterfully emceed by Hara Vamianakis. Gifts were exchanged between the visiting delegation, the Cretan Association, and the Cretan Federation in a heartfelt gesture of appreciation and friendship.

Sunday morning saw the community gather at the historic Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Millers Point—chosen by ANZAC families over 40 years ago for its deep symbolic value. The service began with the Greek National Anthem and featured readings by Consul General Mallikourtis and Parriss McDougall, prayers, the recitation of the Ode, and the Australian National Anthem.



COMMEMORATING THE 84TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE IN MELBOURNE

Last month, the Greek-Australian community in Melbourne came together to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, an event marked with respect, pride, and cultural celebration.

The commemorations began on Friday evening, 23 May, with a warm and welcoming cocktail reception at the Cretan Brotherhood that brought together dignitaries, community leaders, and guests in a spirit of unity and remembrance. A special moment during the weekend was a heartfelt address by Simon Peck, who shared the extraordinary story of his father's experience in Crete during World War II. Captured by enemy forces, his father Laurence Peck 2nd / 2nd Field Regiment, managed a daring escape and was sheltered in the Cretan mountains by courageous local civilians. With their help, he eventually made it off the island to safety. Simon's tribute served as a moving reminder of the bravery and solidarity shown by the Cretan people and acts of resistance and humanity that continue to inspire generations. As Michalis Dramoundanis so powerfully wrote:

"Αντιλαλούνε τα βουνά, φωνάζει ο Ψηλορείτης, η λεβεντιά γεννήθηκε εις στο νησί της Κρήτης."

("The mountains echo, Psiloritis cries out, Bravery was born on the island of Crete.")

On the morning of Saturday 24 May, a solemn memorial service and wreath-laying ceremony were held at the Shrine of Remembrance and the Australian Hellenic Memorial. The service was attended by distinguished guests including Vice Admiral Theodoros Mikropoulos, Deputy Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff; Lieutenant Commander Dimitrios Lekakakos; Colonel Kyriakos Kyriakakos; and the Consul General of Greece in Melbourne, Ms Dimitra Georgantzoglou.

Representatives from the Federal and State Governments, the Australian Armed Forces, the Cretan community, Greek-Australian associations, and local schools also participated in the moving tribute.

That evening, the community gathered at the Cretan Village for the official Battle of Crete commemorative dinner dance—a vibrant celebration of Cretan heritage, honouring the bravery and spirit of those who fought. Through music, dance, and heartfelt performances, the evening reflected the enduring cultural pride of Crete. A standout moment was the powerful rendition of Χίτλερ να μη το καυχηθείς by our very own Ana Tsourdalaki, a song paying tribute to the heroic sacrifices of the Cretan people during World War II as well as dynamic performances by our local dance groups accompanied by live performances from Giorgos Alexandonakis and Nikos Papadogiannis as well as our local musicians George Rerakis and Prodromos Moysiadis which made the events truly special.

"Χίτλερ, να μην το καυχηθείς πως πάτησες την Κρήτη, ξαρμάτωτη την ηύρηκες κι έλειπαν τα παιδιά τση, στα ξένα πολεμούσανε πάνω στην Αλβανία, μα πάλι πολεμήσανε"

The commemorations of the Battle of Crete served not only as a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those who fought, but also as a celebration of the enduring bond between Greece and Australia, born in wartime, sustained through generations. Through solemn remembrance and joyful cultural expression, the events honoured the legacy of resilience and solidarity that defines both the Cretan spirit and the shared history of our communities. May we continue to remember, honour, and pass on these stories of bravery, so they echo as Psiloritis does through time.



«ΕΟΡΤΑΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΜΑΧΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΗΜΕΡΑΣ ΜΝΗΜΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΓΕΝΟΚΤΟΝΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΟΝΤΙΑΚΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΥ ΣΤΟΝ ΑΓΙΟ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ»

Την Κυριακή 25 Μαΐου 2025 στον Άγιο Νικόλαο της Κρήτης τιμήθηκε η 84η επέτειος από τη Μάχη της Κρήτης. Τελέστηκε Δοξολογία στον Ιερό Ναό Αγίας Τριάδας παρουσία του Δημάρχου Αγίου Νικολάου Κρήτης Μανώλη Μενεγάκη, του Αντιπεριφερειάρχη Νομού Λασιθίου Γιάννη Ανδρουλάκη άλλων εκπροσώπων τοπικών αρχών, φορέων Συλλόγων και Σωματείων. Τον πανηγυρικό της ημέρας εκφώνησε η Αλεξάνδρα Μπούργου εκπαιδευτικός του 3ου Γυμνασίου Αγίου Νικολάου. Η Ιστορική Μάχη διαδραματίστηκε τον Μάιο του 1941 κατά τη διάρκεια του Β' Παγκόσμιου Πολέμου. Κάθε χρόνο έχουμε χρέος να τιμούμε τη μνήμη αυτών που θυσιάστηκαν για την Κρήτη. Έλληνες, Βρετανοί, Αυστραλοί και Νεοζηλανδοί αντιστάθηκαν με απaráμιλλο θάρρος και συμμετείχαν ενεργά στον πόλεμο ενάντια των Γερμανών. Η Μάχη της Κρήτης αποτέλεσε σύμβολο αντίστασης και ηρωισμού. Ανέδειξε το ηθικό ανάστημα ενός λαού απέναντι στη βαρβαρότητα. Η Μάχη της Κρήτης είναι ένα Ιστορικό ορόσημο. Συγχρόνως τιμήθηκε και η Ημέρα Μνήμης της Γενοκτονίας των Ελλήνων του Πόντου, που από την Ελληνική Βουλή το 1994 ανακηρύχθηκε επίσημα την 19η Μαΐου ως Ημέρα Μνήμης. Αποδίδοντας φόρο τιμής στα θύματα που χάθηκαν στους 353.000 Πόντιους Έλληνες, από το Οθωμανικό Κράτος και αργότερα από το Κεμαλικό καθεστώς, κατά την περίοδο 1914-1923. Ο Παύλος Παπαδόπουλος Πρόεδρος του Συλλόγου Μικρασιατών και Ποντίων Μεραμπέλλου εκφώνησε ομιλία τιμώντας και υπενθυμίζοντας τον ξεριζωμό των Ελλήνων του Πόντου. Ακολούθησε Επιμνημόσυνη Δέηση στο χώρο του Σημαιοστολισμένου Μνημείου των Ηρώων στην πλατεία Αγίου Νικολάου, κατάθεση στεφάνων με τελετάρχες τον καθηγητή Φυσικής Αγωγής Αντώνη Κριτσωτάκη και την καθηγήτρια Φυσικής Αγωγής Αλεξάνδρα Μαυροδοντίδου. Τηρήθηκε ενός λεπτού σιγή προς την μνήμη των θυμάτων και ο εορτασμός έκλεισε με την ανάκρουση του Εθνικού Ύμνου.

Μαρία Κασωτάκη
Άγιος Νικόλαος Κρήτης



THE CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

The Cretan Association of Queensland has enjoyed a whirlwind of activity and celebration in the lead-up to and throughout May, marked by the 49th Paniyiri Greek Festival, the 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete Memorial and our annual Dinner Dance. Each event showcased our rich Cretan heritage, community spirit and dedication to maintaining our culture for future generations.

Paniyiri Greek Festival – A Triumph Over Rain

Despite nine consecutive days of rain leading up to the 49th Paniyiri Greek Festival on May 17-18, 2025, the Cretan Association of Queensland turned challenges into triumphs. The soggy conditions at Musgrave Park tested our resolve, but with the tireless efforts of our volunteers and committee members, the weekend was a resounding success. Attendees savoured authentic Cretan cuisine, including charcoal-grilled lamb, chicken and octopus, zesty lemon potatoes, and the ever-popular loukoumades (voted the best on the park). Our Cretan Dancing Group, undeterred by slippery grounds, delivered a mesmerising performance with fresh choreography, captivating many thousands of festival-goers, both Greek and non-Greek alike.



