



THE WORLD OBSERVER NEWSPAPER

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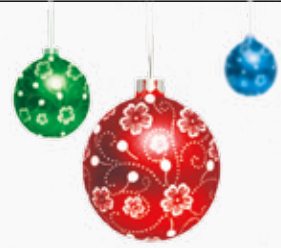
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Message from Mr Ihab Matar

رسالة من السيد
إيهاب مطر

I wish you a very **Merry Christmas**
and a safe prosperous
and **Happy New Year**
May you enjoy the festive season
with your family and loved ones

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On behalf of Juris Australia Lawyers

I would like to extend my best wishes to the Arabic community

I hope you have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas

with your friends and family and a great 2022

بالنيابة عن محامي جيس استراليا

أتقدم من أبناء الجالية العربية وعموم المجتمع الأسترالي

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WISHING YOU A
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2022

As we come to the end of what has been a challenging year for all,
we joyfully celebrate this season of gathering and faith and extend our
warmest wishes for a safe and memorable new year with your loved ones.

عيد ميلاد مَجِيد وَعَام سَعِيد



By Mamdouh
Sukkarieh

Significant issues from year 2021

Flipping through the pages of the past year we can see: Coronavirus anxiety

As Australia ease coronavirus restrictions, mental health experts are noticing an emerging phenomenon; anxiety about life after lockdown.

Meanwhile people who have been living under the most stringent measures are fearful about what will happen after these rules are lifted or even some of them are coming back As the Omicron strain of COVID-19 spreads through the community, there are fears Christmas family events could lead to an escalation of case numbers over the holidays.

Experts say that making social sacrifices now by taking the necessary precautions can greatly reduce the expected cases during family gatherings and the celebration of Christmas and New Year.

Making social sacrifices now could save your Christmas Day gathering from becoming a superspreader event, experts say.

When governments come to relax lockdown rules, Dr Taylor a professor in the psychiatry department at the University, in Canada. says good leadership will be crucial to helping people feel safe and confident in the change of policy.

“To help reintegrate people into a post-pandemic world, there needs to be clear communication from leaders, [saying] ‘It’s OK now to hug people. It’s OK to go to restaurants.’

“The guidelines need to be clear in people’s minds and that can help to reduce uncertainty, which will reduce anxiety.”

Tips from experts on coping with fear and anxiety

Control what can be controlled – there are a lot of things you can’t control that cause you fear and anxiety – but there are some things you can manage or plan for. Having an action plan for managing things you might find difficult can help. Build up tolerance – try doing something that challenges you every day, or every few days. Don’t beat yourself up if it doesn’t go well but keep at it. Keep a note of things you’ve achieved, enjoyed or surprised yourself doing.

Coping with uncertainty

Focus on the present – you can only do your best with what you have today. With regulations changing frequently, and lots of conflicting media discussions, try and keep a focus on the moment. Mindfulness meditation is one way of bringing your mind back to the present moment.

Bring things that are certain back into focus – whilst a lot of things are uncertain at the moment, there are also things to be hopeful about. Try to record and appreciate good things as they happen. Try and take opportunities to reset and relax.

Young drivers

A lot of road accidents happened lately, most of them caused by young drivers, which causes concern for the parents, community and authorities for road safety. So why were young drivers the cause of a lot of problems on the roads? Possibly because driving is seen as a recreational activity and not a responsibility. They are careless and sometimes over confident, they never think they will cause an accident.

Social Media

Social networking sites have many benefits when it comes to making distance not an issue in communication with family and friends. However, if you are a fan of social media sites and enjoy posting many personal photos on various platforms, read the following lines.

A recent scientific study revealed that over-publishing of images, especially on social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snap Chat, may indicate a 25% increase in narcissistic symptoms.

The Meaning of Christmas

It’s that time of the year again, where family and friends join together in celebration of Jesus Christ’s birth. Many people think that the meaning of Christmas is only setting up the Christmas tree, and finding the perfect gifts for the people who give meaning to your life, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail and email, but no, that is not the meaning of Christmas. Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of peace, love and happiness. You see, Christmas is when God gave a child to our mother Mary, who would hold this child in her womb and he was to grow up to do great things in the future. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all were able to experience the excitement of knowing about this great event.

I hope that all have a wonderful Christmas, I also hope that this New Year is full of great happiness for all



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER



2021 has been an extraordinary year.

Australians have been challenged in many ways, but we’ve also risen to those challenges.

We are a strong and resilient people, and if you ask Australians to stand up, take action and play their part, they will – and they have.

I thank all Australians for doing their bit – the nurses, doctors, mental health professionals, retail staff, cleaners, truck drivers, farmers, teachers and public servants.

What we have achieved together – saving more than 30,000 lives, supporting over 3 million Australians through JobKeeper, and getting 1 million Australians back into work – it’s something every Australian can be proud to share.

To date over 20 million Australians have had a vaccination, and over 18 million have had two.

I want to thank our multicultural communities for rolling up their sleeves to get the job because, under the National Plan, that means we can open safely and we can remain safely open as we go into 2022. It means those jobs come back, the businesses come back and the livelihoods come back.

