



# AUSTRALIAN HELLENIC MEMORIAL

Australian Student Competition

“IN HONOUR OF THOSE WHO SERVED AND IN MEMORY OF THOSE AUSTRALIAN AND HELLENIC  
MEN AND WOMAN WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN BOTH WORLD WAR ONE AND TWO”



## *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 μέيناμε να γεράσουμε,  
Τα γηρατειά δεν θα τους κουράσουν  
Ούτε τα χρόνια θα τους καταδικάσουν  
Κάθε φορά που πάει να δύσει ο ήλιος  
Και το πρωί, θα τους θυμόμαστε*



# Australian Student Competition

*"Focus on Youth of Australia"*



The aim of this competition is to generate knowledge of  
**“THE AUSTRALIAN HELLENIC MEMORIAL WHICH PROUDLY  
STANDS IN THE DOMAIN GARDENS OF MELBOURNE”.**

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This Memorial is in memory of those Australian and Hellenic men and women who fought and died and in honour of those who served in the Greek Campaign of World War II.

The Monument is representative of the 841 Australian servicemen who were killed throughout Greece during World War II, including those who died at sea while serving with the Royal Australian Navy, the pilots flying with the Royal Air Force and the soldiers from the 6th Division of the Australian Army whilst serving as part of the Australian Imperial Force. It is also representative of Greek servicemen that served and died and those civilians who risked their lives helping Australian, British and New Zealand soldiers to safety during World War II.



On the 10th Anniversary of the unveiling and dedication of the Australian Hellenic Memorial in September 2011, It was re-dedicated to include those Australians and Greeks who fought and died in Greece during World War I with a specific focus on Macedonia and Lemnos.

The Australian Hellenic Memorial has been built with the support of the Australian, Hellenic and Victorian Governments

## STRONGLY RE-AFFIRMING BOTH NATIONS' COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM DEMOCRACY LIBERTY & PEACE.

The **Australian Hellenic Memorial** in the Domain Gardens of Melbourne symbolizes the respect and love of Greek - Australians towards the children of Australia who remain for ever under Greek soil. It symbolizes the mutual faith and dedication of Greeks and Australians to the ideals of democracy and freedom. It further symbolizes the bonds of blood and friendship developed on the battle fields aiming to teach future generations the importance of cooperation and mutual respect of the two countries, Australia and Greece.

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## Australian Hellenic Memorial Foundation

In the beautiful Domain Gardens of Melbourne and beside the Shrine of Remembrance stands the Australian Hellenic Memorial, the result of hard work and dedication of the Australian Hellenic Memorial Foundation committee established in 1992.

The visitor who sets eyes on the Memorial for the first time is very impressed by such an imposing classical achievement reflecting contemporary visual arts. Its construction consists of valuable marble, imported specifically for this purpose from Greece. One cannot resist but simply wonder what is the reason for the presence of such a Memorial in this part of the Domain Gardens and what makes it so important, what justifies its existence. That is to say, what is the purpose of the Memorial, which was dedicated in 2001.

From 1992 the Australian Hellenic Memorial Foundation embarked on a project to erect a Memorial. It gained support and encouragement from the Victorian RSL., the Shrine of Remembrance and the City of Melbourne. In 1996 a site was chosen for the Memorial in the Domain Gardens near the Shrine of Remembrance. In 1997 a Public Art Panel was convened comprising the Manager of the Urban Design and Architecture Department of the City of Melbourne, a representative of the Victorian Government from the Ministry of Arts, an Academic from RMIT University, a Curator from the Art Centre and a member from the Community Arts and Heritage. This Public Art Panel selected the proposed Monument suitable for the selected site and a Marquette of the proposed Monument was revealed publicly aboard the

HMAS Torrens. In 1998 Town Planning was approved and a Planning Permit was issued. The Australian Hellenic Memorial was constructed and unveiled in 2001. Fundraising and awareness continued and in 2007 the Interpretive sign was unveiled and an olive tree was planted.

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## HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS

History goes back to the difficult years for the whole world of course, but in particular for Greece and Australia the challenging World War II years. Australia and Greece from a geographical point of view are two countries far apart in miles. In this historical time however they stood side by side and gave everything they had, their strength, even their best regarded children towards the struggle for the protection of freedom and democracy, not only for themselves but for the entire world, since the struggle against Nazism and fascism had become a world matter.

History begins from 1940, when the Australian and British armies were fighting heroically in the deserts of Africa and in the Middle East for the containment of German threat, whilst Greece was forcing out of the its soil Mussolini's armies, marking the first victories of the Allies on the northern frontier.

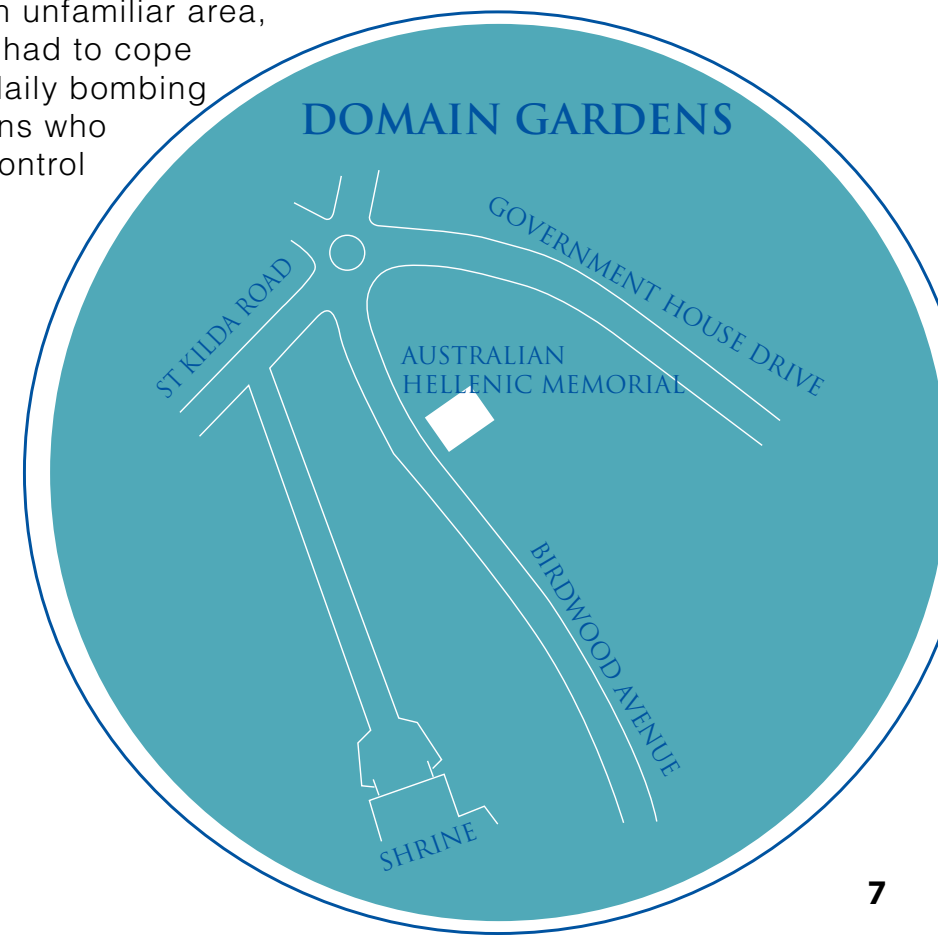
Despite the Greek achievements, everyone knew that the war which was just beginning was destined to last for much longer. Although the Greek victories made things difficult for the Axis by delaying its plans and assisting the Allies to prepare

