

Killer bouncer tops list of Australian fugitives

HE has been living the high life in Greece for the past 10 years but James Dalamangas remains on the top of NSW's most wanted list.

Believed to be working as a bouncer in the red-light district in the north of Athens, the suspected double murderer is one of 11 most wanted people who are the subject of a new Crime Stoppers campaign called Operation Infra.

Police forces from NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia are taking part in the nationally co-ordinated appeal to find and arrest the fugitives, who include alleged killers, rapists and fraudsters. The reward money being offered for their capture totals almost \$500,000.

Crime Stoppers Australia chairman Peter Price said he believed the sums on offer would be added incentives due to the current global economic downturn.

On the list are two of NSW's most wanted - Dalamangas, 38, and Blacktown shopkeeper Christopher Llorca Cobarrabais, 34.

Dalamangas fled Australia using a false passport in the days following his second alleged killing - Bankstown father-of-two George Giannopolous who was stabbed in the kitchen of the Pariziana nightclub while trying to separate two fighting patrons in 1999.

There is a warrant out for Dalamangas' arrest for the murder and, while Greek authorities have agreed to requests to co-operate to find and arrest Dalamangas, NSW Police in February this year renewed requests to Greece to step up their efforts.

Dalamangas is also a suspect in the 1997 murder of part-time bouncer and concreter Tim Voukelatos, who was shot five times in his car at



Campsie. Despite a \$200,000 reward being offered, Dalamangas remains a fugitive.

His sister Toula said she thought about his whereabouts several times a week.

"I think: 'Where are you hiding and what scumbag is covering for you?'" she said.

"It would be the happiest day of my life the day he gets caught."

Lesser known but still on the most wanted list is Cobarrabais,

34, wanted over the alleged assault of a man after he became involved in an argument with a group of men in Blacktown on April 26, 2006.

During the fight, one man was allegedly punched in the torso and suffered two small puncture wounds. Cobarrabais was arrested and charged but allegedly fled and failed to appear in court.

Source: The Daily Telegraph



Rare glimpse into Mt. Athos

A new exhibition at the Petit Palais in Paris allows visitors (women included!) to peer into the reclusive world that is Mt. Athos. Treasures on display include various religious items such as icons and rare manuscripts. This is the first time that many of the objects have ever left Greece. Only once before, in Helsinki (2006), did a small number of the objects make a brief appearance.

The museum has gone all out to attract visitors. A katholicon, or central church of one of the monasteries, has been reconstructed for the exhibition. "Le Mont Athos et l'Empire Byzantin" runs through July 5th.



Debts put fire service readiness at risk

As firefighters battled a large blaze for the second day in Athens's coastal suburb of Ano Glyfada yesterday, sources revealed that lack of funding and bureaucracy have delayed the leasing of water-dropping helicopters as the fire season gets under way.

Around 200 firefighters struggled to contain a blaze that had started on the slopes of Mount Hymettus early Monday afternoon and spread toward the suburb of Ano Glyfada, threatening dozens of homes. The fire, which had eased on Monday night, picked up early yesterday as winds

became stronger. There had been no reports of any injuries or any properties damaged by late yesterday but firemen said the blaze had razed a large swath of forestland and was still burning. New fires in Koropi, southeastern Attica, and near the port of Lavrion, had been brought under partial control by late yesterday. A blaze that had broken out on Evia on Monday was also under control.

Meanwhile, sources told Kathimerini that authorities owed the two private firms Ericsson and Scorpion some 20 million euros for the leasing of water-dropping aircraft last year. Roughly 10

million euros of a 29.2-million-euro bill is said to have been paid earlier this month but the outstanding amount has reportedly resulted in just two of the 13 helicopters needed for this year being leased. A bureaucratic hitch in the paperwork between authorities and one of the firms reportedly created further delays. News about the delay emerged after criticism that only two helicopters were sent to tackle the Mount Hymettus blaze. A top fire service official yesterday insisted that the response was adequate, noting that the first fire engine was on the scene within five minutes of the blaze breaking out.