

French girl found after two years

A 4-year-old French girl, missing since October 2007 following her alleged abduction by her Greek father, was reunited with her mother in Athens yesterday morning, according to police, who also confirmed the arrest of the father. Penelope Orfanos has been returned to the care of her mother, Mathilde Anthouard, the head of the police squad for crimes involving minors, Giorgos Tzanakakis, told reporters, noting that mother and daughter were free to return to France. Reacting to the news, the French Foreign Ministry posted a message on

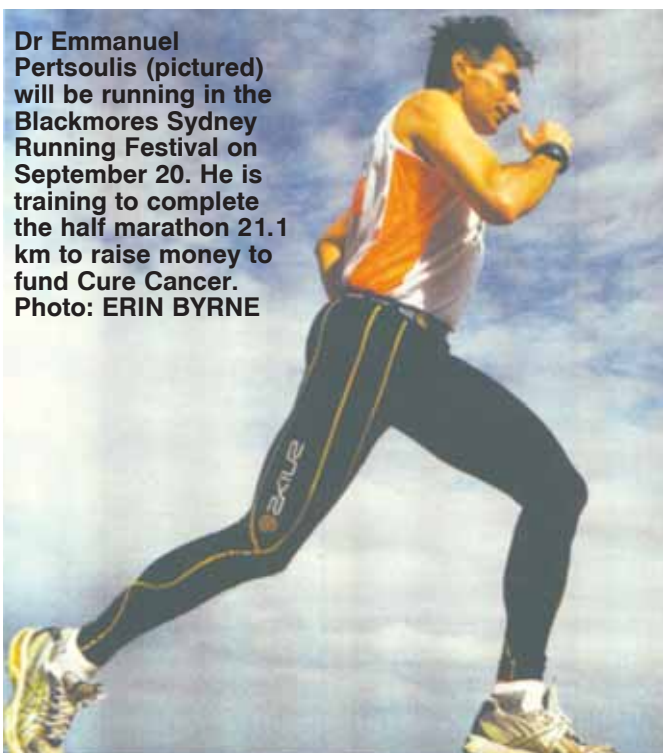
its website, expressing "emotion and relief." "With this painful affair at an end, we would like to express our extreme gratitude to Greek authorities for their efficiency and determination," the statement said, adding that the cooperation between police and judicial authorities in Greece and France has been excellent. In its statement, the ministry highlighted the additional importance of the girl being found, as she suffers from a serious genetic disease that requires regular treatment. Neither Greek nor French authorities provided any details about the girl's ill-

ness but she was said to be in good health. The girl's father, separated from her mother since 2006, was freed pending trial yesterday.

Meanwhile, police in Attica were dealing with another case of alleged abduction of a minor, this time by another minor. Officers said they had detained a 13-year-old girl from Megara, west of Athens, on charges of abducting a 2-year-old boy from the Aglaia Kyriakou Children's Hospital in Athens. The girl is alleged to have visited the hospital on Sunday, posing as a member of the child protection group Hamogelo tou

Paidiou (Child's Smile), and to have snatched the infant, recently transferred to the hospital after a prosecutor deemed he had not been safe in his home environment. The 13-year-old clearly regretted the act, visiting the Attica police headquarters early yesterday to return the infant. The girl, who is to face a prosecutor today, reportedly had visited the hospital the week before with an older woman currently being sought by police. The older woman allegedly had expressed an interest in intervening to arrange adoption for the 2-year-old boy.

Dr Emmanuel Pertsoulis (pictured) will be running in the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival on September 20. He is training to complete the half marathon 21.1 km to raise money to fund Cure Cancer. Photo: ERIN BYRNE



Justin's on a mission

ADVENTURE addict Justin Jones will have his work cut out for him when he takes on the Blackmores Marathon in two weeks time. Jones, who lives at Kensington, has been suffering from a bad ankle injury. "I only managed to start training three weeks ago", he said, admitting that he wasn't expecting to break his previous time of 3.30.02.

"I'd be happy with 3.45 this year but you never know, I might do really well on the day", he said.

Somewhat used to situations of adversity, Jones is one half of the kayaking team that crossed the Tasman early last year, being stuck in a coffin-like capsule for 62 days to make the 2200-kilometre crossing.

Along with his "ditch" crossing partner, James Castriassion, Jones is an ambassador for Diabetes Australia (NSW) and he'll be running for Diabetes Australia in the marathon. It is a charity close to his heart, as both his mother and grandmother have been sufferers.

Although he last ran the marathon in 2006, he's had

no shortage of training.

"I tend to do less structured events", he said.

"More things like where James and I will decide to go off... we'll run 100 kilometres through the bush in a 48-hour period".

The marathon is part of the Sydney Running Festival that will take place on Sunday, September 20.

There are four courses, all of which cross the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

They range from a four-kilometre fun run/walk (complete with random prizes) to the menacing 42-kilometre marathon.

Article from Southern Courier

DODGY TRADERS FLEECE ELDERLY CONSUMERS

Fair Trading Minister Virginia Judge is warning elderly consumers to be wary of dodgy traders masquerading as handymen. Ms Judge said Fair Trading had received reports this week that door-to-door traders have been targeting elderly consumers in Sydney's south west.

"There are reports these rogue traders are charging exorbitant prices for minor household chores like weeding or tree lopping," Ms Judge said.

"Anyone who preys on elderly consumers is beneath contempt," Ms Judge said. "These bogus traders have been representing themselves as legitimate handymen in a bid to make a quick buck.

"They offer residents cheap quotes to carry out jobs around the house and then, once the work is finished, demand significant amounts of money. "One victim received a quote for \$60 but was forced to pay \$600. In another case, a trader charged \$200 to weed a garden bed for one hour.

"There have also been reports that traders have taken elderly consumers to the bank to ensure they withdraw the cash. "This behaviour is despicable and I am amazed these people can lie straight in bed." Ms Judge said Fair Trading had received 146 complaints about dodgy door-to-door traders in the 2008/2009 financial year – up 17 from the previous year.

"As Minister for Fair Trading I am very concerned at the number of people who continue to flout the law," Ms Judge said.

"It is important that consumers use their commonsense if they are approached by a door-to-door trader.

"Consumers should always shop around and compare prices before agreeing to a deal. Use local, licensed tradespeople who have a good reputation. "By law, you have a five business-day cooling off period for sales of more than \$100 so traders can not demand any money from you for services supplied in that period." Any consumers who feel they have been harassed or stood over by a door-to-door salesperson should immediately contact the police or call Fair Trading on 13 32 20."

JORDAN ANTONOPOULOS Δικηγόροι - Συμβοηθαιογράφοι

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