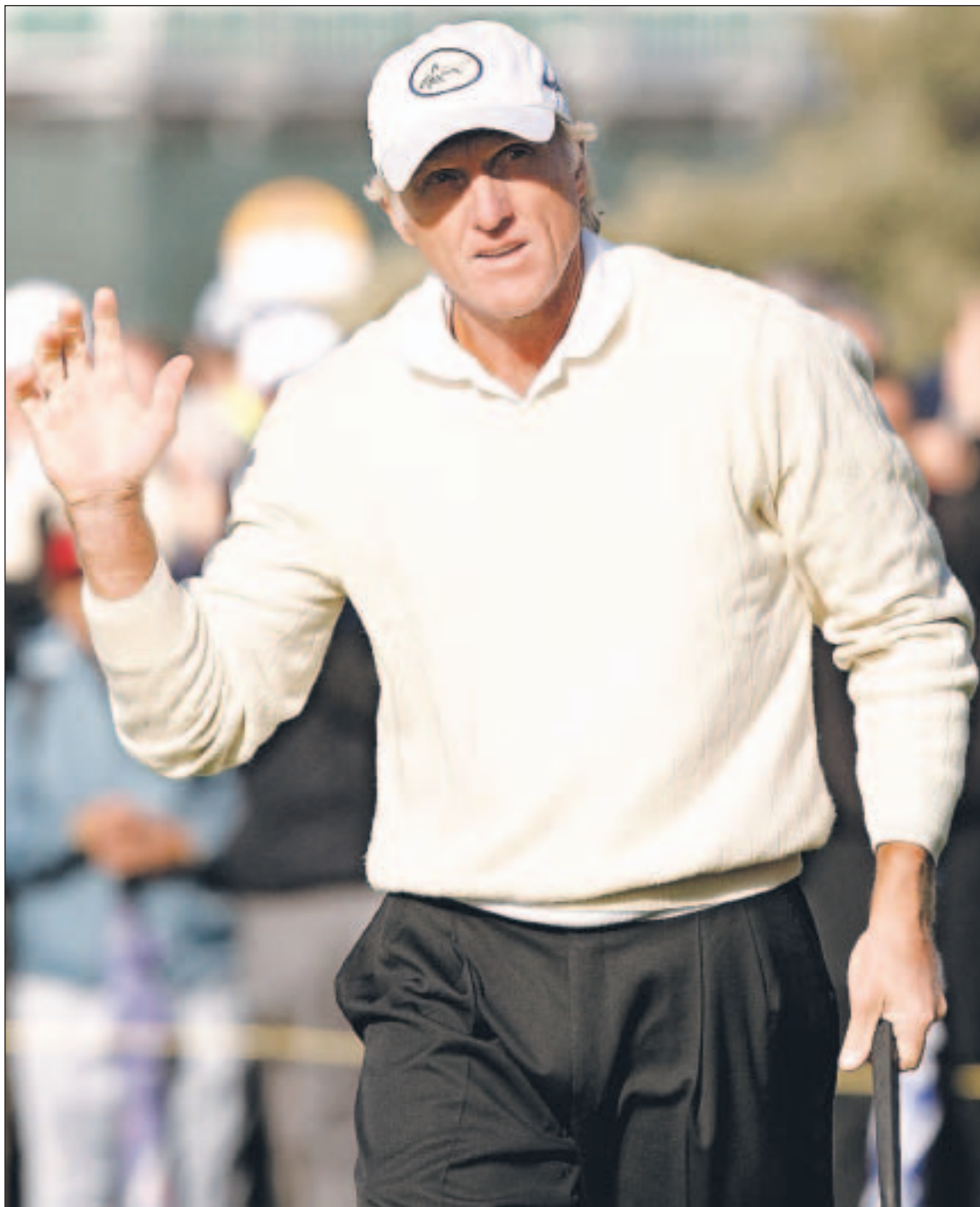


Herald Sun

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MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008

CITY: RAIN MAX: 12 PAGE 86 \$1.10*
(Incl. GST)



Love inspires reborn Shark

GREG Norman's fairytale run in the British Open was under way last night with his stunning comeback to golf and love story with new bride Chris Evert the talk of the tournament.

