



Turkish National Day

October 29, 2007



Advertising Feature

President Abdullah Gul of Turkey sends a special message on an auspicious day

By **Abdullah Gul**
President
The Republic of Turkey

MEMBERS of the Australian Turkish community, my fellow citizens, friends of Turkey and the Turkish people, we are proud and delighted to celebrate the 84th anniversary of the Proclamation of the Turkish Republic.

Although I can not be there with you on this occasion I am pleased to be able to convey my sentiments.

I would like to underline that I share your excitement and enthusiasm on this important day, which constitutes one of the defining moments of history for the Turkish nation.

On this auspicious day, I would like to reiterate my admiration and gratitude to the founder of the republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, as well as to those statesmen who have selflessly laboured for the benefit of the Turkish nation and spared no effort in elevating the republic, providing its people with a commendable and contemporary way of life.

Those of you who have migrated to Australia 40 years ago have successfully integrated into the Australian society and are now a robust, successful and dynamic part of the community.

Thus, the variety of events that are organised in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Turkish migration to Australia are a testimony to your accomplishments.

We are delighted by the success of the Turkish community in Australia. It is also rewarding to see that they have become an integral part of the Australian way of life.

We are proud and happy to see their endeavors to be successful and prominent in political, cultural, business and social life.

' The mutual respect of Turks and the Anzacs enabled the Turkish Republic to establish the core of friendship and cooperation with its former foes. '

We believe that the new generations of Australians of Turkish heritage contribute to the friendly relations between our countries and constitute a strong and stable link that brings Turkey and Australia even closer.

The foundations of this strong bond were laid in 1915 during the Gallipoli campaign. The mutual respect of Turks and the Anzacs enabled the Turkish Republic to establish the core of friendship and cooperation with its former foes.



Proud: Turkish President Abdullah Gul in Ankara.

The Anzacs, despite having a different cultural background, soon realised the commonalities with their Turkish adversaries and bonded with the Turks who carried no hatred but were just defending their homeland.

The unique friendship we enjoy today emanates not only from a mutual respect born out of a terrible conflict of our ancestors, but rather is based on friendship and compassion cultivated in an environment of peace and cooperation.

An important role falls upon the members of the Turkish Australian community in fostering relations between our nations and promoting international awareness of our common values.

I am confident that the 150,000 strong Australians of Turkish origins will fulfil this important mission.

There are around 5 million Turks and foreign nationals of Turkish origin living abroad.

Among those, Australians of Turkish origin have a significant and respected place.

We see each and every member of the Turkish Australian community as our voluntary representatives while keeping vital links with their homeland.

To my fellow citizens who have chosen to live in this outstanding and welcoming country, integration requires mutual effort.

For it to be successful, migrants have to feel included and supported through programs for creating harmony. Thus, I would like to take this opportunity to express my satisfaction to our Australian friends for embracing the Turkish community and providing them with equal opportunities.

With these sentiments, I would once more like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and salutations to Australia's Turkish community.

Local community joins Turkish ambassador in celebrating his country's national day

By **Murat N. Ersavci**
Ambassador
The Republic of Turkey

TODAY, the Turkish nation, the members of the Turkish community and our Australian friends celebrate the 84th anniversary of the Proclamation of the Turkish Republic.

The accomplishments of the republic, established under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk 84 years ago, have become a source of inspiration for many leaders and peoples around the world.

As an acceding state to the European Union, we take pride in our democracy and our secular way of life.

This year also marks the 40th anniversary of Turkish migration to Australia, which represents a great opportunity to celebrate the broad-ranging political, economic, social, cultural, and historic ties that bring Turkey and Australia together.

Today, the numbers of Turks who call Australia their home are estimated to be around 150,000.

We are immensely proud of their successful integration and the significant contributions they make to Australia's social, cultural and economic development.

It is heartening to observe that the members of the Turkish community are becoming more and more influential in the decision-making mechanisms.

It is also pleasing to see the solidarity among members of the Turkish community.

I appreciate their maturity in accepting the differences of the individual and uniting around common goals for the good of future generations.

I extend our profound appreciation to Australia for embracing and providing opportunities to the Turkish community.

Australians of Turkish origin today are one of the most successfully integrated groups into the Australian way of life. This should not come as a surprise because Turkey, playing a strategic role at the crossroads of different regions



Involved: Ambassador Murat Ersavci and supports the efforts of Australians and Turks to further their relationship. Photo: Holly Treadaway

and continents, helps to bridge the gap between diverse cultures and religions.

Turkey and Australia share much in common.

Although oceans apart, as societies based on democratic values, secularism and the rule of law, our countries have similar views on many international issues.

Each of our countries offer the other a valuable insight into their part of the world, and a natural

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partnership for cooperation in meeting today's global strategic, economic, and political challenges, as well as in the global

fight against the grave danger of terrorism.

As has been the case during the last 84 years, Turkey will continue

to be a strong and vibrant country, constantly evolving and changing the lives of its citizens for the better.

The Turkish people have come a long way under adverse and challenging conditions in a difficult neighbourhood.

I would like to express my best wishes on the occasion of the 84th anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey and congratulate Turkish Australians and all our Australian friends.

Useful facts about Turkey

- **Population:** 71 million
- **Age structure:** 0-14 years: 24.9 per cent, 15-64 years: 68.1 per cent, 65 years and over: 6.9 per cent
- **Median age:** 28.6 years
- **Population growth rate:** 1.04 per cent
- **Life expectancy:** 72.88 years
- **Religions:** Muslim 99.8 per cent, other 0.2 per cent
- **Literacy:** 87.4 per cent
- **Government:** parliamentary republic

- **Capital:** Ankara
- **Voting Age:** 18
- **Flag:** White star and crescent on a red background.
- **Gross Domestic Product:** \$640.4 billion
- **National drink:** Raki

Crossroads: Turkey has traditionally been one of the most cosmopolitan countries in the world and this is reflected in its art and culture.