themselves and organize their defence, they were unable to alter the outcome of the Axis invasion. Everyone therefore was expecting that the unsuccessful Italian attack would be followed by a new and more vigorous attack from the Germans. Germany, with its much stronger military machine, was obliged to protect the prestige of the Axis. This meant that Greece needed to be assisted in order to resist for as long as it could, the expected attack and thus delay once again the Axis plans to open new war fronts in Eastern Europe. Ultimately it led to a delay in the invasion of Russia which changed the outcome of the war.

As from late December 1940 Britain, which up until then was bearing the greatest part of responsibility for this war, proceeded with plans to send troops to Greece to reinforce the Greek war effort - since this was also the common military strategy of the Allies. The British Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, raised this matter with the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Robert Menzies requesting the participation of Australia and New Zealand "towards the success of the Greek Campaign". Both countries took part. Australia participated with its 6th Division, formed from volunteers in 1939, which is why the division historically is known as "The Thirty - Niners".

The first divisions of the ANZAC forces reached the Port of Piraeus at the beginning of March 1941 and after a few days' orientation in Athens, and after making the first acquaintances with their Greek colleagues, they proceeded North, in order to take their posts at the foot of Mount Olympus, which was the home of the 12 Gods of the antiquity.

The period of time for the Allied troops in Greece to take up their defensive positions to prepare for the German attack, was short. Similarly, the time given to their preparation was also insufficient with the result that as soon as the bombing and attacks by the German forces began, the soldiers were forced to retreat. Furthermore, their retreat was under very difficult conditions since, apart from the obstacles to deal with in an unfamiliar area, they also had to cope with the daily bombing of Germans who had full control of the air.



# The Artist's Design / ΤΟ ΣΧΕΔΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΛΛΙΤΕΧΝΗ

The Memorial incorporates four distinct, yet integrated elements:

- the Twelve Columns,
- the Crypt,
- the Oikos and
- the Ballot Vase.

The Twelve Columns mark the memorial's boundaries. Each column has two fluted sides and two polished sides, creating a contrast that represents Greece and Australia.

On approaching the memorial from certain angles, visitors may see either the polished or the fluted sides. The contrasting surfaces give the memorial site the appearance of being two columns in one. In the centre of the memorial is the Crypt. The Crypt contains historically significant documents and objects which, in the future, will serve as a record of the events that brought two nations together for one cause.

The Oikos is the focal sculptural element. It was inspired by the cliffside monasteries of Mount Athos and the temple of Poseidon at Sounio. Significantly, the Oikos is made from two stones. The upper limestone portion came from Crete, while the bluestone base came out of an Australian quarry. This represents Greece supported by Australia. The Oikos stands on pavement as if it were the island of Crete dropped like a stone in the waters of the Aegean. The Oikos reminds us of two diverse experiences; the pivotal role of Australian forces, especially in Crete and elsewhere in Greece, and the

experience of Greek immigrants in Australia.

Though the experiences are extremely different, they represent people from different parts of the world who are identified by life changing events in each other's distant lands.

The Ballot Vase, decorated with olive and gum tree branches, stands in memory of the events that brought Australians and Greeks together in a battle for justice and liberty.

The Vase is filled with black pebbles, representing the democratic method exercised in ancient Athens where citizens voted on every issue by using a white pebble for 'yes' and a black for 'no'. The Vase commemorates the resounding "NO" given by Greeks to the Italian invaders in World War II.

[Evangelos Sakaris](#)

The Artist



Το μνημείο περιέχει τέσσερα ξεχωριστά αλλά εναρμονισμένα στοιχεία:

(α) τις Δώδεκα Στήλες, (β) την Κρύπτη ,  
(γ) τον Οίκο και (δ) την Ψηφοδόχο.

Οι Δώδεκα Στήλες θέτουν τα όρια του μνημείου. Κάθε στήλη έχει δυο ραβδωτές πλευρές και δυο στιλπνές δημιουργώντας μια αντίθεση που συμβολίζει την Ελλάδα και την Αυστραλία. Καθώς ο επισκέπτης πλησιάζει το μνημείο, μπορεί από κάποια σημεία να δει τις στιλπνές και τις ραβδωτές πλευρές. Οι δυο αντίθετες επιφάνειες δίνουν την εντύπωση δυο μνημείων σε ένα.