Reports: P4, Sport

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HOPE LIVES

Mary Bolling and Justin Vallejo

POPE Benedict urged hundreds of thousands of young pilgrims to become champions of a new age in a momentous climax to World Youth Day celebrations yesterday.

The 81-year-old pontiff also told the vast gathering crammed into Sydney's Randwick Racecourse his

Pope urges youth to change world

first visit to Australia had been an "unforgettable experience".

Pope Benedict challenged young people to shed the greed and cynicism of their time to create a new age of hope for the world.

He spoke of a "new age in which hope liberates us from the

shallowness, apathy and self-absorption which deaden our souls and poison our relationships".

"The world needs this renewal," he said in a homily beamed to hundreds of millions of television viewers worldwide.

"The Lord is asking you to be prophets of this new age, messen-

gers of his love, drawing people to the Father and building a future of hope for all humanity."

His message capped a triumphant first trip to Australia for the Pope, who flies back to Rome today after a landmark visit that included a papal apology to victims of church sexual abuse.

The Pope said Australia enjoyed a special place in the world.

"Here in Australia, this great south land of the Holy Spirit, all of us have had an unforgettable experience of the spirit's presence and power in the beauty of nature," he said.

Pilgrims from more than 170 nations attended the world youth celebrations in Sydney.

Reports & pictures: Pages 9-11

HACKETT'S WORLD RECORD

MY SECRET WEAPON

P5 SPORT



No.1 FOR FOOTY

37 PAGES OF SPORT

POPE'S TRIUMPH



Faces in the crowd: a young pilgrim from Italy spreads the message. Picture: JAMES ELLSBY



Masses of humanity: an aerial shot of Randwick racecourse shows a sea of pilgrims

World's youth flock



Secure: the popemobile is guarded. Picture: REUTERS

Mary Bolling
Sydney

IF patience is indeed a virtue, Pope Benedict XVI had better be returning to Australian shores soon.

There were a few hundred thousand folks at Randwick yesterday who probably deserved a sainthood.

The holy mob spent Saturday trudging 10km from North Sydney to the racecourse, then bundled into sleeping bags to spend the night out in single-digit temperatures — all to gain the blessing of the Pope, and gamble on eternal happiness in heaven.

With racecourse dust in their lungs, but a spiritual song still blasting in their hearts, thousands of pilgrims then moved towards the toilet blocks for morning ablutions — straight into the paths of thousands more, pouring into the course with their day-ticket for the Pope's Mass.

For the occasion, traditional home to vice, Randwick was dubbed "Southern Cross Precinct" — but traffic flow was more Southern Cross Station on Cup Day ... during a worker strike ... immediately after a bomb scare.

The result was human gridlock, with hour-long waits to get anywhere — but these meek took the wait like they were inheriting the earth.

"We've spent the whole



Holy night: Randwick racecourse became tent city. Picture: ANGELO SOULAS

week waiting for stuff to happen, waiting for lunch and for buses — but it's all been worth it, to get to see the Pope," said Californian pilgrim Katie Greeves.

And 400,000 miraculously melted into order as Pope Benedict began his popemobile lap of the racecourse, stopping to kiss a couple of babies, then to a giant shed-altar for Sunday Mass.

The pinnacle of a week without rain, with minimal pro-

tests, and featuring the euphoric reception of a generation Benedict had described as "wanting to forget God", the circuit was a victory lap for the Catholic Church.

And during the Mass, the Pope chalked the win up to the Holy Spirit, the third person of God in the Catholic mystery of the Holy Trinity.

"In Australia, this great southern land of the Holy Spirit, all of us have had an unforgettable experience," he said.

"The Holy Spirit never ceases to fill the church with life."

With the theme of the celebrations "Receive the Holy Spirit", hundreds of priests con-celebrating yesterday's Mass wore red and white garments depicting an Aboriginal art dove, and the Southern Cross.

