

CRETAN TIMES

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PERIODICAL OF THE CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

● ISSUE 19 - JUNE 2026



CRETAN FEDERATION OF
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGES



Dear Fellow Cretans and Friends of Crete,

As we go to print with this latest issue of our Federation's Cretan Times, we are almost finished with this year's Commemorations for the 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

On behalf of the National Board, I wish to congratulate all of our Member Organisations, for their passion and respect in organizing their respective commemorations in each of their cities. Each and every one of them, have commemorated the Battle of Crete, with the dignity and respect that the WW2 ANZACS and the Cretan People deserve. They have honoured the fallen but also themselves and their respective communities, with an ever-increasing professionalism admired by many. Please witness the many highlights of this year's Commemorations in the following pages.

The hard work does not stop here though. Our Federation is already planning the 2027 Commemorations - dates, program, musicians must all be co-ordinated early.

But wait, there's more!

Our Federation is preparing to send a combined dance group to perform at the Darwin Glenti on the King's Birthday long-weekend this June. Not an easy feat, given we have to co-ordinate dancers from 3 different cities! We thank publicly, the Greek Orthodox Community of Northern Australia for their generous invitation to attend and perform.

We are also preparing for the next Cretan Youth Trip to Greece this July. This is a mammoth task which has already been in the planning for 9 months. We will be sending a group of Cretan Youth from NSW, VIC, SA & the ACT. Our youth will be visiting Athens and Crete and participating at the World Council of Cretans Convention in Hania at the end of July.

It doesn't stop there; our Federation is preparing activities associated with the upcoming 160th Anniversary of the Arkadi Holocaust this October and November. We are also participating as much as we can, with the Australian Sub-Branch of the Venizelos Foundation in commemorating the 90th Anniversary of Eleftherios Venizelos' death. The Sub-Branch is organising activities in every major city. I encourage all of our members to participate where they can.

Finally, together with the Cretan Association of Canberra & Districts, our Federation is planning the 2nd "Cretans in Canberra" incorporating the 45th Annual Cretan Convention to be held from the 5th to the 10th of January 2027. Look out for announcements in the coming weeks and months as preparations are finalized and promotion begins.

For all those travelling to Greece this summer, please stay alert, have lots of fun and return safely home!

As always, we thank all of our committees, volunteers and sponsors who give their time, effort and financial support to help us continue preserving the Cretan Spirit here in Australia and New Zealand.

Emmanuel Mountakis
National President



The recent commemorations of the Battle of Crete were conducted with great success, once again bringing our community together to honour one of the most significant moments in our history. The Battle of Crete remains a lasting symbol of resilience, sacrifice, and unity, and it is encouraging to see such strong engagement in preserving and recognising its importance across generations.

Equally encouraging is the continued momentum within our youth community, who are actively driving initiatives that strengthen our cultural connection. This includes the launch of a national art competition to commemorate the 160-year anniversary of the Arkadi Holocaust encouraging creative reflection and engagement among youth as well as preparations for the upcoming Cretans in Canberra Convention, where a dedicated youth-led itinerary of cultural, social, and sporting events is being developed. These efforts reflect a strong commitment to ensuring our history and traditions continue to be meaningfully carried forward.

Ari Paraskakis
National Youth President

COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE 2026



Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

In the 85th anniversary year of the Battle of Crete, it is important to commemorate this defining battle of the Second World War as a time where the enduring bonds of respect and friendship between the people of Crete and Australia were forged.

In resisting the German forces, the Battle of Crete united the Cretan people with Australian, New Zealand, British and Greek soldiers. In the heat and chaos of battle, the extraordinary courage and fortitude of the Cretan people – saving lives, treating the injured and protecting those in hiding – was seared in the hearts of all who felt the depth of their kindness and bravery.

Today, the relationship between Crete and Australia endures in the preservation of important sites of commemoration across Crete. Places where thousands of Australians visit to reflect and remember with respect and gratitude, they are a compelling reminder of all that was won and lost in the brutality of war, and our lasting commitment to peace.

The generations of Cretan migrants to Australia – from the pioneers of the nineteenth century to the many waves of postwar arrivals – have brought their spirit and stories to enrich and shape the strength of our nation. This period of commemoration, when we preserve the memory of those who fought and died in the Battle of Crete, is also a time of gratitude for the steadfast fraternity that emerged from the sacrifice and courage of war.

Lest we forget.



Στεκόμαστε και φέτος με δέος και σεβασμό μπροστά στη μνήμη της Μάχης της Κρήτης, μιας ιστορικής στιγμής που ανέδειξε με τον πιο ηχηρό τρόπο τη δύναμη της ελευθερίας, της αξιοπρέπειας και της συλλογικής αντίστασης απέναντι στον επεκτατισμό και τη βαρβαρότητα. Τον Μάιο του 1941, η Κρήτη δεν υπήρξε απλώς «ένα ακόμη πεδίο πολέμου»· έγινε παγκόσμιο σύμβολο ηρωισμού και αυταπάρνησης.

Οι Κρητικοί, πιστοί στην αδούλωτη ιστορική τους παράδοση, απέδειξαν ότι η ελευθερία δεν είναι δεδομένη, αλλά κατακτάται με θυσίες. Με θάρρος, αυθεντική φιλοπατρία και απaráμιλλη γενναιότητα, οι πολεμιστές της μεγαλονήσου ενώθηκαν με τις συμμαχικές δυνάμεις και αντιστάθηκαν σθεναρά στη ναζιστική εισβολή.

Ξεχωριστή θέση σε αυτή την κοινή ιστορική παρακαταθήκη κατέχουν οι στρατιώτες του ANZAC από την Αυστραλία και τη Νέα Ζηλανδία, οι οποίοι πολέμησαν στην κρητική γη με αξιοθαύμαστη αυτοθυσία. Φέτος, η επέτειος αποκτά ιδιαίτερο βάρος, καθώς πριν από λίγες εβδομάδες αποχαιρετίσαμε με βαθιά συγκίνηση τον Les Cook, τον τελευταίο βετεράνο του ANZAC από τη Μάχη της Κρήτης.

Η απώλειά του σηματοδοτεί το τέλος μιας σπουδαίας γενιάς ηρώων. Όμως η προσφορά και η μνήμη του θα παραμείνουν άσβεστες, υπενθυμίζοντάς μας για πάντα τους ακατάλυτους δεσμούς φιλίας και αλληλεγγύης που γεννήθηκαν εκείνες τις κρίσιμες ημέρες.

Η Κρήτη, όμως, δεν πλήρωσε μόνο με μάχες την αφοσίωσή της στην ελευθερία. Πλήρωσε βαρύ φόρο αίματος. Ονόματα όπως το Κοντομαρί, η Κακόπετρος και η Κάνδανος χαράχθηκαν ανεξίτηλα στη συλλογική μας συνείδηση. Οι στάχτες και ο πόνος δεν λύγισαν τον κρητικό λαό. Με την ίδια αδάμαστη ψυχή, που τον διέκρινε πάντα, συνέχισε τον αγώνα μέσα από την Εθνική Αντίσταση, κρατώντας άσβεστη τη φλόγα της λευτεριάς μέχρι την τελική δικαίωση.

Η κοινή θυσία Ελλήνων και συμμάχων διαμόρφωσε σχέσεις βαθιάς αμοιβαίας εκτίμησης μεταξύ των λαών μας, σχέσεις που σφυρηλατούνται μέσα στον χρόνο. Οι ελληνικές και ιδιαίτερα οι κρητικές κοινότητες στην Αυστραλία και τη Νέα Ζηλανδία αποτελούν σήμερα φωτεινό παράδειγμα αυτής της διαχρονικής σύνδεσης.

Οφείλουμε αναγνώριση και ευγνωμοσύνη στους ομογενείς μας, καθώς και στους φορείς που υπηρετούν με συνέπεια τη διατήρηση αυτής της πολύτιμης κληρονομιάς, όπως η Κρητική Ομοσπονδία Αυστραλίας και Νέας Ζηλανδίας. Η δράση τους φυλάει άσβεστη όχι μόνο την ιστορική μνήμη, αλλά και τον ακατάλυτο δεσμό των νέων γενεών με την πατρίδα.

85 χρόνια μετά, η Μάχη της Κρήτης δεν ανήκει μόνο στο παρελθόν. Αποτελεί διαρκές σημείο αναφοράς για το μέλλον, υπενθυμίζοντάς μας ότι οι αξίες της ελευθερίας, της ενότητας και της αντίστασης απέναντι στην τυραννία παραμένουν πιο επίκαιρες από ποτέ.

Αιώνια τιμή σε όλους όσους αγωνίστηκαν. Αιώνια μνήμη στους πεσόντες. Και αιώνια ευγνωμοσύνη σε όσους κράτησαν ζωντανό το φως της ελευθερίας.

Κυριάκος Μητσοτάκης

Πρωθυπουργός της Ελληνικής Δημοκρατίας

NATIONAL 85TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE BATTLE OF CRETE



As we go to print, the Cretan Federation, together with its Member Organisations in Australia and New Zealand, are wrapping up the month and a half long Commemorations for the 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

Once again, our Federation has honoured the brave WWII ANZAC and Commonwealth Forces and also the defiant Cretan civilian population and resistance.

Our Commemorations this milestone year were blessed again, by the presence of a High-Ranking Military Delegation from the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, headed by Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Konstantinos Bouzos. Joining him were 1st Lieutenant Eleni Theodorou and Staff Officer Lamprini Kokkori. This Delegation took part in events in Brisbane, Wellington, Adelaide, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.



We also hosted the very talented and popular Cretan musician, Manolis Kontaros and his troupe consisting of Stelios Papadakis, Mihalīs Georvasakis, Kyriakos Kontekas. These wonderful musicians entertained our Cretan Communities in Darwin, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

Our Battle of Crete Program began on Thursday the 30th of April, with the arrival in Australia of our International musicians. They flew into Sydney, then straight onto to Darwin to prepare for the Cretan Association of the Northern Territory's Cretan Dance on Saturday the 2nd of May. A sell out affair with the "glenti" and "kefi" lasting to the wee hours of the morning.



