



RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch
Memorial Hall, 14A Ferrars Pl, South , Melbourne Vic 3205
RETURNED SOLDIER – “APOSTRATOS”
English Newsletter Supplement - June 2014



Dear Members and Friends of the RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch

Our Sub-Branch continues to grow. A special welcome to our newest members:-
Andreas Singeniotis, Rev. Jeremy Ross Morgan, Sam Kelpezidis, Vasilios Georgakis,
John Michanetzis, Anthelia Tzanis, Alexandros Lambrou, Constantine Dimaras, Peter
Diakrousis, Apostolos Sinis, Maria Sinis, Jim Colias and Jim Anagnostou.

A special thanks to all our ANZAC DAY badge sellers, whom again did a wonderful
job raising \$7,800 for the RSL.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Returned Soldier “Apostratos” Newsletter
Steve Kyritsis, President



Anzac Day 25th April 2014



Around seventy Hellenic Sub Branch members and family turned up to march in the Anzac Day parade. The procession was led by Army Cadets from 30 ACU Sunshine and 305 ACU Surrey Hills Army Cadet units who proudly held the Greek, Australian and Cypriot flags, followed by students from St Johns Greek school.

Continued on page 4



RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch
 Memorial Hall, 14A Ferrars Pl, South , Melbourne Vic 3205



RETURNED SOLDIER – “APOSTRATOS”

English Newsletter Supplement - June 2014

Date	Milestones and Past Events
27 th April 2014	The Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting was held at the Sub-Branch.
25 th April 2014	ANZAC Day.
4 th May 2014	Mother’s Day at the Hellenic Sub-Branch.
4 th May 2014	72 nd Anniversary Commemoration, WWII Battle of the Coral Sea
Monday 26 th May 2014	Members of the Hellenic Sub-Branch met The Chief of Staff of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff (HNDGS), Lieutenant General Georgios Petkos and other Senior Hellenic and Australian Military Officers at Victoria Barracks. Story to feature in the next Edition of Returned Soldier.
6 th June 2014	70 th Anniversary – D-Day WWII

Annual Gala Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday 28 June 2014

The RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch in association with The Lemnos Gallipoli Commemorative Committee invite you to attend the Annual Gala Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday 28 June 2014. The event will raise funds for a memorial statue which will be built in Albert Park as a lasting memorial to the memory of Australian soldiers and nurses who served on Lemnos island during the disastrous 1915 campaign. Please support this event.

Hellenic Anzacs involved in the Gallipoli campaign and WW1.

Some fifty-seven Greek born Anzacs served in the Australian Imperial Force in WW1 including thirteen who fought at Gallipoli. In May 1915 Peter Rados was killed in action and George Cretan wounded, receiving a gunshot wound to the shoulder. Private Georgios Pappas born in Ipswich Qld of Greek heritage served in the 13th Battalion and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for Gallantry for bravery at Gaba Tepe (Dardanelles) on 4th May 1915. He was awarded this medal for successfully retrieving a wounded man to safety under heavy machine gun fire.



For tickets contact Major Terry Kanellos **0414 209 674** OR Mr Steve Kyritsis (RSL) **0418 571 800**

Click on this link for more details about the statue:-

<http://lemnosgallipolicc.blogspot.com.au/p/make-lemnos-memorial-reality-donate-now.html>



D-Day WWII 70th Anniversary

On the 6th June 1944, more than 156,000 soldiers landed on five beaches on what was to become the world’s largest seaborne invasion. The day began with surprise raids by airborne troops before thousands of ships and aircraft bombarded the coastline, to be followed by landing craft carrying young men from the US, Britain, Canada and France. Australia’s biggest contribution to D-day and the Battle of Normandy that followed was in the air with 2,500 pilots and crew. There were also 500 Australians serving on ships. Casualties were horrific on D-Day. Some of the US Companies on Omaha beach saw half their men killed or wounded. Australian War Memorial historian Lachlan Grant has written that RAAF casualties in Europe totalled 1,978, when crews were supporting the invasion.

Lest we forget

4th May 2014 – Mother’s Day

Mother’s Day at our Sub-Branch was very successful, with nearly one hundred members and friends attending.

Flowers were given to the most Senior mother, Mrs Georgia Parastatidis (pictured right) and the youngest mother Stavroula Kanellos (pictured below).



Both ladies are pictured with committee members Manolis Karvelas, Terry Kanellos and Steve Kyritsis.

In case you haven’t already worked it out, the gentleman at the far right of the second photo is Stavroula’s proud father, Mr George Angelikos.





RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch
 Memorial Hall, 14A Ferrars Pl, South , Melbourne Vic 3205



RETURNED SOLDIER – “APOSTRATOS”

English Newsletter Supplement - June 2014

Date	Future Events
6:30pm - Midnight Saturday 28 th June	Annual Gala Dinner Dance organized by the RSL in association with The Lemnos Gallipoli Commemorative Committee at the St. Kilda Town Hall
A Sunday in September 2014 (Exact date to be confirmed)	Father’s Day at the Hellenic Sub-Branch.

