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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

'No religion' tops religion question in last Census

Despite a scare campaign about Australia becoming a "Muslim country", those ticking "no religion" in the Census has now overtaken the number of Catholics.

It's the first time in Australia's history the number of people who claim "no religion" has overtaken Catholics.

The latest Census drop showed those ticking "no religion" rose from 22.6 per cent to 29.6 per cent — nearly double the 16 per cent in 2001.

Meanwhile, those identifying as Catholic dropped from 25.3 per cent to 22.6 per cent.

The number of Christians in total still made up 51 per cent of the population, but this is much less than the 88 per cent in 1966 and 74 per cent in 1991.

Islam (2.6 per cent) and Buddhism (2.4 per cent) and Hinduism (1.9) were the next most common religions reported.

Those reporting no religion increased noticeably from 19 per cent in 2006 to 30 per cent in 2016. The largest change was between 2011 and 2016, when an additional 2.2 million people reported having no religion.

Those who did not answer the religion question, which is a non-compulsory question in the Census, was 9.6 per cent, up slightly from 9.2

per cent in 2011.

The Atheist Foundation of Australia said it was time to stop pandering to religious minorities and to take religion out of politics. "This is an important milestone in our history. Those who marked down 'No religion' deserve much more recognition. We will be making our opinions known, and there's power in numbers", the foundation said.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE 2016 CENSUS

• There were 23,717,421 people in Australia on Census night, which included 23,401,892 people who usually live in Australia — an 8.8 per cent increase from 2011. More than 600,000 Australians were travelling overseas.

• 1.3 million new migrants have come to Australia since 2011, hailing from some of the 180 countries of birth recorded in the Census, with China (191,000) and India (163,000) being the most common countries of birth of new arrivals.

• Of all Australian residents, just more than a quarter of people (26 per cent) said they were born overseas, with England remaining the most common country of birth other than Australia. For the first time in our history, the majority of people born overseas are now from Asia, not Europe.

Cypriots take to the streets to condemn anniversary of T/Cypriot breakaway state

President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades strongly condemned the unilateral declaration of the Turkish Cypriot breakaway state of the north, 34 years ago.

Anastasiades said the action went against everything that had been previously agreed on.

Meanwhile in the north, the declaration of the so-called Turkish republic of northern Cyprus on November 15, 1983 had been celebrated with a military parade and Turkish fighter aircraft overflights.

"One illegality follows another," the president said. "The biggest one was the invasion, the next one was the declaration of the breakaway state."

Greek Cypriot pupils took to the streets last week to protest the anniversary. They descended on crossing points in Nicosia where they shouted anti-occupation slogans.

The Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also condemned

the 34th anniversary of the unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) in the north saying that it was a blatant violation of international law.

"Today's regrettable anniversary of the unilateral declaration of independence, announced by the Turkish Cypriots in Cyprus' occupied areas, is a stark reminder to the international community that an independent state, which is also a UN and EU member, remains under foreign military occupation," the Greek ministry said in a statement.

Authorities also condemned the violation of the Republic's airspace by Turkish warplanes which were participating in celebrations in the north.

According to the Civil Aviation's air traffic control, four Turkish warplanes violated Nicosia airspace during the "celebrations". The planes that arrived from Turkey flew over Kyrenia, the coast of Karpasia, Famagusta and over the parade



in northern Nicosia.

The planes had flown at very low altitude, an official said, as low as 500 feet over Morphou Bay, and circled twice over Nicosia.

The so called Turkish republic of Northern Cyprus is not recognised by any country of the world except Turkey.

Rare storm causes deadly floods in Greece

A "rare tropical-like storm" grew in the waters of the Mediterranean Sea last week and even developed an eye wall like a hurricane, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

The storm, named Numa by the Free University of Berlin's Institute of Meteorology, had both tropical and subtropical characteristics, making it a hybrid storm. Tropical systems usually can't get going in the Mediterranean because the sea is fairly shallow and there isn't a lot of open water for storms to build up strength.

Though these storms are often called "medicane," few actually reach hurricane strength, Bob Henson, a meteorologist at forecaster Weather Underground, wrote in a blog post. But their low pressure allows them to take on tropical characteristics like a symmetrical structure and a small core of warm air, Henson said.

As ferocious as Numa looked, it formed after devastating flooding swept across Greece, killing at least 21.

