



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

Memorial Hall, 14A Ferrars Place South Melbourne Vic 3205

Phone (03) 9699 9844

November 2021

**OHI Day - Melbourne 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021**



The Consul General for Greece in Melbourne Mr Emmanuel Kakavelakis addresses the Audience.

*See the complete article on page 4*

## Reminder – Now Due

2022 RSL Membership fee (Service or Affiliate) - \$35

Please contact Steve on 0418 571 800  
For Direct Bank Deposit:- Hellenic RSL Sub-Branch, CBA South Melbourne,  
BSB 063215, A/C 10171931

### From the President

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

As we sent the last newsletter, we had just closed our Sub Branch for what was supposed to be a short sharp lockdown 6.0 on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Who would've expected it to last for three months?!? During this period, the committee continued to plan the way forward, including two computer zoom meetings (see page 8). At very short notice, we managed to host a small OHI Day commemoration, delivered the fun walk and picnic event at Albert Park Lake. Special thanks to Terry Kanellos who did a fantastic job organising and delivering this very different and fun event. The committee has also planned a Christmas BBQ Lunch in the Park next to the RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December. It is free to all members, with a small cover charge for non-members. We hope to see you there. The Hellenic Sub Branch will continue to operate in accordance with Victorian Government regulations, including the double vaccination requirement upon entry.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, good health and Happy New Year 2022.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Returned Soldier "Apostratos" Newsletter.

*Emanuel Karvelas, President*



10 Rosemary Court Mulgrave (03) 9561 5922

## Hellenic Sub Branch is now open

The Hellenic Sub Branch will continue to operate in accordance with Victorian Government regulations. Entry to our premises is available for all double vaccinated members and friends. To avoid disappointment, please ensure you QR scan or sign in and provide proof of vaccination as you enter.

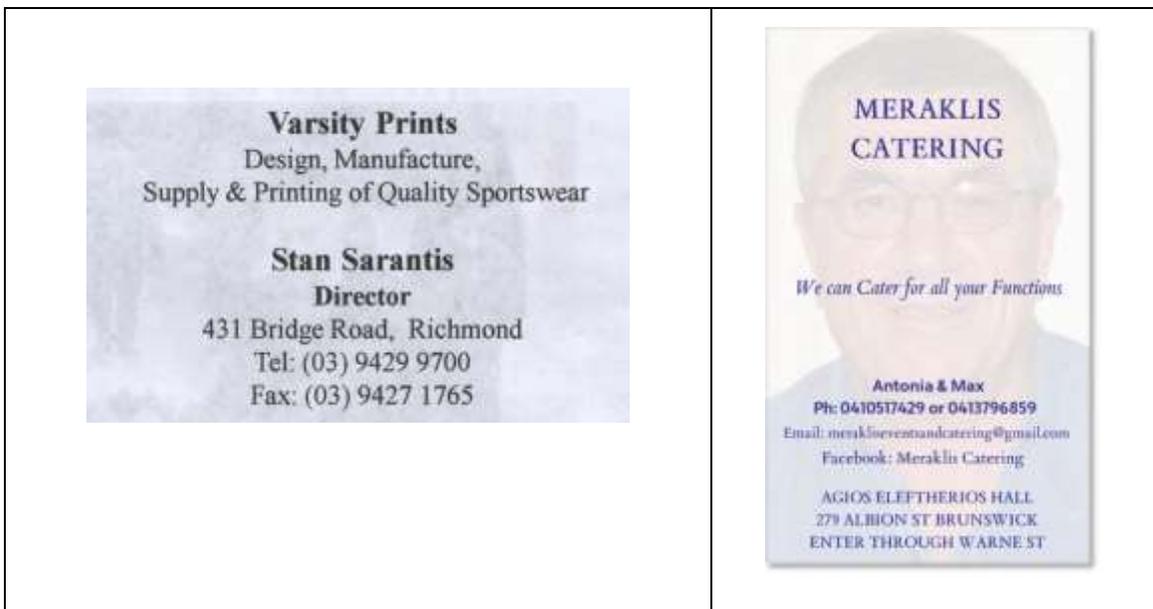
Our Sub Branch has resumed serving hot traditional Greek food for lunch on both Wednesdays and Saturdays (we are open between 10:00am-2:00pm)

## Past Events

Date	Past Events
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	<b>Father's Day BBQ</b> at the Hellenic Sub Branch Cancelled due to Lockdown 6.0
28 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	<b>OHI Day</b> at the Australian Hellenic Memorial
6 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	<b>Albert Park Fun Walk</b>

## Future Events

Date	Future Events
11 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	<b>Remembrance Day</b>
1:00-5:00pm Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	<b>Christmas BBQ Lunch in the Park</b> next to the Hellenic RSL South Melbourne building. It is free to all members, with a small \$15 cover charge for non-members.



The Hellenic Sub Branch hosted a wreath laying ceremony at the Australian Hellenic Memorial. Looking at the photos, the masks give a surreal and strange sign of the COVID times we are in. But we are thankful a small number of people were able to enjoy the symbolic day on behalf of many more that were unable to attend. We must never forget the sacrifices of all involved during the 1941 WW2 Greek campaign.