Whilst the musicians rested in Darwin, the Military Delegation arrived in Brisbane on Tuesday morning the 5th of May, to begin the official commemorations in that city. The highlight being, the unveiling of the Battle of Crete Memorial Plaque at Holland Park. A great initiative by the Cretan Association of Queensland. The Military Delegation completed their visit and left Brisbane for Wellington on Thursday morning the 7th of May. Our international musicians arrived in Brisbane later that same day, to prepare for the Cretan Association of Queensland's Battle of Crete Dinner Dance later in the week.

Meanwhile in Wellington, the Cretans Association of New Zealand welcomed the Delegation from Greece with a Cocktail Event on the 8th of May followed by their Battle of Crete Commemoration Dance on Saturday the 9th of May. This was a warm and hospitable event, with great Cretan Food made from fresh New Zealand produce, by the dedicated Cretans of NZ Association members. Also that night, "across the ditch", Kontaros and his troupe were entertaining the big crowd in Brisbane. From all reports and postings, this was another great Cretan "glenti".

On Sunday the 10th of May, the skies over Wellington cleared up providing glorious sunshine for the Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Greek-New Zealand Memorial. The Vice-Chief of the New Zealand Defence Force commenting that he had never seen so many wreaths laid outside of Anzac Day.



Meanwhile, all the way across in Perth, at the Battle of Crete War Memorial, the Cretan Brotherhood of Western Australia was joined by none other than His Excellency, the Hon. Chris Dawson - Governor of Western Australia, who headlined a number of other distinguished VIP's in laying wreaths.

The Delegation left Wellington on Monday the 11th of May, to fly to Adelaide to participate for the first time in 25 years, at official events in that city. A wreath-laying ceremony organised by the Cretan Association of South Australia, attended by over 100 people, took place at the National War Memorial in Adelaide City on Tuesday the 12th of May. Joining the Delegation was the Treasurer of South Australia, the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis MP, who at the conclusion of the ceremony, hosted all the participating VIPs and members of the Cretan Association, for a formal dinner inside South Australian Parliament House.

Our musicians flew into Sydney from Brisbane on Wednesday the 13th of April, followed by the Delegation arriving the next day. Both parties prepared for their respective events in Australia's largest city. Whilst the musicians enjoyed some typical Sydney Cretan hospitality before the big Dance, the Delegation attended the large Battle of Crete Presentation and Cocktail Party at the ANZAC Memorial on Friday the 15th of May. An amazing event, now in its third year, co-hosted by the Consulate-General of Greece in Sydney and the Cretan Association of Sydney & NSW.



Later that evening, our musicians and Delegation, finally found themselves together at the Cretan Association of Sydney's Annual Cretan Ball held on Saturday the 16th of May.

After the traditional olive planting by the Delegation at Lamia Barracks, south-west of Sydney, the Delegation departed for Canberra on Monday the 18th of May, whilst our musicians enjoyed some down-time before they moved onto their next destination.

On Tuesday the 19th of May, our Federation was proud to participate in the Royal Australian Mint's launching of a new coin series titled "1941: Service amid Strife". One of the coins commemorates Australia's involvement in the Battles in Mainland Greece and Crete. This launch was a great success and was covered by television, print and digital media personnel. That same afternoon, Kontaros and his troupe flew into Melbourne to prepare for that weekend's events.

The next day, Wednesday 20th of May - the day the invasion of Crete began, the Cretan Association of Canberra & Districts hosted the wreath-laying ceremony at the Australian-Hellenic War Memorial. Unfortunately, the ceremony took place for the first time, without our last Battle of Crete ANZAC, Mr Les Cook, who passed away earlier in the year in March at age 103.

The same day, the national Greek newspaper, The Greek Herald in collaboration with our Federation, published an 8-page special lift-out feature for the 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete that sold out very quickly!

The Delegation flew in to Melbourne on Thursday the 21st of May and on Friday the 22nd of May, attended the sold-out Official Battle of Crete Commemoration Reception, co-hosted by the

On Saturday the 16th of May, over 300 people gathered at Sydney's Cenotaph in Martin Place, to Commemorate the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign. Nearly 90 wreaths were laid. VIPs from Federal and State Parliaments, the Militaries, the Church and the Consular Corps were joined by dozens of community representatives and veteran's families and descendents.

Cretan Brotherhood of Melbourne & Victoria and the Pancretan Association of Melbourne. Once again, Kontaros and his troupe entertained everyone with enthusiasm and passion.

On Saturday morning the 23rd of May, over 250 people gathered at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance to honour all those who fell in the Battle of Crete. This ceremony was followed by a smaller ceremony at the nearby Australian-Hellenic Memorial. Later that evening at the Cretan Village in Wantirna South, over 600 people attended the Commemoration Dance hosted by the Pancretan Association of Melbourne and the Cretan Brotherhood of Melbourne and Victoria. Both organisations' Dance Groups produced outstanding performances with music by Manolis Kontaros and his troupe.

The following morning on Sunday the 24th of May, Memorial Church Services were held in Melbourne at the Cathedral of Our Lady 'Axion Estin' and at the Garrison Church in Sydney.

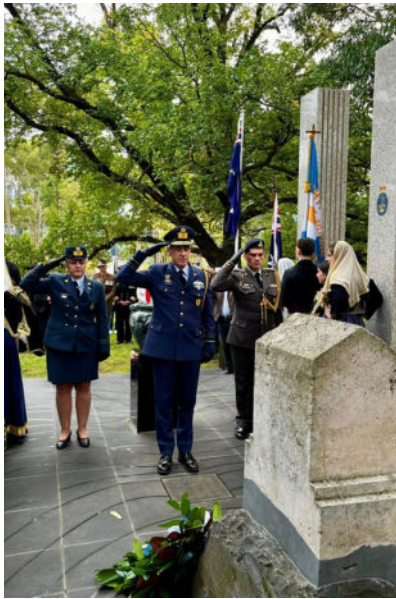
Both of our special invited musicians and the Delegation, departed Melbourne for Greece on Monday evening the 25th of May. We are forever grateful for their participation in our Commemorations this year.

At the time of printing, the Cretan Association of South Australia is preparing for their sold-out Dinner Dance on Saturday the 30th of May. Wreath-Laying Ceremonies will be taking place on Sunday the 31st of May in Hobart, by the Cretan Association of Tasmania and in Darwin, by the Cretan Association of the Northern Territory. The last event for 2026, will take place in Perth on Saturday the 13th of June, where the Cretan Brotherhood of Western Australia will hold their first dance in nearly 10 years. Please enjoy the following highlight photos.









BATTLE OF CRETE COMMEMORATIVE COIN LAUNCH



The Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand was honoured to co-host the official launch of the Royal Australian Mint's new commemorative coin series, held as part of the national commemorations marking the 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign.

Part of the "1941: Service Amid Strife – Second World War Release" series, the coins recognise significant theatres of the Second World War and pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of all those who served.

Joining the Royal Australian Mint and the Cretan Federation at this launch, were His Excellency Mr Stavros Venizelos, Ambassador of Greece to Australia; His Excellency Mr Antonis Sammoutis, High Commissioner of Cyprus to Australia; the visiting High-Ranking Military Delegation from Greece, led by Lieutenant General Konstantinos Bouzos; Colonel Kyriakos Kyriakakos, Defence Attaché of the Embassy of Greece in Australia; Ms Emily Martin, CEO of the Royal Australian Mint; Dr Tom Rogers from the Australian War Memorial; the family of the late Les Cook; along with distinguished guests, community representatives and members of the media.

Royal Mint CEO Emily Martin, began proceedings by welcoming the large number of attendees and presenting a short introduction to the coin series, highlighting the significance and symbolism of commemorative coins. Dr Tom Rogers, from the Australian War Memorial, presented a historical and military perspective relating to the 1941 theatres of war that Australians were involved with. The President of the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand, also welcomed everyone and summarised how the coin launch became a reality. He then introduced the Chief of Staff of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, Lieutenant-General Konstantinos Bouzos who spoke from the perspective of the Hellenic Defence Forces.

This release honours the bravery of the WWII ANZACs and the people of Crete, who stood side by side in defence of freedom during one of the defining campaigns of World War II. The coin's design reflects the enduring bond between Australia and Greece - a friendship forged through the shared sacrifices of 1941 and strengthened across generations.

With no surviving veterans of the Battle of Crete still with us, this commemorative coin stands as a lasting tribute to the courage, sacrifice and the enduring legacy of those who fought.

We extend our sincere thanks to Her Excellency Ms Alison Duncan, Australian Ambassador to Greece, for proposing the Battle of Crete and Greece coin and to the Royal Australian Mint for embracing the initiative.



ΤΟ ΣΥΝΤΟΝΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΜΝΗΜΗΣ ΜΑΧΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ & ΥΠΟΛΟΙΠΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΑΣ ΤΙΜΗΣΕ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑ ΤΩΝ ANZAC

Το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο Μνήμης Μάχης της Κρήτης και Υπόλοιπης Ελλάδας συμμετείχε ενεργά στις φετινές εκδηλώσεις που διοργανώθηκαν από οργανισμούς και επιτροπές για την Ημέρα των ANZAC, τιμώντας την μνήμη των Αυστραλών και Νεοζηλανδών στρατιωτών που έπεσαν κατά την διάρκεια του Α΄ Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου. Οι εκδηλώσεις πραγματοποιήθηκαν με σεβασμό και συγκίνηση, αντανakλώντας τους βαθύτατους δεσμούς που έχουν αναπτυχθεί ανάμεσα στον ελληνικό και τον αυστραλιανό λαό.

Η Ημέρα των ANZAC τιμάται ως ημέρα εθνικής μνήμης στην Αυστραλία και τη Νέα Ζηλανδία, αφιερωμένη σε όλους όσους υπηρέτησαν και έχασαν την ζωή τους σε πολεμικές συγκρούσεις, με ιδιαίτερη αναφορά στον Α΄ Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο και την εκστρατεία της Καλλίπολης. Στη Λήμνο, όπου αναπαύονται Αυστραλοί στρατιώτες που έλαβαν μέρος στην εκστρατεία αυτή, οι τελετές μνήμης αποκτούν ξεχωριστή σημασία, αναδεικνύοντας τον διαχρονικό ρόλο της Ελλάδας ως συνδετικού κρίκου ανάμεσα στους δύο λαούς.

