



Dr Maria Hill with the Hon Bob Carr, Nia Karteris chair of the Greek Festival of Sydney, Mrs Carr and Mr Harry Danalis president of the Greek Orthodox Community NSW who hosted the launch of "Diggers and Greeks" with the help of their generous sponsors George's Bar and Grill and Fox Wines

Greek perspective but with a great feel for the emotions involved in these complex campaigns, inhabited by people both sympathetic and hostile to the Allied cause.'

According to Carr, this book was long overdue. Furthermore, he was convinced that only a scholar of Maria Hill's calibre could do justice to the topic, pointing out that it was fortunate that such a person had undertaken to write the book and give it the attention it deserved. Everyone listening to Carr's speech couldn't fail to realise that he thought Diggers and Greeks was a book of exceptional quality that deserved to be made into a feature film.

Playing in the background at the beginning of the evening was a video book trailer produced and jointly sponsored by Ian and Luke Sparke of Sparks Films and the Cretan Association of Queensland that is well worth watching on Maria Hill's website at: <http://www.diggersandgreeks.com.au> and clicking on View Book Trailer.

Diggers and Greeks is the first book to include the Greek voice in these campaigns and explain how Greece's close economic, military and political ties with Germany before the Second World War affected its military relationship with Australia. It explains why the Greeks behaved as they did and sheds light on Greek customs and attitudes as well as covering topics not normally discussed in studies of campaigns such as bad behaviour, boozing and relations with women. It also provides a comprehensive explanation of why Australians were deployed on a suicidal mission that no chance of success as well as in-depth analysis of Crete focusing on the Australia battle at Rethymnon.

In her thank you speech Maria Hill

remarked that, like the legendary generosity of the Greek people in her book, she also has received enormous support from the Greek community in Australia that have sponsored the publication of the book and include: the Kytherian World Heritage Trust, Kytherian Association of Australia, Nick Andriotakis and his company Lateral Corp, Order of AHEPA NSW, Cretan Federation of Australian and New Zealand, Cretan Association of Sydney and NSW, Cretan Association of Canberra and Districts as well as Greek Festival of Sydney who sponsored the book launch.

Laiki Bank is the major sponsor of Maria Hill's National Book Launch Tour of Diggers and Greeks. Her next launch will be in Melbourne on 21 May followed by a launch in Hobart on 23 May and a launch in Canberra on 27 May. For details log onto her website <http://www.diggersandgreeks.com.au> and click on NEWS. Join Maria next Wednesday 21 April for an Anzac Day dinner at Parliament House hosted by the Attorney General John Hatzistergos at the cost price of \$70.00, wine included. This event is not a fund raiser but to commemorate the battles of Greece and Crete. Bookings are essentials. Ring George Poulos on 9388 8320. Payment can be made over the phone or by cheque.

Maria is also spear heading a campaign to get a medal for the Greek campaigns for the soldiers for 70th anniversary of the campaigns in 2011, so log onto her website: <http://www.diggersandgreeks.com.au> and signed the online petition.



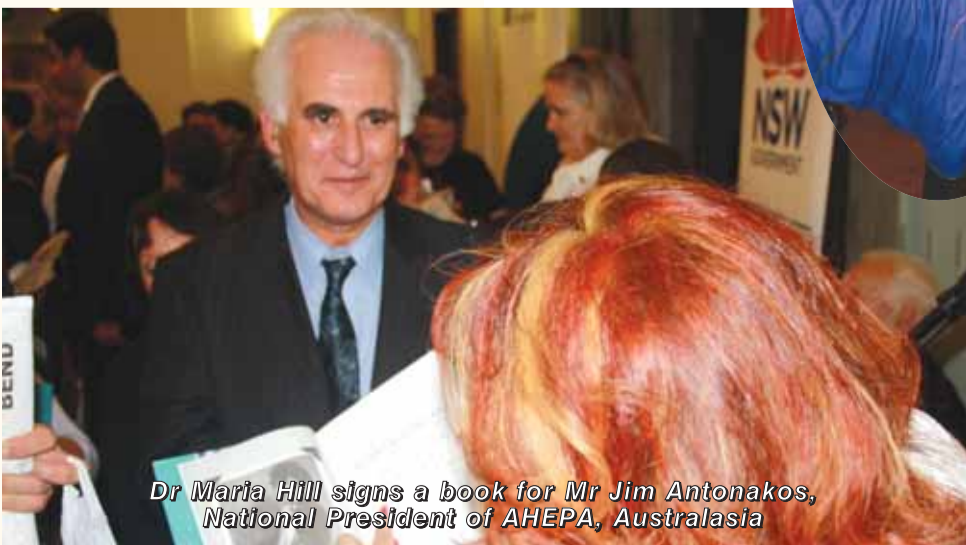
Consul General of Greece Mr Vasilios Tolios with the Hon Bob Carr and Dr Maria Hill



Bob Carr was visibly moved when presented by Dr Maria Hill with an original Greek medal given to the Australian soldiers by the Greek Government



Dr Maria Hill with the Belles who sang war songs from the Andrew Sisters recreating the era of the 1940's



Dr Maria Hill signs a book for Mr Jim Antonakos, National President of AHEPA, Australasia



Cretan Association of Sydney and NSW dance group