

Fire Brigade Union official runs for the Greens in Lakemba

Kristian Bolwell, 36, an industrial officer and solicitor for the New South Wales Fire Brigade Union is The Greens candidate for Morris Iemma's vacated seat of Lakemba. "I am running in Lakemba against the lazy ALP because my work in the Fire Brigade Union has shown me first hand how badly the lazy ALP state government treats its workers and the wider community. They're crook mate" Mr Bolwell said. "The lazy ALP State government is still insisting that public sector wages be limited to 2.5% while it tries to kill off more public transport for the people of Sydney- and all while Morris Iem-

ma gets a multi million dollar life time pension. "The people of Lakemba have an opportunity to send a message to the State Government on behalf of the entire community of New South Wales. "The Greens are looking to harness support from Lakemba voters who are sick to the teeth of the lazy ALP yet with good reason, don't trust the Liberals.

"The lazy ALP state government lost the plot with their disgraceful attempt at selling the electricity network, yet the new Premier still refuses to rule out a further sale of the state's assets.

"Despite the change at the top, the lazy ALP State

Government remains arrogant, tired and hopeless. It's time to clean up the bear pit.

Prior to working for the Fire Brigade Union, Mr Bolwell worked for the Greens in Federal and State parliament, at the Refugee Review Tribunal and for the Director of Public Prosecutions. He has also served on the board of the Marrickville Legal Centre. He lives with his wife and has a son.

"The Greens are the natural choice for people who want to see real action on climate change, a serious expansion of public transport options and better public services", Mr Bolwell said.

Laiki Bank Space Zone Golden Ticket Competition 2nd winner announced

LAIKI BANK CONTINUES TO PROMOTE SAVING HABITS AMONG CHILDREN

Laiki Bank announced the winner of the second draw of the Space Zone Golden Ticket Competition, Miel Celine Bougessis from Adelaide.



Laiki Bank Mile End Branch's Customer Service Representative Helen Sianis, the winner of the Golden Ticket competition 2nd draw Miele' Celine Bougessis and Miele's mother Jacqueline Bougessis.

Miel is the lucky winner of a \$200 JB Hi-Fi voucher. "Our heartiest congratulations to Miel and her parents. We hope she enjoys her prize and continue to save regularly", said Michalis Athanasiou, General Manager, Laiki Bank Australia.

The Golden ticket competition aims at promoting saving habits in young kids by rewarding them for making frequent deposits in their Space Zone accounts. With every deposit, children qualify to enter into one of the three draws. The more regularly they make deposits, the better their chances are of winning.

Miel is the second Space Zone account holder, who has won a prize this year by participating in the golden ticket competition. The winner of the first draw Marcos Krantis, won a \$200 Rebel Sports voucher. The third and final Grand Prize draw is scheduled for 11th of November 2008, when the lucky winner will receive a brand new Sony VAIO laptop.

Space Zone is a savings account by Laiki Bank that makes it easy for kids to save, with no account keeping fees and high interest rates on deposits. Parents can have easy access to the account through Laiki eBank or through regular account statements.

To find out more about the Space Zone account or the Golden Ticket competition, visit your nearest Laiki Bank branch or call 1300 888 700.

Electoral Commissioner, Colin Barry reminds people unable to vote on election day, Saturday 18 October, that they only have a few days left to vote in advance.

Voting is compulsory for all people enrolled in the State electoral districts of Cabramatta, Lakemba and Ryde.

"If people can't vote on election day, they can vote in person at a pre-poll centre in one of the electoral districts," said Mr Barry.

You can vote in person before election day by visiting the following pre-poll voting centres. Centres are open until Friday 17 October from 9.00 am to 6.00pm and will accept votes for all other areas.

Cabramatta

Returning Office
Suite 4, 76 Broomfield Street, Cabramatta

Lakemba

Returning Office
713 Canterbury Rd, Belmore

Ryde

Returning Office
Suite 4, 133-137 Gordon St, Ryde
NSW Electoral Commission
Level 25, 201 Kent St, Sydney

Electors who have applied for a postal vote must make sure their completed ballot papers are posted, or are hand delivered to a polling place, by 6pm on election day Saturday 18 October 2008.

Information: www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 135 736.

Vote early at by-elections

Say a little prayer for poverty-stricken pensioners

Poverty Week 12-18 October 2008

"Spare a thought for the millions[i] of pensioners living below the poverty line this week, while the rest of the population ponders the impact of the global financial crisis, our seniors are wondering how to deal with soaring food and transport costs," said COTA NSW Executive Director, Jon Bisset.

Recent research has shown that single older people have the highest incidence of poverty of any demographic group. Almost a quarter (23.9%) of older Australians and almost half (46.9%) of single age pensioners are living in poverty. Of all Australians living in poverty, 27 per cent are people over the age of 65. (Saunders et al 2008)[ii].

"The measure of a society is how it treats its elderly and vulnerable...the Pension Review will report in February 2008, the whole community will watch with interest how this translates into relief for pensioners in the 2009-2010 Budget," said Kath Brewster, President of COTA NSW

Pat Johnstone, one of hundreds of pensioners that contact COTA NSW is disgusted at the lack of interest of politicians on how pensioners are living below the poverty line; she says "I never believed this would happen to me.

"At no time ever in my life have I received any payment from the Government. On the contrary, I have paid income

tax from the age of 15 until 70, and in the latter stage paid 48.3% tax on my salary, which at the end of the financial year was startling. More than half my salary went to the Government via income tax. Sadly, because I received bad financial advice, coupled with adverse investment outcomes and bad luck, I am at the mercy of the Australian Government pension arrangements. My retirement 'nest egg' has vanished."

"If politicians think the pension is adequate they should try to live off it - not for a week but for 3 months and see how that pans out. Even assuming they don't have to pay rent, the cost of living is so high that they will need to rely on charity to get by. It's embarrassing, but I know people who eat cereal for tea every night and those who go to Salvation Army and Church events to eat," Pat said. COTA NSW is committed to representing the interests of Age Pensioners. "We are hopeful that the upcoming state mini-budget reflects the need for increased allowances, concessions and rebates for pensioners, particularly single age pensioners, so they may have a decent standard of living.

"We support the Liberal/National call for a Seniors impact statement and greater concessions for seniors in the upcoming mini-budget," said Jon Bisset.