

Hellenic Public History Exhibition

MACEDONIA – Land of Culture, Land of Refuge

Following on from the success of the Second Annual Return To Anatolia National Conference in June 2008, and the successful showing of the Macedonia - Land of Culture, Land of Refuge exhibition as part of the 2008 Demetria festival, the Return To Anatolia organisation is proposing that a public history exhibition be developed for display in Canberra as part of the 2009 National Multicultural Festival.

The MACEDONIA – Land of Culture, Land of Refuge public history exhibition will be a combination of information technology, black-and-white as well as colour photographs, posters, rare books and magazines, other relevant artefacts. It has two main focal points: (a) the diverse cultures that have thrived in Macedonia since time immemorial; and (b) the refuge the Macedonian lands have provided to hundreds of thousands of people fleeing persecution over the cen-

turies.

(a) Since the beginning of recorded history, the area today known as Macedonia has been inhabited by an amazing array of cultural groups. The intersection of major trade routes, many different peoples have left their mark on Macedonia. While the Hellenic element has always been dominant, communities of Jews and Armenians, Thracians and Illyrians, Romans and Dardanians have all lived in the northern borderlands of the Hellenic World. In the early Middle Ages, Bulgar and Slavic tribes arrived from the steppes of Russia. A few centuries later, Muslim Turks arrived. By the 1800s, Macedonia's population was so diverse, it gave rise to a new fruit dish: salad de Macdoine!

(b) In the 1500s, ten of thousands of Sephardic Jews fled the wrath of the Spanish Inquisition and found sanctuary in Macedonia, especially in the port city of

Thessaloniki. In the early 1900s, hundreds of thousands of Hellenes found refuge from the genocidal behaviour of the Ottoman Empire-Republic of Turkey. Even in the darkness of World War Two, the mountains of Macedonia held glimmers of hope for Jews and others fleeing Nazi death camps.

It is this that MACEDONIA – Land of Culture, Land of Refuge looks to bring to the public: the light aspects and the dark aspects of the Macedonian experience of multiculturalism - indigenous Hellenes living, fighting, learning and growing with many other migrant communities in the one shared homeland - Macedonia.

DATE: February 2009, as part of the 2009 National Multicultural Festival

TIME: Club opening hours - VENUE: Hellenic Club
PRICE: Free event

Panayiotis Diamadis

A clear explanation of prescription pricing

Many Australians do not understand the complex pricing system for prescription medicines. If you've ever asked "How much will my prescription cost?" and were bamboozled by the answer, you are not alone.

In the latest edition of Australian Prescriber, Michael Tatchell, Health Economics Director of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, explains the pricing structure of government-subsidised medicines.

Prescription medicines are either subsidised (through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, PBS, or the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, RPBS) or they are 'private' prescriptions, in which case no price regulation or subsidy applies. Subsidised medicines are largely paid for by the Australian government. The patient's contribution to this cost is called the co-payment.

The PBS co-payment for general patients is currently set at \$32.90, and for concessional and repatriation patients it is \$5.30.

Dr Tatchell explains that the price of non-subsidised medicines, or those below the co-payment, may vary between pharmacies. This depends on the pharmacy, the patients' circumstances and any charges the manufacturer includes.

is related to the patient's status (general, concession or repatriation), whether extra premiums or charges apply to the medicine, and whether the patient qualifies for the safety net," Dr Tatchell writes.

"The PBS safety net protects patients and their families (particularly those who may be high users of medicines) from the high cumulative cost of prescription medicines," Dr Tatchell says.

A full explanation of all these variables is provided in the article, along with more detail about the safety net and how premiums and charges continue after the safety net threshold is reached.



Head of Thessaloniki chamber awarded medal by Japan

Dimitrios Bakatselos, head of the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry and long-time honorary Consul General of Japan in Thessaloniki, has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun medal by the Emperor of Japan. The medal and certificate were presented to Bakatselos by Japan's Ambassador to Athens, Takanori Kitamura, at a ceremony held in the ambassador's residence in Athens on January 29.

Presenting the medal to Bakatselos, one of just a handful of Greeks to be honoured in this way over the past two decades, the ambassador said it was the most solemn way in which Japan could express its appreciation for the Greek businessman's invaluable contribution towards promoting Greek-Japanese ties.

DISCOVER PERSONAL TREASURES AT THE ARCHIVES

Australians are encouraged to explore their family history, when the National Archives hosts a Shake Your Family Tree day in each of its capital city offices on Wednesday, February 25, from 10am to 4pm.

With expert family historians on hand, people can learn about their grandparents, parents and other relatives, and possibly unearth personal treasures at this free event.

Some of the treasures visitors could find include letters, photographs and other documents in service records, immigration and citizenship applications, employment records, copyright registrations and other government records.

Director-General of the National Archives Ross Gibbs said, "This annual open day is a great opportunity for new or experienced family researchers to learn about family history."

"People are often amazed to discover what we hold and that we've probably got something on most families in Australia. If members of your family migrated here in the 20th century, served in the defence forces, or worked for, or had any other dealings with, the Commonwealth Government, we're likely to have something to interest you."

"Once people know how to go about finding the relevant documents they can use our extensive website to research their own family story at their leisure."

National Archives' offices around Australia will offer talks, demonstrations and introductory research training and preservation workshops on the day. Visitors will be able to view documents from the Archives collection, talk to reference staff about family history research, and learn how to use the online database. They will also be able to pick up a Shake Your Family Tree showbag. Further information is available at naa.gov.au



"The price of subsidised medicines