Τα μέλη του Συντονιστικού Συμβουλίου Μνήμης Μάχης της Κρήτης και Υπόλοιπης Ελλάδας, για ακόμη μία χρονιά, έδωσαν δυναμικά το παρών σε πληθώρα εκδηλώσεων. Η συμμετοχή αυτή αντικατοπτρίζει τους ισχυρούς και διαχρονικούς δεσμούς συνεργασίας που έχουν αναπτυχθεί με αυστραλιανούς οργανισμούς βετεράνων.

Οι εκδηλώσεις ξεκίνησαν την Κυριακή 19 Απριλίου με τη συμμετοχή του Συντονιστικού Συμβουλίου στην ειδική εκδήλωση που διοργάνωσε το Παράρτημα RSL Ringwood. Η εκδήλωση περιλάμβανε παρέλαση στον κεντρικό δρόμο MaroonDAH Highway, με εκατοντάδες αντιπροσώπους οργανισμών και απογόνους βετεράνων, οι οποίοι κατέληξαν στο Μνημείο "Memorial Clock Tower", όπου πραγματοποιήθηκε τελετή κατάθεσης στεφάνων. Κατά τη διάρκεια της εκδήλωσης έγινε ιδιαίτερη αναφορά στην 85η επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης από τον πρόεδρο Συνταγματάρχη David Keith Jamison, ο οποίος αναφέρθηκε εκτενέστερα στις θυσίες των στρατιωτών και τόνισε την σημαντική συμβολή του ελληνικού λαού στη στήριξη των Αυστραλών. Ολοκληρώνοντας την ομιλία του, υπογράμμισε ότι η κοινή αυτή ιστορία αποτελεί φωτεινό παράδειγμα για τις νεότερες γενιές, αναδεικνύοντας την αξία της ενότητας και της συνεργασίας.

Το μεσημέρι της ίδιας μέρας η Πρόεδρος του Συμβουλίου κα. Νατάσα Σπανού συμμετείχε στην τελετή κατάθεση στεφάνων που διοργάνωσε το «Αυστραλιανό Μνημειακό Κέντρο Νοσηλευτών» (Australian Nurses Memorial Centre) υπογραμμίζοντας τη σημασία της μνήμης και της αναγνώρισης της πολύτιμης συμβολής των γυναικών, οι οποίες στήριξαν τον αγώνα με τον δικό τους ξεχωριστό τρόπο.

Την Παρασκευή 24 Απριλίου πραγματοποιήθηκε ειδική τελετή μνήμης στο Νοσοκομείο Επαναπατρισμού Βετεράνων. Το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο εκπροσωπήθηκε από τον κ. Τσουρδαλάκη, ο οποίος κατέθεσε στεφάνι στην τιμητική πλακέτα που βρίσκεται στον κήπο του Νοσοκομείου, αφιερωμένη στη μνήμη των Αυστραλών στρατιωτών που συμμετείχαν στη Μάχη της Κρήτης. Την εκδήλωση συντόνισε ο Γενικός Διευθυντής του Νοσοκομείου Βετεράνων Austin, κ. Robert Winther, ο οποίος διατηρεί στενή συνεργασία με το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο από την ίδρυσή του.

ΤΟ ΣΥΝΤΟΝΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΜΝΗΜΗΣ ΜΑΧΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ & ΥΠΟΛΟΙΠΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΑΣ ΤΙΜΗΣΕ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑ ΤΩΝ ANZAC



Το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο Μνήμης Μάχης της Κρήτης και Υπόλοιπης Ελλάδας συμμετείχε ενεργά στις φετινές εκδηλώσεις που διοργανώθηκαν από οργανισμούς και επιτροπές για την Ημέρα των ANZAC, τιμώντας την μνήμη των Αυστραλών και Νεοζηλανδών στρατιωτών που έπεσαν κατά την διάρκεια του Α΄ Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου. Οι εκδηλώσεις πραγματοποιήθηκαν με σεβασμό και συγκίνηση, αντανakλώντας τους βαθύτατους δεσμούς που έχουν αναπτυχθεί ανάμεσα στον ελληνικό και τον αυστραλιανό λαό.

Η Ημέρα των ANZAC τιμάται ως ημέρα εθνικής μνήμης στην Αυστραλία και τη Νέα Ζηλανδία, αφιερωμένη σε όλους όσους υπηρέτησαν και έχασαν την ζωή τους σε πολεμικές συγκρούσεις, με ιδιαίτερη αναφορά στον Α΄ Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο και την εκστρατεία της Καλλίπολης. Στη Λήμνο, όπου αναπαύονται Αυστραλοί στρατιώτες που έλαβαν μέρος στην εκστρατεία αυτή, οι τελετές μνήμης αποκτούν ξεχωριστή σημασία, αναδεικνύοντας τον διαχρονικό ρόλο της Ελλάδας ως συνδετικού κρίκου ανάμεσα στους δύο λαούς.

Τα μέλη του Συντονιστικού Συμβουλίου Μνήμης Μάχης της Κρήτης και Υπόλοιπης Ελλάδας, για ακόμη μία χρονιά, έδωσαν δυναμικά το παρών σε πληθώρα εκδηλώσεων. Η συμμετοχή αυτή αντικατοπτρίζει τους ισχυρούς και διαχρονικούς δεσμούς συνεργασίας που έχουν αναπτυχθεί με αυστραλιανούς οργανισμούς βετεράνων.

Οι εκδηλώσεις ξεκίνησαν την Κυριακή 19 Απριλίου με τη συμμετοχή του Συντονιστικού Συμβουλίου στην ειδική εκδήλωση που διοργάνωσε το Παράρτημα RSL Ringwood. Η εκδήλωση περιλάμβανε παρέλαση στον κεντρικό δρόμο Maroonadah Highway, με εκατοντάδες αντιπροσώπους οργανισμών και απογόνους βετεράνων, οι οποίοι κατέληξαν στο Μνημείο "Memorial Clock Tower", όπου πραγματοποιήθηκε τελετή κατάθεσης στεφάνων. Κατά τη διάρκεια της εκδήλωσης έγινε ιδιαίτερη αναφορά στην 85η επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης από τον πρόεδρο Συνταγματάρχη David Keith Jamison, ο οποίος αναφέρθηκε εκτενέστερα στις θυσίες των στρατιωτών και τόνισε την σημαντική συμβολή του ελληνικού λαού στη στήριξη των Αυστραλών. Ολοκληρώνοντας την ομιλία του, υπογράμμισε ότι η κοινή αυτή ιστορία αποτελεί φωτεινό παράδειγμα για τις νεότερες γενιές, αναδεικνύοντας την αξία της ενότητας και της συνεργασίας.

Το μεσημέρι της ίδιας μέρας η Πρόεδρος του Συμβουλίου κα. Νατάσα Σπανού συμμετείχε στην τελετή κατάθεση στεφάνων που διοργάνωσε το «Αυστραλιανό Μνημειακό Κέντρο Νοσηλευτών» (Australian Nurses Memorial Centre) υπογραμμίζοντας τη σημασία της μνήμης και της αναγνώρισης της πολύτιμης συμβολής των γυναικών, οι οποίες στήριξαν τον αγώνα με τον δικό τους ξεχωριστό τρόπο.

Την Παρασκευή 24 Απριλίου πραγματοποιήθηκε ειδική τελετή μνήμης στο Νοσοκομείο Επαναπατρισμού Βετεράνων. Το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο εκπροσωπήθηκε από τον κ. Τσουρδαλάκη, ο οποίος κατέθεσε στεφάνι στην τιμητική πλακέτα που βρίσκεται στον κήπο του Νοσοκομείου, αφιερωμένη στη μνήμη των Αυστραλών στρατιωτών που συμμετείχαν στη Μάχη της Κρήτης. Την εκδήλωση συντόνισε ο Γενικός Διευθυντής του Νοσοκομείου Βετεράνων Austin, κ. Robert Winther, ο οποίος διατηρεί στενή συνεργασία με το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο από την ίδρυσή του.

Στις 25 Απριλίου, ανήμερα της Ημέρας των ANZAC, Μέλη του Συντονιστικού Συμβουλίου απέτισαν φόρο τιμής στους πεσόντες στρατιώτες, τιμώντας την θυσία και τον ηρωισμό τους. Συγκεκριμένα, έλαβαν μέρος στις καθιερωμένες Τελετές Αυγής που πραγματοποιήθηκαν σε διάφορα προάστια της Μελβούρνης. Η Πρόεδρος του Συντονιστικού Συμβουλίου Μνήμης κα. Νατάσα Σπανού και η Γραμματέας κα. Άννα Ψαράκη καταθέσαν στεφάνι στα Παραρτήματα RSL στο Oakleigh και στο Clayton αντίστοιχα. Ο Πρόεδρος της Ένωσης Κοινοτήτων και Ενοριών Βικτωρίας Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αυστραλίας κ. Αντώνης Τσουρδαλάκης συμμετείχε στην κατάθεση στεφάνων στο Παράρτημα RSL του Errring. Ο Αντιπρόεδρος κ. Μιλτιάδης Σταματάκος της Κρητικής Αδελφότητας Μελβούρνης και ο κ. Δημήτρης Παπαδημητρίου Βοηθός Ταμίας παραβρέθηκαν στις τελετές των Παρατημάτων RSL του Darebin και του Boronia αντίστοιχα. Η Γραμματέα της Παγκρητικής Ένωσης κα. Μαίρη Ρισσάκη και η Βοηθός Γραμματέα συμμετείχαν στις τελετές του Παραρτήματος RSL του Ringwood και του Camberwell αντίστοιχα. Ο Γραμματέας του Αυστραλό-Ελληνικού Μνημείου κ. Παναγιώτης Ανδρινόπουλος έδωσε το παρών στο Παράρτημα RSL του Doncaster, ενώ ο Αντιπρόεδρος της Λημνιακής Κοινότητας Μελβούρνης στην τελετή στο Παράρτημα RSL στο Dandenong. Οι Πρόεδροι κ. Χρήστος Κομινάτος από την Λευκαδιακή Αδελφότητα και κ. Ευάγγελος Πλοκαμάκης από τον Σύλλογο Κεφαλλήνων «Ο Κέφαλος» τίμησαν τα Παραρτήματα RSL Coburg και Waverly αντίστοιχα, ενώ ο κ. Peter Ford έδωσε το παρόν στην τελετή στο Παράρτημα RSL του Caulfield. Τέλος με ιδιαίτερη συγκίνηση ο Αντιπρόεδρος των Ελλήνων Αποστράτων κ. Κώστας Αντωνιάδης εκπροσώπησε το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο καταθέτοντας στεφάνι στην επαρχία Shepparton. Αξιοσημείωτο είναι ότι στην πλειονότητά τους τα RSL έκαναν ιδιαίτερη αναφορά στην 85η επέτειο της Μάχης της Κρήτης, δίνοντας έμφαση στην συμβολή των Ελλήνων και στην συνεργασία των δύο λαών κατά τον Β΄ Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο, αναδεικνύοντας την κοινή τους πορεία και τις αξίες που τους ενώνουν.

