

# HELLENIC RSL VISIT EX-PRISONERS OF WAR MEMORIAL AT BALLARAT

The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis 19 March 2013



Hellenic RSL of Melbourne & Victoria members at Australian Prisoners of all Wars Memorial, Ballarat

On Sunday 17 March, a bus full of Hellenic RSL members travelled to Ballarat, where the Australian Prisoners of all Wars Memorial is situated. The President of the Hellenic RSL, Steve Kyritsis, laid a Wreath in memory of all Australians that suffered and died as Prisoners of War.



The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial located in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens records the names of more than 35,000 Australian POWs (about 8,600 died or were killed when they were prisoners of war, more than 4,000 have no known grave).

The lists of names on the memorial are arranged in alphabetical order, grouped by conflict, commencing with the Boer War on the left through to the Korean War and are etched into the 130m long black granite wall. There were no Australia POWs in the Vietnam War.

The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial is dedicated to all Australians who became prisoners of war while fighting the enemy. The names include: those who were serving in the Australian Defence Forces; Australians serving in the Merchant Navy; and Australians who enlisted in the allied Defence Forces and were made prisoners of war while fighting the common enemy.



This Memorial has the 37.000 Australians, Men and Woman, that were captured in the Boer War, World War One, World War Two, and Korean War.(no Australian Prisoners in the Vietnam War).

The Memorial in Ballarat was opened in 2004 with all the names displayed on granite stone, 500 feet long.

Including in the 37.000 Australian War Prisoners, there are also the names of the 33 Greek-Australians captured as Prisoners of War, including 3 in the Air Force.

10 Greek -Australians died(from the 33) as Prisoners of War, including 3 Greek-Australians prisoners drowned on a Japanese ship going to Japan.



Mr Kyritsis also said, their service and sacrifice of all Men and Women as Prisoners of War, must never be forgotten.

Lest we forget.

References:

<http://www.powmemorialballarat.com.au/>

President Hellenic RSL Steve Kyritsis 19 March 2013,

[http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/ex\\_pow\\_memorial.htm](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/ex_pow_memorial.htm)



*The Voice from the Pavement* - Peter Adamis is a (not for profit) Journalist/Commentator. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: [abalinx@netspace.net.au](mailto:abalinx@netspace.net.au) or via Mobile: 0409965538