Dual celebration at the Adelaide Cathedral's Name Day

Members of the Executive Council as well as hundreds of the Community's members attended a two-day event that marked the name day celebrations for Adelaide's first Greek Orthodox Church, the cathedral of Archangels Michael & Gabriel on Franklin Street, on Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 November 2017.

According to a statement to the Greek Tribune by GOCSA's General Secretary Mr Dimitri Dimopoulos, this year's Feast of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel "Taxiarchis" coincided with the 80th Anniversary of the Greek Women's Society, the Society behind the construction of the original Taxiarchis church back in 1937, at the same spot where the Cathedral is standing today.

To celebrate this special event and to acknowledge the strong bond between the Cathedral and the Society, a commemorative bench was unveiled at the

church's courtyard as part of its Name Day celebrations. During the unveiling ceremony, the President of the Society Mrs Roula Soumas said it was only a small gesture to thank and honour those ladies who started the Society in the 1930s and who managed to get the first Greek Orthodox church stand in South Australian soil.

"We are very touched to see that after 80 years our Society has managed to maintain through this church our religion and faith," she said.

It was a touching moment when Mrs Mary Mangos, daughter of the late Katholiki Anastasas, the woman who established the Greek Women's Society, unveiled the bench on behalf of the past and present members of the society, who worked hard for the betterment of the lives of many Greeks who migrated to Australia at the beginning and middle of the century. The Greek

Women's Society Taxiarchis, was established in 1937 with the initial purpose of fundraising for the building of the original Church of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel in Adelaide, the first Greek Orthodox Church of Adelaide as well as supporting many other philanthropic causes.

"Who would have thought back in 1937 that eight decades later, we would be unveiling this bench at the very same place our first church was built," Mrs Soumas said.

In the meantime, Tuesday night Bishop of Adelaide Chrysostomos along with the rest of the Community's clergy conducted the Great Celebrative Evening Vesper in the presence of the Executive Council members as well as dozens of parishioners.

The Vesper was followed by the holy sacrament of the Unction. Meanwhile, the ladies from the Cathedral's fellowship had arrived earlier at the church

in order to decorate the interior as well as the holy icon of the Archangels. The Evening Vesper was followed by the traditional making of honey puffs across the road at Olympic Hall, prepared by the ladies of the Cathedral's Fellowship.

The two-day event continued on Wednesday morning as hundreds of parishioners came to the Cathedral to attend the Great Divine Liturgy. The Hon Michael Atkinson, Member for Croydon and Mr Bill Gonis OAM, President of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA were amongst the official guests that attended the morning service. The Divine Liturgy concluded with the traditional procession of the holy icon around the church. The morning service was followed by lunch at Olympic Hall featuring all the favourite grilled delicacies whereas the ladies prepared the popular honey puffs 'loukoumades'.

Defence to spend \$659 million at Edinburgh base

Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Marise Payne and Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP announced \$659 million in funding at RAAF Base Edinburgh to support the cutting edge anti-submarine and surveillance plane, the P-8A Poseidon.

Defence will invest \$250 million in a Boeing training simulator system at RAAF Base Edinburgh, and \$409 million to improve base facilities for full operations, estimated for completion by early 2019.

Minister Pyne said the announcement of the surveillance plane and technology systems will create jobs and support the local economy as part of a broader, long term plan to grow the operations of Edinburgh

airbase. Minister Payne said the high-tech training systems will enable the Royal Australian Air Force to better prepare pilots and Defence force personnel for real-life scenarios.

"The Poseidon aircraft will provide strong and valuable support to Australia's maritime security well into the future. The simulator will be a part of a broader investment in the at RAAF Edinburgh to make it 'Poseidon ready' by extending the runway and building new state of the art maintenance hangers and facilities" Minister Payne said.

Both Ministers thanked Defence's program partners, the United States Navy and Boeing, on the significant achievement.

Successful finale for Odyssey

The 12th Odyssey Festival came to a close this year by showcasing the powerful cultures of Pontus and Crete, on Saturday 28 October at Elder Hall in a truly inspiring show called "Mazi" featuring the music, rhythm and colours of the two regions.

The stage at the packed-out Elder Hall was literally shaking for two hours as the talent of the Community's Dance Academy and the Pyrrhic Cultural Association took over, giving a dance spectacle that had no room for comparison.

At the same time, the distinct sound of the Pontian and Cretan lyre was strummed by talented musicians and was visually expressed on stage in a swirl of colourful costumes and dazzling performing footwork.

