NORFOLK ISLAND

SECULAR DATA, AD 2000

STATE
Official name: The Territory of Norfolk Island.
Short name: Norfolk Island. Adjective of nationality: Norfolk Island.
Flag: Vertical green stripes on right and left, tree on white in center.
Area: 40 sq. km. (15 sq. mi.).
Government: Territory of Australia, since 1913 (1856 settlement).
Legislature: Norfolk Island Council, 9 members.
Official language: English.
Monetary unit: 1 Australian dollar ($A) = 100 cents.

Population density: 2,100.
Population: 2,070.
Political divisions: 1 province.

KINGSTON-NORFOLK 1,228.

1 province.

COUNTRIES DATA, AD 2000

Norfolk Island, an external territory of Australia since 1913, is an island in the Pacific Ocean off the east coast of Australia. The island was originally settled by descendants of the mutineers from the Bounty.

NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

As the inhabitants of the island are either of British stock or Euronesian, non-Christian religions have gained no foothold. Persons without religion however have increased rapidly from one census to the next since 1947 and now number 23%.

CHRISTIANITY

ANGLICAN CHURCH. The first Christmas service was held in 1788. The Melanesian Mission established its main headquarters on the island in 1887, and St Barnabas church there was consecrated as a church in 1880. By 1896 the church claimed 230 members. In 1919 the headquarters were moved to Sota in the British Solomon Islands, but the territory has remained mainly Anglican in denomination, though Anglicans have recently declined in numbers. They form part of the diocese of Sydney in the Church of England in Australia.

PROTESTANT CHURCHES. Methodists and Adventists have organized congregations on the island. Both are related to their churches in Australia.

CATHOLIC CHURCH. A Marist priest serves one parish, which is attached to the archdiocese of Sydney (Australia). Catholics are growing in numbers, chiefly at the expense of Anglicans.

The Holy See has no diplomatic relations with Norfolk Island in AD 2000.

CHURCH AND STATE

In 1774 Captain James Cook discovered an uninhabited island which he named after the English duke of Norfolk. The island was annexed by Great Britain in 1788, the second of Britain’s possessions in the Pacific. Settlement began in 1856 from Pitcairn Island, and in 1914 it became a territory of the Australian

COLUMNS, ROWS

For meanings and definitions, see Codebook (Part 3). Note that, by definition, total ‘Christians’ = professing + crypto-Christians, which also = affiliated + unaffiliated Christians, and also = Great Commission Christians + latent Christians. Percentages may not always total exactly, due to rounding.

CENSUSES.

30.VI.1947: 90.8% Anglicans & Protestants, 6.9% Roman Catholics, 0.3% non-religious. 30.VI.1954: 92.8% Anglicans & Protestants, 6.9% Roman Catholics, 0.4% non-religious. 30.VI.1961: 59.6% Anglicans, 32.8% Protestants (17.2% Methodists, 9.5% SD Adventists, 4.5% Presbyterians), 7.7% Catholics, 0.5% non-religious. 30.VI.1966: 55.7% Anglicans, 31.8% Protestants (15.8% Methodists, 7.7% SD Adventists, 5.9% Presbyterians), 9.8% Roman Catholics, 2.6% non-religious. 30.VI.1971: 47.0% Anglicans, 33.9% Protestants (15.8% Methodists, 7.9% Presbyterians, 5.6% SD Adventists, and followers of about 10 other denominations), 12.1% Roman Catholics, 7.0% non-religious. This census enumerates the population by 20 different categories of religion.

NOTES ON RELIGIONS

ANGLICANS. These have decreased rapidly since 1960, whilst Roman Catholics and non-religious have increased markedly.

NONRELIGIOUS. Both are related to their churches in Australia.

PROTESTANTS. Although only 2 denominations have organized congregations, the 1971 census lists the following additional denominations: Methodists, 9.5% SD Adventists, 4.5% Presbyterians; Roman Catholics, 9.8%; Baptist, Brethren, Churches of Christ, Congregational, Lutheran, and Salvation Army.
Commonwealth. Religion has never been an issue between church and state. Norfolk Island is today governed by an administrator named by the governor-general of Australia. There is also a Norfolk Island Council, elected every 2 years from the resident community, which acts in an advisory capacity to the administrator. The Australian constitution guarantees freedom of religion.

FUTURE TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

Christianity is expected to steadily decline but remain above 70% of the population through AD 2025. The nonreligious, 10.7% in 1970, would then grow to 28% by 2025. Correspondingly, Christians will likely decline from 87.9% in 1970 to 72% by 2025. The nonreligious will likely continue to increase, perhaps growing to 40% before AD 2050.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