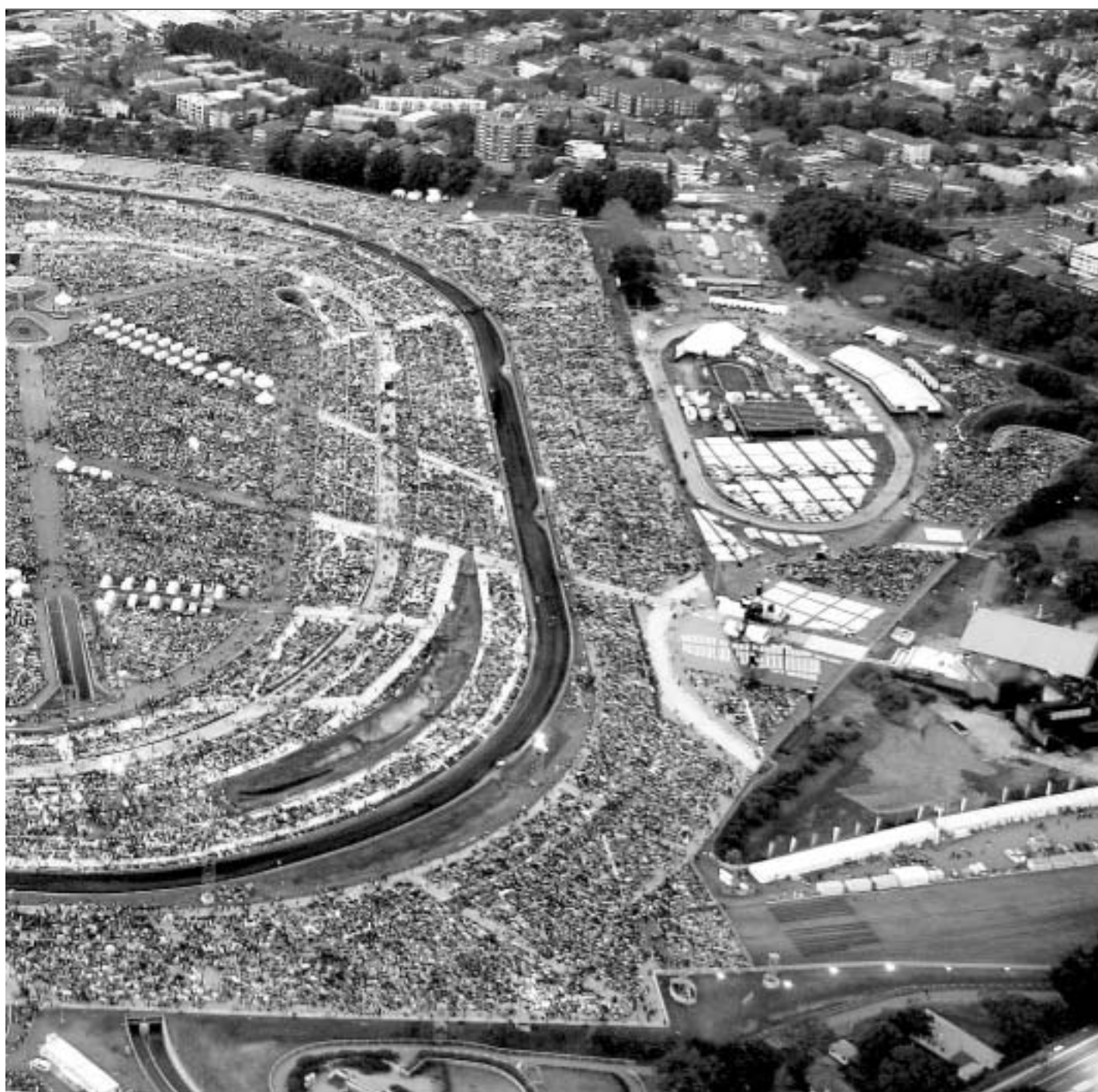
"Sunday best" for most of the crowd was what they'd woken up in — with a top-coat of dirt.



Light: US visitor Sarah Sanborn. Picture: ANGELO SOULAS.