From Left to Right as they appear on the page :- Steve Kyritsis OAM, Dr Robert Webster OAM, Bill Papasteriadis, Themis Sitzoukis, Father Nikolaos, Maj Peter Mercoulia (Ret), Jim Varnas, Emmanuel Kakavelakis, Warrant Officer 2 Ken Tsirigotis, Emanuel Karvelas, Maj Terry Kanellos (Ret), Con Dimaras, Dennis Patisteas and Vicky Dimaras.

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Phone.: 9696 4898

**JOANNIDES**  
FUNERALS

Μας εμπιστεύεται η Ελληνική  
παροικία για 35 χρόνια.

**ΙΩΑΝΝΙΔΗΣ**  
ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΤΕΛΕΤΩΝ  
9859 1113

**ΒΡΥΩΝΑ**  
**ΙΩΑΝΝΙΔΗ**



Dr Robert Webster OAM  
President RSL Victoria



Bill Papasteriadis OAM, President  
Greek Orthodox Community  
Melbourne & Victoria



Emanuel Karvelas, President  
RSL Hellenic Sub Branch RSL



WO2 Ken Tsirigotis  
Melbourne Legacy



Steve Kyritsis OAM,  
President, Australian Hellenic  
Memorial Foundation



### Committee Zoom Meeting During Lockdown



## 200 Years Since The Start Of The Greek Revolution

This year, we had planned to conduct a number of events related to the 1821 Greek Revolution, but restrictions held us back. Fortunately, we were able to hold our main Independence Day event on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. Now that 2021 is coming to an end, we provide a brief chronicle of key events that took place in 1821, the first year of the Greek revolution against the occupying Ottoman Empire that lasted a total of nine years.

**26-29<sup>th</sup> January 1821** – A conference was held in the Peloponnese city of Vostitsa (today's Aigio) by Greek rulers and officials to decide if and when the revolution against Ottoman forces should begin. Some considered the moment inappropriate, but in the end, Grigorios Papaflessas convinced the group to revolt.

**22<sup>nd</sup> February** - Alexander Ypsilantis, a Greek Military officer embedded in the Russian army, crossed the Prutho River, arrived on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February in Lasi Moldova and issued a proclamation that the revolution against the Ottoman Empire had begun.

**17<sup>th</sup> March** - Greek militants attack the Turkish forces in the area of Kalavrita forcing them to withdraw to just three buildings.

**23<sup>rd</sup> March** - More rebels arrived from Mani and Messinia. Led by Theodoros Kolokotronis, Grigorios-Dikaios Papaflessas and Petros Mavromichalis they stormed Kalamata and liberated it. The Turkish force withdrew to Tripolitsa (today's Tripoli in Greece).

**25<sup>th</sup> March** - Many Greek revolutionaries entered Patra Greece. The leader of the rebels Andreas Londos raised a red flag with a black cross and Bishop Germanos chanted an oath in front of the St George church. A few days later a large Turkish force arrived in Patra and the rebels were forced to leave the city.

**23-24<sup>th</sup> April** - A large battle took place between Greeks and Turks on the Alamana bridge near Lamia. The Greek fighters failed to defeat the Turkish army and retreated. The Greek leader Athanasios Diakos was captured and killed.

**8<sup>th</sup> May** – At the Battle of Gravia, Odysseus Androutsos with 117 fighters, halted the Turkish advance preventing them from reaching the Peloponnese.



Greek General Theodoros Kolokotronis

**April-May-June** – Revolutionary Leaders issued a call to arms against the Ottoman forces in Thessaly, Epirus, Macedonia and Aegean islands.

**12-13<sup>th</sup> May** - The battle in the village of Valtetsi Arcadia ended in a significant victory for the Greeks, paving the way for the liberation of Tripoli.

**18<sup>th</sup> May** - The Serrai merchant Emmanuel Papas began a series of attacks in the region of Halkidiki Macedonia. Initially, the Greek revolutionary groups had many successes. But later, the Ottomans sent a large army against them and by the end of October all revolutionary activity in this area had ceased.

**June** - The revolution that Ypsilantis started in February in Moldavia and Wallachia failed (both regions are now part of Romania). Despite its failure, it helped the Greek cause because the Ottomans were compelled to keep a large army there.

**26<sup>th</sup> August** – At the Battle at Vasilika, near Atalanta, the Greek revolutionaries led by Ioannis Gouras defeated Beyran Pasha's army and forced him to retreat.

**23<sup>rd</sup> September** - General Kolokotronis' strategic plan for the siege of Tripoli resulted in the Greek occupation of the city that was once the political and military centre of the Peloponnese.

**20<sup>th</sup> December 1821** - The new Greek National Assembly commenced its operations in the village of Piada near Ancient Epidaurus. 59 representatives agreed on the first Constitution and the new Greek Nation declared its political existence and independence. But the war was far from over and was to drag on for another nine years.

## **Albert Park Walk and Picnik – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

After not having seen members and friends for such a long time, it was great to see many of you at the fun walk and picnic at Albert Park Lake. This was a free activity organised by our sub branch to help promote and support Veterans' Health Week. The focus of the event was to get us all moving again after many months of lockdowns. Participants chose to either walk 2.4km or the full circle of the lake which is 4.8km. Participation medals were awarded on the day.





Albert Park Walk Participation medal





Peter Patisteas shows us how it's done under the watchful eye of Steve Manos – 30 pushups before the 4.8km walk !



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**



**VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK**