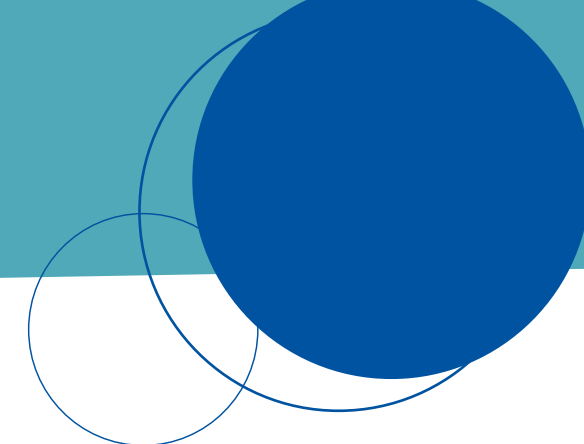
Στο κέντρο του μνημείου βρίσκεται η Κρύπτη. Η Κρύπτη περιέχει σημαντικά ιστορικά έγγραφα και αντικείμενα τα οποία στο μέλλον θα λειτουργούν ως αποδείξεις των γεγονότων που ένωσαν τις δυο χώρες για ένα κοινό σκοπό.

Ο Οίκος είναι το εστιακό στοιχείο της γλυπτικής σύνθεσης του μνημείου. Είναι εμπνευσμένο από τα μοναστήρια στους Βράχους του Άγιου Όρους και το Ναό του Ποσειδώνα στο Σούνιο. Συμβολικά, ο Οίκος είναι φτιαγμένος από δυο πέτρες. Το άνω μέρος είναι ασβεστόλιθος από την Κρήτη ενώ η βάση είναι από πέτρα αυστραλιανού λατομείου. Αυτό συμβολίζει την υποστήριξη της Αυστραλίας προς την Ελλάδα. Ο Οίκος βρίσκεται πάνω σε πλακόστρωτη επιφάνεια, σαν να είναι η Κρήτη μια πέτρα ριγμένη στα νερά του Αιγαίου. Ο Οίκος μας ενθυμίζει τις δυο διαφορετικές εμπειρίες. Τον σημαντικό ρολο των Αυστραλιανών Ενόπλων Δυνάμεων στην Ελλάδα και τις εμπειρίες των Ελλήνων μεταναστών στην Αυστραλία.

Μολονότι οι εμπειρίες είναι εντελώς διαφορετικές, συμβολίζουν ανθρώπους από διαφορετικά μέρη του κόσμου, που ταυτίζονται από συγκλονιστικά γεγονότα που βίωσαν ο ένας στη γη του άλλου. Η Ψηφοδόχος, διακοσμημένη με ανάγλυφο σχέδιο από κλαδί ελιάς και κλαδί ευκαλύπτου, ανασύρει στη μνήμη τα γεγονότα που έφεραν τους Αυστραλούς και τους Έλληνες μαζί σε μια μάχη για δικαιοσύνη και ελευθερία. Η Ψηφοδόχος τιμά τη μνήμη του ηχηρού Όχι που είπαν οι Έλληνες στους εισβολείς του Β' Παγκόσμιου Πολέμου.

Evangelos Sakaris  
The Artist

# The Australian Hellenic Memorial



## THE MEMORIAL WAS DEDICATED BY:

THE HON BRUCE SCOTT MP MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND  
MAJOR GENERAL CHRISTOS TZAFEROS HELLENIC NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE (HNDF)  
ON SEPTEMBER 2nd 2001

On 6th April 1941, the 6th Australian Division under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Blamey CB, CMG, DSO, joined an Allied force resisting the German advance into mainland Greece.

The Australians fought and defended Northern Greece giving time for the Greek Armed Forces to return from Albania and join them. Australian soldiers took part in battles against the Germans in Larissa, the foot of Mount Olympus and Thermopylae.

They defended the Greek soil as far as the shores of the Peloponnese and from there they left to protect the island of Crete.

At first light on May 20th 1941, the German Army with 500 transport aircraft, 80 gliders, 280 bombers, 150 dive bombers, 180 fighters and 40 reconnaissance airplanes, assaulted the island of Crete. Under the command of General Kurt Student's XI Fliegerkorps, 22,750 men landed - 10,000 by parachute,

7,000 by sea, 5,000 in air transports and 750 by gliders. Crete faced the greatest German paratroop attack of the war.

Crete was defended by 25,000 servicemen mainly from the 6th Australian Division, the Royal Australian Navy and the New Zealand Division, 30,000 British soldiers and 11,000 Greek troops. 841 Australian soldiers, many of whom came from Victoria, lost their lives, some 3,000 Australian soldiers were captured and ended up as prisoners of war.

This memorial commemorates all those Australians who served and died in the Greek Campaign at sea, on land and in the air. It also commemorates those Greek soldiers and civilians who fought so valiantly by their side. Many civilians lost their lives helping Australian and other Allied soldiers to safety.

This monument depicts an eternal image of both Australia and Greece, keeping in mind that it will be available to future generations and will continue to celebrate the bond forged between the peoples of Australia and Greece.

# Commerative Events & Visits



25th March Commemoration from the Hellenic RSL Sub branch



Presentation of 2012 Awards at the Australian Hellenic Memorial



Visit of the Governor of Rethymnon Mr. Giorgos Papadakis to the Australian Hellenic Memorial



Lemnian Community Commermeration. The ANZAC - Lemnos Anniversary



The Pancretan Association commemorates the Battle of Crete Anniversary at the A.H.M.



His Emminence Metropolitan of Rethymnon EVGENIOS visited the AHM together with Professor Nikos Xexakis from the University of Athens

# Lemnos: Australians in Greece during World War I

## LEMNOS

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At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914, Greece remained a neutral nation. However Greece, with its strategic position and well known enmity towards the Turks, was a sought after ally of the Allies. In 1915, Winston Churchill (then First Lord of the Admiralty) suggested that Greece might like to undertake the attack on the Dardanelles on behalf of the Allies. He offered to award to Greece “territorial concessions in Asia Minor”, including all of modern Turkey, if Greece would lend military support to the Serbs and if it would participate in proposed Allied Gallipoli Campaign. The Greeks were not able to commit to the Allies because of differences of opinion between the Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos and King Constantine I of Greece.

In February 1915, the Greek government offered the Allies the island of Lemnos as a base of operations in the Aegean preparing for a land attack on the Turkish army. Lemnos was used as a mounting base for both the naval assault on the Dardanelles and the Gallipoli landings, which were less than 100 kilometres away.

