

# Wiggles blame rumours on magazines

*THE Wiggles have hit back at rumours the foursome is breaking up. And they have quashed speculation, which has swirled around Sydney in the past fortnight, that Blue Wiggle Anthony Field's marriage is on the rocks.*

The multi-millionaire group's manager, Paul Field, dismissed talk that his brother's six-year marriage was in crisis. Anthony's wife, Miki, (Michaela Patisteas) was with him when he, and other band members Murray Cook, Sam Moran and Jeff Fatt were awarded honorary doctorates, along with former Wiggle Greg Page, at Macquarie University on Friday.

"It is hurtful, some of the stuff which has been said," Paul said. "We all know that what is being said is not the reality.

"Anthony and Miki face challenges like any other married couple but their relationship is rock solid."

The marriage rumours were heightened after it was reported that Woman's Day magazine was working on an investigative story about Anthony's alleged



join them on a US tour, starting October 9.

Anthony has spoken before of missing his wife and

for him to spend more time with his family.

"I've got to get to 20 years, but I might pull up stumps then and hand over the skivvy to someone else," he said. "The irony is that I'm out there entertaining children and my children are at home and I never see them."

Paul said that, for now, "it's business as usual". "All we can do is just ignore it and keep rocking and rolling."

He blamed the competitiveness of women's magazines for the rumours. "It's sad that if someone wants to sell magazines, they see us as an easy target."

marital problems.

Its rival New Idea ran a story two weeks ago that the marriage was still strong. The Woman's Day story is expected to appear tomorrow.

Paul also denied the children's entertainment group was about to split after rumours Red Wiggle Murray Cook would not



their three children Lucia, 6, Maria, 4 and Antonio, 2, while on tour. After 18 years with the Wiggles, he said the time is approaching

us as an easy target."



## Who will be Rockdale's next mayor?

ROCKDALE councillors are busy negotiating the outcome of the September 30 mayoral election, with some indicating new alliances could be formed.

Negotiations which saw Labor Mayor Bill Saravinovski and Liberal Deputy Mayor Peter Poulos elected last September went on until the last minute and behind the scenes talks and agreements were not expected to firm up until the evening of the vote.

Labor councillors indicated the cosy relationship between Liberal and Labor could be destabilising and independent councillors were being contacted to shore up support for a deal to elect a Labor mayor to serve alongside Greens councillor Lesa de Leau as deputy mayor.

Cr Saravinovski said "caucus had not yet met to discuss the issue" and he would be "talking to all parties".

"Whoever the next mayor is, the stones have been turned for reforms for the benefit of the community," Cr Saravinovski said.

Rockdale Deputy Mayor Peter Poulos, (photos) who was expected to take the mayoral chair next, did not return calls to the Leader.

Signalling another contender in nominations, independent councillor Michael Nagi said there was a "good possibility" that independents could combine to elect an independent mayor and independent or Greens deputy mayor.

"I can get the numbers if the independents unite together with Greens councillor Lesa de Leau," he said.

Independents Liz Barlow and James McDonald said they were "weighing up options" and the "community had to be considered first".

Cr de Leau said she would not support "more of the same, regardless of who was in the chair" and it would take more than an offer of the deputy mayor's job to swing her vote.

"I need to see changing priorities and the funding of community services rather than garden beds around the city which do not help people in need," she said.

## Greeks below EU average for learning foreign languages



Of those attending upper secondary schools in Greece during 2007, 91.8 percent were learning one foreign language, 6.9 percent were learning two or more foreign languages and 1.4 percent were learning no foreign languages, according to figures released by Eurostat on Thursday. Throughout the European Union (with the exception of Germany, Portugal and Cyprus where figures did not exist), 33.4 percent of pupils in the equivalent stage of education in 2007 were learning one foreign language, 60.1 percent were learning two or more foreign languages and 6.4 percent were learning no foreign languages. The highest rates of pupils learning two or more foreign languages were recorded in the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Finland, where it was 100 percent, while Slovenia and Slovakia followed with 98 percent and Estonia with 97 percent. According to the same report, 44.8 percent of Greeks aged 25-64 reported that they speak one foreign language (compared to 35.7 percent in the EU), 43.4 percent speak no foreign languages (36.2 percent in the EU) and 11.9 percent speak two or more foreign languages (28.1 percent in the EU).