25th April 2014 - Anzac Day in Melbourne

Continued from page 1

The ANZAC DAY March, 25th April, again was the best ever here in Melbourne, with over 60,000 attending the 6.00am dawn service at the Shrine of Remembrance and well over the 100,000 watching the march procession later during the day.



Anzac Day 2014, back at the club rooms (From left to right) - Lt Commander Filippos Torkakis (Ret), Lt Colonel Thanasi Masouras (Ret), Steve Kyritsis and Commander John Michanetzis (Ret).

*The sub-branch would again like to thank **Jim Sikavitsas**, Managing Director of Tullamarine Bus Lines, for donating a bus service which transported members to and from the Anzac Day Parade.*



RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch
Memorial Hall, 14A Ferrars Pl, South, Melbourne Vic 3205

RETURNED SOLDIER – “APOSTRATOS”

English Newsletter Supplement - June 2014



RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch Committee

The following members were voted into the committee at the 2014 AGM:-

Steve Kyritsis (President)
Terry Kanellos (Secretary)
Dennis Patisteas (Treasurer)
Emanuel Karvelas (Snr Vice President)
George Kaltzidis (Vice President)
Athanasios Masouras
Thomas Zandes
Bill Koutras
Peter Stathopoulos
Dino Efthymiadis
Kyriakos Papadopoulos
Themis Sitzoukis
Con Katsambanis
Manolis Kastrinakis
Peter Stratigis



Pictured above - Our celebrity Chef, Bill Koutras was pleasantly surprised by the unannounced arrival of piper Lionel Boxer (Captain, 4th Brigade Australian Army).

Returned Soldier Continues to Grow – An edited email received from Paul London

Dear Steve,

I was recently forwarded a copy of your Hellenic RSL's newsletter "Returned Soldier – "Apostratos", March Edition. For the past 24 years I have researched the wartime lives and recorded the many escapes made by ANZAC POW's. In particular those that successfully escaped from Greece and later, after the fall of the island of Crete. I am now the Vice President of our New Zealand Battle of Crete Association; an organisation amongst whose aims are to promote and record the memories of those who fought in those campaigns, but more so to ensure the proper welfare of those veterans that survive today. Another activity we engage in is to arrange a five yearly pilgrimage to Crete, returning in May to reverently attend the island's memorial services. In 2016 we'll be returning again with a party of 100 New Zealanders under the leadership of our Patron, a former chief of New Zealand Defence Forces, Air Marshall, Sir Bruce Ferguson. Sir Bruce's own father (a Private in the NZ army) was a member of that ill-fated Anglo-Hellenic coalition force and was later taken as a POW at Kalamata.

I was most pleased to see and read your article on Mrs Dora Bakoyannis' visit. We met her in Athens in 2006, then holding the position as Greek Foreign Minister. She welcomed our party to Greece. May I congratulate your editor Emanuel Karvelas, for his superb and very informative publication.

With kind regards and best wishes

Paul London, (Vice President – New Zealand Battle of Crete Association)



RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch
Memorial Hall, 14A Ferrars Pl, South, Melbourne Vic 3205

RETURNED SOLDIER – “APOSTRATOS”

English Newsletter Supplement - June 2014



Aussie VC hero Daniel Keighran admits he thought he would die during battle



Here is an extract of an article that featured on the Channel 9 A Current Affair show on Anzac Day 2014

Australia's youngest Victoria Cross recipient, Corporal Daniel Keighran, has spoken about his selfless actions in the fierce battle that earned him the VC honour, revealing he thought he was going to die. During The Battle Of Derapet, known as one of the fiercest battles during the war in Afghanistan, retired Corporal Keighran, 30, deliberately exposed himself to enemy fire in order to save an injured mate.

"I remember thinking I need to draw some fire away from the boys that are treating the casualty," Cpl Keighran told A Current Affair. **So, he ran directly into enemy fire.**

"I draw fire onto myself ... running across a ridge line three times" Cpl Keighran said.

It was during the third run across the ridge that he thought he was going to be shot.

"I clearly remember the sound of the rounds you know cracking and I thought 'yeah, this was it - I have gone too far and it's all over.'"

Extraordinarily, Cpl Keighran survived. Sadly some of his friends did not.

"I lost a good mate that day," he said. "Lance Corporal Jared MacKinney was shot and killed in the battlefield next to me."

Upon his return home, Cpl Keighran was awarded our highest military decoration - Australia's 99th Victoria Cross.

It is an honour that even today he says he owes to his mates.

"I certainly wouldn't be here today, if my gunner wasn't there supporting me when I was running," he said.

Since his retirement from the military Cpl Keighran now lives with his wife, Katherine, and works as a 'fly in fly out miner' in Kalgoorlie WA.

Click on the link below for the full story as reported by Channel Nine.

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/2014/04/25/19/22/humble-victoria-cross-recipient-daniel-keighran>

Next Edition Returned Soldier - “Apostratos” – Due out September 2014