



RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch
**RETURNED SOLDIER –
 “APOSTRATOS”**

Memorial Hall, 14A Ferrars Place South Melbourne Vic 3205 Phone 9699 9844

September 2014

Dear Members and Friends of the RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch

On behalf of our Committee and Members of our Sub-Branch, I would like to congratulate our good friend Mr. George Lekakis AO for receiving the prestigious State RSL National Certificate of Merit with Gold badge for his outstanding financial support to our Sub-Branch, and Veterans in general.

We welcome all the following new Members to our Sub-Branch. Mr Dimitrios Klingos, Mr John Luca, Mr Nik Kydas, Mr Chris Mingos, Mr Peter Mercoulias, Ms Annie Tsourlinis and Mr Antonios Evgeniotis

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Returned Soldier “Apostratos” Newsletter



Steve Kyritsis, President

Lieutenant General Georgios Petkos at the Victoria Barracks



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Date	Milestones and Past Events
Monday 18 th August 2014	Vietnam Veterans Day - honours our Servicemen and women who served & died in the Vietnam War 1962-72. In total 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam, with 520 deaths (including 200 National Servicemen) and 2500 wounded.
Sunday 31 st August 2014	Father's Day at the Hellenic Sub-Branch
Thursday 4 th September	Battle for Australia Day - commemorates all who served & died in the defence of Australia during the New Guinea campaign during 1942 & 1943 WWII. It is marked on the first Wednesday of each September.
Sunday 12 th October 2014	Hellenic Sub-Branch participates in the Australian Hellenic Memorial School Competition

	<p>28th October 2014 – OHI Day</p> <p>We commemorate the day 28th October 1940 when the Greek Government gave a resounding No (OHI) to the Italian Mussolini Government demands to cross into Greece as part of their Axis Alliance war plans. The very next day, Greece was invaded by 10 Italian Divisions (200,000 men), thereby bringing it into World War Two.</p> <p>Our Sub-Branch members will begin OHI Day by attending a Church service at the Greek Orthodox Church South Melbourne (9:30am start). There will be two wreath laying ceremonies, firstly 12:00noon at the Australian Hellenic Memorial (Birdwood Avenue near the Shrine of Remembrance).</p> <p>At 1.00pm, we lay wreaths within the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. We conclude with a light complimentary lunch back at our club rooms. All members are welcome.</p>
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A daughter's mission to Crete

The following is an extract of an article printed in the Neos Kosmos Newspaper on the 8th October 2014 that was written by Mike Sweet. Mike has visited our sub-Branch a number of times. Link to article was provided by Nick Andriotakis, Secretary, Joint Committee for the Commemoration of the Battle of Crete & The Greek Campaign.

Melburnian Janet Derrick (73) has headed to Greece this to realise a lifelong ambition: to visit the place where the father she never knew was killed in World War II. Janet's odyssey will see her head to Souda Bay in Crete to lay a wreath on the water where her father Donald Haddow, a shipwright on HMAS Perth, was killed in a German bombing raid on 22 April 1941. "I was less than two years old when my father died so I never had a chance to get to know him," Janet told Neos Kosmos.

"For me this is a way to connect with him. I want to go back and experience being close to where he was." "I've been thinking about doing this trip for as long as I can remember. For me it's about recognising that I did have a father, because I've only ever had photos."

One of the first casualties in the battle for Crete, Donald Mceachern Haddow - known as 'Bingle' to his shipmates - was born in Glasgow in 1904. Enlisted in the RAN originally as a joiner in 1925, the proud Scot who had a thistle tattooed on his right arm joined the Perth in 1939.

On loan to the cruiser HMS York in April 1941 (which had been beached after an Italian attack in the bay a month before by Italian motor launches), Haddow's death occurred while he was diving on the stricken warship. On 22 April, a German air raid caught the 37-year-old Haddow having just resurfaced in a small tender alongside the York's half-submerged hull.



Janet Derrick (nee Haddow) near her Middle Park home in Melbourne

In his heavy diver's suit and lead boots, he had just removed the copper helmet when a bomb exploded in the water nearby, swamping the work boat and sending the heavily weighed-down diver plummeting to the depths. Just three weeks before he had written to Janet's mother Esther. The letter he sent to their Hastings home has faded slightly with age, but its content is still vivid and achingly poignant.

"We're still pretty busy over here," wrote Donald. "Until we wipe them right out of the Med we can expect no relief ... shall be glad to get away from the dive bombers..." "I hope there will be more snaps for me, Janet is lovely to see. What a lot I am missing by not being home with her now..."

