

Backlash from the local Greek Australian community for smoking

Despite anticipated backlash from the local Greek Australian community, Monash City Council is hoping to ban smoking in outdoor areas such as cafes and sports grounds. As a result of a council meeting on Tuesday night, the council will now push ahead with community consultation on banning smoking in outdoor areas. Councillor Paul Klisaris, who initiated the proposal, said it was important that local government promote an anti-smoking message, although he anticipated resistance from Greek Australians in the area.

"Greeks have a lot of good qualities, but they also have one negative about them, and that is that they are the biggest whingers on the planet," he said.

Monash is the first local council in Victoria to consider the ban, but it has been state law in sporting clubs and cafes in Queensland and New South Wales for years. Cr Klisaris said, since those bans were introduced, data has shown an increase in patronage. "Now what does that mean?" he said.

"It means that people who otherwise wouldn't go to a cafe outside and enjoy the good weather because they didn't want to inhale their neighbours' smoke, all of a sudden were able to do that."

Community consultation is now under way in the city of Monash, and a subcommittee has been formed to make a recommendation to council, which Cr Klisaris expects will be in early 2011.

Article from Neos Kosmos



"KALAMATIANO MARATHON"

Last Sunday 19 September, the "Thrasivoulos Greek Folk Dancers" organised a Fundraiser afternoon at the Pontian House "Pontoxeniteas" at Undercliffe. It was a fundraiser for the dance group to go next year and perform at the Brisbane Greek "Glendi" event and also go to Adelaide and dance together with the Hellenic Lyceum of South Australia. There were performances of dance by the Pontian Group Pontoxeniteas, the Greek Orthodox Church Parish-St Therapon Dance Group at Thorneliegh, the Pan Macedonian Lyceum and the "Thrasivoulos Greek Folk Dancers".

Vasili Haralambous and Peter Kouvelis played Macedonian Gaida and Daouli. People came along to just share an afternoon of Greek dance and fun and take part in the Kalamatiano Marathon which was won by a family from the Thornleigh Greek Orthodox Church Parish of St Therapon. There was a coloring in competition for the kids in images from Ancient Greece and facepainting in ancient Greek themes and colours were also done on the day. A great day to be had by all! More events will be planned in the future and invitation is open to all!


Dimitrios Kametopoulos

The Australian Hellenic Council (NSW)
And
the Order of AHEPA
Kostis Palamas Foundation
invites you to attend a presentation

"The Transformation of a Slav People to Macedonian"
(“Η μεταμόρφωση των Σλάβων σε “Μακεδόνες”)

Presented by
Marcus Alexander Templar
(Chicago, USA)

When: Thursday 7th October 2010
Where: AHEPA Hall
Princes' Highway, Rockdale
Time: 4:00 pm
All welcome


Η Μακεδονία είναι Ελληνική!

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Marcus Alexander Templar

Marcus Alexander Templar was born in Thessaloniki, the Capital of the Greek Province of Macedonia. He received his BA from Western Illinois University with major in Social Sciences and Humanities and his MA from North-eastern Illinois University in Human Resource Development.

He is an established expert on the Balkans and specialising in the History, People and Language of the South Slavs (The FYROM) and the Bulgarians. Besides Greek and English, he speaks Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian and the Slavonic language of the FYROM.

Mr. Templar authored articles and essays on historical and social issues regarding the Slavs of the FYROM as well as the former Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Marcus is best known for his essay on the "History, People and Language of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia."

He is a former President of the Macedonian Society of Greater Chicago and an advisor to the Pan-Macedonian Association of the USA Committees of National Issues and Strategic Planning.

Mr. Templar joined the United States Army in 1982 as a Cryptologic Linguist. He studied Czech, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish and Turkish at the Defence Language Institute, French at Dawson College in Montreal and Russian at Berlitz.

As an intelligence officer, he was appointed to various assignments in Balkan and Middle Eastern affairs. Now retired from the U.S. Army, Mr. Templar presently works as an advisor to the U.S. government on global intelligence issues.

He holds a Bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University in history and foreign languages, a Master's degree from North-eastern Illinois University in Human Resource Development specialising in instructional design, and a second Master's degree in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defence Intelligence College. He is a recognised expert in Balkan linguistic, religious, historical, cultural/ethnological and political issues.