The vast protected Moudros harbour in Lemnos bustled, as the amphibious landing force assembled. By 21 April 1915, over 200 ships were ready to sail from Moudros harbour for the Gallipoli landings on 25 April 1915 from which the nation shaping ANZAC tradition arose.

Lemnos played an important role during the Gallipoli campaign for the Allied logistical installations that supported the land campaign. It housed supply depots and large hospitals for Allied battle casualties expected to recover within four weeks. The camps hospitalised between 3000 to 6000 casualties in basic conditions with mattresses on the ground, limited water and sporadic electricity. Those who died, rest forever in the Moudros and Portianou war cemeteries which overlook Moudros harbour. Over 100 Australian volunteer nurses were stationed on Lemnos between August 1915 and the departure of the Allies in February 1916.

Two vast ‘tent cities’ were established around the harbour during 1915. The main Australian camp, ‘Moudros West’, was near Portianou. The British and French camps, ‘Moudros East’, were on flat land south and east of Moudros village. Lemnos was also a rest area for exhausted front line troops, including thousands of Australians (ANZAC’s). They enjoyed buying fresh foods and wine from Lemnians with whom they mixed freely, walked to the hot springs at Therma and played cricket and football.

The Gallipoli campaign was called off at the end of 1915. Consequently Moudros’ importance receded, although it remained the Allied base for the blockade of the Dardanelles during the war. In late October 1918, the armistice between Turkey and the Allies was signed at Moudros.



A view of the ships anchored in Mudros Harbour, with a British airship passing overhead



An Australian cemetery at Lemnos



An Australian Mobile Wireless Unit operates a radio on the beach at Mudros Harbour



Practising field manoeuvres for the Gallipoli landings



Nurses of the 3rd Australian General Hospital in the tent lines with patients



Transports of the Expeditionary Force in Mudros Harbour, immediately before the Gallipoli Peninsula landings

# History Of The Australian Hellenic Memorial

It all began in 1992, when a simple thought of establishing a Memorial to Commemorate the Battle of Crete, in the confines of the Cretan Village in Wantirna South, by several members of the Pancretan Association of Melbourne.

It was not until the Committee members headed by the Founder of this project Mr. Pantelis Kalimnakis who was also the President of the Association at the time, approached the State President of the Returned Services League at the time Mr. Bruce Ruxton for his assistance.

Mr. Ruxton immediately proposed that this memorial be given a broader commemorative scope with the inclusion of the entire Greek Campaign and not only for the Battle of Crete. Furthermore he felt that it would not be justified to have it situated within the grounds of the Cretan Village, hence proposing its establishment somewhere near the Shrine of Remembrance in the Domain Gardens.

In light of the above, and the acceptance of Mr. Ruxton's recommendations from the Pancretan Association of Melbourne an inaugural Open Forum was called at the Greek Community Building on Wednesday 24th February 1994 where over 60 representatives attended and expressed their support.

The organisations that attended included the: *Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne & Victoria, Pancretan Association of Melbourne, State RSL, Hellenic Youth Federation of Victoria,*

*Hellenic RSL Sub Branch, Lemnian Community of Melbourne, PanMacedonian Association of Melbourne, Cretan Federation of Australia, Greek Federal Ex Serviceman's Reserve, Rethimnian Association "ARKADI", Cretan Brotherhood of Melbourne, Iraklion Association" MINOAS ", Hania Social Club, 39ers Association, HMAS Perth Association, Voyager Association, 2/5th Aus. Infantry Battalion, N Class Destroyer Association, 6th Division Association, 2/7th Aus. Infantry Battalion, Royal Australian Air force, Royal Australian Navy, 2/2 Field Regiment Association, SAE Oceania, Australian Greek Welfare Society, Panmessinian Federation of Australia, EEAMA, AHEPA, Hellenic Studies Forum, Panepirotic Federation of Australia, Federation of Greek Festivals, Alphington Grammar School, Oakleigh Greek Community, Aegean Islands Federation of Victoria, Association of Greek Elderly Citizens, Omiros College, Central Pontian Association "Pontiaki Estia ", Eptanisian Federation of Victoria, Pontian Community of Melbourne, Cyprus Community of Victoria, Cultural Group of Melbourne, Organisational Committee Greek National Day and a plethora of individuals.*

It was decided to embark on a project to erect a memorial to commemorate the involvement of the Australian Armed Forces during World War II commemorating the 841 Australians who died in Greece and in the Battle of Crete, many of whom came from Victoria and additionally the 3000 Australians that were captured and ended up as Prisoners of War.

It should be noted that simultaneously in 1993 the Foundation played a leading role in gathering support and funding on behalf of Melbourne's Greek Community for the restoration of the Shrine of Remembrance with Mr. Pantelis Kalimnakis chairing the committee, Anastasios Douvartzides, Secretary and George Paterakis as the Treasurer. The total amount raised was well over \$30,000. The Hellenic Community was one of the few Ethnic Groups that donated to this cause raising the praises of the Premier Jeff Kennett, Chairman of the Shrine Trustee Peter Isaacson and RSL Chief Bruce Ruxton. This proved to be a masterstroke in the eyes of the stakeholders for the establishment and the approval of the Australian Hellenic Memorial in the weeks to come.

In 1994 the Foundation was incorporated, and its constitution was registered hence becoming a legal entity having commenced its fund raising activities.

