



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

Memorial Hall, 14A Ferrars Place South Melbourne Vic 3205 Phone (03) 9699 9844 November 2020

Dear Veterans, Members and Friends of the RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch

There is no question, 2020 will be remembered for the Coronavirus that has impacted the world. Who would have thought what was to happen, the last time I wrote a note in the Apostratos? All of us ex-service people were taught to fight the enemy, but not this invisible enemy. Still, we were trained to deal with whatever life-threatening challenges came our way and do the best with whatever we had at the time.

Our members safety is paramount. In compliance with government regulations, our Sub-Branch, like all Sub-Branches, has not opened since the middle of March. We can hardly wait for the restrictions to be completely lifted so we can begin to operate in some sort of a COVID normal way. In this Apostratos, we detail some of the things we have planned for the rest of the year. All are subject to compliance with Victorian Government restrictions. My best wishes to all, please keep well and stay safe.

*Steve Kyritsis OAM, President*



Does anyone recognise this Soldier? ..... *The answer is on page 4*

## Future Events

All of the following future events are subject to compliance with the Victorian Government COVID 19 restrictions at the time of each event. Exact details will be confirmed in the leadup to each event.

These are some of the current COVID restrictions that we expect to remain in the short term as the new “COVID normal”, after lifting of current restrictions occurs:-

- You will need to wear a mask and use hand cleaner upon entry to the clubrooms.
- You will need to social distance – remain minimum 1:5m apart.
- You will not be allowed to enter indoor public premises (our club rooms) if you are feeling unwell or are experiencing cold and flu like symptoms.

Date	Future Events
Closed	Other than the events noted below, <b>the Club rooms remain closed till further notice</b>
2:00pm Sunday 22nd November 2020	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> – Held in the Memorial Park next door to our clubrooms
2:00-4:00pm Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Members Coffee and Cake afternoon – Subject to easing of restrictions. Nil cost to members.
Cancelled	The <b>2020 Christmas function</b> will not be held this year.
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Hellenic Sub branch is considering a visit to the <b>Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial</b> followed by a picnic at Lake Wendourie Park. Closer to the event, we will advise on travel details (bus or individual cars).

## 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Hellenic Sub Branch

We aim to have an AGM, but like everything in this challenging COVID year, we need to comply with the government restrictions that are applicable on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. So, we will conduct our AGM in the Memorial Park next door to our clubrooms. Chairs will be provided.

For any motions or general business to be tabled at the AGM, please email the Sub Branch Secretary, Terry Kanellos on [tkanellos@bigpond.com](mailto:tkanellos@bigpond.com) or call 0414 209 674.

### OHI Day - Melbourne 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020

With COVID restrictions in place, the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance conducted a commemorative service on OHI Day 2020. To view the service, click on the link below, then choose to view via Facebook or YouTube.

<https://www.shrine.org.au/returned-and-services-league-australia-hellenic-sub-branch>

On the same Day, the Sub Branch arranged for a wreath to be placed at the Australian Hellenic Memorial.



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## Vale

The RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch would like to pass on our condolences to the Fifis, Rentzis, Daviotis, (A) Katsambanis, Kormas and Raftopoulos families for having lost their love ones in the past two months.

We will dearly miss them

*Hariklia Fifis*

*Elias Rentzis*

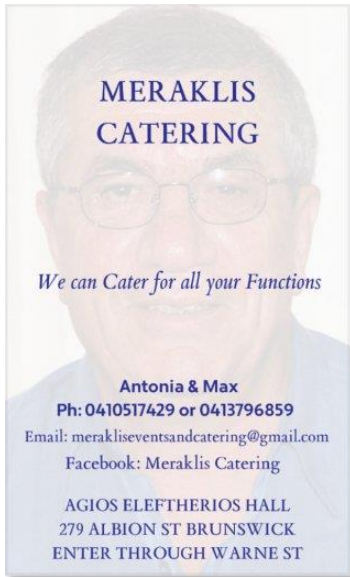
*Ourania Katsambanis*

*Kon Kormas*

*Dimitrios Daviotis*

*John Raftopoulos*

John Raftopoulos was a World War 2 veteran that served in New Guinea with the 28<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. He died at the age of 97.



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**Question:**– Who is the Soldier on page 1?

**Answer:-** Sub Branch member Theo Spanos. The front page photo was taken in 1951 in Tokyo Japan, whilst Theo was enjoying a short leave break from the Korean war. One week after this photo was taken, Theo was back on the front line fighting the North Korean Communist forces and their allies. All Greek infantry Battalions that fought in the Korean war were attached to the US 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry division, the badge of which appears on Theo’s uniform. Above right, Theo after a recent Anzac Day Parade.



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