

84TH ANNIVERSARY OF
**THE BATTLE
OF CRETE**



CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 2025

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**

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AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

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President's Message

It is my honour, to provide this message for the 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete. Once again, Cretans around the world, will commemorate this chapter in our unique history with various events.

The commemorations in Australia and New Zealand are especially significant, as so many service men and women from these two nations, fought in this Battle. Some of these brave service men and women, survived and were evacuated after the Battle and fought on in other campaigns. Others were captured and sent to nazi prison camps, and many were saved and hidden by the brave Cretan people, despite the penalty of death if caught harbouring allied personnel.

Then there are those that didn't survive. Their blood spilt on our beloved island, never to return home to Australia and New Zealand. They are buried beneath the glorious sun that warms the earth around them. They lie in peace, with the love and gratitude of the Cretan people who remember and honour them every year. I hope their families and descendants, are comforted by the fact that these fallen heroes will never be forgotten. They are an inseparable part of Cretan history. A History that goes back thousands of years. As inseparable as the mountains that overlook their graves and the sea that surrounds our beautiful island.

It is so important as Cretans living here in Australia and New Zealand to continue commemorating the Battle of Crete. To pass onto our children the love and passion for our island's history and culture and our obligation to remember the fallen with gratitude, reverence and humbleness. Our ancestors fought and died alongside Australians and New Zealanders. Thousands of survivors found their way to Australian and New Zealand shores, forming Cretan Communities in every State and Territory. We their descendants, form the "human bridge" between Greece and our Nations here.

The bonds formed 84 years ago between Greeks and ANZACS on the island of Crete are still strong. Still unbreakable. Australia, New Zealand and Greece are still allies to this day! This mutual love and respect between our peoples is based on our shared sacrifices defending freedom and democracy, a tenacious fighting spirit and a love for your country and the person standing next to you.

MATESHIP for the ANZACS and FILOTIMO for Greeks. Two words that cannot be defined easily but mean so much. Two words that define who we are and why we are so aligned in our principles. Two words that hang over all of us and inspire and push us to succeed and defend our beliefs. The "weight" of these two powerful words and their implied obligation sits squarely on our shoulders today as it did on those who fought 84 years ago. They did not let their countries down. They stood firm in the face of overwhelming odds and bravely stared down their opponents.

We are born and raised to respect, remember and honour the deeds of those who came before us. We are obligated to never forget! For they lived, fought and died so we can be here.

LEST WE FORGET

ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ

Emmanuel Mountakis
President





Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Of Australia

Dearly beloved fellow Cretans,

It is with great spiritual joy and profound honour that I communicate with you on the occasion of the commemoration of the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, which is engraved within the minds and hearts of Cretans, our fellow Greeks, and moreover, our fellow Australians and New Zealanders who fought and sacrificed their lives for freedom.

First and foremost, we fervently pray to our all-compassionate and all-merciful Lord and God Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life, to grant eternal repose to the fallen heroes of the Battle of Crete and the Greek campaign in World War II, soldiers and civilians, men and women, who fought courageously against the Axis forces in defense of their homeland.

Indeed, the bravery of Cretans, of our fathers and mothers, against the invading forces, remains a testimony of hope and inspiration for all of us. Their true faith in God, their unceasing love for their motherland, their formidable determination for freedom, are living ideals that we not only praise and admire, but which we ourselves must engrave in our own hearts and minds. In possessing these eternal values that characterised our fathers and mothers, we truly remember and honour them, as we commemorate their great sacrifice for liberty and justice.

I take the opportunity to express my sincere congratulations to the President, the Board Members, and all the members and supporters of the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand for their unwavering commitment and dedication in commemorating the Battle of Crete, and in preserving and promoting our Cretan heritage both within our Greek community, and the broader Australian society.

I convey my paternal blessings and wishes to all of you, and I pray that our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the fullness of life, may grant you the abundance of His heavenly blessings.

With much honour and love in Christ our God, I remain,

In Sydney, on the 31st day of March 2025,

With fervent paternal prayers

† **Archbishop MAKARIOS of Australia**



Holy Orthodox Archdiocese Of New Zealand

Χαιρετισμός

τού Μητροπολίτου Νέας Ζηλανδίας γιά τήν 84η Έπέτειο τής Μάχης τής Κρήτης

Αγαπητοί έν Χριστώ άδελφοί, καί φίλοι.

Άξιότιμοι άπόγονοι τών ήρώων τής Κρήτης, τής Αύστραλίας καί τής Νέας Ζηλανδίας.

Σήμερα, μέ σεβασμό καί εύγνωμοσύνη, ένθυμούμαστε τήν ήρωϊκή Μάχη τής Κρήτης, όπου σύσσωμοι οί πρόγονοί μας μέ τούς στρατιώτες από τήν Νέα Ζηλανδία καί τήν Αύστραλία πολέμησαν μαζί γιά τήν ελευθερία. Κρήτη είδε καί κόσμος όλος εθαύμασε τήν τόλμη καί τήν άύταπάρνησή τους, γεγονότα πού έγγραφαν ιστορία αδελφосύνης καί θυσίας.

Οί στρατιώτες τών ANZAC (Αυστραλοί καί Νεοζηλανδοί) έδειξαν μεγάλο θάρρος καί πίστη, δίπλα στους Κρητικούς προγόνους μας. Η φιλία πού γεννήθηκε τότε, μέσα στή φωτιά τής μάχης, παραμένει ζωντανή και ανεξήτιλη μέχρι σήμερα.

Έκφράζουμε ευλαβικώς τήν αιώνια εύγνωμοσύνη μας γιά τήν θυσία τους. Οί ήρωες μας δέν θά ξεχαστούν ποτέ – ή μνήμη τους θά μάς ενισχύει καί θά μάς διδάσκει τί σημαίνει αληθινή πίστη, άύταπάρνηση καί γενναιότητα.

Προσευχόμενος μετ' εύγνωμοσύνης καί σεβασμού.



† Νέας Ζηλανδίας Μύρων





Governor General Of Australia

In 2025, as we mark 80 years since the end of the Second World War, our thoughts turn to the dreadful battles of the war that engulfed Europe between 1939 and 1945. We mourn the loss of life, and pay tribute to the acts of military valour and civilian courage and compassion that emerged out of conflict.

Raging across the mainland and the Mediterranean, the fury of war reached Crete in May 1941. It was there that Australian, New Zealand, British, and Greek soldiers -- first united against an attack by airborne German troops and then in retreat from the strength of German forces -- came to know the fortitude, kindness and bravery of the Cretan people.

Like the fierce Cretan resistance, which persisted long after the Allied retreat, the bonds between Australia and Crete -- forged during and in the aftermath of the first, bitter battle -- have endured in the decades since.

Tangible reminders of the tragic events of 1941 remain today at gravesites and memorials across Crete -- at Rethymno, Stavromenos, Galatas, Preveli, and Suda Bay. So, too, do the ties of friendship and loyalty between Australia and Crete represent a living tribute to all that was lost and won in the brutality of war.

As the 28th Governor-General of Australia, and the daughter of a veteran, I am proud to send this message of commemoration for the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Crete. Thank you to the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand for your dedicated work to ensure that the flame of our remembrance never fades.

**Her Excellency General
The Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC**



Minister Of Defence New Zealand

As we reach the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign, few of those who were there remain with us today, but the relationship that was built between New Zealand and the Greek community during this campaign still connects us deeply. It is a bond, which was built on collective struggle, and shared beliefs, with Greeks and New Zealanders fighting side by side, as they attempted to prevent the advance of fascism and oppression.

In May 1941, Crete was the setting of one of the most dramatic battles of the Second World War. Over 7,500 New Zealanders fought alongside Greek soldiers and Cretan civilians, against a massive German airborne attack, the scale of which had never been seen before. It was a heavy defeat for the Allies with over 3,500 killed and 15,000 captured.

With defeat looming, more than 16,000 troops were evacuated from the island. Some of those who remained went into hiding. The vast majority however, were taken prisoner and would spend the remainder of the war in camps across Italy, Germany and Poland.

In May 2022, I was privileged to travel to Crete, and particularly Chania. The welcome our delegation received, and the attendance at several commemoration ceremonies imprinted on my mind, what a courageous people the Cretans are. The link between New Zealand and Crete is strong, valued and integral to our understanding of how important shared democratic values are.

I recently visited Durnbach Cemetery in Munich, where I saw the grave of Private Mariano Monopoli, an Italian New Zealander from Nelson, who fought with 20 Infantry Battalion during the Battle of Crete. He survived the battle but was one of the thousands taken prisoner, spending the following four years of the war in captivity. Yet, he never made it home to New Zealand, being tragically killed in April 1945 by Allied bombers as the Germans evacuated his camp and marched the prisoners across Germany because of the threat of approaching Soviet Forces.

The Cretan people played a vital part during the battle and following the evacuation. They were reeling from the devastating impact that the invasion of Crete had brought on their community. Yet they showed great heroism and courage in feeding and sheltering New Zealand troops, risking their own lives to help New Zealanders elude capture by the occupying forces. Some of these men eluded capture for years before managing to get off the island, thanks in part to the significant support of the Cretan community.

