

BOCA announces new Managing Director

The Board of Directors of the Bank of Cyprus Australia is pleased to announce the appointment of George Tacticos as the new Managing Director, effective 15 October 2008. Mr. Tacticos will be succeeding Mr. Jack Beighton who will be staying with the Bank of Cyprus Group and will be moving to Moscow to head up Uniastrum Bank, a Russian Bank that the Bank of Cyprus is in the process of acquiring for approx. \$600 million.

Mr. Tacticos has been with the Bank for five years and previously held the positions of General Manager and the Head of Credit. He said, "I am privileged to be given the opportunity to run the Bank and I thank my fellow directors for their confidence and support. In the past couple of years we have seen the Bank grow considerably due

to our more competitive product offering and focus on relationship banking and service. The support from the Hellenic Community has been unbelievable."

George Tacticos is of Greek origin (family emigrated from Rhodes) and has worked in customer focused roles in banking for the last 23 years. Prior to working for the Bank of Cyprus Australia he worked with the Commonwealth Bank. He has completed a Bachelor of Business (Banking & Finance) at Monash University. George enjoys travelling and spending time with his family which includes two daughters.

"George Tacticos has been instrumental to the Bank's growth especially in the last three years. Although the financial climate has changed, George has helped put together a dynamic team that is well positioned to ensure the continued success of the Bank and I am confident that under his direction the Bank will continue to go from strength to strength," said Mr. Beighton.



Armed teens 'invade Gold Coast school'

Gold Coast police are investigating reports of a gang of youths invading a school and holding a knife to the head of a female teacher.

Five teenagers armed with knives invaded the grounds of Marymount College at Burleigh Heads at about 1.15pm today and threatened students, the Courier Mail reports.

When a female teacher stepped in, she allegedly had a knife held to her head.

School maintenance staff then reportedly chased the youths away with shovels.

Gold Coast police have confirmed that they are investigating reports that five youths ran through the school with weapons.

The invasion follows a terrifying incident at western Sydney's Merrylands High School in April.

Five youths aged between 14 and 16 ran riot through the campus armed with baseball bats, a machete and a sword and threatened teachers and students.

They all pleaded guilty to charges including assault, affray and causing malicious damage to property at Parramatta Children's Court last month.

Young men dare to mix it up

Young men from south-western Sydney shared their experiences of new-found social cohesion with the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson.

The 20 men completed a community relations camp aimed at improving social cohesion in their area. Mr Ferguson congratulated the participants on their achievements at the four-day camp in Ulladulla, on the NSW South Coast, where they were

"dared" to take on tough personal challenges.

The camp is part of the Mixing it Up project run by DARE Charity Ltd in partnership with the Independent Centre of Research Australia and Police Community Youth Clubs in Campbelltown and Bankstown and is funded under the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's (DIAC)

community relations program.

The project aims to address com-

munity relations issues that have arisen between different groups in the Macquarie Fields and Auburn areas, by appealing to the participants' sense of adventure.

The camp combined physical and team-building exercises with motivational sessions and mentoring from role models. At the event marking the completion of the camp, the young men spoke with Mr Ferguson, their communities and the media.

"I hear they've run up sand dunes, played challenging team sports and discussed complex issues," the parliamentary secretary said. "Activities like these can teach us about the value of positive action, self-worth and how these things can be influenced by what other people think and do."

Mr Ferguson said it was a valuable experience for people to be taken out of their normal routine and challenged on their attitudes, actions and ambitions.

"These young Australians have worked together over the past week to develop resilience, positive attitudes, personal skills and respect for one another," Mr Ferguson said.

"Projects like this empower young people with the knowledge and skills to break down barriers and contribute to a peaceful and cohesive society."

Participants will be involved in a range of follow-up activities over the coming months including workshops and ongoing support via email and SMS.

*Laurie Ferguson MP
Parliamentary Secretary
for Multicultural Affairs and
Settlement Services*

Australians deserve proper dental care

The Australian Greens today announced that they would not be supporting the Government's motion to repeal Medicare rebates on dental care for people with chronic illness.

"Since it started in November 2007, the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme has helped thousands of Australians suffering from chronic health problems directly related to dental problems," said Australian Greens Senator Rachel Siewert.

"The Government says it is essential to close down the chronic disease dental scheme and redirect funds (\$377.6 million over 4 years) to fund its Commonwealth Dental Health Programme (CDHP) - a program that will not be operational for months to come."

"With this motion, the Government is leaving these people with no alternative - it's 'wait and see' for sick people in dire need of support," said Senator Siewert.

"What happens to the thousands of people who are currently receiving help through this scheme? The Government has been unable to assure us that people currently receiving treatment will receive the same level of dental health care under the CDHP."

"The Greens believe it is entirely possible to fund both programs.

Instead of carrying out their duty of care to sick Australians, the Government chose to implement \$31 billion of tax cuts. It's time they stood up and took responsibility for that decision."

"This issue is not about programs or money - it is about people with medical need. The Government is trying to force the Parliament to choose between two dental programs that benefit people in need. The Greens are not prepared to make that choice, and leave these people out in the cold," she concluded.