Κορυφαία στιγμή των εκδηλώσεων αποτέλεσε η συμμετοχή στην μεγαλειώδη παρέλαση για την Ημέρα των ANZAC στη Μελβούρνη. Η Πρόεδρος, κα Νατάσα Σπανού, εκπροσώπησε το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο, λαμβάνοντας μέρος στην επίσημη παρέλαση μαζί με εξαμελή ομάδα μαθητών από το Ημερήσιο Σχολείο Oakleigh Grammar. Η ομάδα παρέλασε στο πλευρό του Συνδέσμου του Συντάγματος 2/2 Πεζικού (2/2 Field Regiment Association), με τον οποίο το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο διατηρεί στενούς δεσμούς και εξαιρετική συνεργασία.

Την ίδια μέρα διοργανώθηκε ειδική τελετή στο κενοτάφιο του προαστίου Keilor όπου την διοργάνωσε ο σύλλογος που ασχολείται με ιστορικά θέματα «Keilor Historical Society». Στην τελετή εκπροσώπησε το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο ο Πρόεδρος της Ένωσης Κοινοτήτων και Ενοριών Βικτωρίας Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αυστραλίας κ. Αντώνης Τσουρδαλάκης.

Οι εκδηλώσεις ολοκληρώθηκαν με την τελετή που διοργάνωσε η Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή Αυστραλίας Επισκοπή Χώρας, σε συνεργασία με την Ένωση Κοινοτήτων και Ενοριών και το Συντονιστικό Συμβούλιο Μνήμης Μάχης της Κρήτης και Υπόλοιπης Ελλάδας, την Κυριακή 26 Απριλίου, στο Αυστραλο-Ελληνικό Μνημείο Βορείων Προαστίων, στον προαύλιο χώρο της Ενορίας Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος στο προάστιο Thomastown. Συγκεκριμένα τελέστηκε δοξολογία χοροστατούντος του Επισκόπου Χώρας κ. Ευμενίου και ακολούθησε κατάθεση στεφάνων. Η τελετή αποτέλεσε έναν συγκινητικό φόρο τιμής προς τους Έλληνες και Αυστραλούς στρατιώτες που έχασαν τη ζωή τους κατά την διάρκεια του Α΄ και Β΄ Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου.

Η συμμετοχή του Συμβουλίου στις τελετές της Ημέρας των ANZAC ξεπέρασε τον χαρακτήρα μιας απλής συμβολικής παρουσίας, αποτελώντας μια ουσιαστική υπενθύμιση της κοινής ιστορικής πορείας και της ευθύνης για την διατήρηση της ειρήνης και της διεθνούς συνεργασίας. Οι ομιλίες που εκφωνήθηκαν, η κατάθεση στεφάνων, καθώς και η συγκινητική παρουσία απογόνων των βετεράνων, ανέδειξαν ότι η θυσία τους παραμένει ζωντανή και βαθιά ριζωμένη στη συλλογική μνήμη.

Η κα. Σπανού στο μήνυμά της για την Ημέρα των ANZAC επισήμανε «Οι εκδηλώσεις αυτές αποτελούν έναν σημαντικό δεσμό στην διατήρηση της ιστορικής μνήμης και της φιλίας ανάμεσα στην Ελλάδα και την Αυστραλία, μια σχέση που γεννήθηκε μέσα από τις δοκιμασίες του πολέμου και

διατηρήθηκε ζωντανή μέσα στον χρόνο, εμπνέοντας διαρκώς τις νεότερες γενιές. Να θυμόμαστε πάντα όλοι κληρονομικές αξίες που χαρακτηρίζουν έναν λαό δεν κατακτούνται χωρίς θυσίες και αγώνες. Ας εμπνευστούμε από το παράδειγμα των ηρώων που θυσιάστηκαν για την ανθρωπότητα και ας προστατεύσουμε με σεβασμό και υπερηφάνεια τις δύο πατρίδες μας, την Ελλάδα και την Αυστραλία. Τέλος μην ξεχνάμε στην σημερινή εποχή που οι συγκρούσεις και ο πόλεμος κυριαρχεί, έχουμε ακόμη μεγαλύτερη ευθύνη να στεκόμαστε σταθερά υπέρ του δικαίου, της ειρήνης και του σεβασμού του διεθνούς δικαίου. Αιωνία η μνήμη όλων όσων θυσιάστηκαν για τα ιδανικά της ελευθερίας και της ειρήνης.



MELBOURNE COMMEMORATES THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

Throughout the month of May, the Pancretan Association of Melbourne and the Cretan Brotherhood of Melbourne proudly participated in a series of commemorative events marking the 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete an important milestone in our calendar that honours the courage, sacrifice, and enduring spirit of those who served during one of the most significant chapters in our shared history.

These commemorations brought together veterans' families, community members, dignitaries, and supporters to pay tribute to the soldiers and civilians whose bravery forged lasting bonds between Australia, New Zealand, and Crete. Through memorial services, wreath-laying ceremonies, cultural gatherings, and community events, we reflected on the legacy of the Battle of Crete and ensured that the stories and sacrifices of those who came before us continue to be remembered with honour and respect.

A significant highlight of the commemorations was the wreath-laying ceremony held at the Shrine of Remembrance and the Australian Hellenic Memorial, honouring the enduring legacy of those who served in the Battle of Crete and the Greece Campaign. The commemoration was attended by representatives of the Greek Orthodox and Anglican Archdiocese, the Greek and British Consulates, members of the Hellenic Armed Forces and Australian Defence Force, the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand, local Councillors, RSL representatives, the veteran community, Greek organisations, and schools.

The commemorations concluded with a memorial service at Axion Estin, presided over by Bishop Evmenios. Hosted by the Battle of Crete and Greece Commemorative Council in conjunction with the Pancretan Association of Melbourne and the Cretan Brotherhood of Melbourne & Victoria, the service reflected the enduring bonds between Australia and Greece and reaffirmed our commitment to preserving the memory of those who served.



The commemorative cocktail reception and dinner dance were sold out events provided a fitting conclusion to the anniversary events. Dance students performed with grace, pride, and passion, honouring the heroes of the Battle of Crete through traditional dance. Their performances reflected the resilience and cultural heritage that continue to unite our community across generations. A heartfelt thank you to Manolis Kontaros and his band for travelling from Crete to share their extraordinary musical talent with us. Their performances captured the soul of Crete and created a truly memorable experience for all in attendance.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who attended and supported the commemorative events throughout the month, particularly our youth, whose participation ensures that the legacy of those we honour continues to be carried forward.

As we reflect on this significant anniversary, we remain committed to preserving our history, honouring the sacrifices of past generations, and strengthening the cultural and historical ties that continue to unite our community.



85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

The 1941 Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign has marked history with an enduring legacy of valour, honour, heroism, and a historical mateship forged between Hellenes and ANZACS, who fought alongside each other in a common quest to expel the German advance from Crete.

This was a battle like no other. For the first time, Germans would launch an attack from the skies, dropping paratroopers who would descend upon the Cretan soil to take over the island by stealth. Little did they know that Operation 'Mercury' would end even before it began. Cretans determined to support their ANZAC allies and armed only with stubborn resilience and gallantry, fought to the death, killing and injuring thousands of descending paratroopers and ending the German assault from the air. Crete nonetheless succumbed to occupation, but the valour and determination of its citizens would later inspire figures like Churchill to remark that heroes fight like Greeks.

Memory of this May 20 battle lives on in the minds and hearts of those who choose to never forget the lives lost, or taken hostage, or, by now, stolen by time. One such was Mr Les Cook, our oldest living veteran who passed away earlier this year, at the age of 103.

5 years later, on May 20th this year, the Cretan Association of Canberra and accompanying dignitaries again converged at the most fitting



location - the Hellenic-Australian Memorial on Anzac Parade - to commemorate Mr Les Cook and all those who had selflessly served in this historic battle.

We were honoured to be joined by a visiting Hellenic National Defence General Staff (HNDGS) delegation headed by Chief of Staff (P) Lieutenant General Constantinos Bouzos, as well as First Lieutenant (ABDF) Eleni Theodorou, Staff Officer Lambrini Kokkori, and Mrs Eleni Botsi. Alongside them stood the following distinguished dignitaries:

- Very Reverend Father Petros Kipouros
- Ambassador of Greece to Australia, His Excellency Mr Stavros Venizelos and his spouse Ms Larissa Tikaidi
- High Commissioner to Cyprus, His Excellency Mr Antonis Sammoutis
- Military Attache of the Greek Embassy in Canberra, Mr Kyriakos Kyriakakos and his spouse
- Director of the Australian War Memorial, Mr Matt Anderson PSM
- President Cypriot Community of Canberra, Mrs Nectaria Volis
- President of Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand (CFANZ), Mr Emmanuel Mountakis and his spouse
- President Cretan Association of Canberra, Mr George A Katheklakis
- President Canberra Association of Pontos 'Trapezounta', Mrs Angie Triantafyllou
- Supreme Grand President of AHEPA Australia and Grand President of AHEPA ACT, Mrs Sophia Notaras and Mr Paul Leventis
- President Hellenic Club Canberra, Mr Steve Kartsonas
- Mr Tom Trobe, grandson of the late Mr Les Cook

Also in attendance were Australian Defence Force and New Zealand Defence Force representatives; members of the diplomatic corps; the RMC army band; families of veterans, and; Hellenic and Australian members of the Community who sat on the steps of the amphitheatre.

A Catafalque party marched in mounting a circular formation around the Doric column. Very Reverend Father Kipouros commenced with an orthodox memorial service (mnimosino) and prayers, and ended by chanting, "eternal be their memories".

