



# Australian Hellenic Council NSW Inc.

*A coordinating body for the Australian Hellenic community*

Αυστραλιανό Ελληνικό Συμβούλιο NNO  
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## Lobbying for “The Greek Star”

Sydney, Friday 6 August 2010

A number of Australian Hellenic Council (NSW) committee members were joined by the Friends of the AHC (NSW) in attendance at the Greek Australian Conservative Coalition dinner last Friday evening. AHC members took the opportunity to speak with Nationals Whip Senator John Williams and the Hon. George Souris about issues of concern to the Australian Hellenic community.

In conversation with Senator Williams, Mr George Vellis (Coordinator), Dr Panayiotis Diamadis (Secretary) and Petros Kalligas raised the issue of “The Greek Star”, the medal Australian veterans of the 1941 Greek Campaign have yet to be presented with by the Australian government.

Initiated some years ago by the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand, and given renewed impetus by the recent publication of Dr Maria Hill’s *Diggers and Greeks*, Australian Hellenic community’s pressure on the Federal Government to address this oversight is gaining pace. The AHC believes that it is unacceptable that the Hellenic state **has** presented Australian veterans of the 1941 Greek Campaign with a service medal while the Australian state **has not**.

It was during the 1941 Greek Campaign that most Australian soldiers captured by the Nazis were taken prisoner (83 per cent). Over 1,000 Australians were saved from captivity by Hellenes on the mainland and on Krete. They were members of the only ANZAC Corps to fight in World War Two.

For the AHC and the Australian Hellenic community, it is a matter of honouring the sacrifice Australians made during the common struggle against Nazism.