

## AHC (NSW) Calendar 'a window into a forgotten past'

As part of the commemorations for the 70th anniversary of the 1940-41 Greek Campaign, the Australian Hellenic Council (NSW) has produced a commemorative desk calendar. Endorsed by the Returned and Services League (RSL NSW Sub-Branch), the Calendar celebrates the special bonds between the ANZACs and the palikarria (brave young men) of Hellas in the dark days of World War Two.

The keynote addresses were delivered by Mr Brad Manera, Executive Director of the ANZAC Memorial, Sydney, and Lt.-Colonel Gary Vale (Commanding Officer, Defence Police Training Centre, Lamia Barracks, Holsworthy).

An experienced historian who has visited Greece a number of times, Mr Manera praised the AHC (NSW) Calendar as being a 'very good cause' that provides 'a window in a forgotten past'.

The 1940-41 Greek Campaign was 'a shared experience; stated Mr Manera 'and that is the reason we are here this evening, invited by an organisation whose title suggests that this is shared space'.

Lt.-Col Vale echoed the praise of the ANZAC Memorial's Executive Director. 'I see great leadership, and I see great people. I see people that are passionate and loyal, honourable and who have got a fire in their belly'.

The Commanding Officer of the Military Police Training College in Sydney expressed his own appreciation of the AHC (NSW) Calendar project as an educational tool.

In his address, AHC (NSW) Coordinator George Vellis, focussed on the campaign for 'The Greek Star', which the AHC is supporting. 'The Greek government has honoured the diggers with a separate campaign medal; the Australian government should do the same.'

Both the Master of Ceremonies John Petropoulos (AHC NSW Vice-President) and Yiannis Kallimanis (AHC NSW Treasurer) emphasised the role of the Calendar in cultivating philhellenism amongst the political leadership of Australia.

This special publication, which combines 22 images with text to illustrate the story of Australian service in Greece and Cyprus between 1940 and 1945, was launched at Alexander's Cafe, Kogarah on Friday 29 July.

'From HMAS Sydney on patrol in the Aegean in 1940 to the Commonwealth War Cemetery of Athens today', stated AHC (NSW) Media, Policy and Research Director, Dr Panayiotis Diamadis, 'the Calendar presents a range of images of the Australian experience in the struggle against Nazism'.

As emphasised by Master of Ceremonies John Petropoulos, the AHC (NSW) especially thanks the sponsors of the Calendar, without whom the publication would not have been possible:

- ✦ The NSW Parliamentary Friends of Greece;
- ✦ the Australian Hellenic Educators' Association NSW-ACT-QLD;
- ✦ the Greek Australian Conservative Coalition (GACC);
- ✦ the Australian Lawyers Phil-Hellenic Association (ALPHA);
- ✦ the Greek RSL Sub-Branch (NSW);
- ✦ the Order of AHEPA (NSW and NZ);
- ✦ the Cretan Association of NSW;
- ✦ the Samian Brotherhood of NSW 'Lykourgos';
- ✦ the Fthiotida Association of NSW 'Thermopylae';
- ✦ the Pan-Corinthian Association of NSW;
- ✦ the Pan-Macedonian Association of NSW;
- ✦ Thomas Hotels Group;
- ✦ the Bank of Cyprus Australia;
- ✦ Yiannis Catering;
- ✦ The Grand Roxy Function Centre, Brighton-Le-Sands;
- ✦ Alexander's Cafe, Kogarah.



AHC (NSW) Coordinator George Vellis and AHC (NSW) Treasurer Yiannis Kallimanis

In its own way, the AHC (NSW) honours those who simultaneously served Australian and Hellenism during the 1940-1941 Greek Campaign.

### Special Guests

Ms Eleni Christofaki (Hellenic Consulate-General); Ms Stavroula Kamparea (Hellenic Press and Information Office); Ms Lyndall Judd (Premier's Department); Mr Vicken Babkenian (Australian Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies); Mr Hermitz Shahen, David David and Paul Azzo (Assyrian Universal Alliance); Vasileios Kotsovolos and Lambros Papadopoulos (Hellenic RSL Sub-Branch); Sam Stratikopoulos and Petros Kalligas (Greek Australian Conservative Coalition - GACC); Tom Christopoulos (Bank of Cyprus Australia); Hrisoula Tsambazi (SBS Radio); George Zarimas (Radio 2MM); Nicole O'Hare and Andrew Kostopoulos (Australian Lawyers Phil-Hellenic Association - ALPHA); Mike Levendi (Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry - HACCI); Mrs Charoula Themistocleous and Mrs Soula Giannaros (Aust. Hellenic Educators' Association - AHEA); Vic Bizannes (Order of AHEPA NSW-NZ); Kathy Kouvas (Greek Australian Professionals' Association - GAPA); Mr Dimitris Kouklidis and Mrs Helen Makris (Pontoxeniteas Brotherhood).



AHC (NSW) Vice-President John Petropoulos as Master of Ceremonies

### Dedication at the Memorial Arch, Phaleron Commonwealth War Cemetery, Athens.



Επιγραφή στην Καμάρα Μνήμης,  
Κοινοπολιτειακό Πολεμικό Κοιμητήριο Φαλήρου Αττικής.

The last page of the 41-page AHC (NSW) Calendar - a tribute to those who made the supreme sacrifice.