F B 1 2 3 C M Y K DHS 21-JUL-2008 PAGE 10 FIRST

POPE'S TRIUMPH



gathered for Pope Benedict XVI's Youth Mass yesterday. Picture: JOHN GRAINGER



Personal devotion: a pilgrim embraces a statue of the Virgin Mary as she awaits the pontiff. Picture: AP

to the sacred turf



VIPs: East Timor's Jose Ramos Horta (left) and NSW Premier Morris Iemma (second from right). Picture: CRAIG GREENHILL

The ambulance service reported hundreds of flu cases since WYD events began — but for all those pilgrims seeking medical help, hundreds more were coughing and wheezing, but refusing to leave the racecourse.

Against a backdrop of Australian gums, the Pope began Mass with: "Young people, let me ask you a question.

"What will you leave for the next generation?"

"In the midst of the world that wants to forget God, are you using the gifts of the Holy Spirit?"

Arms spread, he appealed to the youth to be "prophets of this new age, messengers of His love".

And the crowds of young

prophets had already taken the appeal to heart, with the sign "free hugs" the most common sight among the free-loving pilgrims.

More traditional signs pointed to "Confession" at locations throughout the makeshift campground.

Volunteer spruikers offered passing pilgrims "eight priests, four languages, all day", and queues formed for the opportunity to repent and receive absolution and penance.

At the close of the Mass, Pope Benedict, who speaks seven languages, began preaching in Spanish, before changing to English to slowly announce: "I look forward to seeing you in three years' time for World Youth Day 2011,

which will take place in Madrid, Spain."

He broke into a wide grin as Spaniards erupted in euphoria, with seas of red and yellow flags taking up the chant "ole, ole, ole".

While the official soundtrack of WYD was Guy Sebastian's *Receive the Spirit*, among pilgrims DIY chanting proved much more popular.

Throughout the week, cries of "Viva il Papa" and "Benedetto" were joined by the new legacy of the Australian papal tribute — "Benny, Benny, Benny, Oi, Oi, Oi".

Sydney's Cardinal Pell decreed that Sin City had been transformed by WYD.

Across the road from Randwick, Doncaster Hotel staff

World Youth Day Picture Gallery
heraldsun.com.au

wearing T-shirts that promoted "The Doncaster — The Pope's Local" were offering "Pappy Hour", with \$3.30 schooners.

But after Mass yesterday, barmaid Anna said she had been surprised that more pilgrims had not taken the opportunity to feed their more human needs.

The drought of drinkers could have been because barricades meant already weary pilgrims had to walk a 5km circuit to get to the tantalisingly close tavern.

With pilgrim gridlock at all exits, even the quickest to leave were stuck in human traffic well beyond 2pm.

"Doesn't God know the footy's on?" wailed Victorian pilgrim James Darby.

And as the Sydney Swans, representatives of the newly holy city who share their colours with the visiting pontiff, beat the Blues, maybe there's evidence He does take an interest.



Faithful: Sen-Constable Gary Hill is blessed by the Pope.

Dying wish granted

A TERMINALLY ill NSW police officer has died just days after being blessed by Pope Benedict XVI.

Sen-Constable Gary Hill, 53, was taken by stretcher to meet the Pope at his northwest Sydney retreat on Wednesday.

During the visit, the Pope blessed Sen-Constable Hill and rosary beads for him.

"It was just a really wonderful time where His Holiness blessed Gary, one of our faithful servants of the community here in NSW... he has made Gary's day," NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione said after the meeting.

In a touching moment, the pontiff donned Sen-Constable Hill's police hat and reportedly kept it, thinking it was a gift.

Sen-Constable Hill died yesterday in a Lismore hospital.

The devout Catholic learned he had skin cancer in 2004, suffered a brain tumour in 2005 and a heart tumour in 2006.

He overcame the setbacks to return to work but was forced back into hospital last week after suffering brain seizures.

Richmond Local Area Commander Bruce Lyons said Sen-Constable Hill was a humble, dedicated officer whose dying wish was to meet the Pope.