

Turkish National Day



Australia's great friend celebrates its 83rd year

**His Excellency, Mr N. Murat Ersavci
Turkish Ambassador to Australia**

THIS year marks the 83rd anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey.

In Turkey, Australia is regarded among our true friends and as a valued and valiant ally. As nations we perhaps first encountered each other in combat, but it was a heroic combat in which we both discovered a part of our national identity and, what is equally valuable, respect for humanity as a whole. The unforgettable words of the great Atatürk on the Anzacs, express this well.

Turkey, as the leading parliamentary democracy of its region, and an accession partner to the European Union, strives to do its utmost to promote our common way of life. We try to transmit our values of democracy and freedom to those countries further afield, which do not yet fully enjoy all of them.

In this respect, the need for a true dialogue among different cultures is of utmost importance. Turkey, together with Spain, has become the co-sponsor of the Alliance of Civilisations initiative launched by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

Turkey's geo-political position spurs us to make a strong contribution to strategic partnerships and the fight against terrorism. We are part of the concerted effort of free nations to promote peace and sustainable stability. These are things that Turkey and Australia, though they lie far apart

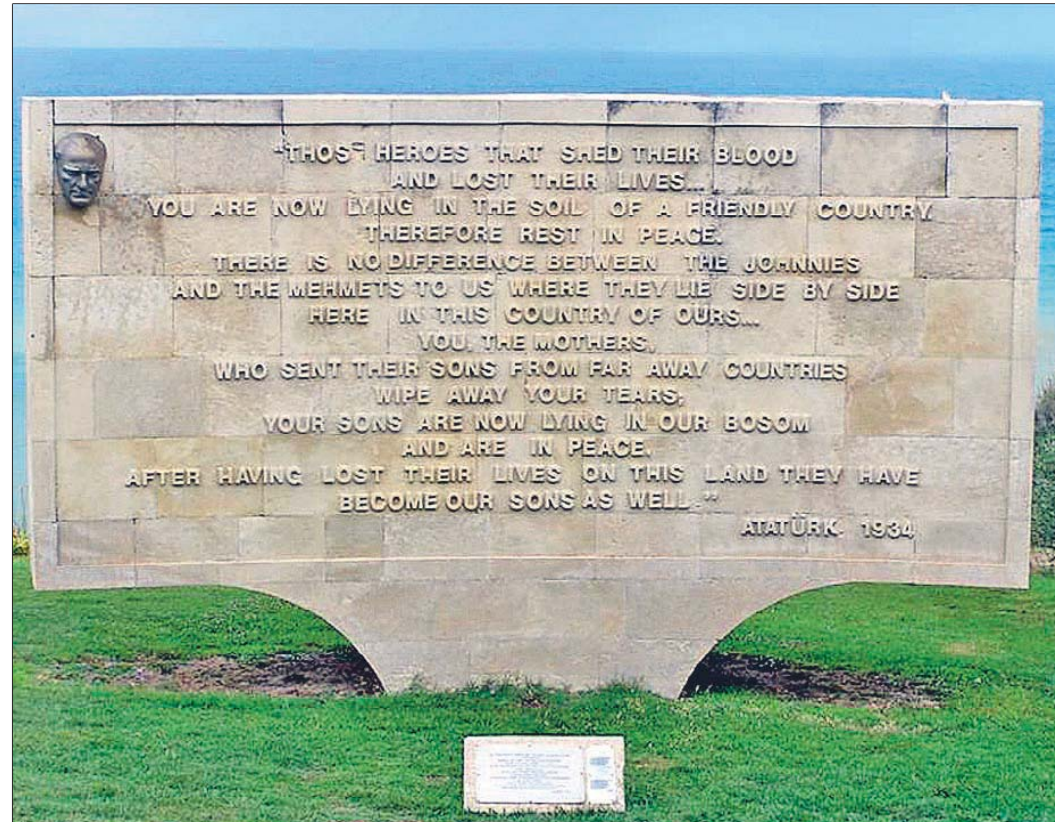
on the map, have in common with each other. Like Australia, we in Turkey have supported various global initiatives and will continue to deploy troops on peacekeeping missions, as we are currently doing in Lebanon, and police officers in Timor Leste.

Today, one of Turkey's main priorities is to expand and extend Turkish-Australian bilateral relations in all fields, with a special emphasis on economic and commercial ties.