Some New Zealanders supported the Cretans with guerrilla warfare against their occupiers, and some escaped POWs were even parachuted back onto the island to provide support. New Zealander Sergeant Thomas Moir was one of these men. He was captured immediately after the Battle of Crete but managed to escape, living rough on the island until escaping to Egypt in 1942. He then volunteered to return to Crete to assist with the rescue of remaining Allied personnel. He was recaptured just prior to the evacuation, but the plans he had set in place resulted in the rescue of 50 Allied personnel, along with 17 Greeks. He spent the remainder of the war in a POW camp, and earned a Distinguished Conduct Medal and Military Medal for his efforts on Crete.

While few of those who witnessed and experienced these events remain living with us today, their legacy and the relationships they built during the Second World War have ensured a committed and lasting bond between the people of New Zealand and those of Crete and the rest of Greece. New Zealand has a strong and proud Greek community as the result of these bonds, and our capital remains the sister city to Chania, Crete.

In a society that is today experiencing increasing instability and intolerance, it is important to remind ourselves of the struggles, sacrifices, and the extreme courage that the New Zealand and Greek people demonstrated in Crete, to defend freedom and our human rights in the face of extreme oppression.

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

Vice Admiral Theodoros Mikropoulos H.N. was born in Athens, in May 1965. He joined the Hellenic Naval Academy in 1984 as a Naval Cadet and graduated in 1988, as Ensign of the Hellenic Navy.

His operational service includes deployment at sea on board several surface units, mainly Fast Patrol Boats, and he has commanded the following ships: Patrol Boat HS PANAGOPOULOS I (P-61), Oil Tanker HS OURANOS (A-416), Fast Patrol Boat with Guided Missiles HS BLESSES (P-21), Frigate HS NAVARINON (F-461).

He has served as Staff Officer and/or Director in several positions in Hellenic Fleet Command, Hellenic Navy General Staff and Hellenic National Defense General Staff. His NATO tour, includes services in ACT/JALLC/Lisbon, ISAF/Kabul and STRIKFORNATO.

He has commanded the following Commands: Fast Patrol Boats 1st Squadron Command, Fast Patrol Boats Command, Commanding Officer of Souda Naval Base (Crete), Force Commander of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI.

He is a graduate of the Naval Staff Officer School, the Supreme Joint War College and the Hellenic National Defense College.

In January 2025, he was promoted to Vice Admiral and took the position of the Deputy Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff.

He holds all the designated medals and commendations for his rank as also Commendation Medal for Participation in ISAF Mission and Commendation Medal for Participation in ENFM IRINI.

He is married. He has a daughter.

He speaks English fluently.

Vice Admiral Theodoros Mikropoulos HN





Secretary General For Greeks Abroad And Public Diplomacy

Αγαπητές συμπατριώτισσες,
Αγαπητοί συμπατριώτες,

Με ιδιαίτερη συγκίνηση απευθύνομαι στα μέλη της Κρητικής Ομοσπονδίας Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας κατά τη φετινή 84 η επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης, επ' ευκαιρία των σημαντικών εκδηλώσεων που διοργανώνετε.

Ο άνισος αγώνας των Κρητών συνεχίζει να εμπνέει όλους τους Έλληνες ανεξάρτητα από τόπο διαμονής, υπενθυμίζοντας τις αξίες που αποτελούν διαχρονικά τον συνεκτικό ιστό που μας ενώνει. Για τον λαό της Κρήτης, η μάχη αυτή άφησε μια ζωντανή κληρονομιά. Η γενναιότητα και η αυταπάρνηση του κρητικού λαού συνεχίζουν να εμπνέουν θαυμασμό και σεβασμό σε όλο τον κόσμο. Στην ουσία της, η Μάχη της Κρήτης δεν ήταν μόνο μια στρατιωτική σύγκρουση—ήταν μια ιστορία ακατάβλητης γενναιότητας, αυτοθυσίας και σθένους απέναντι σε αξεπέραστες αντιξοότητες.

Ο ρόλος που διαδραματίζει επί σειρά δεκαετιών η Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας διασφαλίζει ότι οι μελλοντικές γενιές δεν θα αποκοπούν από τις ρίζες τους στην Κρήτη και τη μητέρα Ελλάδα. Ο Πρόεδρος και τα μέλη της εργάζονται αδιάκοπα για τη δημιουργία μιας ισχυρής αίσθησης κοινότητας που ξεπερνά τις γεωγραφικές αποστάσεις και όλοι εμείς στη μητέρα πατρίδα είμαστε ιδιαίτερα υπερήφανοι γι' αυτό.

Καθώς η Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας ατενίζει το μέλλον, το έργο της είναι πιο ουσιώδες από ποτέ. Η επόμενη γενιά των αποδήμων Κρητών μεγαλώνει σε έναν παγκοσμιοποιημένο κόσμο και είναι ζωτικής σημασίας να συνεχίσουν να ενισχύουν την πολιτισμική τους ταυτότητα. Από αυτήν την άποψη, η Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας αποτελεί πυλώνα ανθεκτικότητας και διατήρησης της ιστορικής μνήμης.

Η συμμετοχή χιλιάδων Αυστραλών και Νεοζηλανδών στρατιωτών του Σώματος ANZAC στη Μάχη της Κρήτης ισχυροποίησε τα θεμέλια μίας ήδη βαθιάς φιλίας μεταξύ των λαών, την οποία υπηρετεί με αφοσίωση η Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας. Ο στόχος της ειρήνης και της ελευθερίας ένωσε και θα συνεχίζει να ενώνει τους τρεις λαούς.

Στην Ελληνική Κυβέρνηση και το Υπουργείο Εξωτερικών αποδεικνύουμε εμπράκτως τη στρατηγική σημασία που αποδίδουμε στον Οικουμενικό Ελληνισμό. Στόχος είναι να συνεχιστεί και να ενταθεί η συστηματική προσπάθεια να καταστεί η Διασπορά συνδιαμορφωτής των εθνικών επιλογών. Η συνέχεια έγινε με το Στρατηγικό Σχέδιο για τον Απόδημο Ελληνισμό του Υπουργείου Εξωτερικών, το πρώτο ολοκληρωμένο και συνεκτικό σχέδιο για τους ομογενείς που αποσκοπεί στην ενδυνάμωση των δεσμών με την ελληνική Διασπορά, την ουσιαστική, αμφίδρομη επικοινωνία μαζί της και την ενίσχυση του ελληνικού στοιχείου ανά τον κόσμο.

Θερμά συγχαρητήρια στην Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας για τη διοργάνωση εκδηλώσεων μνήμης για την 84 η επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης, καθώς και σε όλους εσάς που πλαισιώνετε, στηρίζετε και συμμετέχετε στο εξαιρετικό αυτό γεγονός.



Μάιρα Μυρογιάννη

Australian Ambassador In Greece

Eighty four years after its tragic events unfolded, the Battle of Crete continues to stand out as a singular moment in the shared wartime history between Australia and Greece, inspiring awe at the courage of the Cretan resistance and the Allied soldiers who took part in it.

During the Battle of Crete, Allied forces and ordinary Cretan civilians stood shoulder to shoulder to resist the invasion and stall the relentless advance of the German war machine. For 13 harrowing days, they fought against overwhelming odds and, in the end, Crete was lost.

With the passing of the years, as we come together to commemorate our fallen, honour their sacrifice and reflect on their loss, we have also deepened our understanding of the significance of the Battle of Crete.

The Battle of Crete epitomises the resilience of the human spirit. In its unfolding and the months that followed, we witness the bravery of the people of Crete who fought with what little means they had until the very end; we see the courage and camaraderie of our servicemen and women who gave their all in the struggle for a greater cause; we recognise the spirit of sacrifice and generosity of the Cretans who risked everything to shelter and protect ANZAC soldiers left behind after the island's evacuation; and we see the deep bonds of friendship forged on the battlefield as nations far apart united to fight for freedom.

The Battle of Crete remains a shining example of the greatness of the human spirit in the face of the grimmest odds. It stands as a testament of courage, sacrifice and unity in the face of overwhelming adversity.

I extend my sincere congratulations to the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand for its continued commitment to preserving the memory of the fallen and for ensuring that the significance of the Battle of Crete continues to be recognised within Australian society.

Lest We Forget.

HE Ms Alison Duncan



Australian Embassy
Athens



Consul General Of Greece In Sydney

Η Μάχη της Κρήτης τον Μάιο του 1941, πέραν της σημασίας που ενέχει από αμιγώς στρατιωτικής πλευράς για τη συνέχεια του Δευτέρου Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου, αποτελεί μια από τις κυριότερες αιτίες της μαζικής μετανάστευσης των Ελλήνων προς την Αυστραλία την επαύριον του πολέμου. Και τούτο διότι η συμμετοχή της Αυστραλίας και της Νέας Ζηλανδίας στο πλευρό των ελληνικών δυνάμεων κατά τη διάρκεια του Δευτέρου Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου δημιούργησε μια ιδιαίτερα θετική άποψη στο συλλογικό υποσυνείδητο των Ελλήνων γι' αυτούς τους μαχητές που ήλθαν από μακρινά μέρη για να υπερασπισθούν τη δική μας ελευθερία.