As the eyes were dazzled by the colourful costumes and the powerful dancing, the heart beat was coinciding with the pounding of the daouli, making

Community Life



Pontus and Crete together at the Elder Hall for the Odyssey festival

the show the ultimate cultural treat for the senses.

"The Odyssey finale could not have come to a better close with the magnificent musicians and dancers from Crete and Ponto presenting us their unique musical styles and dance at the

Elder Hall," said the President of the Community Mr Bill Gonis.

"Tonight, is an opportunity for the Greek Orthodox Community of SA to share these unique cultures with all of you through music and dance," he said.

The two-hour dance and

music spectacle comprised two parts and with the participation of over 60 dancers and 12 musicians from South Australia as well as from interstate who performed around 50 different dance routines and corresponding songs.

"The goal for putting 'Mazi' together was to create an artistic feast for the eyes, a delight for the ears but most importantly a source of enrichment for the soul," said Dance teacher Yiannis Oikonomou from the Community's Dance Academy.

Many members of the audience congratulated the Greek Orthodox Community for the show saying it went beyond their expectations.

The Dance Academy coordinator Mrs Hellas Lucas thanked the dancers of the Academy and the Pyrrhic Cultural Association of S.A as well as the musicians for the hard work they put in, emphasising the fact that this was all done in the name of maintaining the Hellenic national identity and culture.

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

ABN: 52366840467

Correspondence to: The Editor,
BOX 3070, RENMARK,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 5341

Phone: 0408 865004

Website: www.greektribune.com.au

E-mail: greektribune@riverland.net.au

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RIGHT: The Greek Orthodox Community of SA (GOCSA) paid tribute to "OXI" Day on Sunday 29 October 2017, in remembrance of the historic day of the 28th October 1940, when Greece managed to repel a much more powerful Italian army at the start of the second world war. In the photo, taken inside the Cathedral of Archangels Michael and Gabriel, are amongst others, the Governor of SA Hieu Van Le, GOCSA President Bill Gonis, the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Martin Haese, David Pisoni MP, Rachel Sanderson MP, Chief Justice Chris Kourakis, ALP candidate for Adelaide Jo Chapley and the President of the Cyprus Community Andrew Evdokiou.



PHOTOS: A wreath laying ceremony took place at the cenotaph at the front of the Archangels Cathedral to mark the historic day of 28th October 1940. A large number of representatives of Australian authorities, official guests and many leaders of Greek community associations laid wreaths at the cenotaph in memory of the heroes who fought against fascism in the second world war.



RIGHT: Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone with Business SA Executive Director Membership Engagement Paul Shaw and Small Business Commissioner John Chapman. The photo was taken at the Business SA Regional Voice Networking Event hosted by the Riverland West Chamber of Commerce at the Waikerie Hotel last week. Guest Speakers on the night were: *Paul Shaw, Business SA Executive Director Membership Engagement *Jodie Bischoff, EML Member Benefits and Business Partnerships Manager *John Chapman, Small Business Commissioner.



ASBESTOS Awareness Campaign

Dear Editor,
Aussies are besotted with renovating. We're infatuated with DIY lifestyle programs and the plethora of decorator products designed to excite the renovator in us. But what happens when we ignore the risks and don't take the warnings about asbestos seriously? We could be risking our lives and the lives of our loved ones if deadly asbestos fibres are inhaled.

Asbestos-related diseases are not a thing of the past. Every 14 hours, 1 Australian loses their life to mesothelioma. Every 13 hours another 13 families receive the tragic news that a loved one has the disease that will take their life, usually within months.

All too often I've heard people say that they don't worry about the warnings, that they don't think it will affect them, that they're bullet-proof when it comes to asbestos. Well, with one-in-every-three homes containing asbestos in some form or another, homeowners and tradies could be risking their lives and the lives of families (even their kids) if they don't take the warnings seriously.

Asbestos could be lurking in any home

built or renovated before 1987 including brick, weatherboard, clad and fibro homes. Asbestos was used in the manufacture of hundreds of products and if these products are disturbed during renovations, that's when fibres can be inhaled and can kill.

Death from asbestos is not a thing of the past. While we don't know how many fibres it takes, what we do know is that the more fibres inhaled, the greater the risk to our health. Today, asbestos remains one of the greatest health threats to families and tradespeople who disturb asbestos during renovations and maintenance.

