

Grand Opening For The First Oncological Hospital For Children

The first oncological hospital for children in Greece is finally a dream come true. It was presented by Marianna V. Bardinogianni, the President of the 'Association of Friends of Children with Cancer' and Mr E. Papasavvas, President of Pedon hospital.

The hospital is built according to the best modern standards and consists of five buildings that are connected with each other and located on an area of 14930 sq. m.

The hospital has 138 beds, a bone marrow transplantation Unit, oncology and hematology nursing units, 24 hour hospital beds, five rooms of hospital beds for bone marrow transplants, a pain clinic, a radio-therapy u-

nit, a PET diagnostic section, a blood center, a clinic for treating outpatients, a school, two playgrounds, a hostel and an auditorium.

"We devoted ourselves to the projects and studies of this hospital with love and care towards the kids, our main concern was to have access to the most advanced methods of treatment, while in the mean time, protecting the children's sensitive soul, by creating rooms that resemble those of a fairytale", Mrs. Bardinogianni, noted in her speech.

The hospital will have a joined administration and operation with the Pedon Hospital 'Agia Sofia'. Mrs. Bardinogianni, said, "We will still be

present because we are in charge of the children's psychological support, plus that of the medicals staff training at Harvard and in other hospitals abroad. This way the doctors will be constantly updated in matters concerning children cancer."

Mr. Papasavvas revealed that Mrs. Bardinogianni's family covered a big part of the costs needed for the supply and installation of medical equipment.

"I hope this hospital puts a lot of smiles on children's faces and families, and I promise them that we will always be by their side," Mrs. Bardinogianni noted.

The hospital is estimated to start its operation by the end of 2010.



Spinalonga:

The island no one wants to remember

"Here, one feels that there is an invisible force that urges you to tell the story," says Thodoris Papadoulakis, the director of a television series just launched on a private Greek tv station based on British writer Victoria Hislop's best-seller "The Island" that recounts the fictional story of a family's ties to the now-unoccupied island of Spinalonga that served as a leper colony from 1903 to 1957.

"That must be how Victoria Hislop felt, who revives a stigmatised era in her book 'The Island'," adds Papadoulakis.

After 1957, when the last patient left the island, Spinalonga fell into abandonment, until it was re-discovered by tourists in recent years.

Spinalonga boasts its own glorious pages of history. Located off Lassithi prefecture in eastern Crete, the island's name has its roots in the Venetian period, coming from Spina Longa meaning "Long Thorn".

Due to its position, the island was fortified from its earliest years to protect the entranceway of the port of Ancient Olous. Significant fortifications as well as buildings of architectural interest today were built later by the Venetians.

BALI BOMBING 8th ANNIVERSARY MARKED

On the eighth anniversary of the Bali Bombings, Premier Kristina Keneally officially unveiled a new memorial wall at Dolphins Point in Coogee to commemorate the lives of the 43 people from NSW who died in the attacks.

Ms Keneally also announced a special and historic commemorative jersey signed by members of the Coogee Dolphins rugby league club and presented to former Premier Bob Carr shortly after the bombing will be displayed at NSW Parliament House as a permanent memorial.

(This was arranged in conjunction with Mr Carr and the NSW Parliament Speaker, Mr Richard Torbay.)

October 12 is also official NSW Terrorism and Homicide Victims Remembrance Day – a day to remember all victims of terrorism and senseless killings.

Government buildings will fly the flag at half mast, as the community remembers the victims of terrorism and violence, and the police and emergency staff caught up in these tragedies.

Ms Keneally was joined by the Member for Maroubra, Michael Daley MP and the Member for Coogee, Paul Pearce MP.

Premier Keneally paid tribute to the courage of the victims of the Bali attacks, saying the day of remembrance is a special time for the victims' families and friends to come together to remember their loved ones.

The new memorial, the Place of Reflection for NSW Bali Victims is the only public place in NSW which bears the names of all 43 victims from the State.

"Eight years ago we heard the shocking news that 202 people, including 88 Australians, were killed in the



bombings in Bali," Ms Keneally said.

"The tragic events of October 12, 2002 are written onto our hearts and our memories.

"This was an unparalleled Australian tragedy that is still felt deeply by the people of Sydney, especially those living in her southern beachside suburbs.

"Six men from the Coogee Dolphins rugby league club who were in Bali on an end-of-season trip were tragically

killed."

Mr Torbay said he was honoured to be able to showcase the jersey in NSW Parliament House.

"The jersey will hang in a prominent place in the NSW Parliament, as a permanent memorial to the Coogee Dolphins players who died in the bombings," Mr Torbay said.

"It will be a reminder of all those killed and injured in the terrorist attack – Bali is part of our national story that

should never be forgotten."

The jersey was presented to The Hon Bob Carr by the Coogee Dolphins in appreciation of the help and support provided by the NSW Government after the bombings.

Former NSW Premier, Bob Carr said: "I remember standing among more than four thousand people at Coogee to commemorate those Australians killed in the Bali bombings.

"I spoke of "how greatly we have lost, and how forever we will mourn these good people so savagely and so pointlessly torn from this community, these clubs, these friendships, this beautiful part of the world."

"Eight years on there is still grief. There is still pain. That will never go away. But today we celebrate their lives."

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SAINT HONOURED WITH HARBOUR BRIDGE DISPLAY

Premier Kristina Keneally and Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, will tonight join representatives of the Sisters of St Joseph to officially turn on a light display on the Sydney Harbour Bridge in honour of the canonisation of Australia's first saint – Mary MacKillop. The display will operate every night from sunset to midnight until Sunday, October 17.

A total of 29 projectors will beam five images of Mary MacKillop on the southern and northern pylons of the bridge.

They include some of Mary MacKillop's favourite quotes, including:

- "Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them cheerfully."
- "Do not be afraid. Love one another."
- "Let charity guide you in all your life."

This follows the NSW Government's announcement of \$250,000 in funding for Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery, the original resting place of Mary MacKillop.

While the remains of Mary MacKillop are now situated within the Mary MacKillop Chapel at North Sydney, Australia's immi-

nent first Saint was originally buried at Gore Hill in 1909, before her remains were relocated to their present site three years later.

"The recognition of Mary MacKillop as our first Australian saint is a source of pride for all Australians," Ms Keneally said.

"Mary MacKillop was a pioneer for social justice, egalitarianism, mateship and compassion that we now call 'the fair go'.

"Her spirit of charity and goodwill will be forever remembered through her official canonisation on Sunday."

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly will travel to Rome to represent the NSW Government at the canonisation.

"The burial site at Gore Hill, surrounded by her fellow Sisters of Saint Joseph, represents a significant historical site not just to the Australian Catholic community but the entire nation and it is important it is preserved and protected for future generations," Mr Kelly said.

"Earlier this year, I signed a licence agreement with the Catholic Cemeteries Board to allow it to undertake maintenance and im-

provements of the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery prior to the canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

"The Board is undertaking a number of projects to not only improve the appearance of the site but also public access and understanding of the site's significance.

"The work includes the installation of fencing, signage, lighting and security around the Sisters of St Joseph burial sites, enhancement of the memorial in that area, an increased paved area for visitors and the installation of a grave timeline and commemorative sculpture in this area."

Last week, the NSW Government announced property deeds signed by Mary MacKillop for land she purchased on behalf of her Order for convents, schools and orphanages can now be viewed on the Land and Property Management Authority's website www.lpma.nsw.gov.au.

The LPMA, in conjunction with the Sisters of St Joseph, has also produced a commemorative booklet on Mary MacKillop, detailing her life and work.