Battle of Crete Memorial – Honoring History

Just days after Paniyiri, on May 21, 2025, the Cretans of Queensland solemnly commemorated the 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete at the Greek Orthodox Church of St George. The memorial included a church service and wreath-laying ceremony, with our Cretan dancers dressed in traditional costume contributing to the emotional significance of the event. Our president, Mr Anthony Katsanevas, and the Honorary Consul-General for Greece in Queensland, George Mastrocostas, joined other community representatives in laying wreaths. The event concluded with refreshments at the Respite Centre, fostering connection among members and guests.



Battle of Crete - Dinner Dance

The month closed with our annual BOC Dinner Dance held on May 31, 2025, at Olympic FC, where a vibrant crowd celebrated our shared love for Cretan music. Our senior and junior dancing groups delivered stellar performances, with 2-year-old George Symons stealing the show as our youngest member. The evening was made unforgettable by the incredible efforts of Giorgos Alexantonakis and Nikos Papadogiannis, talented musicians from Rethymno, Crete, organised by the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand. Their passionate performance brought the spirit of Crete to life, captivating all in attendance. Brisbane was blessed with the presence of many interstate guests, including the Federation President, Mr Emmanuel Mountakis from Sydney, the President of the Cretan Association of Sydney and NSW, Mr Emmanuel Vitetzakis, and his family, and the President of the Cretan Association of WA, Mr Nikos Constantinou.

The evening also honoured Anna Ghorayeb for her remarkable 20 years of dedication to the Cretan Association's Dancing Group, a journey that began at age 4 in 2005. Anna has since performed at many Federation Conventions and other special events across Australia and, more recently, at the Strata in Chania, Crete. She has also played a pivotal role in teaching the Cretan Dancers of Queensland, and for that, the Association is deeply grateful.

In closing, we would like to thank everyone (both local and interstate) that volunteered at, attended and/or supported our events, our dance teachers (Alexia Georgas, Anna Ghorayeb, Anastasia Karalis and Zoe Karalis) and all our Cretan dancers for delivering such memorable performances. Thank you also to our wonderful Committee, including their families, for their endless contributions and tremendous efforts.



Anna Ghorayeb

INTRODUCING THE NEW YOUTH COMMITTEE OF THE CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Cretan Association of South Australia is proud to announce the formation of its newly established Youth Committee — a passionate team of young leaders dedicated to celebrating, preserving, and promoting our rich Cretan heritage for generations to come. This milestone marks an exciting new chapter for the Association, strengthening youth engagement and ensuring that the values, traditions, and spirit of Crete continue to flourish in South Australia's vibrant Greek community.

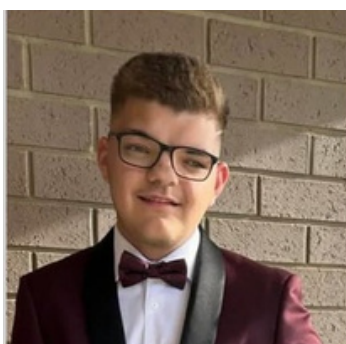
The 2025 Youth Committee members are:

- President: Panayiotis Koliakoudakis
- Vice President: Steven Ward
- Secretary: Filitsa Maragkos
- Treasurer: Photini Frazelas
- Public Relations: Ava Colreavy
- Committee Member: George Angelidakis

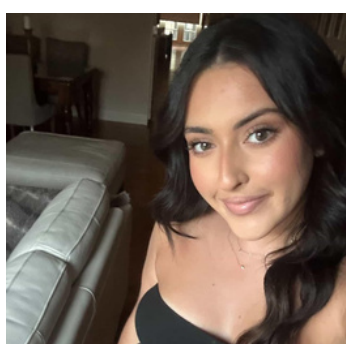


Panayioti – President

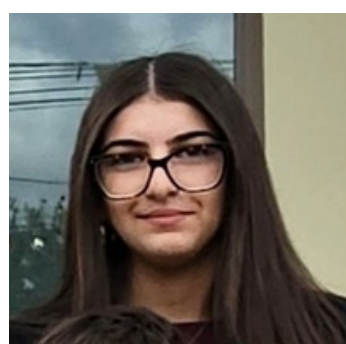
I'm proud to introduce the Youth Committee of the Cretan Association of South Australia. Our mission is clear: to bring people together and continue the vibrant culture that defines us. We're committed to connecting young Greeks, celebrating our heritage, and creating new opportunities to keep our traditions alive for generations to come. As Youth President, I'm excited to lead this movement and invite everyone to join us in shaping the future of our community. Together, we carry our culture forward.



