

## \$50,000 for Australian Hellenic memorial foundation

AUSTRALIAN soldiers who fought and died in Greece during the Second World War were honoured on Friday, following the handover of \$50,000 towards the establishment of a memorial by the Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, John Pandazopoulos. The \$25,000 Australian Hellenic War Memorial will be created near the Shrine of Remembrance in the Domain Gardens. It is supported by the Trustees of the Shrine, the RSL, the Australian War Memorials Committee and The Victorian Greek Community.

"This memorial will become the focus of future commemorative services to honour those who gave their lives in the 1941 Greek Campaign, including the famous Battle of Crete," Mr Pandazopoulos said.

"The Bracks Labor Government is proud to be associated with this worthwhile project which symbolises the strong ties between Australia and Melbourne in particular and Greece," he said.

"Australia and Greece have been allies in many theatres and conflicts and the Greek campaign is significant for the bravery of ANZAC and Greek forces and for the courageous efforts of Greek citizens who put their lives at risk, providing shelter and protection for ANZAC troops in the evacuation of Greece and Crete."

Mr Pandazopoulos added that this memorial will further enhance the ties that were formed some 60 years ago and will be a fitting acknowledgment of the important contribution made by Greeks and Australians.



*The Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, John Pandazopoulos (right) hands over the \$50,000 cheque to the President of the Australian Hellenic Memorial Foundation (centre). Picture: John Ermidis.*

It is expected that the project will be completed by October. It will be the only Hellenic War Memorial in Australia.