The first inaugural Executive Committee consisted of the following : *Pantelis Kalimnakis ( President ), Steve Pontin ( A' Vice President ), Christos Polentas ( B' Vice President ), John Anagnostou ( Secretary ), Lakis Kayalikos ( Treasurer ), Galatia Samarias ( Assistant Secretary ), Peter Andrinopoulos ( Assistant Treasurer ), Michael Marley ( Public Relations – English ), Antonis Tsourdalakis ( Public Relations - Greek ), Angela Velos ( Public Officer ) and Peter Adamis ( Research Officer ).*

In 1994 the Foundation gained the much needed support of the Victorian Returned Services League for the project and also the support of the Board of Directors of the Shrine of Remembrance to erect the monument near the Shrine. Furthermore in 1994 the Foundation committee felt it was appropriate to seek the support for the memorial from key figures in the Community to become the Patrons of the project. The following people were proposed and accepted as the inaugural patrons:

- *Sir John Holland A.C.*
- *His Excellency The Consul General of Greece Mr. George Veis*
- *Mr. Bruce C. Ruxton AM OBE, President, of the State Returned Services League*
- *The Hon. John Pandazopoulos MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs.*
- *The Hon. Murray Thompson MP, MLA Sandringham*

# History Of The Australian Hellenic Memorial

It wasn't until further down the track as the years went by that Mr. David McLachlan was added on as the new State President of the RSL, The Consul Generals of Greece kept altering in this position including Dimitris Anninos, Eleftherios Kouvaritakis, Christos Salamanis and the current one being Ms. Eleni Lianidou.

In 1995 an agreement had been reached with the City of Melbourne's Community Arts and Heritage Department for the development of a proposal for a memorial that would be suitable as a public artwork to be located close to the Shrine. The visitor who would set eyes on the Memorial for the first time should be very impressed by such an imposing classical achievement, reflecting contemporary visual arts. Its construction had to consist of valuable marble, imported specifically for this purpose from Greece., therefore justifying its existence in the Parks of the Domain Garden.

In 1996 a special meeting was held by the Foundation including the Chief Commissioner Mr. Kevin Gosper, the RSL President Mr. Bruce Ruxton, Shrine Trustee's Chairman Mr. Peter Isaacson and Executive Members of the Foundation (John Anagnostou, Stephen Pontin and Pantelis Kalimnakis) to discuss the project and formulate a course of action. Furthermore a subcommittee was formed to nominate a number of potential sites nearby the Shrine. This committee

comprised of representatives from the City of Melbourne, the Shrine, the RSL and the Foundation. The committee approved an implementation plan and selected a site for the Memorial in the Domain Gardens near the Shrine. After consultation with the Council Departments the proposed site was confirmed and accepted. On the 2nd December 1996 the official launch of the Media and Fundraising Campaign took place at the headquarters of the 39ers Association on the 2nd Floor at 108 Flinders St. Melbourne were a plethora of media representatives were present at the announcement of the first round of donations totalling close to \$40,000 dollars in the hope to reach the target of \$ 200,000 dollars required to complete the monument .

In 1997 the Project brief initialised by the City of Melbourne and the Foundation was finalised and artists were publically invited to submit proposals. A Public Art Panel to select the winning monument was convened by the City of Melbourne, comprising of representatives from a Manager of Urban Design & Architecture, the Ministry of Arts, an RMIT University Academic, a curator from the Art Centre and a member from the Community Arts & Heritage Department . Immediately the Foundation announced the competition for the Design of the Memorial. The Commissioned Art work had to be representative of the following:

- the 841 Australian servicemen and women that were killed throughout Greece during the World War II.
- to encapsulate ideals that both nations hold dear, including the ideals of democracy, liberty and peace.
- The monument is required to depict an eternal image of both Australia and Greece, keeping in mind that the monument will be there for the future generations.
- Greek & Australian text, motifs or symbols, if appropriate and generally understood by the broader community, may be incorporated into the design.
- Artistic interpretation shall be determined by the artists, however the intent is that any proposed works must reflect contemporary visual arts practise.
- The elements of water and marble will also be considered

As a significant milestone in Victoria's Greek Community there was a ceremony that was conducted aboard the Australian Navy ship HMAS TORRENS on Sunday 2nd November 1997, the winning design of artist Mr. Evangelos Sakaris was unveiled in front of over 200 prominent Greek and Australian dignitaries by the Consul General of Greece in Melbourne Mr. George Veis much to the delight of the

Foundation committee who had worked tirelessly to this stage, thus gaining further donations to the tune of \$20,000 on the day.

In 1998 the town planning Application was lodged with the City of Melbourne hence commencing the advertising period for the application with a total of 4 objections been lodged. Eventually after considerable time town Planning was approved and a planning permit was issued.

On the 20th May 1999 more than 100 members of the Australian 6th Division, the 39ers Association and the Greek Community gathered at the site of the proposed Australian Hellenic Memorial as a special ceremony took place to mark the commencement of works and the announcement of the Australian, Hellenic and Victorian Government funding for this project. In the presence of the Minister for Veterans Affairs Bruce Scott he announced a pledge of \$ 5000, the Consul General for Greece in Melbourne Mr. Dimitris Anninos announcing a further \$ 11,000 from the Hellenic Republic, the President of the Greek Orthodox Community Mr. George Fountas announcing a pledge of \$ 20,000 and finally the Hon. John Pandazopoulos MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs announcing a further \$50,000 on behalf of the Premier of Victoria Mr. Steve Bracks and the Victorian Government.

# History Of The Australian Hellenic Memorial

Prior to the annual march to the Shrine of Remembrance on the Anniversary of the 20th May 1941 attack on Crete, Young women in traditional Cretan costumes presented the ex-serviceman with a corsage made from olive branches in a gesture of the special friendship that developed when Greeks sheltered Australian soldiers in their homes during the war.

On May 20th 2000 as part of the 60th Anniversary for the Battle of Crete the Foundation was represented by its Greek Public Relations Officer Mr. Antonis Tsourdalakis at the unveiling of the Hellenic Australian Memorial in the City of Rethymnon, Crete. This monument which was a gift to the Cretan people by the Australian Government was unveiled by the Minister for Veterans Affairs Mr. Bruce Scott.

Finally on the 2nd September 2001 the Australian Hellenic Memorial was unveiled and dedicated by the Minister for Veteran Affairs Mr. Bruce Scott and Major General Christos Tzaferos of the Hellenic Armed Forces in a very unique moving ceremony hosted by the Department for Veteran Affairs. The ceremony featured the placement of rolls of parchment with the names of those who lost their lives in a crypt in the middle of the memorial, wreath laying, national anthems, messages of appreciation from Captain Bob Donovan and Keith Rossi of the 2nd / 2nd Field Regiment. Also on the day the Royal Australian Artillery, the 2/10th Medium Regiment and the Hellenic Presidential Guard presented the Catafalque Party for the

Ceremony. It should be noted that the Prefect of Chania Mr. Giorgos Katsanevakis and ANEK Chief Sifis Vardinogiannis were instrumental in donating and transporting from the Battle fields of Crete the Ikos Stone which is the central element of the memorial. Furthermore Major General Christos Tzaferos managed to collect the pebbles in the Vase from every geographical corner of Greece placing them in the crypt during the dedication of the monument.

