

Laiki Bank Australia wins right to assist Cypriot-Australian pensioners

Laiki Bank (Australia) Ltd was recently awarded the tender to assist Cypriot-Australians in the delivery of their timely pension payments under the Federal Government's Social Security Agreement between the two nations. Laiki Bank was selected over major banks in Australia due to its robust and secure banking systems, and competitive pricing.

This new arrangement with the Department of Social Insurance Services in Cyprus, will allow Cypriot pensioners residing in Australia to receive their pension and other benefits credited directly into their bank accounts. The new process has eliminated the need to convert the funds more than once and removed unnecessary delays for no additional fee.

Laiki Bank Australia's General Manager, Michalis Athanasiou said that winning the tender was very important to the Bank, because it has the right systems to ensure the service is delivered effectively.

"We are pleased to be providing the new streamlined system ensuring timely, efficient and the accurate provision of pension payments to people who have earned and rely on these payments. As the lead-

ing bank servicing Greek Cypriots in Australia we were intent on providing this service."

Until now, Cypriot pensioners residing in Australia received their pension and other benefit payments by cheque in US dollars, sent by mail from Cyprus. A number of problems were associated with this arrangement, primarily postal delays and loss. The recipients were also made to pay currency conversion fees twice, firstly when converting funds from Euro to US Dollars and then from US Dollars to Australian Dollars.

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About the Social Security Agreement

Under the Social Security Agreement between Cyprus and Australia, Australian citizens, their family members and survivors may receive Cypriot pensions under the same conditions as Cypriot nationals, regardless of where they live. The agreement came

into force on the 1st of January 1993. The purpose of this Bilateral Agreement is to assist people who move between Australia and Cyprus to receive a pension from each country so that both Australia and Cyprus share the long-term social security coverage for that person. (www.fahcsia.gov.au)

About Laiki Bank Australia

Since its inception in Australia, Laiki Bank Australia has earned a reputation of working closely with its customers to understand and meet their individual needs. Offering customers highly competitive banking with personal service continues to be the Bank's competitive edge. Laiki Bank's vision is to stand out as a dynamic, effective and reliable financial institution for all Australians.

Laiki home loan products feature no application fee, offset accounts, direct debit facilities, redraw facilities and the security of over 100 years of experience in the banking industry.

The Options Plus Home Loan received bronze at the Money Magazine awards in 2008. www.laiki.com

This is Greece (Well, sort of...)

The Greece of yesterday is long gone, but you can still get a healthy dose of nostalgia by picking up a copy of the childrens classic, "This is Greece." Czech artist, illustrator, and author Miroslav Sasek created the "This is" series of travel-related books during the late 50s and 60s (Paris, London, NY, Rome etc.). Beautifully illustrated and filled with real life historical facts, This is Greece transports you to the birthplace of Western civilization in all its glory; the Acropolis, the Parthenon, temples, theaters, and marketplaces.



First published in 1966, the book was reissued this year. Infused with little details and more than a hint of sarcasm This is Greece will delight children and parents alike.

Three more from Nintendo for the DS, prepare to get Savvy!



GLORY OF HERACLES™

Nintendo's E3 conference was packed with games - here's a few for the Nintendo DS that we only heard about today. Get ready for Style Savvy, Fossil Fighters and Glory of Heracles.

Style Savvy puts you in control of a fashion boutique. As the owner you have to choose and buy inventory, look after your budget and try to please all of your customers. Think classic Lemonade Stand, but in the fashion world. The game has some cool features - seasonal fashions that change depending on your DS' internal calendar, a bit like Animal Crossing, over 10,000 items from 16 in-game fashion labels, and customisable avatars. Oh but for Girls, obviously.

Online content isn't left out either - get together with three other friends and host a fashion show over local wireless, or connect to Nintendo Wi-Fi and visit each others stores and buy anything that takes your fancy.

Glory of Heracles is a 'pick up and play' RPG. The game takes place in Ancient Greece, with players taking control of the Greek hero Heracles, visiting cities like Sparta and Athens. Unfortunately Heracles has lost his memory. It's up to you to travel around, do some battles, talk to some people and generally adventure to recover his memory. The game features some lovely visuals, animated cut scenes, a weapon crafting system, and touch-screen spell casting. Expect a pretty big game world.

Fossil Fighters lets you find and clean 'vivosaur' fossils, before bringing them back to life to FIGHT each other! Intense stuff, we know. Vivosaur seem to be a lot like dinosaurs, by the way. There are over 100 of these vivosaur to be found. You have to collect the head to use them in battle, while adding the body, arms and legs adds to their power. The game has a typical role-playing storyline, and features wireless battles and trading.

Fossil Fighters is the first uncovered, on August 10th, while Style Savvy hits catwalks (or game stores, more likely) near the end of 2009, and Glory of Heracles forgets who it is sometime in 2010. These are US dates, keep in mind - you guessed it, Vooks will let you know when they're hitting Australia.

Coca-Cola Hellenic announces removal from Australian Stock Exchange

Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company SA (CHB) has announced its intention to seek its removal from the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) and suspension in trading of its CHES Depository Interests (CDIs) on the ASX effective from the close of the market on 26 August 2009.

The Greece-based bottling company, one of the world's largest bottlers of products of The Coca-Cola Company with sales of more than 2 billion unit cases, and with operations in 28 countries, currently trades on the ASX by way of CHES Depository Interests (CDIs). The company's shares are currently also listed on the Athens Exchange (ATHEX: EEEK), with a secondary listing on the London Stock Exchange (LSE).

Since listing on the ASX in August 2000, some CDI holders converted their CDIs to shares, which, as a result, CHB shares now represent approximately 0.63 per cent of the company's issued and outstanding capital stock.

Coca-Cola Hellenic said its decision to delist is due to the low level of CDIs now quoted on the ASX and the low level of trading on the ASX compared to the other exchanges. The company does not wish to raise further equity capital in Australia to avoid administrative costs and compliance costs associated with listings.