Σήμερα, η Μάχη της Κρήτης, όπως εξάλλου και η χρήση της Λήμνου ως κέντρου επιμελητείας των ANZACs κατά τη διάρκεια του Α΄ Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου, αποτελεί έναν διαχρονικό, ισχυρό και ακατάλυτο δεσμό μεταξύ των δύο χωρών. Συνιστά, επίσης, πηγή έμπνευσης για τους «Αυστραλογεννημένους» ομογενείς μας, οι οποίοι αντλούν περηφάνια από ένα τόσο σημαντικό ιστορικό γεγονός που τους συνδέει και με τις δύο πατρίδες τους.

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. Τιμούμε επίσης τη θυσία και των ηρωισμών των άμαχων Κρητών, διότι οφείλουμε να μη λησμονούμε ότι την επαύριον την Μάχης της Κρήτης ακολούθησαν μαζικά αντίποινα εις βάρος του τοπικού πληθυσμού.

Τέλος, θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω την Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας και την Κρητική Αδελφότητα Νέας Νοτίου Ουαλίας για την αγαστή μας συνεργασία καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια της προετοιμασίας των επετειακών εκδηλώσεων για τη Μάχη της Κρήτης, οι οποίες έχουν καθιερωθεί ως ένα από τα σημαντικότερα ορόσημα στο ημερολόγιο των δραστηριοτήτων της ελληνικής παροικίας του Σύδνεϋ.

Ιωάννης Στ. Μαλλικούρτης



Consul Of Greece In Perth



The Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign have always been top historical events for Australians and Greek Australians in particular; their resonance will keep inspiring the future generations of Greeks and Australians for centuries to come. This year's celebrations pay the outmost tribute to the historical facts that make up the heroic chapter of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign.

Let us all recall that the battle did not end with the evacuation of the island of Crete by Allied Forces; instead, it would be continued by the Cretan Resistance until the final German surrender in 1945. The people of Crete paid an appalling price for their defiance, which has never been forgotten. One form of resistance was the sheltering of the thousands of Allied troops left behind in the chaos of the evacuation. Clothed and fed by the people of Crete, many of those men would eventually escape Crete and rejoin their comrades fighting in North Africa or Italy. Some of them even returned to Crete to help others escape or to serve with the Cretan partisans!

The memories of these acts of kindness and courage in the face of such adversity, and the powerful legacy of friendship they have left behind will endure long after the last of the Crete veterans have passed; their memories will live on in our histories and archives, but above all with the families of the veterans and the Cretans who witnessed them...

Η Μάχη της Κρήτης και η Ελληνική Εκστρατεία αποτελεί κορυφαίο ιστορικό γεγονός στις σχέσεις μεταξύ Ελλάδας και Αυστραλίας, ένα γεγονός που πάντα θα εμπνέει τις μελλοντικές γενιές Ελλήνων και Αυστραλών.

Αυστραλοί και Νεοζηλανδοί στρατιώτες ενώθηκαν μαζί με τους ηρωικούς Κρήτες, πριν από 84 χρόνια, για να πολεμήσουν με θάρρος και αξιοπρέπεια την απανθρωπιά του ναζισμού.

Οι εφετινές εορταστικές εκδηλώσεις τιμούν ιδιαιτέρως τις νεότερες γενιές Ελληνοαυστραλών και Ελλήνων, καθώς διατηρούν αυτήν την πολύτιμη ιστορική παρακαταθήκη ζωντανή στο πέρασμα του χρόνου.

Είναι καθήκον όλων μας να κρατάμε άσβεστη τη φλόγα της Μάχης της Κρήτης και της Ελληνικής Εκστρατείας, ως φωτεινό παράδειγμα για τις επόμενες γενιές.

Και τι καλύτερος τρόπος για να κλείσω τον χαιρετισμό μου από μια κρητική μαντινάδα:

*Ενάντια τσοι Γερμανούς όλοι ξεσηκωθήκαν,
Για την Ελευθερία μας πολλοί εσκοτωθήκαν.
Η Κρήτη το απέδειξε με τον ηρωισμό τση,
Σκληρά τον επολέμησε και τότες τον εχθρό τση.
Δεν δίστασαν τσοι Γερμανούς που ήτανε χιλιάδες,
Αλλά τους επιτέθηκαν με πέτρες και τσουγκράδες.
Οι Γερμανοί δεν το 'ξεραν αντίσταση θα βρούνε,
Τσοι Κρητικούς εθαύμασαν σκληρά πως πολεμούνε!*

Eleni Georgopoulou





Hon. Consul-General Of Greece In Queensland

It is a great honour to contribute to this year's commemorative publication, marking the anniversary of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign of WWII. This solemn occasion reminds us of the courage, resilience, and unbreakable spirit of the Greek and Allied forces who stood together against overwhelming odds.

The Battle of Crete was not just a pivotal moment in military history but a testament to the deep bonds between Greece, Australia, and New Zealand. The bravery of the ANZACs and the Cretan resistance fighters forged a legacy of heroism and sacrifice that continues to inspire future generations. Their unwavering defiance in the face of tyranny remains a shining example of the values we cherish—freedom, unity, and the pursuit of justice.

As we honour the memory of those who fought and fell, we also reaffirm our commitment to preserving and sharing their stories. It is through initiatives like this publication that we ensure their sacrifices are never forgotten and that the ties between our nations grow ever stronger.

George D. Mastrocostas



Hon. Consul Of Greece In Tasmania

This year we commemorate the 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete which was a pivotal moment in World War II history. At this time, we remember the courage and sacrifice of those who stood against overwhelming odds. The Battle of Crete which began on 20 May 1941 was marked by fierce combat and significant loss. We pay tribute to the Allied troops from New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and Greece who fought courageously side by side. We honor the Cretan men, women and children who fought fearlessly alongside the soldiers in the pursuit of freedom.

Once Crete fell to Germany, six hundred Australian and four hundred New Zealander troops remained trapped behind enemy lines, some for up to three years, surviving because of the bravery of the Cretan people who fed and hid them at great personal risk to themselves.

Through the horror of war, the Australians and Greeks formed a closed bond of friendship that did not cease with the death of the veterans but continues to this day.

With every passing year, the importance of commemorating the Battle of Crete and the actions of our fearless soldiers resonate with us all. May their bravery inspire us, their sacrifice humble us, and their legacy endure forever.

Lest we forget

Ekaterina Skalidis



World Council Of Cretans

Dear Mr. President and esteemed members of CFANZ

With enormous gratitude, I am addressing you today to express my deep appreciation for organizing and participating in all the commemorative events on the occasion of the Battle of Crete.

At all times, and even more so in times of uncertainty, it is crucial to remember the disasters that fascism can bring. More importantly, we must understand how the rise of fascism led to World War II, and how vital it is to preserve, uncompromised in our hearts, the values of freedom, peace, love, and cooperation – among our children, our relatives, our communities, within our countries, among nations, and across the globe.

Especially in your continent, it is important to recognize the heroism of the ANZAC and to express our deep gratitude to their descendants for fighting side by side with our ancestors in a battle that Winston Churchill so accurately described:

“Never was a more reckless, ruthless attack launched by the Germans. In many of its aspects at the time it was unique. Nothing like it had ever been seen before.”

The Battle of Crete may have ended in defeat, the heavy losses and the heroic resistance that followed became one of the most significant factors contributing to the ultimate victory in World War II.

Once again, I commend you for honoring the ANZAC and our ancestors, for preserving and passing down these fundamental values of humanity. Above all, I commend you for teaching the younger generation to carry them forward.

Sincerely,

Nickos Kastrinakis
President





Joint Committee For The Battle Of Crete And The Greek Campaign NSW

This year marks the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign – a significant chapter in the shared military history of Greece and Australia during the Second World War.

For over 48 years, a formal wreath-laying ceremony has been held in Sydney each May to honour those who served in the Greek Campaign. Over time, this event has become one of the most widely attended commemorative services in Sydney after ANZAC Day. This commemoration, along with other related events, pay tribute to the brave ANZACs and Greeks who stood together in the defence of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

Nearly 1,700 ANZACs were lost in Greece, and sadly, almost half of them remain missing or unidentified. Of the 6,203 Australians captured by Axis forces during the Second World War, 83% were taken during the Greek Campaign. Many of them spent the rest of the war in German POW camps.

The courage and selflessness of the Cretan people and other Greeks played a vital role in supporting the ANZACs – offering armed resistance and sheltering soldiers following the surrender and evacuation.

Australia and Greece have never faced each other in conflict. In both World Wars and other military operations, our nations have stood side by side. In peace, Australians and Greeks have lived together in harmony, as immigrants and citizens, building strong communities and lasting ties.

We congratulate the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand for organising this year's commemorations, and for keeping alive the memory of those who served. Most importantly, we acknowledge and celebrate the enduring friendship between Greece and Australia – a bond forged in war and strengthened through decades of shared values and mutual respect.

James Jordan
Chairman



Battle Of Crete & Greece Commemorative Council Of Victoria



Με βαθύ σεβασμό και υπερηφάνεια, ο Ελληνισμός της Μεμβούρνης και ολόκληρης της Βικτώριας μαζί με τους συμμάχους Αυστραλούς και Νεοζηλανδούς τιμάνε φέτος την 84η Επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης, μιας ιστορικής στιγμής που σηματοδότησε την αποφασιστικότητα, το θάρρος και την αυτοθυσία όχι μόνο του κρητικού λαού, αλλά και των συμμάχων μας, των Αυστραλών και Νεοζηλαντών στρατιωτών, που πολέμησαν στο πλευρό μας για την ελευθερία.