It should be noted that after the unveiling of the Memorial a plethora of organisations began using the Memorial for their Commemorative activities including the 39ers Association, the 2nd / 2nd Field Regiment, the Pancretan Association of Melbourne, the Hellenic RSL Sub Branch, the Pontian Community of Melbourne, the Lemnian Community of Melbourne and many others attracting tens of visitors and high profile guests.

On Sunday 28th October 2007 the Foundation held another ceremony for the unveiling of the Interpretive Sign by the Consul General of Greece in Melbourne Mr. Christos Salamanis and the Olive Tree Planting together with the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Mr. John So and the former Lord Mayor Mr, William George Gardiner at the Domain Gardens next to the Australian Hellenic Memorial. The Australian Federal Government was represented by the Hon. Petro Georgiou MP and the Victorian Government was represented by the

Hon. Jenny Mikakos MP at the ceremony whilst Mr Milton Alexandrakis had the honours of playing the Last Post, Reveille and the National Anthems, and Brigadier Keith Rossi was the MC.

In 2010 the Australian Hellenic Memorial Foundation held its first State Student Competition drawing hundreds of entries across Victoria from a large range of Schools with poems, drawings, paintings, essays and interviews. The Children that won were awarded monetary prizes for themselves and their respective School throughout all year levels as well as Certificates of Appreciation for all participating students. Furthermore throughout 2010 the Monument underwent several restoration activities required for the up keeping.

On Sunday 25th September 2011, the Australian Hellenic Memorial Foundation hosted its 10th Anniversary Ceremony since its opening in 2001 culminating in the first time the Crypt was opened and the roll call that took place. The memorial was also rededicated to include those Australian Men and Women that fell on Hellenic soil in World War I including the Island of Lemnos.



**The A.H.M during the construction process.**

# Time Line Of the Greek Campaign

**IN OCTOBER 1940**, the Italian forces in Albania invaded Greece but their offensive soon came to a halt and then reversal in the face of fierce resistance from the Greeks.

**EARLY IN 1941**, the Allies decided that it was necessary to send a military force from the Middle East to help Greek resistance against an expected German attack. It was decided by the Allies that the combined Allied troops were to be led by the Greek General Papagos. The ANZAC troops were the most readily available. The participation of the Allied forces covered all of Greece. The climax of their contribution took place in the Battle of Crete where they fought bravely against the strength of Germany's Airborne fighters.

**ON 6 MARCH 1941**, the 6th Australian Division together with the New Zealand Division and the 1st British Armoured Brigade began arriving in Greece. They had not all arrived when on 10 April 1941, the oncoming Germans were met in the passes of northern Greece. The ANZAC divisions were outflanked and outnumbered. The small Royal Air Force contribution was quickly destroyed by the Luftwaffe.

**ON 12 APRIL 1941**, as the German Army pushed south from the Balkans they were forced to withdraw, by Anzac Day, with gallant help from the Greeks and the Allied naval force they were withdrawn by sea to Crete and Egypt.

**ON 20TH MAY 1941**, the Germans launched a parachute and air borne attack on the island of Crete, where a mixed force of British, New Zealand, Greek and Australian troops had been organised to resist the invasion.

**BY 26 MAY 1941**, the position of the outnumbered Allies was hopeless. Despite crippling losses, the Allied naval force embarked 12,500 troops. The Germans took about 12,000 prisoners, more than 3,000 of these were Australian. Not all the Australians taken prisoners ended up behind barbed wire. Some escaped and made it back to the Middle East. Few, if any, would have succeeded had it not been for the bravery of the Greek people who risked execution for helping the Allies. The expedition had failed strategically, but was claimed to be one of the decisive strokes of the war. Greece was crushed, but it remained staunchly in the Allied camp. Around the world, the airborne invasion of Crete caused some concern. It was thought that the Germans might try similar invasions elsewhere. In fact, they came very close to failure. Their losses were so heavy that they never again used airborne forces in their intended role.



**IN MAY 1941**, the Allied forces and the small nation of Greece resisted the pressure of Nazism and gave the first message to the world that the forces of the Axis were not infallible. The Australian and New Zealand forces were bitter about being forced to evacuate. However, they were proud of the endurance and courage, they, and the Greek people had displayed during the Greek Campaign.

**LEST  
WE FORGET**

In May 1991, the 50th Anniversary of the Greek Campaign commemorative services were held to honour the fallen. The battles of mainland Greece and the island of Crete reinforced the friendship and mutual respect between the people of Greece and Australia.

<sup>o</sup>The losses sustained by infantry and artillery units of the 6th Australian Division and the New Zealand Division were:

	Killed	Wounded (and not made prisoners)	Prisoners
<b>Australian:</b>			
2/1st Battalion . . . . .	16	17	51
2/2nd Battalion . . . . .	14	16	112
2/3rd Battalion . . . . .	12	31	62
2/5th Battalion . . . . .	21	26	47
2/6th Battalion . . . . .	28	43	217
2/7th Battalion . . . . .	7	13	73
2/4th Battalion . . . . .	26	38	163
2/8th Battalion . . . . .	21	33	106
2/11th Battalion . . . . .	32	32	37
2/1st Machine Gun Battalion . . . . .	—	5	7
2/1st Field Regiment . . . . .	6	7	60
2/2nd Field Regiment . . . . .	11	10	23
2/3rd Field Regiment . . . . .	7	17	2
2/1st Anti-tank Regiment . . . . .	18	16	79
	<b>Killed</b>	<b>Wounded</b>	<b>Prisoners</b>
<b>New Zealand:</b>			
Divisional Cavalry Regiment . . . . .	11	14	43
18th Battalion . . . . .	26	57	97
19th Battalion . . . . .	24	37	132
20th Battalion . . . . .	25	55	69
21st Battalion . . . . .	15	35	225
22nd Battalion . . . . .	12	23	18
23rd Battalion . . . . .	10	12	30
28th (Maori) Battalion . . . . .	16	17	87
24th Battalion . . . . .	10	12	130
25th Battalion . . . . .	20	60	108
26th Battalion . . . . .	17	40	47
27th (Machine-gun) Battalion . . . . .	8	17	29
4th Field Regiment . . . . .	7	21	61
5th Field Regiment . . . . .	3	11	32
6th Field Regiment . . . . .	3	16	20
7th Anti-tank Regiment . . . . .	19	33	61

