



## Greek-Australian Fisherman's 128kg catch

Steve Makarios was used to relaxing days of fishing. Recently the Greek-Australian fisherman went fishing expecting another quiet day in the sea. He certainly wasn't expecting to reel in the biggest southern bluefin tuna in Victorian history. The 128kg catch took almost six hours to haul in — and nearly sank the 5.6m boat when he and fishing buddies Eddie Zahra and Ross Moor pulled the 2.3m tuna aboard on Thursday.

"We thought we'd never get it in," he said. "Bits and pieces of the reel were falling off and we had to pour water on the line to keep it from overheating."

"And the boat nearly took on water when the three of us tried to pull it in. It was a pretty epic fight. "I just had to keep telling myself to be patient and pace it, while my back and my arms and legs were burning up with pain," Makarios said.

## Greek doctors reattach woman's hands, feet

ATHENS, Greece, April 13 (UPI) -- Doctors in Greece have reattached the hands and feet of a 30-year-old Albanian woman who police say was attacked by her husband with a chainsaw.

The husband, a 39-year-old Albanian, was taken into custody and officials were investigating the incident during which he allegedly used a chainsaw to cut off his wife's limbs, the Kathimerini newspaper reported Monday. Greek police said the suspect flagged down officers Saturday to tell them he had injured his wife in Kalamata, on the southwest of Peloponnese peninsula.

Police said they found the woman bleeding heavily in the couple's apartment. Their two children, ages 9 and 11, witnessed the incident.

The woman underwent emergency surgery in a Kalamata hospital Saturday and was flown to Athens for additional surgery.

# Greek race walker Athanasia Tsoumeleka charged with doping

ATHENS, Greece — Olympic champion race walker Athanasia Tsoumeleka has been charged with using an illegal performance-enhancing drug.

Court officials said prosecutor Costas Simitzoglou charged Tsoumeleka with breaking Greece's doping laws after she tested positive in January for CERA, an advanced version of the blood-booster EPO.

The offence carries a maximum two-year jail sentence.

The 27-year Tsoumeleka won the 20-kilometre walk at the 2004 Athens Olympics. She tested positive in a retesting of a sample she provided two days before the Beijing Olympics. A backup sample also came back positive. Tsoumeleka denies knowingly using the substance and has expressed doubts about the procedure. When the test

results were announced in January, she announced her immediate retirement from competition.

Nevertheless, last month, Greece's track and field federation handed her a two-year ban.

Tsoumeleka finished ninth in Beijing in the 20K walk in a personal best time of one hour 27 minutes 54 seconds.

Her positive test was one of many embarrassments last year for Greek athletes. Fani Halkia, the 2004 Olympic 400-metre hurdles champion, was dropped from the team in Beijing and expelled from the athletes' village after testing positive for an anabolic steroid.

Fourteen other Greek athletes, including 11 weightlifters, tested positive for the same substance before the Olympics.

# Mary Coustas' husband, George Betsis, wanted by FBI after taking son from Priscilla Dunstan

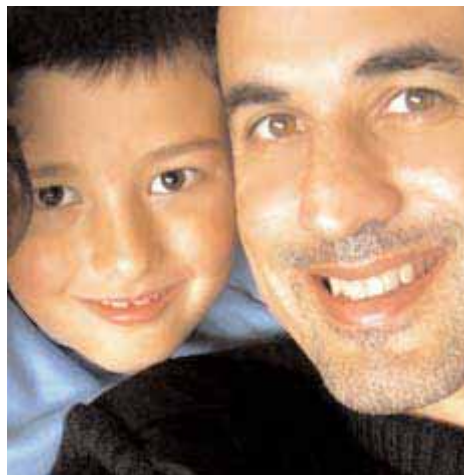
*A SYDNEY dad wanted by the FBI and the Los Angeles Police Department has told how he defied the law to spend time with the son he loves.*

Advertising executive George Betsis is at the centre of an LAPD child abduction alert after he was alleged to have picked up his son, Tomas, 10, from his school in the ritzy suburb of Pacific Palisades a week ago.

Tomas' mother, celebrity Australian "baby listener" Priscilla Dunstan who now lives in LA, alerted police when Tomas did not return home on April 3.

Mr Betsis yesterday told The Daily Telegraph from an undisclosed location in the US that he would spend "a few more days" with Tomas before returning him safely to his mother.

Mr Betsis, 49, who is now married to actress Mary Coustas, said he had been forced to take the drastic action because Ms Dunstan had refused to let him see his son.



*Tug of love ... Australian father George Betsis with his 10-year-old son Tomas*

"It's really simple. I am a desperate father here to rescue his son," Mr Betsis said. "It's a terrible situation fathers everywhere are put in. The press is my last resort. I want the truth known."

He said he had not seen his son since his ex-partner Ms Dunstan, from whom he separated six years ago, took

Tomas to live in LA seven months ago.

Ms Dunstan, world famous for interpreting what she calls the secret language of babies after she gave birth to Tomas, has appeared on US chat shows and was Oprah's baby expert.

Mr Betsis claimed his former partner had breached an agreement to let Tomas come back to Sydney for four months of the year, specifically at Christmas and Easter. Mr Betsis, who flew to LA specifically to see his son, said they were just having fun.

"We are having a great time, father and son finally seeing each other after seven months and having the time of their lives," he told The Daily Telegraph.

"We are playing football and going to the movies and I'm just taking care of my son. It is a travesty of justice that a father has to do this to see his child."

"My son is happy to see his father."

The pair were last seen at Tomas' primary school.

The FBI has placed alerts on airports and other points of departure to stop Mr Betsis taking Tomas out of the country but Mr Betsis said he had no intention of bringing him back to Australia yet, although he would like him to come back as soon as possible.

He said he had been in contact with the police.

"I'm going to make sure he's OK and I will hand him back to his mother in a few more days," he said.

He said his son missed watching his favourite Tigers play and the surf at Bondi.

"He is just a normal Aussie kid who used to spend half his time with his dad and did dad things like kicking a ball, wrestling and going to the footy," Mr Betsis said.

Ms Coustas, best known for performing her Australian-Greek character "Effie", said the past seven months had been very difficult for the family.

"They are so bonded those two," she said of Mr Betsis and her stepson Tomas, who calls her "Marebear".

"They are very very close and like any beautiful boy he needs the presence of his father and sadly his mother is doing everything she can not to let this happen," she said.

# Australian Senator apologized for doubting Armenian Genocide

Senator Alan Ferguson has apologized for calling the Armenian and Pontian-Greek Genocides "debatable." In a speech made to the Federal Parliament's upper house two weeks ago, Senator Ferguson brought into question the historical truth of the Armenian and Greek Genocides by stating they "cannot be accurately depicted" today.

The Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC Australia) and leaders of the Greek and Assyrian communities immediately presented objective academic material regarding the Armenian Genocide and demanded that Senator Ferguson apologize for casting doubt over the accuracy of these crimes against humanity, which have been condemned by the International Association of Genocide Scholars. Senator Ferguson subsequently reviewed his position and in his letter of apology, stated that he was "deeply sorry" as his speech was never intended to cause "distress". It continued: "I accept the findings of the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples in relation to the atrocities that were committed against the Armenians, Assyrians and Pontian Greeks..."

ANC Australia President, Varant Meguerditchian said the community accepts Senator Ferguson's apology and looks forward to establishing a strong working relationship with him. "We accept the Senator's remorse as genuine and believe that the Senator now realizes the great impact this crime against humanity has played in the lives of so many descendants of the Armenian and Pontian-Greek Genocides who now consider Australia their home," said Mr. Meguerditchian, ANC Australia reports.