Η Μάχη της Κρήτης δεν ήταν μια απλή πολεμική σύγκρουση. Ήταν ένα παράδειγμα ηρωισμού, όπου απλοί άνθρωποι—άνδρες, γυναίκες, ακόμα και παιδιά—στάθηκαν απέναντι σε μια από τις πιο ισχυρές πολεμικές μηχανές της εποχής. Με περιορισμένα μέσα, αλλά με ακλόνητο φρόνημα, οι Κρήτες, μαζί με τους συμμάχους μας, έγραψαν μια από τις πιο λαμπρές σελίδες της αντίστασης κατά του φασισμού.

Οι Αυστραλοί στρατιώτες που πολέμησαν στην Κρήτη απέδειξαν την αλληλεγγύη και τη βαθιά σχέση που συνδέει την Ελλάδα με την Αυστραλία. Πολλοί από αυτούς πολέμησαν γενναία, αιχμαλωτίστηκαν ή έπεσαν στο πεδίο της μάχης, υπερασπιζόμενοι μια γη μακρινή, αλλά τόσο κοντινή στην καρδιά τους. Το αίμα τους αναμείχθηκε με το αίμα του κρητικού λαού, και η κοινή τους θυσία δημιούργησε έναν αδιάρρηκτο δεσμό μεταξύ των δύο λαών μας.

Αυτός ο δεσμός δεν περιορίζεται μόνο στο παρελθόν. Είναι ορατός και σήμερα, στις σχέσεις μεταξύ της Ελλάδας και της Αυστραλίας. Οι τιμές που αποδίδουμε κάθε χρόνο στους ήρωες της Μάχης της Κρήτης δεν είναι απλώς μια πράξη μνήμης. Είναι μια υπενθύμιση των αξιών της ελευθερίας, της δικαιοσύνης και της ενότητας που πρέπει να διατηρήσουμε ζωντανές.

Σήμερα, καθώς τιμούμε τους ήρωες της Μάχης της Κρήτης, δεσμευόμαστε να διαφυλάξουμε αυτή την ιστορία και να τη μεταλαμπαδεύσουμε στις επόμενες γενιές. Γιατί η Μάχη της Κρήτης δεν ανήκει μόνο στο παρελθόν. Ανήκει στο μέλλον μας, ως φάρος αντίστασης, θάρρους και αδελφότητας μεταξύ των λαών.

Το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο Μνήμης της Μάχης της Κρήτης και Υπόλοιπης Ελλάδας συμμετέχει και φέτος ενεργά στις εκδηλώσεις μνήμης για την 84η Επέτειο αυτής της ιστορικής μάχης. Η παρουσία των απογόνων των βετεράνων, των Ελλήνων της διασποράς και των φιλελλήνων συμμάχων στις εκδηλώσεις καταδεικνύει ότι η θυσία των ηρώων της Κρήτης συνεχίζει να εμπνέει γενιές ολόκληρες.

Θέλω να εκφράσω τα θερμά μου συγχαρητήρια προς την Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας, που με συνέπεια και αφοσίωση οργανώνει εκδηλώσεις, διατηρώντας άσβεστη τη μνήμη των ηρώων. Μέσα από τις τελετές μνήμης, τις ομιλίες και τις πολιτιστικές δράσεις, ενισχύεται η ιστορική μας συνείδηση και προβάλλεται η αδιάρρηκτη σχέση της Κρήτης με την ελληνική διασπορά και τους συμμάχους μας στην Αυστραλία.

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 Μεμβούρνη.

Η 84η Επέτειος της Μάχης της Κρήτης ας γίνει σπίθα στην ψυχή μας υπενθυμίζοντας μας την σημασία της ενότητας και της αντίστασης σε κάθε μορφή καταπίεσης.

Νατάσα Σπανού Πρόεδρος

- GREEK CONSUL IN MELBOURNE • NEW ZEALAND CONSUL IN MELBOURNE • BRITISH CONSUL IN MELBOURNE
- DANISH CONSUL IN MELBOURNE • CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
- PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF MELBOURNE • CRETAN BROTHERHOOD OF MELBOURNE
- GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA • 2ND/2ND FIELD REGIMENT • 2ND/1ST MACHINE GUN BATTALION
- 2ND/6TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION • NEW ZEALAND - CRETE VETERANS ASSOCIATION
- 2ND /7TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION • GREEK COMMUNITY OF MELBOURNE
- AUSTRALIAN HELLENIC MEMORIAL FOUNDATION • LEMNOS GALLIPOLI COMMITTEE
- GREEK AUSTRALIAN EX SERVICEMEN ASSOCIATION • HELLENIC MILITARY HISTORIC SOCIETY
- MESSINIAN FEDERATION • PONTIAKI ESTIA • NATIONAL EX PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION
- THESSALONIKI ASSOCIATION • KALAMATA SOCIETY 23RD MARCH • PAMMESINIAN BROTHERHOOD
- OAKLEIGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL • THE KASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA





Co-Chair Of The Parliamentary Friends Of Greek Australians (Hellenes Culture)

This year we honour the courage, resilience, and sacrifice of those who fought in the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign during World War II. Eighty-four years ago, Australian, New Zealand, British, and Greek forces stood together in the face of overwhelming odds, displaying extraordinary bravery and determination.

The heroic resistance of Allied and Greek soldiers, alongside the unwavering support of the Cretan people, remains a powerful testament to the enduring bonds between our nations. Their sacrifice came at a great cost—many lost their lives, and many others were taken prisoner.

We owe it to them to remember their service and to ensure that their stories are passed down through generations. The Battle of Crete is more than history; it is a legacy of courage, unity, and the fight for freedom.

On this anniversary, we pay tribute to all who served and to their families. Lest we forget.

Mr James Stevens MP



Cretan Association Of Canberra & Districts



Το 2025 σηματοδοτεί ένα σημαντικό ορόσημο για τους Κρητικούς της Καμπέρας καθώς γιορτάζουμε 40 χρόνια από την σύσταση του Συλλόγου μας ως κοινοτικής οργάνωσης. Κατά τη διάρκεια των δεκαετιών, συνεισφέραμε περήφανα στον πολυπολιτισμικό ιστό της Καμπέρα, τιμώντας την κληρονομιά όσων ήρθαν πριν από εμάς. Η ανθεκτικότητα, οι παραδόσεις και το όραμά τους έθεσαν τα θεμέλια για τις μελλοντικές γενιές περήφανων Ελλήνων να σφυρηλατήσουν τη δική τους κρητική ιστορία.

Κάθε χρόνο, αποτίουμε φόρο τιμής στους βετεράνους των Συμμαχικών δυνάμεων και στους θαρραλέους Κρητικούς πολίτες του Β' Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου, των οποίων οι θυσίες δημιούργησαν διαρκείς δεσμούς φιλίας μεταξύ της Αυστραλίας, της Νέας Ζηλανδίας και της Ελλάδας. Αυτή η άρρηκτη σύνδεση, που σχηματίστηκε πριν από 84 χρόνια, συνεχίζει να διαμορφώνει τη συλλογική μας αφήγηση και να ενισχύει τους δεσμούς μεταξύ των εθνών μας.

Πολλοί από αυτούς τους δεσμούς μεταφέρθηκαν στην Αυστραλία από τους γονείς, τους παππούδες και τους προγόνους μας—αυτούς που έφτασαν με λίγα αλλά έχτισαν μια ακμάζουσα κοινότητα χωρίς αποκλεισμούς για τις σημερινές ελληνοαυστραλιανές γενιές. Σήμερα, αισθανόμαστε τεράστια υπερηφάνεια για την ταυτότητά μας ως Έλληνες, Κρητικοί και Αυστραλοί, αγκαλιάζοντας μια πλούσια και ποικιλόμορφη ιστορία που συνυφαίνεται από την Ορθόδοξη πίστη, τη γλώσσα και την πολιτιστική μας κληρονομιά.

Καθώς γιορτάζουμε την 40η επέτειό μας, αναλογιζόμαστε τις θυσίες και τα επιτεύγματα που διαμόρφωσαν το ταξίδι μας. Αυτή είναι επίσης μια στιγμή για να προσβλέπουμε - για να υποστηρίξουμε την επόμενη γενιά, της οποίας το πάθος και οι καινοτόμες ιδέες θα εξασφαλίσουν τη συνεχή ανάπτυξη της κοινότητάς μας. Προάγοντας την κρητική μας κληρονομιά μέσω πολιτιστικών εκδηλώσεων, χορού, κουζίνας και πίστης, ενισχύουμε τις παραδόσεις που μας συνδέουν με τις ρίζες μας και ο ένας με τον άλλον.

Με ευγνωμοσύνη και περηφάνια, γιορτάζουμε αυτό το ορόσημο και παραμένουμε προσηλωμένοι στο να διατηρούμε και να μοιραζόμαστε την κρητική μας ταυτότητα για τις επόμενες γενιές.

