

A who's who of success in the Cypriot diaspora

JAMES BOND'S latest onscreen nemesis in the recent *Quantum of Solace* just so happens to be a dark and dashing handsome Cypriot bloke who goes by the name of *Simon Kassianides*.

Guinness World Record holder as Britain's top-selling author of the 1990s, David Hessayon, is a man who remembers helping his watchmaker father keep his memories of Cyprus alive with tales of days gone by. And this is just the start of a long list of Greek Cypriots abroad who have made it big outside their homeland.

With the lives of approximately 2,000 Greek Cypriots living abroad profiled in a new book compiled by London Cypriot, Michael Yiakoumis, *Greek Cypriots Worldwide* is a new release that offers a snapshot of the successful Cypriot community abroad.

Following on from the success of *Greek Cypriots in the UK* published in 2006, this *Greek Cypriots Worldwide* includes details on the lives of high achievers within all sorts of professions; some have left their mark in politics and business, others in sports and the arts.

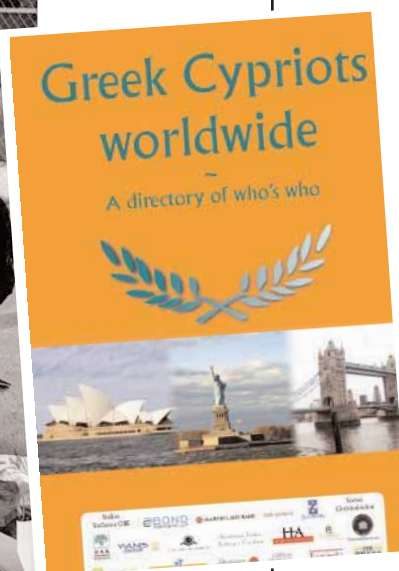
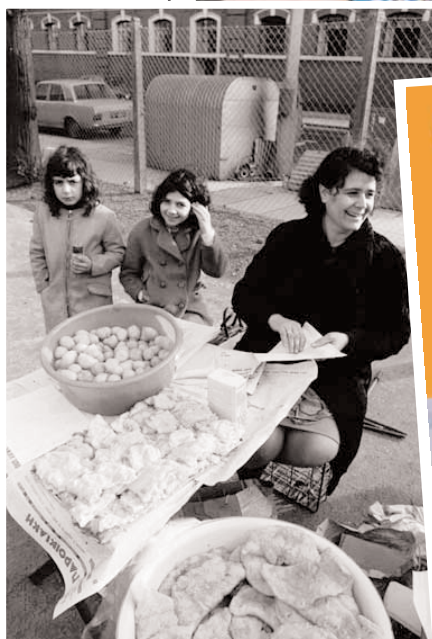
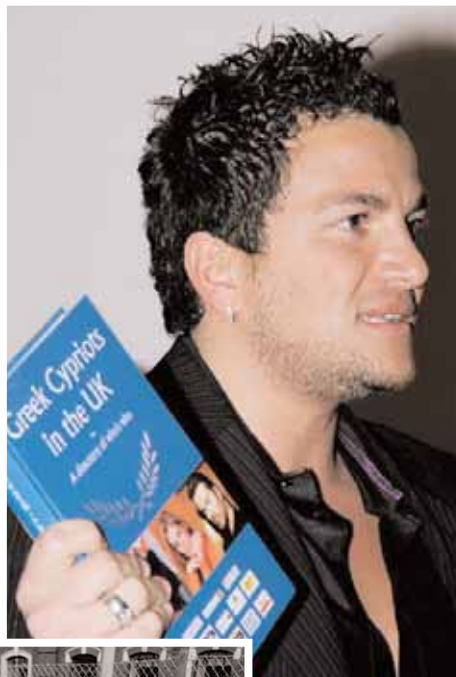
The 54-year-old author of the book currently living in London's Islington district is a former contributor to *Pariaki*, the newspaper for the Cypriot community in London. "I really wanted to see what Greek Cypriots have achieved outside Cyprus so I started off with the UK edition and it proved a big success," explains Yiakoumis.

"But then I realised there was a huge demand for a worldwide edition that couldn't be ignored. So I took up the project full time and now Cypriots all over the globe are very excited about the book – it's also become quite a useful networking tool."

There is an estimated 600,000 people in the Greek Cypriot diaspora, with the majority residing in the UK, US and Australia. The new book outlines what towns and villages each Cypriot originates from, with individual profiles accompanied by a picture.