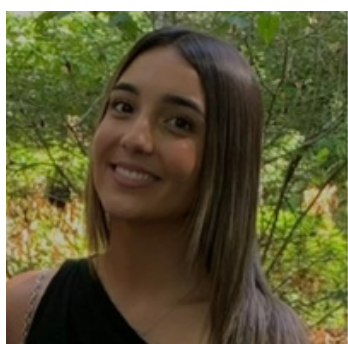
Steven – Vice President



Filitsa - Secretary



Photini – Treasurer



Ava – Public Relations



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA YOUTH COMMITTEE HOST FIRST EVENT AS NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE

The newly formed Youth Committee of the Cretan Association of South Australia successfully hosted its first official event — a lively and well-attended Quiz Night aimed at raising funds for traditional Cretan dance costumes.

The evening brought together members and friends of the Cretan community for a night filled with laughter, friendly competition, and strong community spirit. Participants tested their trivia knowledge across a range of topics, all while supporting a meaningful cause that celebrates Cretan culture and tradition.

Thanks to the generosity of guests and the invaluable support of local businesses who donated prizes and vouchers, the event raised an impressive \$3,351.

This achievement marks an exciting beginning for the Youth Committee and a significant step toward the goal of seeing their dance group proudly perform in authentic costumes from Crete. The Cretan Youth of South Australia extends its sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this memorable evening.



CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF THE CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AS PART OF THE CRETANS IN CANBERRA WEEKEND

On Saturday 21st of June 2025, the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand marked a major milestone: 45 years of unity, culture, and community connection. The official celebration was held in Canberra, as part of the Cretans in Canberra weekend, bringing together Cretans from across the country for a memorable and historic gathering.

Established in 1980, the Federation has played a vital role in uniting the Cretan diaspora across Australia and New Zealand, preserving Cretan identity and traditions, and fostering intergenerational pride in heritage. Saturday night's Anniversary Dinner, held at the Canberra Hellenic Club, was a powerful reflection of the Federation's legacy and its ongoing impact on the community.

Cretans from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Hobart, and the host city Canberra gathered in solidarity, alongside local Hellenes and distinguished guests. Among them was His Excellency Mr. Stavros Venizelos, Ambassador of Greece to Australia, who honoured the Federation's work by hosting a special morning tea at the Greek Embassy earlier that day and attending the evening celebration.

In his speech, Federation President Mr. Emmanuel Mountakis acknowledged the contribution of past leaders and the strength of today's younger generation in carrying the torch forward. "This Federation was founded on the principles of unity and service. Forty-five years later, we continue to stand together. Not just to honour where we came from, but to build a future our children will be proud of," he said.

The evening featured a performance, from the Intermediate Dancing Group of the Cretan Association of Sydney & NSW, and continued with live music performed by youth musicians from Sydney and Darwin whose passion and energy brought the room to life.

The 45th Anniversary celebration was a heartfelt tribute to the countless volunteers, leaders, and families who have helped shape the Federation over the decades. It was also a reaffirmation of its mission: to support Cretan identity, promote cultural exchange, and strengthen the bonds of community from one generation to the next.

As the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand moves forward into its next chapter, the spirit of Filotimo, tradition, and unity remains strong. Forty-five years on, the message is clear: the heart of Crete beats loudly in Australia and New Zealand... and it will continue to do so for many generations to come.



THE CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND TURNS 45 YEARS OLD

On the 13th of April 1980, at the home of the late Panagioti Malakonaki in Sydney, representatives from The Cretan Association of Sydney & NSW, the Pancretan Brotherhood of Melbourne and Victoria and the Cretan Association of QLD, held a historic 9 hour meeting which resulted in the formation of what we call today, the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand.