*Με το 2025 να ζυγώνει πια κοντά,
η Κρήτη η παντέρμη θα 'ρθει πιο δυνατά.*

*Στις γειτονίες της Αυστραλίας φωνές θα αντηχούνε,
λύρες και μαντινάδες να μας συνεπείρουνε.*

*Ταξίδι στην παράδοση, ρίζες να θυμηθούμε,
οι Κρήτες ενωμένοι, ποτέ δε λησμονούμε.*

Γεώργιος Α Καθεκλάκης
Πρόεδρος





Cretan Association Of Queensland

Αγαπητοί συμπατριώτες, μέλη και φίλοι της Κρητικής Ομοσπονδίας Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας,

Με μεγάλη χαρά και βαθύ σεβασμό σας απευθύνω θερμούς καιρετισμούς, καθώς τιμούμε την 84η επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης—μιας ηρωικής στιγμής που σφράγισε την ιστορία της Κρήτης, της Ελλάδας και του κόσμου.

Η Μάχη της Κρήτης, τον Μάιο του 1941, υπήρξε απόδειξη του αδάμαστου πνεύματος των προγόνων μας, οι οποίοι, μαζί με τους γενναίους Αυστραλούς, Νέας Ζηλανδίας και Βρετανούς συμμάχους μας, αντιστάθηκαν στη γερμανική κατοχή με απaráμιλλο θάρρος. Αυτή η κομβική μάχη του Β' Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου δεν υπερασπίστηκε μόνο την ελευθερία, αλλά και σφυρηλάτησε διαρκείς δεσμούς φιλίας μεταξύ των λαών μας—δεσμούς που συνεχίζουν να ευδοκιμούν και να μας ενώνουν 84 χρόνια μετά.

Καθώς αποτίουμε φόρο τιμής σε όσους πολέμησαν και θυσιάστηκαν, αναγνωρίζουμε τη διαχρονική αξία της γενναιότητάς τους. Μας υπενθυμίζει τη σημασία της ενότητας και της ειρήνης, αξίες που καλούμαστε να υποστηρίξουμε ως παγκόσμια κοινότητα. Εκφράζω την εγκάρδια ευγνωμοσύνη μας στους Αυστραλούς και Νεοζηλανδούς συντρόφους μας, που στάθηκαν πλάι στους Έλληνες σε εκείνους τους δύσκολους καιρούς. Είθε η κοινή μας ιστορία να συνεχίσει να εμπνέει συνεργασία για ένα καλύτερο μέλλον.

Εδώ, στην Αυστραλία και τη Νέα Ζηλανδία, η Κρητική Ομοσπονδία στέκεται ως φύλακας της κληρονομιάς μας. Φέτος, καθώς κοιτάμε πίσω στα 84 χρόνια από τη Μάχη της Κρήτης, γιορτάζουμε επίσης την αφοσίωση των Κρητών που, πριν από δεκαετίες, έθεσαν τα θεμέλια για τις κοινότητές μας σε αυτά τα εδάφη. Χάρη στο όραμα και την αποφασιστικότητά τους, διατηρούμε ζωντανές τις παραδόσεις, τη γλώσσα και τον πολιτισμό μας, περνώντας τα στα παιδιά μας ως πολύτιμη παρακαταθήκη.

Εύχομαι σε όλους τους Κρητικούς της Αυστραλίας, της Νέας Ζηλανδίας και του κόσμου υγεία, δύναμη και ευημερία. Ας μην ξεχνάμε ποτέ τις θυσίες του παρελθόντος και ας συνεχίσουμε να ζούμε αντάξιοι της ιστορίας μας, χτίζοντας ένα μέλλον γεμάτο ελπίδα και αλληλεγγύη.

Με τιμή και υπερηφάνεια,

Αντώνης Κατσανέβας
Πρόεδρος



Cretan Association Of Sydney & N.S.W.



In commemoration of the 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete, we honour the bravery and sacrifice of the Greek, Australian, New Zealand, and British troops who fought valiantly for our freedom, as well as the courageous Cretan men, women, and children who resisted the Nazi regime.

The ANZACs played a key role in defending Crete from foreign invasion, and their support left a lasting bond between the Greek and Australian peoples. This bond, established in 1941, led to a strong inter-generational friendship and is one of the reasons many Greeks migrated to Australia after the war.

Today, Cretan descendants continue to uphold the proud traditions of their ancestors. We express our heartfelt gratitude to these heroes for their service and ultimate sacrifice.

May they rest in peace.

Emmanuel Vitetzakis
President



Cretan Association Of Tasmania



Φέτος εορτάζουμε την 84η 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 έκρυψαν 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 εκδήλωσή μας για τη συνεχή υποστήριξή τους.

Γιάννης Φιωτάκης
Πρόεδρος





Cretan Association Of Western Australia

This year marks the 84th Anniversary of The Battle of Crete, a moment in history that holds deep significance to proud Greek, Australian and New Zealand communities.

The Battle of Crete took place between 20th May and 1st June 1941. During this time Nazi troops were advancing through Greece. Many soldiers were sent to Crete in hopes to slow the Nazi invasion. The Nazi forces launched an airborne attack on the island of Crete. This became known as the biggest airborne attack of German paratroopers during World War 2. History tells us that The Battle of Crete impacted German forces invading Europe earlier, due to the fierce resistance they encountered in Crete. Many brave soldiers fighting alongside Cretan civilians, men, women, children and even Grandparents, who took up arms to defend their homeland.

Australia played a significant role in this battle, with many troops, particularly from Western Australia's 2nd/11th Battalion, joining the fight. The bond forged during those difficult days remains unbreakable, built on the sacrifices of Cretan civilians who risked everything to shelter, hide, and feed Allied soldiers. They knew the grave consequences of their actions, if caught, they would face severe punishment, but their courage never wavered.

The sacrifices and bravery of those who fought in the Battle of Crete will never be forgotten. Their courage continues to inspire generations, reminding us of everyone who fought for our freedom.

Ζήτω η Ελλάδα

Ζήτω η Κρήτη

Lest we forget



Nikos Constantinou
President



Cretan Association Of Northern Territory

Ογδόντα Τεσσερα 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.

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 Μαμουνης
Πρόεδρος



Pancretan Association Of Melbourne

Many international conflicts continue to sadly be with us daily .

What happened in Crete in May 1941 should never be forgotten as it is still the largest ever airborne parachute invasion of a land , where the Cretans fought with mostly farming tools from there land which is all they had to protect themselves in a battle to destroy the invader.

Today we find hundreds of thousands of Greeks living in Australia and New Zealand many descendants of migrants who witnessed The Battle Of Crete and Greece first hand .

My father used to tell me that from every bad a good comes of it , never so much as the relationship that exists today between Cretans and Australians .

The generosity and FOLOTIMO of the Cretans in 1941 that sacrificed their lives to save and protect our veterans cemented the bonds that are present today between our great nations .

It's important to note that in 1941 there were more Australians in Greece than Greeks in Australia .Most of those Australians were in Crete on their way to escape to Alexandria , but sadly the majority got captured and became POW.

I encourage all of us that have not visited Crete and Greece to go and experience our history, culture and the incredible preservation of the many Commonwealth War Graves where we reflect and respect all that have fallen .

May we never forget them

John Nikolakakis
President



Cretan Association Of South Australia

As President of the Cretan Federation of South Australia, I, Pantelis Fridakis, proudly honour the heroic spirit and unwavering courage of those who fought in the Battle of Crete during World War II.

Their sacrifice and resilience continue to inspire generations, reminding us of the enduring strength of the Cretan people and the deep bonds forged between Crete and its allies. Let us never forget their bravery and the legacy they left behind in the fight for freedom.

Pantelis Fridakis
President





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



Cretan Association Of New Zealand



84 Years ago, the Nazi war machine came to murder our people. What they encountered on the blessed soil of Crete would shock Hitler and the World.

Together with ANZACS and a small contingent of Hellenic defence force personnel the local Cretan population went out and met the most elite Nazi regiment that existed, head on with no weapons other than their Cretan hearts. They attacked the crack Nazi paratroopers with shovels and knives, rocks and mattocks.

Legends were born and made over the next 10 days. Let us remember them, Cretans, Māoris, Kiwis, Anzacs.

Then the Island fell, and there were ANZACS strewn all over the island. The Cretan civilians at the cost of their own lives hid, sheltered, fed, nursed, clothed and smuggled those men to safety. For the next three years.

They had nothing and gave everything even their own lives. Men, women and children.

The Cretans never gave up the fight and mounted one of the most successful insurgencies in the pages of history.

Crete vs the entire Third Reich..... David vs Goliath.

Here we are 84 years later. The Blessed island of Crete had a direct impact on the outcome of the fate of the freedom of the world.

By forcing Nazi Germany to throw more and more resources to subdue the Cretans, the Nazis had to delay their attack on Russia. This forced them to enter Russia in the winter creating the domino effect that ultimately led to their defeat and the liberation of Europe.

The murders and revenge killings our people suffered for not laying down, for continuing to support the ANZAC Soldiers, the soldiers of the 28th Māori Battalion, were horrendous. Entire villages were wiped off the map.

Let us honour and commemorate the Cretans who made sure that those ANZACS were not left on their own. Were not abandoned and who we are forever grateful to for travelling to the other side of the world to support us in the battle of Crete.

Vasilis (Bill) Giannakakis
President



Cretan Youth Of Australia & New Zealand

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Cretan Youth Of Australia & New Zealand

The Battle of Crete, fought in May 1941, was one of the most significant moments of World War II in Greece. It marked the first time the German military launched a massive airborne invasion, Operation Mercury, and met fierce resistance not only from Allied forces but also from the local Cretan population.

