

ANZAC DAY and HELLENISM

On Monday 25 April 2011: Australians all around the world mark their unofficial national day. We remember all those who served in defence of Australia and its allies, in time of war and of peace. As Australian Hellenes, it is our fourth national day, of equal importance to 25 March (Independence Day), 28 October (OHI Day) and 26 January (Australia Day).

Setting aside the mythology that has been built up around the events of 25 April 1915, every year Australians gather to remember the sacrifices of men and women across the last twelve decades. Since the South African (Boer) War of 1899-1902, Australians have served in conflicts in every corner of the world. Many of them were our compatriots, Australian Hellenes.

It was war that led to the birth of the Australian Hellenic community in 1829. Seven freedom fighters from the War of Independence were deported to Sydney Cove, convicted of piracy. Whenever Hellas, Cyprus or Australia sounded the call to arms, Australian Hellenes answered.

When the Hellenes of Epiros, Macedonia, Thrace and the eastern Aegean Islands appealed for liberation during the Balkans Wars (1912-1913), Australian Hellenes crossed the world to serve. When

Australia responded to Great Britain's call for troops to go to knock the Ottoman Empire out of the war, Australian Hellenes were there.

AUSTRALIAN HELLENES AT GALLIPOLI

- Private Constantine Aroney** 24 Battalion (born Kythera)
- Private George Cretan** 3 Battalion (born Crete)
- Private Robert Alexander Krokos** (Crocus) 10 Light Horse
- Private Arthur Halkas** 27 Battalion
- Private Leonidas Manusu** 4 Battalion (father from Lesvos)
- Corporal Jack Mark** 3 Battalion (born Kephallonia)
- Private Georgios Pappas** DCM, 13 Battalion
- Private Peter Rados** 3 Battalion
- Private Roy Ralph** 5 Battalion (born Ithake)
- Private Anastasios Rebea** 27 Battalion (born Kogaga, Macedonia)
- Lance Corporal John Zavitsanos** 18 Battalion

In this, the 70th anniversary of the Greek Campaign, Australian Hellenes honour the Second

Generation ANZACs who fought to defend Hellas against Nazi aggression in 1941. We honour their bravery and mateship, as much the quintessential attributes of the Australian soldier as of his Hellene counterpart. Time and again, in conflict after conflict, before and since 1941, Digger and Pallikarri have served the same master: freedom.

Australian Hellenes remember the prisoners-of-war who witnessed the Hellenic, Armenian and Assyrian Genocides during World War One, the ANZACs who contributed to the relief efforts for the genocide survivors, the ANZACs who evaded the Nazi occupiers in Hellas, the Australians who rescued refugees during the Hellenic Civil War, the ANZACs who served with Hellenes in Korea, the ANZACs who served in Viet Nam, the Federal Policemen who have served on Cyprus since 1964, the ANZACs and Hellenes who have served in the Persian Gulf.

Setting aside the mythologising about ANZAC Day, Australian Hellenes remember that it is thanks to the sacrifice of those who served that we have the Australia we live in today.

Αποβία τους η Μνήμη - Lest We Forget



Check it – International Chess Festival comes to Parramatta

Grand chess masters from around the world will converge on Parramatta as part of the five-day International Chess Festival held at Parramatta Town Hall from Wednesday, 27 April to Sunday 1 May.

The event is one of Australia's biggest chess tournaments and attracts beginners to grandmasters from all parts of the globe.

From 8.30am – 9.30pm every day during the Festival, hundreds of participants will take part in two chess tournaments with a chance to win a piece of up to \$16,000 in prize money on offer.

Chess enthusiasts of all levels are encouraged to register and take part in the tournament. Game tables will also be setup in Church Street Mall for those who would prefer a light-hearted match-up.

The Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Cr John Chedid, said that this event attracts plenty of attention every year and that many local chess players look forward to testing their skills against some of the best minds in the world.

"It's an honour to have the International Chess Festival here again at Parramatta, and this is another example of how our City is growing as an events destination," he said.

"I encourage everyone to come to Church Street Mall during the Festival and enjoy a game of chess. It's a fantastic game for people of all ages and is known to exercise the mind, improve individuals' concentration, imagination and creativity," said Cr Chedid.

To celebrate the arrival of the International Chess Festival, Parramatta City Library will install a giant chess board made of carpet squares in its children's section.

Participating in chess games at Church Street Mall are open to the public and are free. Registration is required for those who are keen to participate in the tournament which will take place inside Parramatta Town Hall. Registration closes on Monday 25 April.

For more information about the Festival and registration details go to www.sio.parrachessclub.org or contact Shane Burgess on 0430 223 406.

Learn About Sustainable Living in a series of Workshops

The Mayor of the City of Canterbury, Cr Robert Furolo MP, is encouraging local residents to attend a series of Sustainable Living Workshops to learn how to incorporate environmentally friendly practices into their existing lifestyles.

"Living sustainably and preserving the health of our environment is an important legacy that as a community we safeguard for future generations," Mayor Robert Furolo said.

"Our Sustainable Living Workshops are a fun, hands-on and interactive opportunity for local residents to get practical advice on a variety of sustainability issues.

"Beginning Saturday 7 May, the workshops provide residents with tips and tricks to make their homes and gardens more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

"The workshops will show participants how to use fewer resources such as energy and water, in turn, lowering their power and water bills and environmental impact.

"Each workshop has been selected to cover a variety of sustainability issues, with the first three covering Low Cost Sustainable Actions, Water-Sensitive Backyards and Rainwater Tanks.

"The Low Cost Sustainable Actions workshop will show residents how to reduce their water and power bills this winter by making low or no cost changes.

"Those residents who are concerned about the Cooks River will be interested in the second workshop, which shows participants how reducing stormwater run off can protect the environment and be good for their garden too.

"The third workshop discusses all there is to know about rainwater tanks, including sizes, shapes, materials and practical installation tips.

"The workshops are a fantastic initiative and support Council's commitment to improving community education about sustainability, energy and water use, environmental

impacts and stormwater pollution.

"I encourage local residents to attend a workshop which is of interest to them, and learn how easy it is to incorporate environmentally friendly practices into their existing lifestyles," Mayor Robert Furolo said.

Canterbury City Council will run a series of free Sustainable Living Workshops on Saturday mornings beginning 7 May at the Ashbury Senior Citizens Centre, 66 Princess Street, Ashbury. Workshops are FREE, but bookings are essential. For bookings and further information phone our Sustainability Officer on 9789 9567.

Workshop Dates

- 7 May – Low Cost Sustainable Actions 9am - 11am
- 21 May – Water-Sensitive Backyards 9am - 11am
- 25 June – Rainwater Tanks 9am - 11am