A temporary committee was established, consisting the following people : Nick Karefilakis, President (NSW), Dimitris Gryllakis, Vice President (VIC), Odysseas Platyrachos, Secretary (NSW), Epaminondas Panagiotakis, Treasurer (QLD) and members Paul Magelakis (QLD), Peter Malakonakis (NSW), George Paterakis (VIC) and Dimitris Sarris (VIC).

The temporary committee undertook the task of preparing a constitution and the complete organisation of the 1st conference of the Federation in Albury New South Wales from the 26th to the 28th December 1980.

The main objectives of this new national co-operation were: (a) The cultivation and further development of relations between all the Cretans of Australia, (b) the successful co-ordination, programming and execution of the Battle of Crete Commemorations across the region on an annual basis, (c) the invitation of musical and other cultural groups from Crete for the promotion of the Cretan culture to the children, (d) the solving of general problems relating to the Cretan community in Australia, (e) the collaboration and further co-operation of the Federation with the Greek, Australian and New Zealand, Consulates , Embassy, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia and Government bodies nationwide, as well as all the Greek and Australian War veteran units (f) the representation and support of all National and Hellenic issues and (g) the close co-operation with other Cretan Unions & Federations worldwide and ultimately forming the World Confederation of Cretans.



ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΡΕΘΥΜΝΟ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑ: ΟΙ ΔΟΤΕΣ ΖΩΗΣ ΣΥΝΑΝΤΟΥΝ ΤΗΝ ΟΜΟΓΕΝΕΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΣ

Σε ένα κλίμα συγκίνησης, υπερηφάνειας και πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς, πραγματοποιήθηκε η επίσκεψη της Μαυράκη Δέσποινας, εκπροσώπου του Συλλόγου Εθελοντών Αιμοδοτών Ρεθύμνου "Δότες Ζωής" στην Καμπέρα της Αυστραλίας με αφορμή τους εορτασμούς για την 45η επέτειο από την ίδρυση της Παγκρήτιας Ομοσπονδίας Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας.

Μια από τις πιο σημαντικές στιγμές της επίσκεψης ήταν η εθιμοτυπική συνάντηση με τον Πρέσβη της Ελλάδας στην Αυστραλία, κ. Σταύρο Βενιζέλο, στην οποία συμμετείχαν εκπρόσωποι κρητικών οργανώσεων από όλες τις πολιτείες της Αυστραλίας. Κατά τη διάρκεια της συνάντησης, ο ΣΕΑ Ρεθύμνου προσέφερε ως συμβολικό δώρο την εικόνα των Αγίων Τεσσάρων Νεομαρτύρων του Ρεθύμνου, προστάτες του Συλλόγου, τόσο στον Πρέσβη όσο και στον Πρόεδρο της Ομοσπονδίας, κ. Μανώλη Μουντάκη ως ένδειξη τιμής, ιστορικής και πολιτιστικής συγγένειας.

Στιγμή των εκδηλώσεων με έντονο κρητικό παλμό ήταν η Κρητική Παραδοσιακή Στράτα – Καντάδα στους δρόμους της Καμπέρας, όπου πλήθος Ελλήνων της ομογένειας συμμετείχε σε ένα αυθεντικό κρητικό γλέντι γεμάτο μουσική, κεράσματα, τραγούδι και ζεστή φιλοξενία. Στην εκδήλωση για τα 45 χρόνια από την ίδρυση της Παγκρήτιας Ομοσπονδίας απηύθυνε χαιρετισμό η κα Μαυράκη, με ιδιαίτερη μνεία στην εθελοντική αιμοδοσία αλλά και στη λαμπαδηδρομία του περασμένου καλοκαιριού στο Ρέθυμνο. Συγκινητική ήταν η συμμετοχή μελών της ομογένειας που μετέφεραν τη "Φλόγα της Αγάπης" στους δρόμους του Ρεθύμνου – σύμβολο ζωής και ελπίδας – δράση αφιερωμένη στην εθελοντική αιμοδοσία και στα 200 χρόνια από τη μαρτυρική τελείωση των Αγίων Τεσσάρων Νεομαρτύρων.

