



4 February 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

Koru kids to check out elite track action with SBS Bank

A little bit of southern hospitality is coming the way of four Southland teenagers next weekend when a trio of SBS Bank's lovely Invercargill ladies chaperone them on a night of fast-paced track action at the NZ Elite Track Cycling Championships.

The four teens, who were among a group selected through their involvement with Koru Care in Invercargill, accepted an invite from SBS Bank Invercargill customer services officer Maria Milne-Maresca to attend the cycling champs as part of novel team building event.

Mrs Milne-Maresca said SBS Bank was renowned for its community support and the warm, welcoming service from its staff. The planned outing was just another way to take that exceptional service another step further.

"I was mulling over some ideas and ways I could put together a team building event, while ensuring everyone involved benefitted and then I was given a heads up that a fellow staff member in our support centre, Nicky Kura, was secretary of the local Koru Care non-profit society.

"I immediately thought fantastic! A group of their young representatives who are well-deserving of a treat, a bunch of SBS Bank girls and some wicked action at the NZ Elite Track Cycling Champs has got to be a perfect recipe for a fun night out."

Joined by work colleagues, customer services officer Donna Carroll and investment consultant Lyndal McDonald, Mrs Milne-Maresca will be picking up the foursome from their homes and shouting them out to tea before attending the champs on the evening of Saturday 13 February at the ILT Veodrome.

After cheering on the top Southland team of Gabby Vermunt, Sequoia Cooper, Cathy Jordan, Kylie Young, Laura Thompson, Eddie Dawkins, Tom Scully, Hamish Tomlinson, Hamish Presbury, Cameron Karwowski, James Williamson, Chris O'Connor, Sean Fox to some great wins the group will deliver the guests of honour back home.

Invercargill manager Neil Bramley said with SBS Bank now having around 280 community sponsorships, staff were always looking outside of the square to find new ways of giving back to the community.

"Our staff really are pretty special and Maria is certainly one of our wonderful frontline team who certainly knows how to make our customers feel welcomed and appreciated.

"I know when the Koru guests meet up with Maria, Donna and Lyndal they are going to have an absolute blast."

Mrs Milne-Maresca said the guest group was going to get more than a night of great cycling action.

"I have arranged for several other awesome surprises that will hopefully just top off the night and really make it one to remember. We can't wait!"

NB: Photo opportunities will be available on the night. Please contact Maria at the number below to arrange any details.

For further information contact:

Maria Milne-Maresca, SBS Bank Customer Services Officer

Tel: 03 211 0744; Email: maria.milne-maresca@sbs.net.nz

Neil Bramley, Manager SBS Bank Invercargill

Tel: 03 211 1239; Email: neil.bramley@sbs.net.nz

www.sbs.net.nz