It took Yiakoumis three years to complete the work as he jetted to all four corners of the globe to attend Cypriot festivals and meet prominent personalities. Names and profiles for the ambitious work also came flooding in by post and email.

"I was surprised to see just how many highly respected doctors there are,



Clement, is also a Cypriot.

There were also plenty of other surprises that made for brilliant new additions to the updated book. "I was really impressed by Stanley (Stellianos) Christodoulou, a world boxing referee who lives in South Africa. I couldn't believe he refereed one of the biggest ever fights between Marvin Hagler and Roberto Duran." Born in Johannesburg, Christodoulou's mother was from Paphos and his father from



Evrichou. Inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2004, he has been an international boxing referee for 44 years.

Other Cypriot sporting personalities include Ivan Gazides, chief executive of Arsenal Football Club.

The book also features household names such as singer George Michael and Peter Andre, easyJet founder and international entrepreneur Stelios Hadji-Ioannou, and clinical psychologist enjoying celebrity status, Linda Papadopoulou.

Most Cypriot women abroad have excelled in the field of media and communications with UK-based Jasmine Harman famous as the presenter of *Home in the Sun* and the US-based Marina Sirtis most noted for playing the half human/half Betazoid counselor Deanna Troi on the television and

film series, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

As similarities and contrasts between Greek Cypriot communities were drawn post research, Yiakoumis found that the sizeable Greek mainland communities in the US and Canada heavily influence the smaller Greek Cypriot communities providing them with a distinct Hellenic outlook.

In Australia, Britain and South Africa, however, the Cypriot communi-

ties have been large enough to sustain their own distinct identity without significant influence from the mainland Hellenic communities. The spirit is kept alive through Greek Cypriot festivals, community centres and churches.

Britain is home to the largest congregation of Greek Cypriots outside Cyprus with a community of 350,000. While Greek Cypriots in the UK started life in the clothing and catering trades in the 1950s, their children and grandchildren are mostly very well educated and are now flourishing in many professions.

"It's quite amazing when you think that most Cypriots left the country for economic reasons and were extremely sad to leave their homeland," says Yiakoumis. "All of us abroad have certainly come a long way since then."

Greek Cypriots Worldwide is available at all good bookshops island-wide for 25 pounds. More details about the book can be found online at www.greekcypriotsworldwide.com

especially heart surgeons," he says. "Then there are important politicians that I met along the way like the Governor of Florida, Charlie Christ."

Lord Adonis, meanwhile, is a member of the British cabinet, appointed Minister of State for Transport of 2008. Minister of Health in Canada, Tony

Greek Cypriots in Australia

Greek Cypriots first arrived in Australia in the 1850's, as gold prospectors. The majority settled in Victoria and established small businesses. More Cypriots arrived after the British take-over of Cyprus in 1878, many working their way to Australia as crewmen on board British ships.

Many Cypriots began to arrive in Australia after World War II, due to the violence and political instability facing Cypriots. The population of Cypriots living in Victoria increased from 169 in 1947 to 2,396 in 1954. After the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, many Cypriots migrated to Australia. The population of Cypriots living in Victoria almost doubled in size between 1971 and 1981. In more recent years Victoria is the most popular destination for Cyprus-born migrants to Australia, with 8,839 recorded in 2001. In Melbourne, Greek Cypriot migrants have mainly settled in the outer suburbs of Sunshine, Broadmeadows, Keilor and Whittlesea, largely working as tradespeople, labourers and professionals. Organisations such as the Cypriot Community of Melbourne and Victoria provide support to the community. They are now spread all over Australia we have large Cypriot communities in Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane again with their own community centres and organisations. There are the annual Cyprus wine festivals which take place in Melbourne and Sydney who receive thousands of visitors. The weather and culture is similar to their homeland but so far away it will take us a whole day to travel to Cyprus but still most of us still make the trip back to see our families and friends. The Greek Cypriots are now making paths and integrating into the Australian community we now have Cypriots in Government we have Senator Nick Xenophon, Minister Theo Theophanous. MP Michael Costa. We have the Chief Executive of Aussie Rules Football Andrew Demetriou you will also watch TV and see Cypriot names coming up on the credits. It is estimated there is 80,000 Cypriots born in Cyprus or of origin living there.