HNDGS Lieutenant General Konstantinos Bouzos took to the lectern to deliver his address. HE Mr Stavros Venizelos also delivered his address. Both referred to the enduring bond between Greece, Australia and New Zealand.

Master of Ceremonies Mr Andre Bobets then signalled the start of the wreath-laying procession, prompting expectant dignitaries to take turns in laying their wreath at the base of the Doric column. The mood was sombre but dignified; silent and respectful.

As it was when Mr Tom Trobe, grandson of Mr Les Cook, delivered the moving poem 'Ode of Remembrance', as a tribute to his late grandfather.

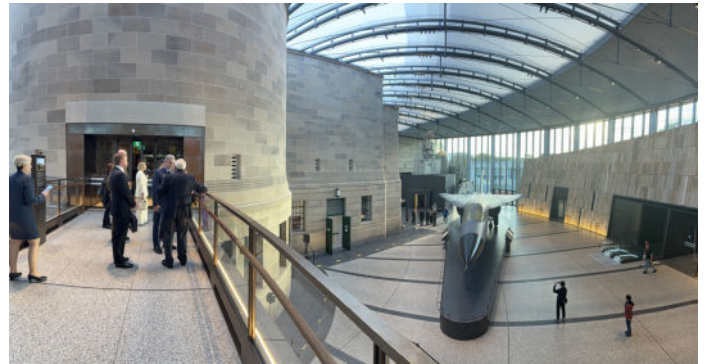
Later in the afternoon, the HNDGS Chief of Staff and his accompanying party walked across to the War Memorial where they were given a special tour of each display and section of the impressive Memorial, before being brought to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where they laied a wreath.

The day culminated with the HNDGS delegation's participation in the most spectacular display of military splendour as part of the Last Post Ceremony. Once again, the HNDGS Lieutenant General Konstantinos Bouzos and First Lieutenant Eleni Theodorou, who were formally acknowledged by the presiding presenter, were directed to stand facing the Pool of Reflection alongside other visiting military personnel so that they may lay their final wreath. The ceremony began with the Australian National Anthem followed by the piper's lament. An individual's story, chosen from the roll of honour, is told each day, and the Ode is recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. On this day, the story chosen was of Corporal John Kelly which was read aloud. The ceremony ended with the sounding of the Last Post.

For our visiting Hellenic dignitaries, this Last Post was of particular significance: by sheer coincidence, the ceremony focussed on the story of the Battle of Crete of 20th May 1941.

Lest we forget.





85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE IN QUEENSLAND

This year, the Cretan Association of Queensland proudly commemorated the 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete — a defining moment in 1941 when Allied soldiers and Cretan civilians stood side by side against an overwhelming Nazi invasion.

As we reflect on this significant milestone, we look back on a meaningful week of commemorations held across Queensland. The week began with the welcome of military delegations from Greece and Canberra, followed by the unveiling of Queensland's Battle of Crete commemorative plaque. Wreath-laying ceremonies were then held at the Holland Park RSL and ANZAC Square, before the commemorations concluded with our Annual Battle of Crete Commemorative Dance.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to honouring this important anniversary. In particular, we acknowledge the delegation from the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, the Military Attaché of the Greek Embassy in Canberra, His Grace Bishop Bartholomew of Brisbane, and the Honorary Consul of Greece in Queensland, Mr George Mastrocostas.

A special thank you also to our visiting musicians, as well as our talented dancers and instructors, for their outstanding performances.

Finally, we thank our committee members, sponsors, and the many association representatives whose ongoing support and generosity made these commemorations such a tremendous success.

We honour the courage, sacrifice, and enduring pursuit of freedom.

Ζήτω η Κρήτη!



HONOURING MEMORY, COURAGE AND LEGACY: THE BATTLE OF CRETE PLAQUE IN QUEENSLAND



On the 6th of May 2026, the Cretan Association of Queensland marked a historic milestone with the unveiling of Queensland's first permanent plaque dedicated to the Battle of Crete 1941 at the Holland Park – Mount Gravatt RSL Memorial.

More than a ceremony, it was a moment of reflection, connection and deep emotion — bringing together community members, veterans, dignitaries and representatives of the Hellenic Armed Forces to honour a chapter of history that continues to shape our identity.

As we gathered to unveil the plaque, we were reminded that while the Battle of Crete was fought far from Australian shores, it forever bound Australians and Cretans together through courage, sacrifice and shared values. Its installation at the RSL Memorial is significant not only because it honours history, but because it places that history firmly within the heart of our Queensland community.

The plaque itself captures this history in simple but powerful terms. It honours the soldiers of the Australian 6th Division who fought in Crete — 274 killed in action, 507 wounded, 3,109 taken as POWs and 242 who died while in captivity. It also recognises the Allied and Greek armed forces and the Cretan civilians who fought for freedom and endured the devastating aftermath.

Its inscription concludes with the words that bind all acts of remembrance: "Lest we forget."

Symbols of Endurance and Remembrance

It is therefore fitting that we planted an olive tree alongside the plaque.

For Greeks and Cretans, the olive tree is a powerful symbol — of peace and endurance, of sacrifice and renewal. For many Australian soldiers who arrived in Crete in 1941, the olive groves that covered the hillsides were unlike anything they had known before. Those trees offered shade, shelter and moments of rest and became part of the landscape in which Australians fought, hid, recovered and, in some cases, said their final goodbyes.

Crete is home to more than thirty million olive trees — a living testament to the island's ancient connection to the land. Many have survived wars, occupations and devastation, regenerating even after destruction.

Planted here on Queensland soil, this olive tree now stands as a living memorial — linking Crete to Australia, past to present, memory to future.

From Wartime Alliance to Lasting Bond

What began as a wartime alliance became something far more enduring.

Australian soldiers returned home with stories of the courage and generosity of the Cretan people. In the decades that followed, Cretans migrated to Australia, carrying with them a deep respect for those who had stood beside them.

This shared history continues to shape generations of Greek Australians today.

A Living Legacy

The unveiling of this plaque is not simply about marking a historical event. It is a declaration that this history matters — here, in Queensland, and within our community.

THE BATTLE OF CRETE PLAQUE IN QUEENSLAND

It ensures that the sacrifices of Allied soldiers and Cretan civilians will not fade into time, but will remain visible, tangible and honoured.

We are deeply grateful to the Holland Park – Mount Gravatt RSL, and in particular its President Mr Michael Weibler, for providing a permanent home for this memorial and for embracing this shared history as part of your own.

As the first permanent plaque in Queensland dedicated to the Battle of Crete, it stands as a lasting acknowledgement of a chapter of history that shaped the identity of Greek Australians — and especially Cretans. Most importantly, it is a commitment to future generations — to remember, to learn and to carry forward the values of courage, resistance and humanity.

As we stood together on that day of unveiling, we were reminded: The Battle of Crete is not just history. It is legacy.

Lest we forget.
Αιώνια η μνήμη.

Anthony Katsanevas
President
Cretan Association of Qld



85TH ANNIVERSARY - BATTLE OF CRETE

The Cretan Association of Tasmania commemorated the 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete 31 May 2026.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our wreath laying ceremony and reception. It was a very moving service and it was wonderful to see all those who came to support and commemorate with our community.

Our special guests included:

- Her Excellency, The Governor of Tasmania, The Hon Barbara Baker AC
- Colonel Kyriakos Kyriakakos, Defence Attache to Greece in Canberra and Mrs Vicki Konou and
- The Hon Greek Consul of Tasmania, Mrs Ekaterina Skalidis.

A big congratulations to our Hellenic Dancers for their wonderful performance and special thanks to the President of the Greek Community, Mr Manni Kalimnios, our sponsors, volunteers, family and friends.



CRETAN YOUTH OF SYDNEY HOLD BATTLE OF CRETE ART COMPETITION



The Cretan Association of Sydney & New South Wales congratulates its Youth Committee on the successful delivery of the 2026 Battle of Crete Art Competition and extends its thanks to all participants who submitted entries.

Held as part of the 85th Anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Crete, the competition provided young people with an opportunity to learn about and reflect upon one of the most significant chapters in the shared history of Greece, Australia and New Zealand. Through art and creativity, participants explored themes of remembrance, courage, sacrifice and friendship, while gaining a deeper appreciation of the events of 1941 and the enduring bonds forged between the Cretan people and the ANZACs.

The competition attracted entries across a range of age groups, with participants producing thoughtful and imaginative works that demonstrated both artistic talent and an understanding of the historical significance of the Battle of Crete.

The Association is particularly proud to see younger generations engaging with their history in meaningful ways and carrying forward the legacy of those who fought and sacrificed during the Greek Campaign and Battle of Crete.

The success of the competition is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the Youth Committee, whose efforts continue to provide opportunities for young people to connect with their heritage, culture and history.

Congratulations to all entrants, winners, families and volunteers who contributed to making the Battle of Crete Art Competition such a memorable and successful initiative.

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#a_life_campaign



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HELLENIC YOUTH TRIVIA NIGHT IN TASMANIA

Our Hellenic Youth held a Trivia fund raising evening Saturday 23 May 2026 at the Greek Club.

A huge thank you to all who attended to support our Youth and to all the sponsors for the wonderful prizes they donated.

Delicious supper included souvlakia, chips and dips.

Big shout out to the quiz master Stav.

Congratulations to our Youth for a very well organized and enjoyable event.



MESSOLONGHI - THE ROAD TO FREEDOM: HISTORY, ART & PHILHELLENISM

On 18th of April 2026, the Greek Embassy in Australia hosted a lecture to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Exodus of Messolonghi, at the National Museum in Canberra.

The Ambassador of Greece in Australia HE Mr Stavros Venizelos welcomed those present and initiated the lecture by speaking about 'The Exodus and its international Backdrop'. Reading an excerpt from the historic minutes as recorded by veteran freedom fighter Nikolaos Kasomoulis in a meeting on the eve of the bloody exodus, Mr Venizelos continued by outlining the geopolitical context of the time and the growing international Philhellenic movement that resulted in intensifying allied support, while garnering worldwide attention from writers, artists, and poets, such as Lord Byron. The growing Philhellenic sentiment would go on to attract international assistance that would eventually also lead to the successful naval Battle of Navarino (modern-day Pylos), in 1827. It was in this context that Mr Venizelos introduced the two keynote speakers, both noted historians, each of whom approached the topic from their own area of expertise.



