

**MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT
SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS
NORFOLK ISLAND**

Snapshot section

Country Name: Norfolk Island

Country Founded In:

Population: 2,121 (July 2009 est)

Government Type: (national, regional and local): Self Governing territory of Australia

Geography/location in the world: Oceania, island in the South Pacific Ocean, east of Australia

Number of people groups: 3

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and percentage of population:

All religions and % for each:

Protestant (31.8%)
Catholic (11.5%)
Uniting Church in Australia (10.6%)
Seventh - Day Adventist (3.2%)
Others (5.6%)
None (19.9%)
Unspecified (16.6%)

Government interaction with religion: tolerant of all religions

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name: long form - Territory of Norfolk Island; conventional short form - Norfolk Island

Demographics:

The estimated population of Norfolk Island is 2,121. Children up to fourteen years of age account for 20.2% of the population. Adults between the ages of fifteen and sixty-four years of age account for 63.9% of the population. The last category of people aged sixty-five years and older, accounts for 15.9% of the population. The population is growing by approximately 0.006%.

Language

English is the official language. Norfuk is also spoken which is a mixture of 18th century English and ancient Tahitian/Polynesian.

Society/Culture

Bounty Day, June 8, is a national holiday that commemorates the arrival of the Pitcairn Islanders in 1856. Everyone dresses in 19th century clothing and eats the same food every year. They re-enact the landing of the Pitcairners as they march through the ruins in Kingston.

Some other elements of the island include island dancing, music, singing, basket weaving, and crafts. Although, in the past islanders relied heavily on agriculture for income, many are now supplemented by family members who have moved to Australia, New Zealand, and/or the United Kingdom. Tourism has grown in popularity and is now the islands biggest source of revenue.

Government

Norfolk Island is a self-governing territory of Australia, administered from Canberra by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department. The Norfolk Island Act of 1979 serves as the island's constitution; it was amended in 2005. Their legal system is based on the laws of Australia, as well as local ordinances and acts. If neither Norfolk Island nor Australian laws apply in certain situations, English common law is used.

Norfolk Island has three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. Queen Elizabeth II is the chief of state in the executive branch, but is represented by the Australian governor-general. Acting Administrator is currently Owen Walsh, as of October 2007.

The legislative branch is made up of nine seats of equal standing. They are elected every three years. The Supreme Court is the judicial branch. There are no political parties. Voting age is 18 years.

Economy

The primary economic industry is tourism which has increased over the past several years. The prosperity on the island due to tourism is unusual among other South Pacific islands. Industry and service jobs, 90%, are the primary source of jobs for people on the island.

The agriculture sector has become self-sufficient through the production of beef, poultry, and eggs. Agriculture jobs make up about 10% of all jobs on the island. Other products include Norfolk Island pine seed, Kentia palm seed, cereals, vegetables, and fruit. Exports also include postage stamps, Norfolk Island pine seeds, Kentia palms, and small quantities of avocados. They import \$17.9 million worth of commodities, as of 1992.

They use Australian dollars as their currency.

Literacy

No information available about literacy among the people of Norfolk Island, but it is probable to that of Australia which is near 99%.

Land/Geography

Norfolk Island is in the South Pacific Ocean, east of Australia at geographic coordinates 29 02 S, 167 57 E. The land area is 34.6 square kilometers (which is approximately 0.2 times the size of Washington, DC). The coastline is 32 kilometers. The coastline mostly consists of inaccessible cliffs; however, the capital Kingston is located where the land slopes down to the sea called Sydney Bay. The island is a volcanic formation with rolling plains around it. The highest point is Mount Bates at 319 meters. None of the land is arable.

History

The island was discovered by Captain James Cook on October 10, 1774. Norfolk Island was originally set up by the British to be a place to ship and detain the least wanted convicts of Australia in 1788. Lieutenant Philip Gidley King arrived with 22 people including 15 convicts aboard the *HMS Supply*, landing at Sydney Bay, now known as Kingston. They stayed until 1814.

In 1825 a second settlement of the island was begun by Captain R Turton for the worst felons of Australia. They were treated harshly and inhumanly which lead to many deaths and convict uprising. The second settlement closed in 1855.

A few people stayed to welcome the Pitcairners in 1856. On June 8th, the Pitcairners arrived from Pitcairn Island. They are descendants of Bounty mutineers who married local girls from that island. They are the first free settlers who are still considered Islanders of Norfolk Island.

<http://www.zades.com.au/norfolk/history.htm>

Religion

Non Christian

Non-religious

The non-religious of the island make up about 20% of the population.

Roman Catholic

There are approximately 257 Catholic adherents on Norfolk Island. This is about 11.5 % of the population

Jehovah's Witnesses

There are approximately 20 members of the Jehovah's Witness group as of 1998.

Christian or Evangelical

Protestant Church

The Protestant Church claims some 31.8 % of the people or around 710 members

People Groups

18304

Anglo-Australian

It is estimated that there are 800 Anglo-Australians living on Norfolk Island. Of this, about 70% call themselves Christian, but it is unknown how many are evangelical. Since they speak English, there are numerous religious resources available to them and of course the Bible.

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Anglo-New Zealander

There are approximately 500 New Zealanders living on Norfolk Island. New Zealanders are a mix of Maori people that arrived in the 1400s and Europeans that arrived in the 1600s. Catholicism and Protestants are the main followings and the Maori have blended into that as well. However, the Christian adherents keep decreasing with few, if any, evangelicals within the population. Since they speak English, there are numerous religious resources available to them and of course the Bible.

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Norfolker

All 700 Norfolkers identified are living on the island. Most identify with Protestant beliefs and over 10% of the Norfolkers are evangelical with some estimates as high as 25%. They have access to the Bible and many religious resources since their primary language is English.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should be alert to people from Norfolk Island living in other regions of the world. These people may need evangelism and church planting ministries.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to help local believers and congregations in evangelism and church starting.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should provide any materials needed for continuing the progress of Christianity on the island.

Links:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ne.html>