



GAPA, in co-operation with the Pan Corinthian Association, Alexander the Great Greek Macedonian Club and the Greek Community Club presents a three part series of information sessions on Greek Australian Affairs.

Entry is free to all sessions. All welcome

**Speaker: Mr John M Tripidakis**

Greek attorney specializes in Estate Planning and Administration

2 Real-Estate in Greece

**Thursday 8 April 2010**

**Time: 7:00pm for 7:30pm.**

Venue: Pan-Corinthian Association House

Level 1, 11 Anglo Road, Campsie (Located near Campsie Railway Station, at Anzac Shopping Plaza with white tower clock, along Beamish Street)

The lecture will cover the following topics:

- Buying and Selling Greek Real Estate Property
- Power of Attorney
- Trespassing of property - Adverse possession
- Joint Ownership on Real Estate Property
- National Cadastral (Ktimatologio)
- Land Registration in Greece
- Purchase of Property in Border Territories
- Greek Real Estate Conveyance Tax
- Parental Gifts

## Peter Andre planning picture book

The 'Behind Closed Doors' singer – who has four-year-old son Junior, daughter Princess Tiaamii, two, and step-son Harvey, seven, with ex-wife Katie Price – has turned down an offer to write down a second instalment of his life story but is instead planning a pictorial compilation of intimate moments in his life.

He said: "I was offered a lot of money to write an autobiography but I turned it down because it isn't the right time for me to write a book, and besides, I did write one just a few years ago! Instead I am releasing a picture book which is more positive and shows all the happy times in my life, and, of course, my gorgeous kids."

Peter – who is of Greek-Cypriot decent – is delighted that his children are already learning to speak a second language and says they are doing well with their verbal skills. He said: "Princess and Junior have been having more Greek lessons. My cousin Miranda has been teaching them for a while now and I must say they are pretty good. "They can say, 'I love you, daddy', which is so sweet. Princess can count up to ten in Greek, which is pretty impressive for a two-and-a-half year old. Harvey has also been learning some words and has the best pronunciation. I would love them to learn more languages when they are older. They obviously have a talent for it."

## Greek used-car dealer Chris Orsaris also took 70G from neighbor for Porsche, didn't deliver title

A Queens used-car salesman has been accused of embezzling \$7 million to live out his incredibly cliched and extravagant fantasy lifestyle. Greek Chris Orsaris, 37, was given a 164-count indictment, and is accused of defrauding Major Automotive Co., a \$300 million-a-year business which currently has 14 NYC dealerships, including the Queens Major Chevrolet Long Island City, which Orsaris was general manager of, by funneling inflated sales commissions into his own pockets for his luxury needs.

Those luxuries included a \$5.5 million Trump World Tower apartment, a \$2.9 million Hamptons home, a \$2 million Florida condo, and a \$5 million Queens waterfront home; another former home of his, a pink mansion overlooking the Whitestone Bridge, was featured on the blog Queens Crap two years ago. He also owned an \$860,000 yacht proudly named "B LOWME" (and he filed a bogus claim that it was stolen!).

Federal officials also accuse Or-



Chris Orsaris (far right)

saris of hiring thugs and drug dealers to work as his bodyguards, chauffeurs and personal assistants, between 2004 and 2009, the Daily News reports. The NY Times interviewed him in 2008 for a story on watching out for shady used car dealers, referring to Orsaris as a dealer with a "respected practice":

Mr. Orsaris said that his industry is filled with bad apples, but that punitive fines do little to deter them. "Fines are nothing – you pay a fine, you're done, you're out," he said.

Instead, he said, his proposal for the department was "to be careful whom they give a license to and to do a thorough background check."

## Getting the feel for a place

The Ionian Islands and Epirus: A Cultural History By Jim Potts

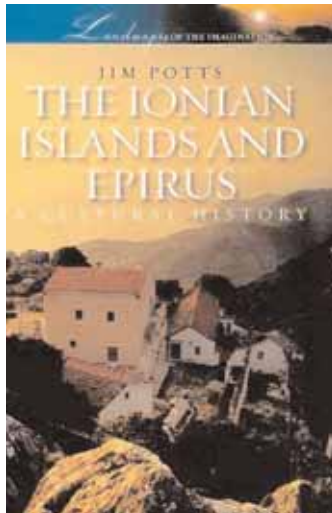
IF EVIDENCE is required that Greece can enchant, enthrall and engage, then Briton Jim Potts' book is just that.

Having made a home on Corfu, Potts is no expat rendering the challenges of living in Greece. Rather his latest book, *The Ionian Islands and Epirus: A Cultural History*, is a fascinating exploration of two regions not normally associated with each other, either geographically or historically: the Ionian Islands, which experienced Venetian and British rule until the 19th century, and Epirus, which became part of Greece in 1913.

Potts has used his time in Greece well and contrasts himself with some colonial-minded UK residents of Corfu who believe that they have some God-given right to live or retire to the island – because for them Corfu is, by virtue of 19th-century British rule over the Ionian Islands, a "Cornwall in the sun" where one does not need to learn Greek or explore the country's culture.

The Ionian Islands and Epirus takes a refreshing look at the islands and mountains of western Greece.

Potts peppers his writing with historical and literary references to the regions,



evidence of his own extensive reading of relevant texts in both Greek and English.

What he produces over the course of 280 pages is a wonderful and inspiring miscellany of all things Ionian and Epirot. Potts exposes the reader – who ideally is planning or undertaking a holiday or has taken up residence in the regions – to their rich corpus of poetry, prose and travel writing, be they of Greek or foreign hand.

This is a guide book in many ways, but one with a difference. Unlike the conventional kind, it doesn't signpost readers to the best eateries or cliched tourist attractions. Rather, it makes accessible a rich cultural repository to the discerning and cultured tourist – and

resident – who otherwise don't have the resources, linguistic or temporal, to explore the written word of and on the regions.

### Literary tour

The author doesn't just bring the reader on a near-physical journey through the region's geography, but on a literary tour of its written past.

But this is not just a compendium of what has been written on the Ionian Islands and Epirus, in this latest publication in UK publisher Signal Books' series "Landscapes of the Imagination".

Rather, the author has made judicious use of these writings, weaving it into a narrative that he skilfully directs.

Indeed, one of its most attractive aspects is its discursive style. Potts takes the reader through many of the questions – religious, cultural and historical among others – that he has found himself confronted with through his on-and-off presence in Corfu and the wider region – a journey that began in 1967, the first year of the military dictatorship in Greece.

Potts is keenly aware that one's imagination greatly influences how one perceives

a place, and in one chapter examines how different people in different eras were attracted to the Ionian Islands, all for their own reasons.

"Do we all see the same views and perceive the same landscapes when we stand on the same spot under similar conditions?" he asks, before explaining that this is rarely the case.

### Warts and all

Nor is it a beautified, touristic account. Potts deals with his subject warts and all. He levels criticism where it is due, such as the crass commercialisation of tourism in Corfu, expressed in the erection of concrete hotels in some of the most picturesque parts of the island, which in many parts is treated as a rubbish tip by inhabitants.

This little gem of a book will provide the discerning traveller with something grossly lacking from other tourist guides: a real cultural history with which he or she can contextualise the wonderful experience that is the Ionian Islands and Epirus.

The Ionian Islands and Epirus:

*A Cultural History*  
By Jim Potts, Signal,  
2010. 256pp. £12