

Spero's king size family

The article below was published in the Sunday Herald - Sun on September 6th. It is worth a read.

Speros Coutsouvelis, 73, of Hoppers Crossing, has one son, two stepsons, and seven adopted children.

He has also fostered more than 200 children.

The retired aircraft maintenance engineer does not remember his father, who died on a stroke when Speros was five. Speros was raised with a firm,

but fair, hand by his mother and was determined to open his home and heart to children when he was old enough.

Speros separated from his first wife when son Mark was 12. When he married second wife Nadine 30 years ago, he became stepfather to her sons, Paul, now 42 and John 39.

"I tried to set a good example for the boys. I wanted them to be pleasant and have respect for people", he said.

Speros and Nadine, 69 began adopting children 30

years ago, after reading an advertisement seeking potential adoptive parents.

"I saw all these photos of children in need and we got our daughter, Shelley first. And then we kept going", he said.

"They needed love and care and I felt I could become a good father to them. It's very rewarding to see how they've grown up".

Speros and Nadine have also fostered more than 200 children through Anglicare.



They now care for a young brother and sister.

"You see them smile and you know you've made a difference with your love" he said.

Speros expects plenty of

phone calls and visitors. "We'll probably have a sponge cake and share that to celebrate he said.

"But I'm a father every day, not just on Father's Day".



Cypriot community leaders meet with Australian diplomats

The president of the Federation of Cypriot Communities in Australia and New Zealand and the president of the Cypriot Community of New South Wales, Michael Christodoulou (foto), recently met with the Australian ambassador in Nicosia, Evan Williams, and Australia's special envoy for the Cyprus issue, David Ritchie.

Also attending the meeting was the president of the Community Relations Commission of NSW, Stepan Kerkiasarian, of Armenian origin, who was born in Cyprus.

Christodoulou said he briefed the Australian diplomats on the feelings and positions expressed by Cypriot-Australians on the island's problems and called for Australia's assistance in order that a viable and workable solution be found to the Cyprus dispute.

(source: voice of greece)

HSC students who topped the state in HSC

KATIE MOUNDOULAS, FROM GEORGES RIVER COLLEGE OATLEY SENIOR CAMPUS CAME FIRST IN MODERN GREEK BEGINNERS

THEY are few and feted and this year's list of students who topped the state in HSC courses included a handful from St George and Sutherland Shire schools.

Almost 70,000 students sat HSC exams this year, but it was a select few who received first-in-course awards at a ceremony at the Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh, on Tuesday.

Nicola Lehane, from St Ursula's College



High achievers: St George and Sutherland Shire students Katie Moundoulas (left), Nicola Lehane, Andrew Counsell, Samuel Tawfik and Barbara Efremova topped the state in HSC courses.

Picture: Chris Lane

Kingsgrove, thought the phone call she received telling her she had topped business studies was a joke. "I was really shocked. I

didn't believe it," she said. "I made my mum ring back the next day."

For Caringbah High School student, Andrew Counsell, it was a similar case of disbelief.

The year 11 student came equal first in the state in software design and development, which he studied a year in advance as part of an accelerated learning scheme.

"I was at the beach with my girlfriend. I didn't tell [the caller] that though," he said.

Samuel Tawfik is another early achiever. The year 11 student at St Mary and St Mina's Coptic Orthodox College Bexley came equal first in mathematics extension one, and is hoping to study mathematics at university.

Katie Moundoulas, from Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus came first in modern Greek beginners, while Barbara Efremova, from Danebank Anglican School for Girls, was first in information technology examination.

Matthew De Cataldo, of Beverly Hills, studied at Christian Brothers Lewisham and was first in Italian extension.

Article from The Leader

Mission to help youth - volunteer honoured

A KOGARAH woman has been named Young Volunteer of the Year for her work in promoting cultural harmony among youth. Jasmine Malhotra, 21, a fifth-year law student, is a member of the Sikh Kirtan Prachar Mission of Australia.

Known by its members as "the Mission", it aims to help Sydney's Sikh youth engage with other religious and culturally diverse communities while still embracing their own cultural heritage. Minister for Citizenship John Hatzistergos presented Ms Malhotra with the award. Mr Hatzistergos said the Community Relations Commission awards recognised the "selfless and tireless contributions" made by volunteers. "The huge contribution that immigrants make to our community is not always noticed or acknowledged," he said.



Mr Hatzistergos said Ms Malhotra crossed the age gap to foster closer understanding between youth and elders in the community. "She mentored school students for the Youth Peace Parliament, a one-day mock Legislative Assembly sitting, and is active in spreading understanding of the Sikh faith," he said. "Jasmine is a wonderful young Australian and serves on various mainstream charities including Red Cross, Clean-up Australia and NISAD-Schizophrenia Research."

Ms Kaur's family migrated to Australia from India when she was only one, and has lived in Kogarah for 10 years.

"It's a great honour winning the award, but I feel a bit uncomfortable being singled out because the whole thing has been a group effort," she said.

"I love working with kids, particularly when I see how their lives are becoming more and more difficult.

"Music is a big focus and, at the moment I am teaching classes, organising jam sessions and helping with multi-faith events".