Despite being outnumbered and outgunned, the people of Crete, including civilians with no formal training or weapons, rose in defiance. Farmers, elders, and even children fought to protect their villages and families. The bravery of the Cretans, fighting alongside Australian, New Zealander, British, and Greek soldiers, became legendary.

Although the island eventually fell to German control, the resilience and resistance continued in the mountains and villages for years. Crete became a symbol of unyielding spirit and national pride, showing that even in the darkest times, freedom and cultural identity are worth defending.

The memory of the Battle of Crete lives on not just in history books but in the stories, sacrifices, and strength of those who came before us. It reminds us why we cherish our heritage and the freedoms we enjoy today.

Ari Paraskakis
President





Cretan Youth Association Of South Australia

To me, the Battle of Crete isn't just a chapter in a history book—it feels personal, even though I wasn't there and it happened long before I was born. What makes it so powerful is that it wasn't just about armies clashing; it was about ordinary people—locals with no formal training, no real weapons—choosing to resist one of the most elite forces of World War II. The Cretan villagers didn't fight because they had to. They fought because they couldn't bear to see their home, their families, and their way of life taken from them without a fight. That kind of raw, instinctive courage really stays with you. It's the kind of bravery we all hope we'd have in the same situation—but seeing it actually happen is something else entirely.

What happened in Crete reminds us that resistance doesn't always come from soldiers or governments—it can come from farmers, teachers, grandparents, teenagers. The battle wasn't just fought with weapons, but with heart. And even though the cost was incredibly high, the message they sent was loud and clear: freedom is worth defending, even when the odds are impossible. That legacy still matters today, because it speaks to something universal—the idea that home is sacred, and that some things are worth standing up for, no matter what.



Panayioti Koliakoudaks
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.

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 Tasmania

In 2025, we mark the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, a pivotal event in history. Between May 20 and June 1, 1941, German paratroopers launched the first large-scale airborne invasion, only to be met with fierce resistance from Greek and Allied forces. The battle resulted in heavy casualties, leading Adolf Hitler to permanently abandon the idea of using airborne troops in future campaigns. But more than just a military engagement, the Battle of Crete became a symbol of unwavering resistance, as the Cretan men, women, and children alike, took up arms to defend their land, armed with old muskets, kitchen knives, and pitchforks against an overwhelming enemy.

The legacy of this battle continues to resonate as a symbol of courage, reminiscent of the ancient Spartans at Thermopylae or the Byzantine defenders at Constantinople. With each passing year, the Battle of Crete remains a source of immense pride for Greeks, particularly Cretans, who honour the sacrifices made by those who fought to protect their homeland. We must never forget their courage and determination. Their example should remind us to always stand firm against injustice and defend the values that shape us. May their bravery and sacrifice never be forgotten, and may we continue to celebrate their heroic legacy.

Georgia Ross
Youth Member



Cretan Youth Association Of Western Australia

Each year we commemorate The Battle of Crete to remember the resilience, sacrifice and the unbreakable spirit of Australian and New Zealand soldiers in unity with the Cretan people. Their unwavering resistance against overwhelming odds teaches us that strength is found in standing together, fighting for what's right and to never give up.

Today as we navigate our own challenges, we should look to their legacy for inspiration - reminding us that the lessons of the past shape the strength of our future. How you may ask? Embrace community spirit - join a dance group, attend events that celebrate our heritage, this not only keeps the memory of our ancestors alive but it also reinforces the importance of unity and shared purpose. So during this time I ask you all to reflect on how you can look to their legacy and apply it to your day to day life.

Kristina Constantinou
President





Cretan Youth Association Of New South Wales

As the youth of the Cretan diaspora here in New South Wales, we are a generation removed from the soil our ancestors walked, but we are deeply connected to their spirit. The Battle of Crete is not just a chapter in a history book, it is a defining moment that binds us to our past and strengthens our sense of identity.

Eighty-four years ago, our people stood with courage and resilience against overwhelming odds. Cretan civilians fought side by side with Allied soldiers in defence of freedom, their bravery echoing across generations. Again this year, we commemorate them not just in remembrance, but in action and by learning, preserving and celebrating the culture they fought to protect.

We are proud to be Cretan. Proud of our language, our music, our traditions and most importantly, of our families who brought these gifts with them to Australia. It is through their sacrifice and the dedication of those who volunteer their time to teach us our heritage that we remain connected to Crete. Whether it's through dance, language classes, or community events, every moment spent learning is a tribute to those who came before us.

To be a young Cretan in Australia is to carry a bridge between two worlds and we do so with pride, honour, and gratitude.



Alexander Mountakis
President



Cretan Brotherhood Youth Of Melbourne

The Battle of Crete offers us the chance to connect to the stories that make up our Cretan-Australian identity. As youth, we are removed from the original stories of our grandparents but nonetheless engaged in the legacy of the Battle of Crete.

It is important for us now, more than ever, to be inspired by stories of courage and commitment to each other.

For the youth, the spirit of looking after each other to keep Cretan culture alive lives on, and we are incredibly lucky to have both the older generations to show us our cultural education, and the new generations of Cretan-Australians to keep the culture alive in Australia. We may be far from Crete, but we remain grateful for the courage, strength, and sacrifices made during the Battle of Crete.



Aristeia Nikolakakis
President

Cretan Youth Association Of Queensland

Representing the youth of the Cretan Association of Queensland, we as sisters, Stephanie Sakley (24 years old) and Jennifer Sakley (21 years old), have the honour to reflect on the Battle of Crete this year.

We have been doing Cretan dancing for 8 years now. We are beyond grateful for the Cretan Association of Queensland because we get to share our Cretan dancing at events such as Battle of Crete, Convention, Paniyiri and most recently performing Cretan dancing in Crete as a representation for Australia.

Today, we commemorate the 84th year of the Battle of Crete. We honour and pay respect to the brave men and women who fought in the Battle of Crete, recognizing their courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to defending freedom. The Battle of Crete also highlights the sacrifices made by ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances, serving as a reminder of the cost of freedom and the importance of standing up to tyranny.

The Cretan Association of Queensland and The Federation of Australia has taught us a lot about Cretan culture and the Battle of Crete through dancing, history and most importantly the friendships that have been forged globally through the Cretan association.

Jennifer Sakley & Stephanie Sakley



Arthur Leggett OAM :

A Life of Service, Resilience, and Remembrance



Born on 8 September 1918 in Balgowlah, Sydney, Arthur Leggett lived a life that would span more than a century – a life marked by extraordinary service, quiet heroism, and a tireless commitment to preserving the legacy of his generation.

At the age of 18, Arthur began his journey of service by joining the Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia, serving in the Transport Platoon. With the outbreak of the Second World War, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and was assigned to the 2nd/11th Infantry Battalion – a unit that would become legendary for its role in some

of the earliest battles fought by Australians in the Middle East and North Africa.

Arthur saw combat against Italian forces in Libya, participating in significant victories at Bardia and Tobruk. However, it was on the island of Crete that Arthur's story would take a harrowing turn. During the fierce fighting of May 1941, as German paratroopers launched their invasion, Arthur was captured and became a prisoner of war – a status he would endure for more than four long years.

His captivity saw him forced into hard labour in the coal mines of Poland under brutal conditions. Yet, through physical hardship and emotional trials, Arthur's spirit remained unbroken. His resilience became a testament to the indomitable human will, even in the darkest of times.

Upon his release and return to Australia, Arthur might have sought a quiet life, but he chose instead to become a voice for remembrance and education. He dedicated himself to sharing the stories of his comrades and the lessons of history with future generations. Arthur believed deeply that the sacrifices made during the war must never be forgotten.

Arthur was a frequent participant in commemorative events, especially those honouring the Battle of Crete and the deep, enduring bond between the people of Greece and Australia. His passion for these events reflected the profound respect he held for the Cretan civilians who had risked – and



often given – their lives to protect Allied soldiers.

In recognition of his service to the veteran community and to historical remembrance, Arthur was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). His autobiography, *Don't Cry for Me*, captures his remarkable journey from youthful enlistment to seasoned survivor, and his reflections on life, war, and peace.

Even in his later years, Arthur remained an active and inspiring figure. Celebrated for his remarkable longevity, he continued to attend ceremonies, give interviews, and encourage younger generations to honour and preserve the stories of the past. In October 2024, he was visited by the Governor of Western Australia on the occasion of his 106th birthday – a testament to a life lived with honour and distinction.

Arthur Leggett passed away in 2025 at the age of 106, leaving behind a legacy of courage, dignity, and unwavering commitment to the ideals of service and memory. His passing marks the end of an era, but his story will continue to inspire all who value freedom, resilience, and the enduring ties of friendship across nations.

The Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand mourns his loss and honours his extraordinary life.

Αιωνία του η μνήμη – May his memory be eternal.



Photo Credits:

Australians at War Film Archive
Battle of Crete Memorial Committee of WA
GreekCityTimes



TASMANIA**Saturday 10 May 2025**

The Cretan Association of Tasmania in conjunction with the Hobart RSL Sub-Branch are hosting a commemorative wreath laying Ceremony at the Hobart Cenotaph, Queens Domain, Tasmania at 2:00pm.

In the evening, the Cretan Association of Tasmania is hosting a commemorative dinner dance at the Hellenic Hall 67 Federal Street, North Hobart at 6:30pm.

Sunday 11 May 2025

The Cretan Association of Tasmania in conjunction with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia – District of Tasmania are hosting a commemorative doxology and church service at the Greek Orthodox Church of Street George Church, Antill Street Hobart at 10:00am.

The Hellenic National Defence General Staff delegation will also attend private functions during their program in Tasmania held by the Honorary Consul of Greece in Tasmania and the Cretan Association of Tasmania.

NEW SOUTH WALES**Friday 16 May 2025**

The Cretan Association of Sydney in conjunction with the Consulate General of Greece in Sydney are co-hosting a presentation by Professor Peter Monteath and commemorative cocktail party at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney at 6:30pm.

Saturday 17 May 2025

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.

In the evening, 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 18 May 2025

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.

Sunday 25 May 2025

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.

The Hellenic National Defence General Staff delegation will also make a number of visits during their program in Sydney including the Consulate General of Greece in Sydney, the headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, St Spyridon Greek Orthodox College, St Basil's Nursing Homes, the Lemnos Memorial in Kogarah Town Square, the Parish of the Resurrection of Christ, Kogarah and the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police complex "Lamia Barracks". Private functions will also be held by the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand and the Joint Committee for the Commemoration of the Battle of Crete and Greek Campaign (NSW).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA**Sunday 18 May 2025**

The Consulate General of Greece, the Greek Australian RSL and Battle of Crete Memorial Committee are co-hosting a commemorative doxology and church service in the morning.

Following this, the Greek Australian RSL and Battle of Crete Memorial Committee are co-hosting a wreath laying ceremony at the Battle of Crete Memorial at the Saw Avenue precinct at Kings Park.

Following this, the Greek Australian RSL and the Battle of Crete Memorial Committee are co-hosting a commemorative lunch at the Duxton Hotel 1 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**Wednesday 21 May 2025**

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.

The Hellenic National Defence General Staff delegation will also make a number of visits during their program in Canberra including the Embassy of Greece in Australia and the Australian War Memorial. Private events will be held by the Embassy of Greece in Australia and the Hellenic Club of Canberra.

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NORTHERN TERRITORY

Sunday 25 May 2025

The Cretan Association of Northern Territory will be holding a commemorative doxology and church service at the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George 92 Cavenagh Street, Darwin at 9:00am.

Following the church service, the Cretan Association of Northern Territory will be holding a commemorative wreath laying ceremony at the Darwin Cenotaph War Memorial in Bicentennial Park, the Esplanade.

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NEW ZEALAND

Sunday 25 May 2025

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 10:00am.

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.

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VICTORIA

Friday 23 May 2025

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 24 May 2025

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.

In the evening, 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 25 May 2025

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 Saint Catherine 3B Epping Street, East Malvern at 9:00am.

The Hellenic National Defence General Staff delegation will also make a number of visits during their program in Melbourne including the Victorian Parliament House, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, and Oakleigh Grammar. Private functions will also be held by the Greek Ex Servicemen Association of Australia and the Battle of Crete and Greece Commemorative Council (VIC).

.....

QUEENSLAND

Sunday 25 May 2025

The Cretan Association of Queensland will be holding a commemorative doxology, church service and wreath laying ceremony in the morning.

Saturday 31 May 2025

The Cretan Association of Queensland is hosting its annual commemorative dinner dance at Olympic FC, 50 Camdale Street, Yeronga at 6:30pm.

.....

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sunday 08 June 2025

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 14 June 2025

The Cretan Association of South Australia is hosting it's annual commemorative dinner dance at the Cretan House 220 Port Road, Alberton at 7:00pm.



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY & N.S.W.

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΥΔΝΕΥ & Ν.Ν.Ο.

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

L to R:

Ari Paraskakis
Nina Saisanas
Amanda Salmon
Freda Passam (Miyakis)
Angelo Siganakis (Vice President)
Emmanuel Vitetzakis (President)
Gerassimos (Maki) Giannoulis
Terry Saviolakis
Hara Vamianakis
Maria (Vitezakis) Townsend
Stelios Vamianakis



Senior Executive Committee

L to R:

Stamati Belivanis
Christopher Townsend
George Siganakis
Danny Venizelou
Cleopatra Kounellis
Konstantina Siganakis
Hara Vamiamakias (Youth Liason)
Michaela Margiankakos
Ellen Salmon
David Salmon
Alexander Mountakis
(Youth President)
Dylan Giannoulis
Nicholas Townsend

Absent:

Giorgio Mountakis
(Youth Vice President)



Youth Committee

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY & N.S.W.

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΥΔΝΕΥ & Ν.Ν.Ο.

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



Performance Dance Group



Intermediate Dance Group

L to R:

Alexander Mountakis, Danny Venizelou, Yianni Melas, Christopher Townsend, George Siganakis, Dylan Giannoulis, Tina Parliaros (Teacher), Angelique Belivanis, Vayia Spanoudakis, Irene Vitetzakis, Cleopatra Kounellis, Ellen Salmon, Michaela Margiankakos, Konstantina Siganakis, Iliana Janes

L to R:

William Kounellis, David Salmon, Peter Baldas, Jonny Venizelou, Jonathan Lagoudakis, Sebastian Maladakis, Christopher Townsend (Teacher), Vayia Spanoudakis (Teacher), Raphaella Alvanos, Marianne Margiankakos, Amalia Siganakis, Mikayla Kyriakou Alana Bandounas, Sophia Tsagarakis, Alexandra Margiankakos



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY & N.S.W.

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΥΔΝΕΥ & Ν.Ν.Ο.

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

Back Row L to R:

Christopher Townsend (Teacher)
Harrison Kyriakou,
Evangelos Tsoukarellis,
George Siganakis,
Zachariah Maladakis,
Costa Vitetzakis, Dimitrios Alvanos,
Vayia Knithakis, Maria Bakis,
Sarah Baldas, Rianna Limberis
Teah Bandouras,
Irene Vitetzakis (Teacher)

Front Row L to R:

Christopher Katsoulis,
Dimitry Tsoukarellis, Sam Limberis,
Evie Bandounas, Marianna Parliaros
Elena Katergarakis,
Katerina Parliaros



Junior Dance Group



Dancing groups at the 65th Anniversary of the Association

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΝΕΑΣ ΖΗΛΑΝΔΙΑΣ

P. O. BOX 6050, WELLINGTON NZ 6011
EMAIL : BILL.GIANNAKAKIS@GMAIL.COM



Battle of Crete 2024



Battle of Crete 2024



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΚΟΥΙΣΛΑΝΔΗΣ

P.O. BOX 5172, WEST END, QLD 4101
EMAIL : CRETANASSOQLD@OUTLOOK.COM

Front Row L to R:

Kosta Kaselakis, Miron Katsanevas,
Anthony Katsanevas (President),
Herc Kaselakis (Treasurer),
John Karalis (Vice Treasurer)

Back Row L to R:

Filia Ghorayeb (Secretary),
Anna Ghorayeb (Public Relations),
Penelope Barimis (Vice President
and Public Relations),
Monica Katsanevas,
Anastasia Karalis (Public Relations),
Melina Kalykakis (Vice Secretary)

Absent:

Nekta Vitetzakis



Senior Executive Committee

Front Row L to R:

Harrison Vitetzakis,
Antonio Arvanitakis,
Kosta Katsanevas, Ari Katsanevas,
Miro Katsanevas, Luke Karalis,
Lefteri Stamatis

Back Row L to R:

Anna Ghorayeb, Patrisia Arvanitakis,
Irene Kennedy, Jennifer Sakley,
Zoe Karalis, Amalia Comino,
Melina Kalykakis, Katerina Varnava,
Anastasia Dakin, Anastasia Karalis,
Victoria Ghorayeb

Absent:

Anthony Vitetzakis



Senior Dance Group

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΚΟΥΙΣΛΑΝΔΗΣ

P.O. BOX 5172, WEST END, QLD 4101
EMAIL : CRETANASSOCQLD@OUTLOOK.COM



Junior Dance Group

Front Row L to R:

Katerina Hnoudis, Sava Hnoudis,
Fotini Symons, Despina Varnava,
Stavros Varnava

Back Row L to R:

Katerina Varnava, Zoe Karalis,
Anastasia Karalis,
Patrisia Arvanitagis with the
junior dancing group

Absent:

Elias Park, Marissa Park,
Elisavet Kladas



The Cretan Association of Queensland at the 2025 CFANZ Convention



PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF MELBOURNE

ΠΑΓΚΡΗΤΙΑ ΕΝΩΣΗ ΜΕΛΒΟΥΡΝΗΣ

OFFICE: CRETAN VILLAGE, 90 CATHIES LANE WANTIRNA SOUTH VIC 3152
EMAIL : INFO@PANCRETAN.COM.AU



Senior Executive Committee



Intermediate Dance Group

PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF MELBOURNE

ΠΑΓΚΡΗΤΙΑ ΕΝΩΣΗ ΜΕΛΒΟΥΡΝΗΣ

OFFICE: CRETAN VILLAGE, 90 CATHIES LANE WANTIRNA SOUTH VIC 3152
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Intermediate & Junior Dance Group