Κατά τη διάρκεια της επίσκεψης ανακοινώθηκε με ενθουσιασμό η συνεργασία του Συλλόγου με τον κ. Αντώνη Τσουρδαλάκη, τ. Πρόεδρο Παγκοσμίου Συμβουλίου Κρητών και Κρητικής Ομοσπονδίας Αυστραλίας & Ν. Ζηλανδίας. Ο κ. Τσουρδαλάκης θα λειτουργήσει ως συνδετικός κρίκος μεταξύ του ΣΕΑ Ν. Ρεθύμνου ΔΟΤΕΣ ΖΩΗΣ και της Ελληνικής παροικίας στην Αυστραλία, ανοίγοντας νέους δρόμους επικοινωνίας, δράσεων και κοινών αξιών.

«Οι γονείς μου μετανάστευσαν στη Γερμανία. Ξέρω τι σημαίνει να κουβαλάς την πατρίδα μέσα σου. Νιώθω τον πόθο σας, γιατί ήταν και δικός μου. Η Κρήτη σας τιμά... είστε οι πρεσβευτές της ψυχής μας στα πέρατα του κόσμου...»

Ο Σύλλογος Εθελοντών Αιμοδοτών Ρεθύμνου ΔΟΤΕΣ ΖΩΗΣ εκφράζει θερμές ευχαριστίες προς τον κ. Βενιζέλο, Πρέσβη της Ελλάδας στην Καμπέρα, τον κ. Μουντάκη, Πρόεδρο της Παγκρήτιας Ομοσπονδίας Αυστραλίας όπως και στα μέλη του, συν κ. Τσουρδαλάκη και σ' όλους τους Αδελφούς της Ομογένειας για την υποδοχή, τη στήριξη και για το κοινό όραμα.

Την κυρία Μαυράκη είχαν τη χαρά να συνοδεύσουν από την Κρήτη η κυρία Έλενα Βιταλάκη και η κυρία Αθηνά Τριαματάκη που συμμετείχαν ενεργά σε όλες τις εκδηλώσεις και μετέφεραν τον παλμό του Ρεθύμνου στην καρδιά της Ομογένειας.

«Ο εθελοντής δεν δίνει επειδή έχει πολλά – δίνει επειδή έχει καρδιά. Και εσείς, με την καρδιά σας, κάνετε υπερήφανη την Κρήτη και την Ελλάδα.»



THE LEGACY OF CRETAN THYME

By Joanna Psarakis

June 2025

On the sun-drenched hillsides of Crete, where sea winds dance with mountain air, a small but mighty herb clings to the rocky soil: Cretan thyme. It flourishes in the mountain highlands of eastern Crete, where its fragrant presence has endured for millennia. The delightful ground hugging, native thyme, with its glossy green leaves and clusters of soft rose-pink flowers, brings both beauty and aroma to the sunlit slopes it calls home. In Ancient Greek, its name — thymos — meaning "courage."

Long ago, in the great palaces of Knossos, Minoan priestesses burned thyme in ceremonial fires as a sacred offering believed to purify the air and invoke the favour of the gods. But thyme was more than incense. It was medicine, it was spice, and it was strength. Warriors bathed in thyme-infused waters before battle, drawing on its name and spirit for bravery.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine praised thyme for its ability to ease respiratory ailments. Known as nature's antiseptic, thyme has long been used to treat coughs, colds, bronchitis, infections, and wounds. Monks tended thyme in monastery gardens, using it to treat wounds and infections during plagues and conflicts. Its leaves were distilled into an essential oil rich in thymol a powerful antiseptic still valued today in both medicine and natural healing. Modern research confirms thyme's powerful antimicrobial, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory properties validating what our ancient healers always knew.

Today, herbalists continue to craft tinctures, teas, and pure essential oils from the flowering tops of Cretan thyme. Its potent compounds are commonly used in mouthwashes, throat sprays, and natural cleaning products, thanks to their powerful antimicrobial properties. A simple cup of thyme tea remains a timeless remedy, for coughs and sore throats, easing digestive discomfort and supporting overall wellness.



In Crete, thyme plays an essential role in honey production. Cretan thyme honey is known as the island's golden jewel. Amber-rich, mono floral honey is prized for its robust flavor, fragrant floral aroma, and medicinal properties. Fortunately, this treasured honey is available in Australia, allowing natural remedy enthusiasts and food lovers to experience its unique qualities far beyond the shores of the Mediterranean.