The British armoured, infantry and mobile artillery units suffered the following losses:

3rd Royal Tanks . . . . .	289	102nd R.H.A. . . . .	277
4th Hussars . . . . .	465	64th Medium Regiment . . . . .	53
1/Rangers . . . . .	198	7th Medium Regiment . . . . .	181
2nd R.H.A. . . . .	113	106th R.H.A. . . . .	177

Men who were wounded before being made prisoner or who died of wounds in enemy hands are not included under the heading "prisoners" in the New Zealand table but are so included in the Australian figures.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE HEADQUARTERS 1st Australian Corps - 4th April, 1941



## SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

By Lieut-General Sir THOMAS BLAMEY, CB, CMG, DSO.  
Commanding Australian Imperial Force. (ME).

Just twenty six years ago the Australian Army carried out its first great operation on northern Mediterranean shores when our kinsmen of the 1st Australian Imperial Force landed at Gallipoli. We have now landed again in these regions to fight alongside the Greek Army to overthrow once more a German effort to enslave the world.

The Greek nation, the smallest and poorest of all nations that the Axis powers sought to bully into submission, alone in southern Europe refused to submit. Their efforts, along with our own in Libya and Abyssinia, backed by the valour of our Fleet, have already destroyed one of the Axis partners as a power and have forced the Germans to take control of Italy's destiny. There can be no doubt also that their valiant and successful struggle has had a great effort in determining Yugo - Slavia, after having yielded to German bullying, to arise and defy the Axis powers.

In Australia we had a very wrong impression of this valiant nation. I am sure that, as you get to know the Greeks, the magnificent courage of their resistance will impress you more and more. It is not unlikely that the action of this small but noble nation may prove in the end to be the beginning of the final downfall of Nazi tyranny. Before you are long in Greece you will realise that every Greek man and woman and every pound of Greek money is being put into the effort to win the war, and that they are undergoing great privations and willingly make great sacrifices to do so. I am sure that this will lead every Australian worthy of his race and country to regard every Greek man and woman with friendly eyes and to treat their institutions, customs and manners with respect.

We come to them as deliverers and they welcome us as such. Let us each therefore so conduct himself as to ensure that we shall hold their respect and friendly goodwill as long as we shall remain in their country, that we may fight side by side with complete confidence in one another.

vi.

Lieutenant - General  
Commanding Australian Imperial Force (ME).



Lieutenant General, Sir Thomas Blamey  
Commanding Australian Imperial Force. (ME).  
SOURCE: Return to Greece - 50th Anniversary

## EMBARKATION FROM MAINLAND GREECE

The ports of Nafplio and Tolo were among the sites selected for the embarkation and withdrawal of Allied forces from mainland Greece. From these ports Headquarters personnel, other non-divisional units and air units departed.

On the night of 24 April 1941, despite complications created by a stranded vessel, 6,685 men mostly from Headquarters of 1st Australian Corps, the New Zealand and 6th Australian Divisions, the 4th Cartographers Regiment, the 16th Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery and units from the base, together with 150 Australian and New Zealand nurses boarded five ships and departed for Crete.

During the night of 26 April, 7,527 men departed from the Tolo and Nafplio ports. The convoy was attacked by the German Air Force and suffered heavy casualties. More than 2,000 men were left on the beach. Out of these, around 400 embarked on a barge which was attacked and sunk. The rest, after resistance against the German advance on 28 April, attempted to escape to the surrounding islands, but few did. Most of them, around 1,300 became prisoners of war.

# The Battle of Crete

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Some of the Allied forces evacuated from mainland Greece were reorganised on Crete under the command of New Zealand's Major General Bernard Freyberg. This command included 6,500 Australians of the 6th Division, grouped around Rethimno and Georgioupolis in the centre of the island. Freyberg's men were tired after the battles on the mainland and had lost all their heavy equipment in the retreat and evacuation.

After heavy bombing, the expected German invasion began on 20 May 1941 with the landing of highly trained parachute and glider-borne troops. Thousands of parachutists landed near the New Zealand positions in the west of Crete, on the British defenders at Heraklion and on the Australians at Rethimno. The parachutists were followed by mountain troops in transport aircraft after Maleme airfield had been captured.

Over the next five days, confused and scattered battles developed between Allied and German troops. With the arrival of more Germans on 26 May, Freyberg realised that this position was untenable and ordered an evacuation from Sfakia on the south coast of the island. At Rethimno, the Australian defenders, with whom communications had been lost, fought on until overwhelmed.



Major General Bernard C. Freyberg

During the ten days of fighting, 841 Australians were killed and more than 3,000 were captured. About 10 battalions of Greek troops also fought beside the British, New Zealand and Australian forces. Over 12,000 British, Greek, Australian and New Zealand troops were taken into captivity until the end of the war.

New Zealand troops fought with distinction in the Greek Campaign. Over 7,700 served in the defence of Crete where they suffered 3,818 casualties. There were hopes that Australia and New Zealand would form an ANZAC Corps to revive links formed in the 1914-18 war. While an ANZAC Corps was formed in the mainland it existed for only two weeks before the Allied forces were evacuated. The German Air Force dominated the air during the Greek Campaign.

Although airborne troops had been deployed earlier in the war, the invasion of Crete was notable for the size of the airborne invasion launched by the Germans. Paratroopers were a part of the Luftwaffe and were an elite force, highly trained and specially equipped. On Crete, they suffered enormous casualties. Although the Germans succeeded in capturing Crete, they never again attempted an airborne operation of such a scale.