Junior Dance Group



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΒΟΡΕΙΑΣ ΕΠΙΚΡΑΤΕΙΑΣ

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



Junior Dance Group



CFANZ Convention 2025 in Darwin



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΑΣΜΑΝΙΑΣ

54 LIPSCOMBE AVENUE, SANDY BAY TASMANIA 7005
EMAIL : VICKI.SAMK@BIGPOND.COM

Back Row L to R:
Jack Lambrakis,
Stan Tsakiris,
Terry Skoulakis,
Sotiris Kalogeropoulos

Front Row L to R:
Nick Alexakis,
Vicki Kalogeropoulou,
John Fiotakis,
Andonny Papastamatis



Senior Executive Committee



Youth Committee

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΑΣΜΑΝΙΑΣ

54 LIPSCOMBE AVENUE, SANDY BAY TASMANIA 7005
EMAIL : VICKI.SAMK@BIGPOND.COM



Dance Group



Battle of Crete 2024



CRETAN BROTHERHOOD OF MELBOURNE VICTORIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΜΕΛΒΟΥΡΝΗΣ ΒΙΚΤΩΡΙΑΣ

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



Senior Dance Group



Pre-Senior Dance Group



CRETAN BROTHERHOOD OF MELBOURNE VICTORIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΜΕΛΒΟΥΡΝΗΣ ΒΙΚΤΩΡΙΑΣ

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



Intermediate Dance Group



Junior Dance Group



Tinies & Sub-Junior Dance Group

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
ΝΟΤΙΑΣ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΣ

220 PORT ROAD ALBERTON, S.A. 5014
EMAIL : CRETANASSOCIATIONSA@GMAIL.COM



Senior Dance Group



Senior Dance Group



CRETAN BROTHERHOOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΣ

39 PAPERBARK WAY MORLEY, WA 6062
EMAIL : CBHWA@OUTLOOK.COM



Senior Executive Committee



Youth Dance Group

CRETAN BROTHERHOOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΣ

39 PAPERBARK WAY MORLEY, WA 6062
EMAIL : CBHWA@OUTLOOK.COM



WA Members



WA Battle Of Crete War Memorial



WA youth on Crete trip



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΚΑΜΠΕΡΡΑΣ

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



Senior Executive Committee



Presentation by Vice Admiral Christos Sasiakos HN to Veteran Les Cook May 2024

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ ΚΑΜΠΕΡΡΑΣ

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



Senior Dance Group in Crete 2024



Fundraiser December 2024



Arkardi commemorations November 2024

Battle of Crete 2025

📍 **TASMANIA**
10 MAY 2025

📍 **SYDNEY**
17 MAY 2025

📍 **MELBOURNE**
24 MAY 2025

📍 **BRISBANE**
31 MAY 2025

*Giorgos
Alexandouakis*

*Nikos
Papadogiannis*





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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.



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

Brunswick
St Vasilios,
15 Blyth Street,
Brunswick

Coburg
Presentation of our Lord,
29 Victoria Street,
Coburg

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

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

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

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

Yarraville
St Nicholas,
Murray Street,
Yarraville

Reservoir
William Ruthven
Secondary College,
60 Merrilands Road,
Reservoir

Taylors Lakes
(St Albans)
Secondary College
1-39 Parmelia Drive,
Taylors Lakes

Red Hill
Holy Monastery of
Panagia Kamariani
135 Arthur Seat Road,
Red Hill



MORE INFO

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

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On this the 84th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete:

*“A hero is someone who has given his
or her life to something bigger than oneself
and for this we are for ever grateful”*

**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
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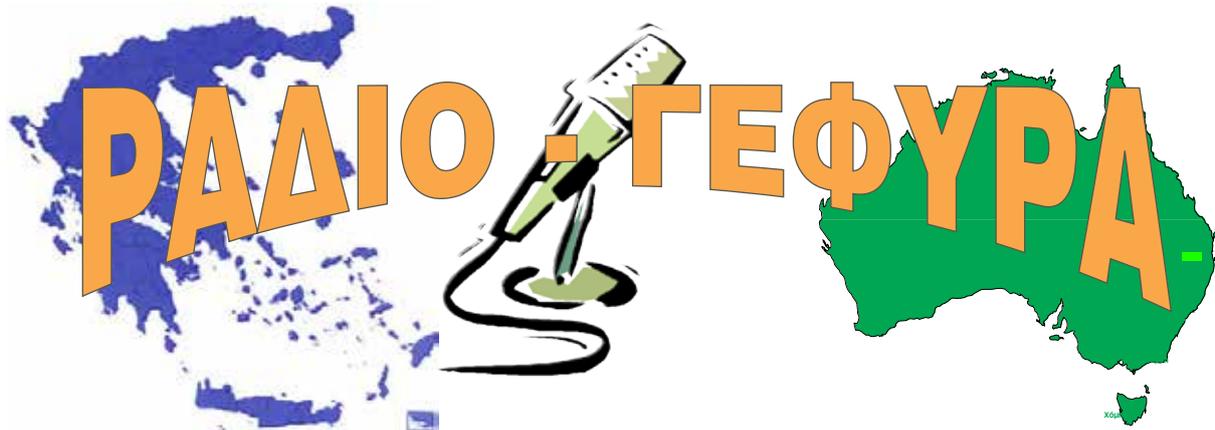
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ΣΥΝΤΟΝΙΣΤΕΙΤΕ με τον ραδιοφωνικό σταθμό

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Παρακολουθείτε καθημερινά στο σταθμό μας τον **Σάββα Καλεντερίδη** (Τρίτη-Σάββατο στις 11 το πρωί και Κυριακή Δευτέρα στις 12) σε μια λεπτομερή ανάλυση όλων όσα γίνονται στον κόσμο και τον **Γιώργο Σαχίνη** στην καλύτερη εκπομπή της Ελληνικής τηλεόρασης **«Αντιθέσεις»** κάθε Δευτέρα στις 9 το πρωί.

Η διεύθυνση του ραδιοφωνικού μας σταθμού **ΡΑΔΙΟ ΓΕΦΥΡΑ**, εύχεται στην Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας κάθε επιτυχία για τους γιορτασμούς της **Μάχης της Κρήτης**.

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SAGE

PROPERTY AGENCY

Shop 3, 63 Connells Point Road

South Hurstville NSW 2221

02 9546 6100, 0427316888

enquiries@sagepropertyagency.com.au

<https://www.sagepropertyagency.com.au>



Η επιχείρηση SAGE PROPERTY AGENCY είναι ένα επιτυχημένο κτηματομεσιτικό γραφείο που βρίσκεται στην περιοχή St. George. Φαίνεται νέα αλλά η εταιρεία πίσω από το Sage Property Agency, υπάρχει στην περιοχή πάνω από μία δεκαετία σε ιδιόκτητο χώρο.

Ο Μιχάλης και η Νικολέτα Πλατύρραχος είναι ιδρυτές της επιχείρησης, ενός επαγγελματικού ανεξάρτητου γραφείου που εργάζεται με συνέπεια και υπευθυνότητα και στηρίζεται στους ευχαριστημένους πελάτες τους.

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Εάν αναζητάτε ένα ενθουσιώδη και εργατικό συνεργάτη για να πουλήσετε το σπίτι σας ή να διαχειριστείτε την επενδυτική σας περιουσία, τότε ο Μιχάλης Πλατύρραχος, ιδιοκτήτης της Sage Property Agency είναι ο άνθρωπός σας.

Μάθετε πώς ο Μιχάλης μπορεί να σας βοηθήσει να πετύχετε την αξιοποίηση της ακίνητης περιουσίας σας επικοινωνώντας μαζί του στη δεύθυνση;

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Matthew Markakis

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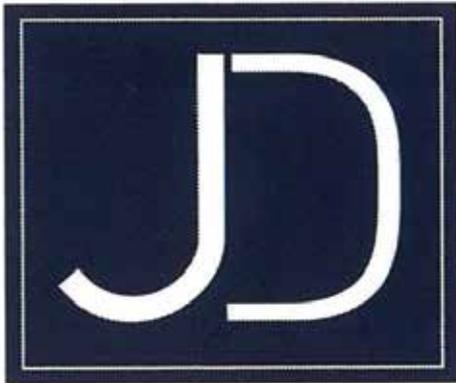
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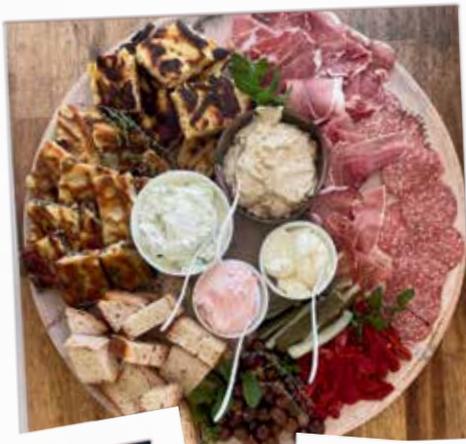
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*Στο Γαλατά, στο Μάλεμε, στου Καστελιού τα μέρη,
στο Κάστρο και στο Ρέθυμνο, της Κρήτης την καρδιά,
μια χούφτα μόνο Έλληνες με Αυστραλούς κι Εγγλέζους
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