In the Cretan kitchen, thyme is a widely cherished spice. Its unmistakable floral, slightly peppery aroma evokes the rugged hillsides of the island and enhances everything from roasted lamb to hearty casseroles and fresh salads. More than a flavor enhancer, thyme is also valued for its ability to support digestion, making it both a culinary and therapeutic staple.

Still growing wild on Crete's sunlit hillsides, this humble herb reminds us that nature's simplest gifts often hold the greatest power.

Botanical Profile of Cretan Thyme:

Scientific name: *Thymus longicaulis* subsp. *chaubardii*

Plant family: Lamiaceae (the mint family)

Other names: Cretan Thyme, Mediterranean Thyme, Spanish Oregano (in some regions), "Θυμάρι" (Thymári) in Greek

Sowing time / Planting time: late winter early spring

Flowering period: late spring to summer

Harvest time: late spring to early summer

Useful plant parts: stems, leaves and flowers

Location: full sun, well-drained soil, low water

Let Crete Change Your Life, NOT TAKE IT

#a_life_campaign



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**DRIVE SAFE
IN CRETE**



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This advertisement is part of the "A Life Campaign," a road safety initiative by the World Council of Cretans in partnership with the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand. The information provided in this advertisement is for awareness purposes only. Drivers are responsible for adhering to local road laws and safety regulations.

44th
CRETAN FEDERATION
CONVENTION
SYDNEY
2-6 JAN 2026



CONVENTION PROGRAM

ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES

Friday 2 Jan

CONVENTION HARBOUR CRUISE

Evening
Friday 2 Jan

CRETAN FEDERATION AGM

(Branksome Hotel)

Morning
Saturday 03 Jan

CONVENTION DINNER DANCE

Evening
Saturday 03 Jan

CONVENTION CHURCH SERVICE

Morning
Sunday 04 Jan

CRETAN YOUTH AGM

(Branksome Hotel)

Afternoon
Sunday 04 Jan

YOUTH NIGHT

Evening
Sunday 04 Jan

CASUAL DINNER

(For guests not attending
Youth Night)

Evening
Sunday 04 Jan

YOUTH SPORTS DAY

Morning
Monday 05 Jan

CONVENTION FAREWELL -

Showcase of Youth Cretan
Musicians from around
Australia

Evening
Monday 05 Jan

DEPARTURE OF DELEGATES

Tuesday 06 Jan

HOTEL OPTIONS

OPTION 1:

Branksome Hotel **60 Robey St, Mascot NSW**

FACILITIES: Pool, sauna, gymnasium, rooftop bar, hotel restaurant and children's playground. Adjoining rooms are also available to host groups with large bookings. Each room has full kitchen and laundry facilities.

CONVENTION RATES:

Below rates are not available for NYE or 1st of Jan. Contact the Hotel for the rates for these days.

Studio Suite:	\$219
1 Bedroom Suite:	\$229
2 Bedroom Suite:	\$339
2 Bedroom Suite + Study	\$439

Higher NYE and 1st of Jan Rates

Buffet breakfast available to add on at discounted rate of \$20 per person.
Carparking is also available at a discounted rate of \$20 per day.

**Email reservations@branksome.com.au or call
02 8338 3200 and quote *Cretan Convention 2026*
to book accommodation.**

www.thebranksome.com.au/Homepage/Index

HOTEL OPTIONS

OPTION 2:

Crowne Plaza Sydney Airport Corner of O'Riordan Street & Bourke Rd, Mascot NSW

FACILITIES: Gymnasium, sauna and hotel restaurant. Adjoining rooms are also available. 15 minute walk to Branksome Hotel for AGMs and event departures.

CONVENTION RATES:

Guests must book for the duration of the convention to receive the special NYE rate below. Higher rate is for NYE night only.

Queen Standard Room	\$210
Queen Twin Room (2 Queen Beds)	\$210
Special NYE Rate *	\$389

Breakfast available to add on at discounted rate of \$20 per person.
Carparking is also available at a discounted rate of \$20 per day.