Dr Spiridoula Demetriou, co-curator of the Messolonghi exhibition at the Benaki Museum in Athens, spoke on 'Messolonghi 1826 - 2026: the Exodus As a Symbol of the Greek War of Independence' and examined the legacy of Messolonghi's heroic uprising in the many resulting works of artistic expression. Citing Eugene Delacroix's iconic 1826 painting, 'Greece on the Ruins of Messolonghi' among other works, Dr Demetriou referred to the depiction of tragedy and suffering but also of heroism and strength, as elements that inspired the movement of international resistance and securing strong allied support for the Hellenic cause.



Mr Jim Claven OAM followed with his presentation entitled, 'This Brilliant Victory: Australia and the Battle of Navarino'. He explored the connection between the Greek revolution and 19th century colonies, including the role of Australian veterans in the famous battle. Mr Claven also referred to the anonymous poem, 'Battle of Navarino', published in the Australian Press in 1825, proving that the Philhellenic movement had begun reaching far beyond Messolonghi and Greece.

Lecture attendees included MP's Mr Steve Georganas and Mr David Smith, High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus, HE Mr Antonis Sammoutis, Consul General of Greece in Melbourne, Ms Dimitra Georgantzoglou, as well as diplomats, Australian National University academics, community leaders, and Greek-Australian members of the public.





UNESCO WORLD GREEK LANGUAGE DAY CELEBRATION

On 15th February, members of the Cretan Association of Canberra attended an event at the Hellenic Club of Canberra, in celebration of Unesco's recent official recognition internationally of World Greek Language Day. The event was coordinated by the Embassy of Greece in Australia in conjunction with the Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra (GOCCC), and the Sydney Branch of the Unity in Philia & the International Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis.

Prime Minister of Greece, Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis, delivered a pre-recorded message, while other speakers included the Ambassador of Greece in Australia, His Excellency Mr Stavros Venizelos; member of the Australian Parliament, Mr Steve Georganas; President of the Greek Orthodox Community of Canberra, Mr John Loukadellis; and University of NSW academic, Mr Vassilis Adrahtas, who discussed 'Nikos Kazantzakis, a mystic of the Greek language'. Elder Paul House also delivered a native Canberra Community greeting in both his Aboriginal language and English, made memorable by the sounds on his didgeridoo.

In attendance were both Federal and ACT government representatives, diplomatic corps, local clergy, and members of the Greek community. A reception followed on conclusion with a live performance by vocalist Katherine Theofanopoulos and accompanying musicians Minas Tamba and Andonis Karamagalis, featuring hits by Mikis Theodorakis and Manos Hatzidakis.

Below, Mr Stavros Venizelos' speech expressing why, in Unesco's words, "Greek holds, by historical and objective criteria, a distinct place among the languages of the world"*:

"In November last year in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, UNESCO officially designated February 9 as World Greek Language Day to honor "the language's 3,500-year, unbroken contribution to global culture, science, and literature". The resolution was unanimously adopted, celebrating "the language's role as a, foundation of Western civilization and its, ongoing influence on modern language".

While modern languages don't copy Greek grammar, Greek shaped:

- how complex arguments are structured
- how definitions are framed
- how abstract relations (cause, purpose, essence) are expressed.

Greek philosophy influenced Latin, Latin shaped European languages, and the Greek way of reasoning survived the journey. For centuries it was believed that the Greek written language started at around 800 BC with Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. But in 1952, Michael Ventris, a British self-taught linguist, deciphered Linear B, demonstrating that it records an early form of Greek (Mycenaean Greek 1450-1200 BC), thus extending the history of the Greek language by some 700 years and making Greek the first written European language.

In its first steps the Greek world interacted with Egypt borrowing ideas about afterlife, applied mathematics and art, with the Phoenicians borrowing their alphabet, an ideal and practical set of letters, very useful for a maritime trading nation, and Mesopotamia where the oral tradition of the Epic of Gilgamesh can be seen as an undercurrent in the Homeric epics. While Greek was first written in Mycenaean Linear B administrative texts, the earliest surviving Greek literary works are the Homeric epics. Homer's epics constitute the canon of Western literature; from Homeric Odysseus of the 8th c BC to the Ulysses of James Joyce and the Odyssey of Kazantzakis in the 20th c. Around 700 BCE, a profound intellectual revolution took place that decisively changed the course of human history. Until then, language was primarily tied to the tangible world: to physical objects, heroic action, human emotion, and myth. This was Homer's world. From the seventh century BCE onward, however, the Greek language began to articulate a new kind of reality—one that could not be perceived by the naked eye. Abstract thought required new words in order to be expressed, debated, and understood. Ideas concerning the underlying principles of nature, the governance of the city, and the inner life and responsibility of the

human being demanded a new more precise and flexible vocabulary. A new world of thought entered the Greek language—one grounded in abstraction, analysis, and rational inquiry.

This linguistic transformation made possible the emergence of concepts such as logos, physis, method, nomos, polis, and ethos did not describe the world; they re-conceptualised it. The scientific approach required a language capable of definition and logical coherence. The words atom, electron, physics, geology, meteorology, climate; the words mathematics, astronomy & cosmos; the words therapy, physiology, anatomy, cardiology, neurology, psychiatry, psychology, biology are the expression of the new abstract world belonging not only to Greece but to mankind. This transformation did not merely expand Greek vocabulary; it reshaped how reality itself was understood. Three words and the ideas associated to them that are still very relevant today will be discussed:

First word is **Geometry**.

Geometry has its origin in Egypt where it was used in measuring land, building grandiose edifices and calculating areas and volumes. Egyptian geometry was practical. In the 7th c BC Thales brought geometry in Greece. He changed the perspective by asking the question why the geometrical truths are true? For three centuries great geometers like Pythagoras, spent their days to prove theorems. Euclid who lived in Alexandria between the 4th and 3rd c. BC collected the results of earlier geometers, organised them logically and presented them in a system. His work *Elements* is the most influential geometry book in history. The most striking feature of the book is the use mainly of words instead of diagrams or other symbols. The axioms, theorems and proofs are all described in language. The Greek language of Euclid is dry, concise and exact. It became and still remains the absolute example of scientific language. A century later, Aristarchus of Samos by using the Euclidian geometry placed the sun in the center and the spherical earth in orbit around it. In contrast some decades later Ptolemy of Alexandria by using the same geometry placed the spherical earth in the center and the sun and the planets moving around the earth. The geometry of Ptolemy could successfully predict planetary positions. Aristarchus's books were burnt and Ptolemy's ideas prevailed for about 1400 years until the Polish astronomer Copernicus returns to the

heliocentric system. In the 16th c. in the preface of the 1st edition of his book Copernicus acknowledges Aristarchus of Samos. Jesuits preserved, taught, and expanded geometry in Europe during the Renaissance and early modern period. Geometry was central to their educational, scientific, and missionary work. Their textbooks and methods helped make Euclidean geometry the standard across Europe for centuries. Isaac Newton in his masterpiece *Principia Mathematica* (1687), preferred geometrical proofs over algebra for presenting laws of motion and universal gravitation. He argued that geometry made physical laws clearer and more rigorous. Many proofs in *Principia* are geometrical constructions rather than equations. He created a bridge between Euclidean geometry and modern calculus-based mathematical physics. Albert Einstein (1879–1955) revolutionized physics by showing that geometry is the fabric of the universe. The ideas of Euclid are now complemented by the geometries of Riemann and Minkowski. In *Special Relativity* (1905), he used geometry of spacetime: a four-dimensional space combining three spatial dimensions and time. In *General Relativity* (1915), he showed that mass and energy bend spacetime, and this curvature determines how objects move. In simplistic words, gravity is geometry. Einstein's equations allow us to model the global shape of the universe. The geometry of spacetime can be curved or flat in an Euclidean-like, infinite universe. Einstein showed that the universe is fundamentally geometric: mass and energy shape spacetime itself, and the geometry of spacetime governs the evolution of the cosmos, from planetary orbits to the Big Bang. Euclidean language was not confined to mathematics and physics. In a striking example, the *Ethics* of the great Jewish-Dutch philosopher Baruch Spinoza was written in a style reminiscent of Euclid: short, precise, and austere propositions that attempt to construct an entire ethical system, logically unfolding from the unity of a single substance. Instead of just measuring the land, Greek geometry became theoretical and intellectual, connected to the search of universal knowledge.

Second word is **Theatre**

Somewhere in the middle of the 7th c. BC in Athens, a man stepped out of an orgiastic chorus wearing masks in adoration of Bacchus and started addressing the bystanders whilst initiating a

dialogue with the chorus. In the course of a century the dialogue acquired a plot, a story with a beginning, a climax and an end. That was the beginning of theatre, an Athenian invention. The word theatre creates a new human reality. The idea of a mimetic action, of actors, of a plot with catharsis at the end gave birth to an intellectual world with access to the inner depth of the human soul. Athens embraced the idea and very soon they exported it in the known world.