Turkey has the eighth largest economy in Europe, and the 17th largest economy in the world. Turkey has also become an energy hub with pipelines connecting the energy-thirsty Europe and the natural gas and oil rich countries of Caucasus and central Asia. There is also an oil pipeline running from Iraq to Turkey.

There are numerous Australian companies investing in Turkey. We welcome their initiatives and we as an embassy do our best to give them any assistance possible.

Then there are the Australians of Turkish origin — 150,000 strong. They have already made a great contribution to this great country. Turkish Australians bring a Mediterranean heritage. They are working class, professionals, students, and businesspeople, not only the beneficiaries of this land of opportunity, but also important contributors. They benefit from the zest and excitement of life here.



Remembering: Former president and founder of Turkey Mustafa Kemal Atatürk paid tribute to the thousands of Turks and Australians who died at Gallipoli. His words grace memorials at Anzac Cove at Gallipoli (above) and on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

ment of life here.

The embassy is currently working in its new chancellery that was inaugurated on October 19 2006 in the presence of the Honourable Cemil Cicek, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Turkey and the Honourable

Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia. The new embassy is a bridge between Turkish Australians and the old country that their families came from.

Turkey is strong on its position in enhancing its relations with

Australia in every field. As it has been in the past, Turkey's approach to Australia will be a symbol of friendship. We will continue to work closely with this great country in building a better world for future generations.

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New embassy proves to be a Turkish delight

Canberra's newest embassy marries an Ottoman castle with the city's natural environment.

THE proud Turkish-Australian community stood alongside official dignitaries and the Duntroon Military Band to witness the opening of the new Ottoman Empire-inspired Turkish embassy in Yarralumla on Thursday, October 19.

Traditional Turkish dancers from the Black Sea region entertained the gathering, adding an authentic flavour to the memorable day.

The embassy in Moonah Place pays homage to Turkey's rich artistic and cultural heritage and its obsession with the beauty of flowers, centred around its proudest native bloom — the tulip.

Ambassador N. Murat Ersavci commended architect Wal Kostryko for his extraordinary work.

"Mr Kostryko has drawn his

inspiration and architectural details for this remarkable building from trips he made to Istanbul. With remarkable flair and insight, he has managed to synthesise and adapt Turkish motifs to Australian vernacular architecture. This is a building that is fully in harmony with its surroundings, but which displays our national flower, the tulip, as 'fascia'," he said.

"The arrow shoots of its elongated window frames and the turrets around its terraces recall Ottoman castles or 'hisars'. Of course, it had to be practical, the Turkish architect Mehtap Tugtekin spent countless hours working out ingenious ways to accommodate all this to our bureaucratic needs."

The landscape planning drew inspiration from traditional Ottoman garden design and

some 20,000 bulbs were planted.

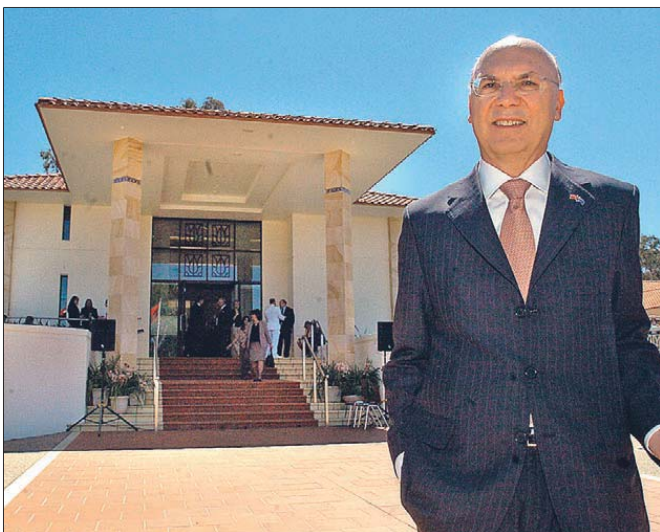
"They combined it with Australian indigenous plants and trees. In years to come this garden is going to be one of the most fascinating in Canberra," Mr Ersavci said.

The Turkish embassy, previously in Red Hill, doubled its activities in the past 10 years and needed more space to accommodate staff and also to acknowledge the elevated status of Australian-Turkish relations.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer opened the building and said it reflected the close bond between the two countries that had developed since Gallipoli and that Turkish migrants were to be commended for their success in integrating into Australian society.



Celebration: Traditional Turkish Dancers entertain the crowd in the new Turkish Embassy. Photo: Gary Schafer.



Modern masterpiece: His Excellency, Mr N. Murat Ersavci in front of the spectacular new embassy.