Use the below QR code to book your accomodation.
The group code is CFA.



Website:

www.sydneyairport.crowneplaza.com/



CRETAN FEDERATION OF
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

CONVENTION

HARBOUR CRUISE

party

FRIDAY 2 JAN 2026

ARRIVE AT 6PM | DEPARTURE 6:30PM

DEPARTURE FROM HUNTLEY'S POINT FERRY WHARF:
HUNTLEYS POINT ROAD, HUNTLEYS POINT

ADULTS (13 & OVER) \$85

KIDS (4-12) \$50 | TODDLERS (0-3) FREE

CANAPE MENU INCLUDED

DRINKS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM BAR

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCEYT



CRETAN FEDERATION OF
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 3 JAN 2026

9:00AM SHARP

CONFERENCE ROOMS
BRANKSOME HOTEL
60 ROBESY ST, MASCOT

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
BOOKING IS MANDATORY FOR CATERING

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCEZK

Μιχάλης
ΧΑΡΚΙΟΛΑΚΗΣ

Γιώργος
ΚΟΥΔΟΥΜΟΓΙΑΝΝΑΚΗΣ

Βαγγέλης
ΜΠΑΓΟΥΡΑΚΗΣ

Convention **DINNER DANCE**

Saturday 3 Jan 2026

JOHANNIS



CRETAN FEDERATION OF
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



7:00PM
THE GRAND VAUDEVILLE
178 ELDRIDGE ROAD, CONDELL PARK

\$120 ADULTS
\$95 ADULT MEALS DANCING GROUP
\$60 CHILDREN

Includes four course meal, beer, wine & softdrinks

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCFGF

CHURCH SERVICE

SUNDAY 4 JAN 2026

FROM 9AM

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE
ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS

242 CLEVELAND ST, SURRY HILLS





CRETAN YOUTH OF
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

CRETAN **YOUTH** OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 4 JAN 2026

12:30PM SHARP

CONFERENCE ROOMS
BRANKSOME HOTEL
60 ROBESY ST, MASCOT

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED
BOOKING IS MANDATORY FOR CATERING

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCEZU



YOUTH NIGHT

SUNDAY 4 JAN 2026

6:30PM | AGES 13+

PANAGIA SOUMELA HALL, 604 NEW
CANTERBURY RD, HURLSTONE PARK

FREE EVENT
BOOKING IS MANDATORY

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCPET





CRETAN FEDERATION OF
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

CASUAL DINNER

SUNDAY 4 JAN 2026

6:30PM

GRK MEZE GRILL
SHOP 2/203-207 RAMSGATE
ROAD, RAMSGATE

\$55 PER PERSON
SET MENU INCLUDED.
DRINKS CAN BE PURCHASED
FROM BAR.

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCEZY



CONVENTION FAREWELL

MONDAY 5 JAN 2026

SHOWCASE OF YOUTH CRETAN
MUSICIANS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

6:30PM

MYTILENIAN HOUSE,
225 CANTERBURY RD, CANTERBURY
FREE FOR ALL ATTENDEES
THAT HAVE BOOKED FOR THE DINNER DANCE

\$50 PER PERSON FOR ALL OTHER ATTENDEES

BOOKING IS MANDATORY FOR CATERING

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCFGI



BUS PASSES

\$25 RETURN PER EVENT

**IMPORTANT NOTICE – BUS PASS BOOKINGS
ALL BUS PASS BOOKINGS MUST BE FINALISED BY
SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER.**

At this stage, attendees can book return buses to all events. However, whether each bus will go ahead will depend on the number of bookings received. In the last week of November, attendees will be notified which buses will proceed. Refunds will be issued accordingly for any buses that do not go ahead.

Booking is mandatory.

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCQBD

RAFFLE

Tickets
\$50
each

1st Prize

\$10,000 Cash

2nd Prize

Diamond Stud Earrings

Pair of elegant 18ct white gold 1.50ct six claw

Valued at \$5,000

3rd Prize

Authentic Cretan Lyra

Donated by Victoria Cross Funerals

Valued at €1200

Λύρα Σταγάκη με θήκη

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCQEG

