



MEDIA RELEASE

AHC proposals for the Centenary of ANZAC

Sydney, 17 September 2010: The National Commission on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary called for ideas and suggestions on how to mark this important chapter in our history. The Australian Hellenic Council, our community's leading public affairs organisation, submitted a list of proposals for a series of activities in Australia, Hellas and Cyprus to mark the Centenary of the Australian-Hellenic military alliance.

Between 2014 and 2018 Australia will commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since our involvement in the First World War. During this time we will remember not only the Anzacs who served at Gallipoli and the Western Front, but all Australian servicemen and women who fought or served those on the fronts; those who were held as prisoners of war; those who fought on the seas and in the skies; and those who served on the Home Front.

The Anzac Centenary provides us with an opportunity to remember those who have fought and served in all wars, conflicts and peace operations in the past hundred years and especially remember the more than 100,000 who have given their lives in service.

In recognition of the Centenary of ANZAC as much for Australian Hellenism as for Hellas, Cyprus and Australia, the AHC has outlined a series of activities, to be held between 2015 and 2018. In summary:

- the minting of a set of commemorative coins to mark significant milestones in the Australian-Hellenic military alliance;
- the creation of an Australian Prisoners-Of-War Memorial in Canberra;
- the sponsorship of a series of educational units on less prominent aspects of ANZAC;
- the hosting an ANZAC Aegean Regatta from the northern port of Thessalonike to the north-eastern island of Lemnos to Krete;
- the organisation of pilgrimages to the battlefields, monuments and Commonwealth War Cemeteries of Hellas;
- the honouring of the Australian contingent of UNFICYP on Cyprus;

- the inauguration of a Day of Remembrance in all Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia institutions throughout Australia;
- the organisation of a series of athletic events in Australia, Hellas and Cyprus involving national representative teams as well as clubs in a diverse range of sports.

Australian-Hellenic Centenary Commission

In early 2011, the Australian Hellenic Council will be calling on the individuals and associations of the Australian Hellenic community to form commissions in each region to cooperate in the organisation of events to mark the Centenary of ANZAC between 2014 and 2018.

One of the key roles the Australian Hellenic Council sees for itself is the promotion of the shared experiences of Australians and Hellenes over the last two centuries. These form strategic bonds between the Antipodes and the Hellenic World that require constant cultivation.

The Australian-Hellenic relationship is more than migration and tourism. There are deep ties of blood that bind Australia, Hellas and Cyprus. During the Centenary of ANZAC is as much about Australia as about Hellenism.

The complete submission is available from the AHC (NSW) on nsw@helleniccouncil.org.au

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