

AUSTRALIAN ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis 8 MARCH 2013

As a matter of personal interest I have immersed myself in multicultural issues to enable me to have a greater understanding of our fellow Australians from diverse cultures. Despite the previous statement I am of the belief that I don't have the knowledge to comprehend strengths and weakness of each community or culture nor do I profess to have enough knowledge of the positives and negatives of each one.

What I can provide you with my own life experiences based on my studies back in 1990 when I was conducting recruiting for the Australian Army. At that time I had been takes with the compilation of a report on "why non Anglo speaking communities were not joining the Australian Defence Force.

If I may recollect, it was a difficult period for me going into uncharted water, but in the end I wrote a paper on it for the defence force which was used as a foundation for further recruitment studies and understanding of Non Anglo communities. Since that time I have realised the positive effects and importance of multiculturalism in Australian society and view it merely as a vehicles to becoming a good Australian citizen.

The negative aspects of multiculturalism is when a new culture or community fails to embrace their adopted way of life and living standards or the laws, then and only then will there be a clash of cultures, which may have negative outcomes. Therefore, we as Australians should not be afraid of embracing new cultures as they only go to strengthen the fabric of society.

The Australian community is the most successful in Australia. It is a hybrid society based on foundations of Aboriginal and Anglo cultures. Its institutions have withstood the challenges of time and continue to develop in a constructive, innovative manner while being tolerant towards other cultures to a point.

The aboriginal community is awakening from the Dream Time to take their rightful place in Australian society alongside their Anglo Brethren. The Aboriginal community has a long way to go before they can stand on their own two feet without Government assistance and contribute to Australian society different to that of the ancestors.

The English, Scottish, Welsh, French, Irish, North European cultures have been banded together under the Anglo banner to best describe their community. This is despite their differences in religion, and regional loyalties. The "Anglos" continue to develop, as a community as such.

Which in this particular culture the word Anglo is merely based on physical rather than community based characteristics and each one should by right be considered independently. Like the Islamist shown below so are the Anglos communities under one banner.

They are tolerant of other cultures and religions and will select get best of other communities as long as that community or individual embraces the Australian or Anglo culture and its institutions. In the Australian sense of the word, contribute towards Australia society and its institutions. The Anglo community is unique because of its many hybrid and conglomerate tribal and community cultures. As a community they are united against the infiltration of a perceived threat to their way of life.

The Jewish community is one of the most successful in this country. Having created supportive networks, they are prosperous, united to a point by a fear of discrimination and years of anti Semitic prejudices. They have also integrated into their environment, keeping a low profile and working methodically behind the scenes. (Sometimes to their detriment). They continually evolve within the Australian community.

The Chinese community has been very much misunderstood in the past and feared because of the work ethics, prosperous undertaking, different culture, eating habits, entertainment, behaviour religion and outlook on life. They are a truly united people that will support each other based on their regional and family loyalties that sometimes spans the ages. They have contributed much to the prosperity of Australia, but much of it is unknown to the average Australian.

The Italian Community would be next in being a community that has retained its Latin fabric through its religion, old world regional loyalties. Food, customs and culture remaining intact. As a community they come second only to the Chinese in the pursuit of becoming prosperous and united. They also are able to raise community awareness amongst themselves to create projects that contribute to the Australian community. Inter marriages are now common and it would be difficult to differentiate between them and the average Australian.

The Greeks of Australia are no different to the Italians but to a degree, The Greeks are more boisterous and extroverted than their Italian brethren but not as successful as entrepreneurs in the Australian sense of the word. The Greeks may be best described as being a conglomeration of a Jew, Chinese and an Italian but with Hellenic flavour in the business world. As a community regarding family, they are no different to any other culture that prides itself on family values.

Greeks will only become united whenever their way of life, religion, culture and community is threatened. Other than those matters, Greeks will and have integrated into the Australian community. They enjoy the day to day politics of life and you will find that that philosopher, sage politician at any Greek café of restraint who have an opinion and answer to the ills of the world.

The Ottomans, Iraqis, Lebanese, Egyptians, Somalis, Persians and Arabs that have embraced Islam can be grouped together as a result of the religion. They, too will unite when threatened and it is not uncommon for say the Ottoman, Greek, Chinese, Italian, and Jewish communities to unite against what they perceive is not in the interests of their communities as a whole. Despite their faith, they too suffer from internal disagreements based on their belief system and two distinct paths to Islam that sometimes causes issues.

They are not always welcome into a new society especially if they the society is a Christian based, but they have the same rights as any other Australian to be free to choose their own path in life. The only problem with the Islamic community which is fast growing is that it is not always compatible with the Australian way of life. They are intelligent, smart, good operators and entrepreneurs in their own right contributing to the Australian community.

Indians from India are an interesting community which for the past 30 years has integrated themselves in most of the Australian institutions. Like other communities they are united to a point and only when it's in the interests of their community. They like the Jewish and Chinese communities due to their old world population or networks (in the case of the Jewish community); are a numerous people destined to have an impact on Australia and its place in the world.

The Indian entrepreneur can be best summed up as being a close third after the Greek and Italians and will go to extraordinary lengths to achieve their objectives. Their family life will depend upon the region of the old world and their faiths may appear unusual to the cultures that follow the Mono God relationship.



The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis is a (not for profit) Journalist/Commentator. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538