The first theatre in Europe was built in the southern slope of the Acropolis hill and can be visited today. The words drama, tragedy, comedy relate to theatre from the 6th c. BC till today. The first playwrights were Athenians. The three tragic poets (Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides) have been the first in a long list of authors from Antiquity to the modern world. The words of Aeschylus who wrote the trilogy *Oresteia* are like meteors falling from the sky. Giant thoughts expressed in immensely powerful words. The fight in his works is cosmic. Sophocles' words are sensitive, deep and balanced. The emotions described in his language are heartbreaking. He dives deep in the human soul. Personally I have not read anything in Greek language or in any other language in this regard more beautiful, touching and sincere than Sophocles' words. Euripides is the product of democracy, his heroes and heroines like to argue, to debate. They defend their actions, all three of them, they checked political power with the notion of hubris, that is arrogance that leads nations to destruction as well as the notion of free will despite a predetermined fate. Their plays, words and ideas are in a constant dialogue with the world through centuries. From Germany to the Americas, ancient Greek drama has shaped modern theatre. Goethe in Germany, Corneille, Racine and Anouilh in France, María Zambrano in Spain, Leopoldo Marechal in Argentina, José Watanabe in Peru, and Eugene O'Neill in the United States all reworked Greek tragic forms to address the moral, and political dilemmas of their own time. In Africa and the Arab world, playwrights such as Wole Soyinka of Nigeria, Tawfiq al-Hakim of Egypt, and Saadallah Wannous of Syria drew on ancient Greek drama to confront questions of authority, political oppression, and individual and collective responsibility. In the Nordic countries, Henrik Ibsen of Norway and August Strindberg of Sweden engaged deeply with the spirit of ancient Greek drama, exploring themes of fate, moral conflict, and the individual's

struggle against social constraints. Aristophanes remains the uncontested master of comedy. From *Commedia dell'arte* and Beaumarchais to Mark Twain, the Berlin cabaret, political cartoons, classic Hollywood comedies like the Marx Brothers, television comedy, Monty Python, and Charlie Chaplin, Aristophanes' mix of satire, social critique, taboo subjects and absurd humor has echoed through centuries of comedic art. Friedrich Nietzsche, in his book *The Genesis of Tragedy* believes that there are two main forces in drama, coming from Greek Antiquity, the Apollonian spirit which represents light and reason and the Dionysian spirit which represents darkness and instincts. In the same vein the Viennese psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud names his famous Oedipus complex which is about unconscious desires and familial conflict, after the mythical king of Thebes. Sophocles' masterpiece *Oedipus Rex* serves as the inspiration. Sophocles phrase "Many men have strange and frightening dreams" could have served as the subtitle of Freud's idea. Theatre proved to be a sensitive art. It flourished during the period of democracy. It declined and disappeared in later antiquity. It resurfaced in the Renaissance not only in texts but also in music. In early 1600 Claudio Monteverdi from Cremona is the first to draw on the emotional power and structural clarity of Greek drama and transforms opera. After him for 4 centuries, dozens of opera composers, from Handel to Stravinsky, tap into ancient Greek theatre subjects and myths for their work. The Athenians believed that theatre was a form of education for the people. In his critique of theatre Plato claims that theatre is dangerous as it can emotionally manipulate the masses. Today we are submerged in the idea of theatre on the internet and on our smartphones. By using the ancient technique, countless users as well as AI bots propagate ideas through YouTube shorts or Instagram reels. The idea of mimetic action and a story with a message which was born 2700 years continues its travel to the future.

Third word is **Theology**

Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics and Plotinus were the main philosophers who focused on the study and rational inquiry about the nature of the divine. When Apostle Paul arrived in 50 AD to Athens to teach the Gospel he was confronted by Epicureans and Stoics. On that day Christianity learnt a lesson the hard way. To conquer the minds and heads of the Greco-Roman world they needed a powerful tool of logic and reasoning, the needed

They needed rhetoric. For almost three centuries, Christians were the underdogs of the Empire but they peacefully fought back. Three of the four books of the New Testament, the Acts of Apostles and the Revelation were written in Greek. The term theology was adopted by early Christian thinkers to describe the systematic study of God, faith, and salvation. The philosophical base was ready. Plato's theology presents the divine as perfectly good, rational, and eternal, with the supreme principle being the Form/Idea of the Good and the world shaped by a benevolent Creator. He also believed in the immortality of soul. Aristotle's theology centers on an eternal, immaterial intellect whose perfect self-contemplation grounds cosmic order and inspires all motion as a final cause. Stoics taught that the universe is governed by Logos, a rational divine order, and that human beings achieve virtue and happiness by living in accordance with Logos and accepting fate with self-discipline and inner freedom. Plotinus believed reason leads the soul upward, philosophy purifies the mind and prepares it for mystical union with the One. Logic is the path, and mystical experience is the culmination in an ecstatic transformative experience. The first Christian thinkers combined these ideas with Christian dogmas, but not only them. Late Judaism and early Islam were influenced by these thoughts as well. During the course of the 4th c. AD Christianity triumphed. It was the Age of Theology the "queen of all sciences" as Thomas Aquinas described and it was about to last the next eleven centuries. Greek language and traditions were preserved and transmitted through the Patriarchates of Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria, and Jerusalem, ensuring continuity of Christian thought, and scholarship across the Eastern Mediterranean. In the 9th century, the Greek language played a central role in the creation of the Cyrillic alphabet and in the teaching of Christianity to the Slavic peoples of South East and Eastern Europe, serving as a bridge for faith, literacy, and culture. The early Middle Ages were more Platonic, but from the 13th century Aristotle became the central authority through scholastic theology, because his works offered a complete, rational system that medieval thinkers could use to understand nature, logic, and metaphysics, and because they were gradually integrated into Christian theology. From the 12th century, Aristotle's works re-entered Western Europe via Arabic translations. Thinkers like Avicenna (Ibn Sina) and Averroes (Ibn Rushd) preserved,

commented on, and expanded Aristotle's philosophy. A Byzantine philosopher Plethon Gemistos who visited Florence in early 15th c. delivered lectures on Plato's philosophy, criticized Aristotle, who dominated Western scholastic thought and sparked great enthusiasm among Italians for Platonic philosophy. He deeply impressed the banker Cosimo de' Medici, who later supported the creation of the Florentine Platonic Academy, where Marsilio Ficino translated and promoted Plato's works. Plato's ideas about eternal aesthetic forms and the beauty of the divine laid, among others, the intellectual foundation of the Italian Renaissance. Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution gradually displaced Aristotle's dominance. A less known but equally influential figure is Pyrrho of Elis who travelled to India during Alexander the Great's campaigns. Pyrrho is sometimes called the Greek Buddha. It is striking how the Eastern ideas of non-attachment and suspension of judgment—encountered by Pyrrho among Brahmins, yogis, and Buddhists—were transformed into radical skepticism, a method of careful observation, doubt, and personal engagement with knowledge. Centuries later, this skeptical spirit reemerged in the Protestant Reformation, reflected in the ideas of Luther and Calvin, challenging the authority of the Catholic Church and encouraging individual responsibility in matters of faith. Today, Pyrrhonism's legacy lives on in modern scientific inquiry and contemporary philosophical skepticism, showing how a simple principle of doubt, borrowed by a Greek from the Indians, can travel across cultures and centuries.

Today the Greek language emerges from its interaction with a centuries-old culture and a constant dialogue with world ideas. In my speech today I explored only three words and their reciprocal influences throughout history. You can imagine the unfathomable depth and the profound significance of thousands of Greek words in so many languages and cultures. Greece is grateful to the thousands of anonymous Christian monks and teachers in Eastern and Western Europe, Islamic scholars and Jewish intellectuals who safeguarded the Greek language for millennia by translating or copying the Greek texts. All these people from different nations, cultures and languages knew deep inside them that they were preserving the wisdom and the spirit of humanity."

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Σε έναν χώρο όπου η εμπειρία κάνει τη διαφορά, ο John Tripidakis με πάνω από τέσσερις δεκαετίες ενεργής παρουσίας και επιτυχημένης εκπροσώπησης ομογενών, παρέχει νομικές υπηρεσίες υψηλού επιπέδου, προσαρμοσμένες στις απαιτήσεις κάθε υπόθεσης για τη μέγιστη διασφάλιση των συμφερόντων σας.

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PANCRETAN YOUTH COMMITTEE LAUNCH



The Pancretan Association of Melbourne Youth Committee is thrilled to announce its official launch, marking an exciting new chapter for our community here in Melbourne. Led by President Lily Koukouvatakis, the committee's executive team also includes Vice President Jonathan Sarris, Treasurer George Parras, Public Relations Officer Dimitri Petrakis and Secretary Natassa Starakis. The committee present a passionate group of young people united by a genuine love for Cretan culture and a drive to see it celebrated far and wide.

Our purpose is to engage Melbourne's Greek community with the richness and beauty of Cretan heritage in ways that feel fresh, inclusive, and genuinely welcoming. Events are already in the works, and the doors are open to everyone — whether you're Cretan-born, part of the broader Greek community, or simply someone who appreciates great culture and good company.

The committee is also proud to shine a light on the association's beloved dancing groups — the Senior, Pre-Senior, Intermediate, Junior, and our beloved Zouzounakia — who continue to embody Cretan tradition and community spirit.

This is just the beginning, and the Pancretan Association of Melbourne Youth Committee is eager to make its mark. Watch this space!

PANCRETAN FAMILY FUN DAY CELEBRATION 2026!

The Pancretan Association of Melbourne Family Fun Day on Sunday 15th of March was a wonderful success, bringing together over 500 people throughout the day of families, friends, and community members for a day full of laughter, connection, and memorable moments. The event created a warm and welcoming atmosphere where everyone—young and old—could enjoy a variety of fun activities.

Children had an amazing time participating in games, face painting, and interactive activities, while parents relaxed and socialized with other families. There were plenty of delicious food options, music, and entertainment that kept the energy high throughout the day.

One of the highlights of the event was seeing families spending quality time together, strengthening bonds and creating lasting memories. The smiles, laughter, and sense of community truly captured the spirit of the day.

A big thank you goes to all the volunteers, sponsors, and organizers who worked tirelessly to make the event possible. Your support and dedication helped create a fantastic day for everyone involved. We look forward to hosting another Family Fun Day in the future and continuing to bring our community together.



80/90S PANCRETAN REUNION NIGHT

On Saturday, 29 March, the Pancretan Association of Melbourne welcomed members and friends to our 80s/90s Pancretan Reunion Party at the Cretan Village. The evening was a fantastic celebration, bringing together past dance group members from the 80s & 90s to reminisce about the unforgettable memories, friendships, and experiences shared throughout the years. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to reconnect, relive special moments, and celebrate the strong bonds and lifelong friendships formed through the Association and its dance groups.

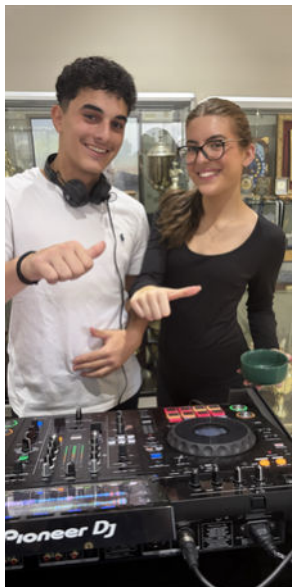
The night featured live Cretan music by Sifis Marakis and George Sevastakis, along with DJ Anez (Lee Anezakis), who kept the dance floor alive with a mix of Greek and English hits enjoyed by all generations. Guests were also treated to a special debut performance from our new Senior Dance Group, whose energy and enthusiasm were warmly applauded by the crowd. A meaningful moment of the evening was a special photo taken with some of the founding members of the club, recognising and honouring their blood, sweat, and tears in building the foundations and strong community we continue to cherish today. The reunion was a night filled with laughter, music, nostalgia, and pride in our Pancretan heritage. Bravo to everyone involved in making the evening such a memorable success!



CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY AT THE CRETAN VILLAGE

The Pancretan Association of Melbourne hosted a wonderful Mother's Day lunch at the Cretan Village on Sunday 3rd of May. The Mother's Day function was a beautiful celebration bringing together families, friends, and members of the community to honour and appreciate all mothers and mother figures. The afternoon was filled with warmth and laughter, as guests enjoyed delicious food, music played by one of our senior dance group members Lee Anezakis, and wonderful company in a welcoming atmosphere. It was a special opportunity for generations to come together, reconnect, and celebrate the important role mothers play within our families and community.

The event also highlighted the strong sense of culture and community that the Cretan Club continues to foster. Children and families shared memorable moments with a special performance by some of our Zouzounakia and Junior Dance Groups. The function was a wonderful reminder of the importance of preserving our traditions, strengthening friendships, and creating lasting memories with loved ones.



ΒΑΣΙΛΗΣ ΣΚΟΥΛΑΣ– ΠΟΡΕΙΑ ΖΩΗΣ, ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ ΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΒΙΒΛΙΟ ΤΟΥ «ΣΤΟ ΜΕΤΕΡΙΖΙ ΤΣ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΑΣ»



Μαρία Κασωτάκη

Ο Βασίλης Σκουλάς ο Ανωγειανός λυράρης, αποτελεί μία από τις πιο αυθεντικές μορφές της Κρητικής μουσικής παράδοσης. Με μια μακρά και ουσιαστική πορεία, κατάφερε να αναδείξει το Κρητικό τραγούδι πέρα από τα όρια της Κρήτης, διατηρώντας πάντοτε την αλήθεια και την ψυχή του τόπου του.

Μεγαλωμένος μέσα σε ένα περιβάλλον βαθιά δεμένο με τη μουσική και την παράδοση, διαμόρφωσε από νωρίς τη δική του καλλιτεχνική ταυτότητα. Η φωνή του, γεμάτη δύναμη και εσωτερικότητα, έγινε φορέας μνήμης, συναισθήματος και πολιτισμού, αφήνοντας έντονο αποτύπωμα στην Ελληνική μουσική σκηνή.



Από την ίδια εκδήλωση της παρουσίασης του βιβλίου του στον Άγιο Νικόλαο Κρήτης στο κινηματοθέατρο ΡΕΞ στις 20 Απριλίου 2026.

Ιδιαίτερη σημασία έχει το βιβλίο του «Στο μετερίζι τσ' ανθρωπιάς», μια πρόσφατη έκδοση του συγγραφέα Κώστα Μπαλαχούτη, το οποίο παρουσιάζει τη ζωή του από την παιδική ηλικία και τα πρώτα του βήματα στην Κρητική μουσική έως την καλλιτεχνική του εξέλιξη. Μέσα από αυτό αναδεικνύεται όχι μόνο ο δημιουργός, αλλά και ο άνθρωπος πίσω από το έργο του.

Η προσωπική μου γνωριμία με τον Βασίλη Σκουλά υπήρξε βαθιά συγκινητική και τιμητική εμπειρία, καθώς πρόκειται για έναν άνθρωπο που εκπέμπει αυθεντικότητα, σεμνότητα, σεβασμό και παράδειγμα προς μίμηση.

Κλείνοντας, θα γράψω τη μαντινάδα που συνδέεται με τον τίτλο του βιβλίου του:

«Στο μετερίζι τσ' ανθρωπιάς και στη τιμής το χρέος
εκεία θα στέκω να παντώ κι ας είμαι ο τελευταίος.»



Το βιβλίο του "Στο μετερίζι τσ' ανθρωπιάς"



Με τον Βασίλη Σκουλά από την παρουσίαση του βιβλίου του στον Άγιο Νικόλαο Κρήτης στο κινηματοθέατρο ΡΕΞ στον Άγιο Νικόλαο Κρήτης.

5 - 10 January 2027

CONVENTION PROGRAM

Welcome to the CFANZ Canberra Discovery Program. Arrive before the AGM and Convention weekend to explore Australia's capital city. Enjoy Canberra's most notable attractions, cultural landmarks, and local experiences while connecting and strengthening bonds with other fellow Cretans.

CFANZ CBR DISCOVERY

ARRIVAL	Tuesday 5 Jan
WELCOME <i>Cretan Taverna Night (open to everyone)</i>	Evening Tuesday 5 Jan
CBR ACTIVITIES <i>Various Canberra Locations</i>	Morning, Afternoon Wednesday 6 Jan
Cretans in CBR Evening Event (Adults)	Evening, Wednesday 6 Jan
CBR ACTIVITIES <i>Various Canberra Locations</i>	Afternoon Thursday 7 Jan
State of Origin Trivia Night (Adults)	Evening, Thursday 7 Jan

CFANZ CBR DISCOVERY

CFANZ YOUTH PROGRAM 2027

Prior to their AGM, CFANZ youth are invited to enjoy a dedicated program designed to deliver a fun Canberra experience and events alongside their fellow peers.

CFANZ YOUTH PROGRAM

ARRIVAL OF YOUTH DELEGATES	Tuesday 5 Jan
WELCOME <i>Cretan Taverna Night (open to everyone)</i>	Evening Tuesday 5 Jan
Questacon Experience (Under 16's) Cretans in CBR Amazing Race (Over 16's)	Morning, Wednesday 6 Jan
Flip Out Adventure (Under 18's) Euro Summer Night (Over 18's)	Evening, Wednesday 6 Jan
Youth Sports Day (all youth welcome)	Morning, Thursday 7 Jan
1st Cretan Dance Workshop (Under 18's + beginners)	Afternoon, Thursday 7 Jan
Zone Bowling Night (Under 18's) Neon Nights Party (Over 18's)	Evening, Thursday 7 Jan
CYANZ AGM (Youth Delegates)	Morning, Friday 8 Jan
2nd Cretan Dance Workshop (Over 18 + experienced)	Afternoon, Friday 8 Jan

CFANZ YOUTH PROGRAM

5-10 January 2027 CONVENTION PROGRAM

JOIN THE CELEBRATION IN CANBERRA

Whether you attend the full CFANZ Canberra Discovery or Youth programs, or just the Convention Program, know you will be part of an exciting gathering of members, friends and families eager to mingle and strengthen relationships. From the AGM and planned social activities to the spectacular Dinner Dance, the weekend promises something exciting for everyone.

ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES

Friday 8 Jan

WELCOME *hosted by the Embassy of Greece, Yarralumla*

Evening
Friday 8 Jan

CRETAN FEDERATION AGM

Hellenic Club of Canberra

Morning
Saturday 9 Jan

CONVENTION DINNER DANCE

Hellenic Club of Canberra

Evening
Saturday 9 Jan

CHURCH SERVICE

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Canberra

Morning
Sunday 10 Jan

Details, booking information and tickets for the CFANZ Canberra Discovery Program, the CFANZ Youth Program, and the CFANZ Convention Program including the AGM and Dinner Dance, will be made available shortly.

As Canberra is hosting a major event during the CFANZ Convention weekend, accommodation demand is expected to be high. We recommend that Canberra visitors book their accommodation early to secure best availability and rates.

We look forward to welcoming you to the nation's capital for an exciting program of special events and Cretan hospitality!

WELCOME ON FRIDAY, CFANZ AGM AND DINNER DANCE EVENTS ORGANISED BY
CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA & DISTRICTS



HOTEL OPTIONS

We are excited that our convention takes place during Summernats in Canberra – one of the city's most vibrant and popular weekends of the year. With the city buzzing and accommodation in high demand, we recommend booking accommodation **early** to secure your preferred option.

To make things easier, we've curated a selection of hotels in the Woden area and across Canberra's Southside for your convenience.

ABODE PHILLIP



WALKING DISTANCE FROM
HELLENIC CLUB CANBERRA

ABODE WODEN



ABODE KINGSTON

ADINA SERVICED APARTMENTS KINGSTON

BRASSEY HOTEL

BURBURY HOTEL

EAST HOTEL

FORREST HOTEL

GARDEN CITY MOTEL NARRABUNDAH

HOTEL KURRAJONG

HOTEL REALM

HYATT CANBERRA

MANUKA PARK SERVICED APARTMENTS

MERITON

PUNTHILL NARRABUNDAH

RAMADA DIPLOMAT CANBERRA

RYDGES CANBERRA

THE STATESMAN HOTEL CURTIN

For more options, including heritage-listed hotels, eco stays, major hotel chains, caravan parks and charming B&Bs, visit visitcanberra.com.au/accommodation



TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

VISIT

- Australian Parliament House
- Australian War Memorial
- Blundells Cottage
- High Court of Australia
- National Arboretum
- National Archives of Australia
- National Capital Exhibition
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Library of Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Questacon (National Science and Technology Centre)
- Reconciliation Place



EXPLORE

memorials and monuments that tell our nation's stories

- Anzac Parade
- Australian Hellenic War Memorial
- Last Post Ceremony 4:30pm AWM



DISCOVER

places of commemoration, remembrance and reflection

- Australian of the Year Walk
- Citizenship Place
- National Site of Recognition for Thalidomide Survivors and Their Families
- Reconciliation Place
- The Centenary of Women's Suffrage Commemorative Fountain

Choose from a variety of Guided or Self-Guided Walking Tours.

Fancy taking a tour of the Diplomatic Missions of Canberra? Download our Driving Tour here.

<https://www.nca.gov.au/attractions/take-tour/diplomatic-missions-self-guided-driving-tour>

<https://www.nca.gov.au/attractions/national-triangle#>



CONTACT INFORMATION



CRETAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND (CFANZ)

Please contact CFANZ for any information on the

- CFANZ CBR Discovery Program
- CFANZ Youth Program

✉: president@cretan.com.au



CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF
CANBERRA & DISTRICTS
INCORPORATED

CRETAN ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA & DISTRICTS

Please contact Cretan Association of Canberra for any information on the

- Welcome - Friday 8/1/27
- CFANZ AGM - Saturday 9/1/27
- Convention Dinner Dance - Saturday 9/1/27

✉: info@cretanact.org.au