# AUSTRALIAN STUDENT COMPETITION

## STUDENT INFORMATION

### Use the following themes about the Greek Campaign of World War Two:

Χρησιμοποιήστε τα ακόλουθα θέματα για την ελληνική εκστρατεία του Δευτέρου Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου:

#### 1. What does the Australian Hellenic Memorial represent?

Τι αντιπροσωπεύει το Αυστραλιανό Ελληνικό Μνημείο

#### 2. Names of heroes /

*Australians who were killed in Greece*  
*The memories of eye witnesses*  
*The role of Australian forces in Greece*  
*The Leaders of the Greek Campaign*

#### Ονόματα των ηρώων /

Αυστραλοί που σκοτώθηκαν στην Ελλάδα  
Οι Αναμνήσεις των μαρτύρων  
Ο ρόλος των Αυστραλιανών Ενόπλων Δυνάμεων  
στην Ελλάδα  
Οι ηγέτες των Ελληνικών & Αυστραλιανών  
Στρατευμάτων

#### 3. Significant battle sites in Greece

Σημαντικές περιοχές μάχης στην Ελλάδα

#### 4. The role of Lemnos in World War One

Ο ρόλος της Λήμνου στον Α' Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο

#### Sources:

##### Books:

- A great risk in a good cause, Australians in Greece and Crete, April - May 1941 by the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Australia in the War of 1939-1945 by Gavin Long.
- Creforce, the ANZAC's and the Battle of Crete by Stella Tzobanakis
- Forgotten ANZACS, the campaign in Greece, 1941 by Peter Ewer
- Greece and Crete – Battlefields and Memorials by Garrie Hutchinson
- Return to Greece - 50th Anniversary by the Australian Defence Force Journal
- The Cretans of Oceania from the 19th Century by Mr. Socrates Tsourdalakis

##### On Line:

- Australia in World War 2
- [www.ww2australia.gov.au](http://www.ww2australia.gov.au)
- [www.explorecrete.com/preveli/story.html](http://www.explorecrete.com/preveli/story.html)



# Australian Student Competition

## Terms and Conditions for All Entries

### Categories:

1. There are four categories, according to student's school year level. Each category has two alternative presentation methods for the student entry:

#### Year Level: Presentation Method

1 – 3: Drawing or Painting

4 – 6: Drawing or Poem

7 – 9: Essay or Poem

10 – 12: Essay or Interview with a Veteran

2. Each student may submit only one entry in one of the above categories. No group entries are permitted.
3. A cover sheet must be attached to all entries providing the information requested. Entries without a cover sheet will not be assessed.

### Assessment Criteria:

The Assessment Panel are looking for initiative, accuracy, sources with references, relevance, and where possible involvement of the 39ers and other Greek campaign veterans.

The following criteria will be taken in consideration in assessing the students' entry:

1. The student's age.
2. If the student entry is a drawing or painting, it will be assessed according to the originality of the work. Credit will be given to innovative work and means of expression. *If a student entry shows evidence of plagiarism or that someone else other than the student created the work, then that entry will be disqualified. Before disqualifying a particular student entry there will be an investigation of the possibility of the student having a highly developed artistic talent.*
3. If the student entry is an essay, poem or interview it will be assessed according to its content, comprehension of the topic, presentation and coherence of the work. As well as its articulation, expression, punctuation and structure.
4. Were the entry incorporates writing it can be in either English or Greek.
5. All entries will be marked out of 100.

## Prizes / Awards:

All student entries will receive a Certificate of Participation and special badge commemorating the bonds between Australia and Greece. We also give encouragement awards.

Prizes will awarded to student entries according to following school year levels:

Year:	First	Second	Third
1 – 3:	\$100	\$75	\$50
4 – 6:	\$100	\$75	\$50
7 – 9:	\$150	\$100	\$75
10 – 12:	\$250	\$150	\$100



In 2011 the students received their prizes at Queens Hall, Parliament House, by the Premier Mr. John Brumby.

## Assessment Panel:

- President of the A.H.M.F.
- Consul for Educational Affairs
- Representatives from:
  - Academia
  - Archdiocese
  - Business
  - Education
  - Media
  - Sponsors
  - Veterans
  - Youth

### *Entries to be returned to the:*

Australian Hellenic Memorial Foundation  
P.O. Box 2932,  
Cheltenham, VIC 3192

# AUSTRALIAN STUDENT COMPETITION

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### PATRONS

**Ms. Christina Simantiraki**, Consul General of Greece (Melb)

**The Hon Martin Foley**, MP

**The Hon Murray Thompson**, MP

**Maj Gen D.J. McLachlan**, AO

**Mr. John Pandazopoulos**

**Mr. Pantelis Kalimnakis**, OAM



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Steve Kyritsis, OAM, President

Mr. Antonis Tsourdalakis, Vice President

Mr. Peter Andrinopoulos, Secretary

Mr. Stan Kayalicos, Treasurer

Mr. Manny Karvelas, School Competition Co-ordinator

Brigadier Keith Rossi, AM, OBE, Ceremonial Officer

Mr. Kosta Katsambanis, Committee Member

Mr. Dennis Patisteas, OAM, Committee Member

Mr. Athanasios Masouras, Committee Member

Ms. Galatia Samarias, Committee Member

Mr. Paul Sougleris, Committee Member

Mr. John Papamakarios, Committee Member

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS:



## CORPORATE SPONSORS:



## INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL SPONSORS:

◇ Mr. Steve Kyritsis

## COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS:



Pancretan Association of Melbourne



Hellenic RSL Sub-Branch Victoria



Lemnian Community of Victoria



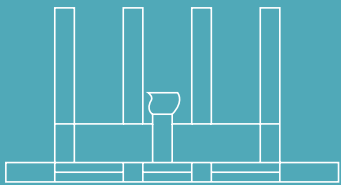
Ithacan Philanthropic Society "The Ulysses"



Australasia Hellenic Educational Progressive Association



Lefcadian Brotherhood "LEFCADA"



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