

2015



The Lindt Café siege: lessons from the coronial inquest (part 2) | The Strategist (thestrategist.org.au)



Bill Shorten | Australian Marriage Equality

IN THE NEWS

Following a leadership spill, Malcolm Turnbull replaces Tony Abbott as PM and Leader of the Liberal Party. Turnbull drops Joe Hockey from the ministry and appoints Scott Morrison as Federal Treasurer and Marise Payne as Australia's first female Defence Minister.

The Lindt café in Sydney re-opens three months after the siege in which two of 17 hostages and the gunman were killed.

The Abbott government opposes a bill to legalize same-sex marriage. Two years later, parliament legislates marriage equality and PM Turnbull says "This is Australia: fair, diverse, loving and filled with respect."

Parliament passes law requiring internet and mobile phone providers to store customer data for two years as anti-terror measure.

PM Tony Abbott announces that Australia will send another 300 troops to Iraq to help train the Iraqi army in its fight against Islamic State.

The Australian refugee intake is increased by 12,000 in response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq.

Exercise Talisman Saber takes place in Central QLD as the largest combined military exercise undertaken by the ADF, involving up to 30,000 US and Australian troops.

The centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign is commemorated on Anzac Day.

Detainees riot at Christmas Island following the death of asylum seeker Fazel Chegeni after he escaped from the detention centre.

The ABC airs allegations that live animals are used as "live bait" while training greyhound dogs in the racing industry.

Nigel Milsom wins Archibald Prize for his portrait of barrister Charles Waterstreet.

Australian of the Year is Rosemary Batty, an influential domestic violence campaigner.

PRIME MINISTERS

Tony Abbott | Malcolm Turnbull



Australian
POPULATION
23.8 million

In finance news ...

RBA cuts official cash rate for the first time since 2013 to 2.25 per cent in an attempt to stimulate the economy amid concerns over a sharp fall in oil prices, rising unemployment and low consumer confidence.

Scott Morrison (Federal Treasurer) delivers the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook which predicts a deficit of \$37.4 billion for the financial year.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia posts a profit of \$9.1 billion, a record for an Australian bank.

BHP Billiton shares sink to a 10-year low as the benchmark S&P/ASX200 index drops below 5,000.

Indonesia cuts quarterly cattle imports to 50,000 from 250,000.

Australian workers who haven't nominated a preferred super fund begin receiving their SG contributions into a MySuper fund, as chosen by their employer.

In 2015, super assets are at \$2 trillion and 89.8% of employed persons are covered by compulsory superannuation.

Australia's inflation rate at 1.51%.



- Brian Peters is announced as new CEO. Graham Sammells takes a Director role.
- IQ's Queensland branch continues to grow following its opening in 2012.
- IQ continues to be at the forefront of leading various initiatives in the industry such as the launch of a SuperStream Community of Practice Forum in 2013 and its research into the super sector's digital engagement with members and employers.
- iqBoard continues to be rolled out following its Victorian Merit iAward in 2012, in recognition of its achievements in the Security category. iqBoard is in operation with hundreds of Board members across a range of industries throughout Australia and also international client Interconnector (UK).
- The CCH and IQ partnership support public, retail and corporate super funds, as well as third-party administrators, with a newly developed solution to meet their regulatory reporting requirements.
- A newly created business unit for Customer Advocacy and Assurance is announced.
- Two new Managing Principal roles are announced, to support the ongoing growth and strengthening of existing and new customer relationships.

TECHNOLOGY

In 2015, there are 3.2 billion users of the internet as Google announces its new holding company, Alphabet.

Amazon Alexa, Apple Watch and Windows 10 are launched.

Streaming service Stan is launched and Netflix comes to Australia.

Pokemon Go soon to be launched and to become Australia's top grossing App.

iPhone X and Samsung S8, with face scanning technology, soon to be released.

In Pop Culture

Star Wars The Force Awakens, Mad Max Fury Road and Jurassic World films released.

Uptown Funk (Mark Ronson feat Bruno Mars) and Cheerleader (Felix Jaehn Remix) are ARIA hits.

Masterchef, The Voice and The Block are popular TV shows.

Singer Guy Sebastian performs his song "Tonight Again" as Australia's very first entry into the Eurovision Song Contest. Overall he comes 5th out of 40 countries.

SPORT

NZ defeats Australia in the Anzac test, their first win in 17 years. QLD wins State of Origin. Hawthorne defeats West Coast Eagles to win AFL premiership. North QLD Cowboys defeat Brisbane Broncos in NRL Grand Final. Michelle Payne becomes the first woman to win the Melbourne Cup on Prince of Penzance. Australia defeats South Korea in the AFC Asian Cup, becoming the first ever nation to win in two continental football competitions. Millions watch live as Australian surfer Mick Fanning escapes a shark during a competition in South Africa.