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

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

By Murat N. Ersavci
Full-time Correspondent

MEMBERS of the Australian Turkish community, our fellow citizens, friends of Turkey and the Turkish people, we are proud and delighted to celebrate the glorious National Day of the Republic of Turkey.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Turkish migration to Australia this year, we reflect on the important role played by the Turkish community in fostering relations between our countries and promoting international understanding and friendship. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of Turkish migration to Australia, which represents a significant milestone in the history of our relationship.

Today, the Turkish community in Australia is estimated to be around 150,000, and their successful integration and contribution to Australian society and culture is a source of pride for all Australians.

We believe that the new generations of Australians of Turkish origin are the future of our relationship and that they will continue to contribute to our shared values of democracy, diversity and respect for human rights.

The unique friendship we enjoy today is the result of the mutual respect and admiration that our nations have for each other. This is reflected in our art, culture, history and way of life.

We are pleased to celebrate this occasion with you and to highlight the important role that the Turkish community plays in our relationship.

**Useful facts about Turkey**

- **Population**: 77 million
- **Capital**: Ankara
- **Largest city**: Istanbul
- **Official language**: Turkish
- **Religion**: Majority Muslim, with significant Christian and Jewish minorities
- **Flag**: White star and crescent on a red background
- **Gross Domestic Product**: $640.4 billion
- **Voting Age**: 18 years
- **Crossword**: Turkey has traditionally been one of the most important countries in the world and this is reflected in its art and culture.
President Abdullah Gul of Turkey sends a special message on an auspicious day

By Abdullah Gul
President of Turkey

MEMBERS of the Australian Turkish community, my fellow citizens, friends of Turkey and the Turkish people, we are pleased and delighted to note that this year marks the 84th anniversary of the Proclamation of the Turkish Republic.

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

On this auspicious day, I would like to extend my admiration and gratitude to the founders of the republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, as well as to the Turkish people who have selflessly laboured for the benefit of the Turkish nation and spared no effort in elevating the Turkish nation and providing their successful integration and providing opportunities to the Turkish nation.

The Anzacs, despite having a different cultural background, were unified with the communality with their Turkish adversaries and bound with the Turks who carried no hatred but were just defending their homeland. Their steadfastness and courage were an example for future generations. It emanates not only from a mutual respect born out of a terrible conflict of our ancestors, but rather it is based on friendship and compassion cultivated in an environment of peace and cooperation. An example of these kinds exists in the productive programs for creating harmony. Thus, I would like to underline that Turkey and Australia share the same values. Although oceans apart, as nations based on democratic values, secularism and the rule of law, our countries have similar views on many international issues.

The Turkish people have come a long way under adverse and challenging conditions in a difficult neighborhood. We are immensely proud of the significant contributions they make to Australia’s social, cultural, and political environment of peace and cooperation.

The Anzac spirit, playing a strategic role at the crossroads of different regions and continents, helps to bridge the gap between diverse cultures and religions.

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

For it to be successful, migrants have to be able to convey their successful integration and providing opportunities to the Turkish community. What matters is awareness of our common values.

We believe that the new generations of Australians of Turkish heritage constitute the third generation of the historical relations between our countries. Turkey and Australia have a strong and lasting link that brings Turkey and Australia closer to each other.

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

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By Murat N. Ersavci
The Republic of Turkey

Today, the Turkish nation, 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 Ataturk, 84 years ago, have become a source of inspiration for many citizens in the world.

As an ascending state to the European Union, we take pride in our democracy and our secular government.

This year also marks the 40th anniversary of Turkish migration to Australia, which represents a great opportunity to strengthen the broad-ranging political, economic, social, cultural, and human rights cooperation between our two countries.

Today, the numbers of Turks who call Australia their home are estimated to be around 130,000.

We are delighted by the success of the Turkish community here, and their successful integration into the Australian society and are more like to extend our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 84th anniversary of the Proclamation of the Turkish Republic.

Ambassador Murat Ersavci and supports the efforts of Australians and Turks to further their relationship.

Photo: Holly Treadaway

Useful facts about Turkey

- Population: 77 million
- Life expectancy: 78 years
- Men: 35.2 years, women: 39.7 years
- National holidays: Republic Day, April 23; National Sovereignty and Children’s Day, May 19; Victory and Peace Day, August 30
- Official language: Turkish
- Capital: Ankara
- National sport: Basketball
- National drink: Tea
- National dish: Cep Ayngi

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