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## Randwick Mayor John Procopiadis expelled from the Labor Party

The Mayor of Randwick has been expelled from the Labor Party after 16 years service.

John Procopiadis, 74, was given his marching orders by Labor's head office on Friday after the reticent councillor betrayed his party colleagues at the September mayoral election.



Meanwhile Labor councillor Tony Bowen said the expulsion was "an appropriate end to a disgraceful episode".

"This decision sends the clear message that no one is bigger than our party. It's also a great reminder of what a privilege it is to

represent this party, and that's a privilege no one can take for granted."

Despite having previously agreed in writing to support rookie Labor councillor Bowen, the son of former deputy Prime Minister Lionel Bowen, Cr Procopiadis made a back room deal with Liberal and Independent councillors to secure the top position for himself.

The new mayor was promptly charged for his betrayal by head office and called in to explain himself at a disciplinary hearing.

Speaking immediately after the September 29 election, Cr Bowen moved to clarify the newly elected mayor was not the party's preferred candidate.

"The mayor is in this position due to the support of the anti-Labor groups on this council," Cr Bowen said.

"It is disappointing that politics has brought us to this point but I can only assume that the new mayor no longer considers himself a Labor member."

Sources say Cr Procopiadis was dissatisfied with the decision to elevate rookie councillor Bowen and thought this term to be his last shot at the helm of the council.

In the days after the election Cr Procopiadis moved to play down his actions by describing the drama as "irrelevant".

*Article from  
The Southern Courier*

While the Courier was informed of the decision by Labor Party general secretary Matt Thistlethwaite early Friday afternoon, Cr Procopiadis said he was unaware and would only comment "in my time".

## Playground 'too noisy'

RESIDENTS of Etela St, Belmore, said a new playground by a neighbouring school was illegal because it used inadequate noise testing procedures.

In July, All Saints Primary School received approval for the construction of a playground for 120 children across the road from the school building.

Canterbury Council's approval requires noise testing in the playground over a five-day period so that an acoustic fence can be developed to reduce the impact of noise on neighbouring residents.

The school was to provide noise modelling of the proposed acoustic fence before regular use of the playground could start.

Zisimos Markous and others from the Belmore Residents Action Group said they had collected data on the days when students had been using the site.

Mr Markous, who lives next door to the playground and objected to the school's original development application, said on some days as few as 18 students were in the playground at any one time.

This would affect the outcome of the noise testing and the effectiveness of an acoustic fence, he said.

"It affects me very badly because I accepted the original approval for the playground, but they are going beyond the approval," Mr Markous said.

The playground was in use on eight days between October 22 and No-



School blues: Zisimos Markous (front) and his wife Dimitra with their neighbours who oppose a playground in their street. Picture: NICK BLOUKOS

vember 4, Mr Markous said.

The school's chairman Pol Kouroushis said the school had complied with the development consent, with testing being limited to the five-day period.

However Mr Kouroushis could not specify on which dates testing was carried out. The residents' group has also expressed concerns about the church community hosting too many people for barbecues on the grounds of the All Saints Parish Church.

Canterbury Council's general manager Jim Montague said the council had been in contact with Mr Markous and asked him to assist with the collection of evidence.

"We have also contacted the school, reiterating the terms of the

consent approval and informing them to comply," he said.

*Article from The Express by Zilka Grogan*

## Olympia Dukakis Filming a New Movie in Greece

The Academy Award winning Greek American actress will travel to Greece to star in the new movie "Travel". It is an Irish-Spanish and Australian co-production that will be filmed mostly in Athens. The movie will also be filmed in other cities including New York and Athens. The movie will be directed by Greek-Australian Nantia Tas (Tassopoulou).

The script is written by Alexandra Lazaridou and the story is about life in the 50's, the war and the resistance. Melina Kanakarides, Luis Homar, and Fiona Show from are also in the film. Olympia Dukakis will also travel to Greece in January to prepare for the movie. At the same time, she will participate in a masterclass at the American-University of Athens.



## Greek franchise modernises systems

Casual Greek-restaurant franchise, Souvlakihut, has launched its first fully integrated online community engagement system.

SOCRATES (Souvlakihut Online Community Resource and Training E-Solution) encourages staff engagement and direct communication with head office, offering feedback opportunities, discussion forums and the ability to share ideas.

The web-based information and training tool was designed specifically for Souvlakihut's 36 franchises, providing easily accessible information and training facilities. The platform also facilitates company news and notices, rosters, order forms, promotional material and up to the minute company statistics and reports.

"I'm keen to hear from all our employees, not just franchisees, about their thoughts and ideas on the business," said Souvlakihut's co-founder and director, John Fotiadis.

"Our staff are the ones that interact with our customers every day; they are our brand ambassadors on the ground and so it is important for us to communicate with them on a regular basis.

"SOCRATES provides a two-way solution for us to let all employees know what is happening in the business and also encourages open feedback. We pride ourselves on having great relationships with our franchisees and I believe this platform will help strengthen our relationships with employees as well."

To further engage staff, Souvlakihut is running an internal competition to find the SOCRATES 'icon' and has invited all users to submit designs and ideas of what this should look like.

"We wanted to start engaging our staff from the word Go," said Fotiadis. "By empowering our staff to help build this system we hope it will be a great success."