Janet's long-awaited pilgrimage to Crete, accompanied by her husband Bryan, has begun. They will arrive, on the overnight ferry to Souda from Pireaus, disembarking close to the spot where Donald Haddow lost his life. After a day's rest they will find a boat to take them out onto the water.

"We'll get there and see the harbour and try and work out where the York might have been. But like my eldest son said, 'you'll just know'," said Janet.

Based in Chania for their 10-day stay, Janet and Bryan are hoping local people and the Nautical Museum of Crete may be able to help in their very special mission.

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Lieutenant General Georgios Petkos at the Victoria Barracks

On the 26th May 2014, members of the Hellenic Sub-Branch met with Lieutenant General Georgios Petkos and Colonel Athanasios Zafiropoulos from the Hellenic Defence Force at the St Kilda Rd Victoria Barracks. They arrived in May as part of the Battle of Crete commemoration activities.

Pictured in the photo are Brigadier Michael Annett, Colonel Athanasios Zafiropoulos, Air Commodore Christine Tolson, Lieutenant General Georgios Petkos, The Greek Consul General, Mrs Christina Simantiraki, Dennis Patisteas, Steve Kyritsis, Con Katasambanis and Vic Barracks employees. Major Terry Kannellos is not in the photo because he was busy taking the photo.

George Lekakis AO received the National Certificate of Merit with Gold badge

The Hellenic sub Branch would like to congratulate George Lekakis AO for receiving the National Certificate of Merit with Gold badge, for his outstanding financial support to the Hellenic Sub-Branch and Veterans in general. The prestigious award was presented at the Victorian RSL State Conference by State Branch Executive, Major Gen David McLachlan AO and Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO.



Pictured Left to right - Past President Mr.Con Katsambanis, Secretary Major Terry Kanellos, Treasurer Mr.Dennis Patisteas OAM, George Lekakis AO and Steve Kyritsis.

25th March 2014

This photo was taken on Greek Independence day on the steps of the Shrine of Remembrance.

Pictured with the Shrine Guards are Korean War Veterans Ignatios Doukelis (left) and Theo Spanos (Right)



Annual Gala Dinner Dance Saturday 28 June 2014

The following photo was taken at the Gala Dinner Dance at the St Kilda Town Hall. The event was organised by the Lemnos Gallipoli Committee in association with the Hellenic Sub-Branch



Veterans Pictured from left to right – Warrant Officer Ken (Kyriakos) Tsirigotis (Afghanistan), Jim Michalis, (Vietnam 1970), Theo Poutakidis (Vietnam 1971), Steve Kyritsis (Vietnam 1968).

Date	Future Events
28 th October 2014	Ohi Day at the Australian Hellenic Memorial & Shrine.
7:00pm Saturday 13 th December 2014	Hellenic Sub branch Christmas function . Three course meal, traditional Greek music, great atmosphere,

World War II Greek Military Memorabilia Display

Following the Ohi Day Commemorations
Jim Anagnostou will display some of his collection

From 1:30pm onwards, Tuesday 28th October
Hellenic RSL
South Melbourne Club rooms



The Hellenic Naval Academy's First Female Officer - Commander Anthelia Tzanis



The Hellenic Sub-branch of the Victorian RSL is honoured to have in its ranks Commander Anthelia Tzanis HN (retired). Commander Tzanis was the first female to enter the Hellenic Naval Academy (HNA) in 1991 following a policy change allowing women recruits. This historic HNA Academy was founded in 1845 and has produced many exceptional Naval Officers.



In 1987, Commander Tzanis HN began her Naval career as a Petty Officer in the Hellenic Navy (HN). At the time, Commander Tzanis studied Information Technology at The Athens University School of Economics and Business. She entered the HNA with the speciality of Logistics Officer and graduated in 1992 with the rank of Ensign. In 1995 she was promoted to Sub-lieutenant, in 1999 Lieutenant, in 2003 Lieutenant Commander and in 2012 Commander, when she was retired upon her request.

Commander Tzanis HN had an extraordinary career in the Hellenic Navy. She served with distinction at the HN Command and General Staff, as well as the Hellenic Ministry of Defence. Commander Tzanis HN is married to Commander Ioannis Michanetzis HN (retired) and they have two children, Eleni-Maria and Panagiotis.

For her extraordinary services to her homeland, Commander Tzanis HN received the following decorations:- Knight of the Golden Cross of the Order of Honour of the Hellenic Republic, Knight of the Golden Cross of the Order of the Phoenix of the Hellenic Republic, Military Merit Medal of the Second Degree and Exceptional Command Medal of the third degree.

Next Edition Returned Soldier “Apostratos” – Due out December 2014