We must stop the ongoing tragic loss of Australian lives. Every Australian needs to know that when it comes to asbestos, they've got to go slow, because asbestos is a NO GO! Visit asbestosawareness.com.au to learn what you need to know!

Please see <https://asbestosawareness.com/v/media-releases-for-media-kit-for-more-information>.

John Jarratt
Ambassador,
Asbestos Awareness
Month Campaign

Aussie dollars at centre of scandal in Lesbos

A scandal has erupted on the island of Lesbos, Greece, involving \$150,000 Australian dollars.

According to reports by the Lesbos newspaper "Embros", the Greek Archdiocese in Australia conducted a collection at their parish churches last July and raised a total of \$150,000 which, as pointed out in the Archbishop's circular, was destined for the victims of a powerful earthquake that hit the Greek island on 12 June 2017, including local homeless, migrants and refugees.

Embros newspaper

claims that six months later, the money is still withheld by the local Greek Metropolitan of Lesbos who refuses to say what happened to the money.

Lesvos Mayor Dimitris Vounatsos, said however, that he spoke to Metropolitan Iakovos who informed him that the donated amount will be spent for repairs to 23 churches damaged by the quake.

Local community representative Kostas Stavrinou, appealed to the Holy Synod of Greece to intervene and ensure that the money goes to the rightful beneficiaries.

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SA COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, a financial counsellor can provide information and support, and can advocate on your behalf in a range of situations. For example, a financial counsellor can:

- assist you with budgeting and financial management
- inform you of your consumer rights
- give advice about options for managing debt
- negotiate repayment arrangements with any creditors
- help you deal with banks and other lenders
- help you deal with an insurance company
- check with Centrelink payments and state government concessions you may be eligible for
- help you lodge a complaint with an ombudsman.

The Financial Counselling Hotline 1800 007 007 can put you in touch with a free and independent financial counsellor.

If you call the free Financial Counselling Hotline, you will automatically be transferred to the South Australian service and put in touch with a local financial counsellor. Financial counsellors are based in community organisations.

The South Australian Financial Counsellors Association has an online service to help find a financial counsellor at www.safca.org.au/get-help/find-a-financial-counsellor

(Source: KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS, a Guide to the Rights of Older South Australians, Government of South Australia, SA Health)

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HUGE BOOST FOR STATE'S ECONOMY Chinese recognition for Riverland's precious Pest Free Area

In a huge boost for the State's Riverland community, the Chinese Government has formally recognised the region as a Pest Free Area for all horticulture commodities from the Riverland.

The announcement comes years after the State Government first held meetings with Chinese officials.

Produce from the Riverland can now be shipped direct to China without a treatment for fruit fly, which will reduce costs and delays for producers and exporters across the supply chain.

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister Leon Bignell has led the charge for South Australia's producers, meeting with Chinese officials in Beijing, Shanghai, Qingdao and Guangzhou to discuss formal recognition of the Riverland's Pest Free status.

The case was reinforced again in August this year during a meeting with the Australian Government's primary industry expert in Beijing – the Minister Counsellor Agriculture (North Asia), from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

The Riverland's formal recognition as a Pest Free Area will provide new expansion opportunities for the region's horticultural industry, resulting in more jobs for South Australians.

This new market access agreement between the Australian and Chinese governments was reached in Sydney on 9 November 2017.

The Chinese recognition follows on from Indonesian recognition of the Riverland as a Pest Free Area in December 2016 and China's recognition of the Riverland in May last year for the export of nectarines. Other

export markets recognising the Riverland Pest Free Area include the United States, Thailand, Japan and New Zealand.

The South Australian citrus industry is the main benefactor of the Riverland's pest free status, exporting \$102 million worth of citrus in 2015-16, up from \$71 million in 2014-15. In 2016-17 South Australian citrus exports to China were valued at \$9.1 million.

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister Leon Bignell (pictured right) said the agreement is outstanding news for the Riverland and will be instrumental in opening up further export opportunities for the region.

"This is something we have been working towards for some time and I have met with the Chinese authorities on numerous occasions to discuss extending the protocol applied



to nectarines from the Riverland and other summer fruits and stone fruits", he said.

The State Government spends \$5 million a year on maintaining and promoting our fruit fly free status. It is not always easy, but it is certainly worth the effort to gain valuable new market access.