Our multicultural communities have played a vital role in our national success.

I know it’s been difficult for so many to be separated from family and friends, and not be able to celebrate traditions and religious ceremonies as you normally would.

But you’ve stayed the course.

You’ve done whatever it takes to keep each other safe.

You’ve kept going, stayed strong and helped keep our nation together.

That’s why Australia is the most successful multicultural nation in the world.

A place where we all buy in and draw strength from our shared values – such as mutual respect and individual responsibility.

Your efforts have helped the country that we all love and care about respond so magnificently to this pandemic.

I can’t thank you enough.

This is why our country can open safely and stay safely open.

As we reclaim our lives and reunite with each other again, we can put 2021 in the rear-vision mirror and move forward to 2022 with confidence.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a bright and happy summer, and a hopeful new year.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia



Season's Greetings

I would like to extend my best wishes to you and your families for the holiday season and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Anne Stanley MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WERRIWA

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Authorised by A Stanley MP, ALP, Hinchinbrook

WISHING EVERYONE

MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

Lynda Voltz MP
MEMBER FOR AUBURN

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The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane, MLC
Legislative Council — NSW Parliament

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & A Safe and Happy New Year

The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane MLC
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie St, Sydney NSW 2000

SOPHIE COTSIS MP
STATE MEMBER FOR CANTERBURY

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

أتمنى لكم عيد ميلاد مجيد وسنة جديدة سعيدة

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Authorised by Sophie Cotsis MP. Funded using parliamentary Entitlements



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
+
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**



Jason Clare MP
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Tony Burke MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WATSON

For people around the world, Christmas is a time to celebrate. One of the special things about Christmas is being able to share the celebrations with the people most important to us.

So however you spend it, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and restful holidays. I do so in the same spirit that many residents so thoughtfully extend their well wishes for the many diverse cultural and religious events they celebrate throughout the year.



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Guy Zangari MP

State Member for Fairfield

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I would like to wish you and your family
a very Merry Christmas
and a safe and prosperous New Year



تمنياتكم لكم ولعائلاتكم ميلاداً
مجيداً وعاماً سعيداً آمناً ومزدهراً

Authorised by Guy Zangari MP, 55A Smart St Fairfield NSW 2165
Funded using Parliamentary entitlements, Dec 2021

Merry Christmas!
*After such a difficult 2021, may this
Christmas period bring a more cheerful
note and make way for a fresh and bright
New Year.*

Jihad Dib MP
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By Natalie Sukkarieh



Be Myself

*I don't want to be a clone,
With no thoughts of my own,
As if created from a mold,
Always to be bought and sold,
Never truly feeling whole,
Having just an artificial soul,
Like a mindless puppet on a shelf,
No, I would rather be myself.*

*I don't want to follow society's rules
And walk around among a bunch of fools
Who like to copy each other
And follow one another
I would rather be myself.*

This holiday period will be a true celebration of family and friends.

Stay safe on the roads and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you and your loved ones prosperity and joy.

هذه الفترة من الفرصة ستكون حقيقةً احتفالاً للعائلة والأصدقاء.
إبق آمناً على الطرقات، وأتمنى لكم جميعاً عيد ميلاد مجيد وأن يجلب لكم
هذا العام ولكل من تحب التقدم والازدهار.

Wendy LINDSAY MP
State Member for **East Hills**

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**From Chris Minns and your State Labor MPs
We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**



Chris Minns MP
NSW Labor Leader | Member for Kogarah
P 9587 9684



Steve Kamper MP
Member for Rockdale
P 9597 1414



Tania Mihailuk MP
Member for Bankstown
P 9708 3838



Julia Finn MP
Member for Granville
P 9637 1656



Lynda Voltz MP
Member for Auburn
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Sophie Cotsis MP
Member for Canterbury
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Nick Lalich MP
Member for Cabramatta
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Hugh McDermott MP
Member for Prospect
P 9756 4766



Greg Warren MP
Member for Campbelltown
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2021 Events Calendar

One good thing can be said about 2021: it wasn't as tumultuous as 2020, which put in a claim to be the worst year ever. That, however, may be damning with faint praise. Yes, the past twelve months did bring some good news. Indeed, for a moment in early summer it seemed that COVID-19 was in the rearview mirror. However, it isn't. And 2021 brought other bad news. So here are my top ten world events in 2021. You may want to read what follows closely. Several of these stories will continue into 2022 and beyond.



The AUKUS Deal Debuts.

On September 15, President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson jointly announced a new trilateral security partnership named AUKUS. The most significant part of the deal was the U.S. pledge to provide Australia with technology to build eight nuclear-powered (but not nuclear-armed) submarines. The only other country to receive similar access to U.S. technology is the United Kingdom. The statement announcing the pact justified it as necessary to "preserve security and stability in the Indo-Pacific." Although none of the three leaders mentioned China by name, AUKUS was widely seen as a response to growing Chinese assertiveness. Not surprisingly, Beijing denounced the pact as "extremely irresponsible" and "polarizing." But China wasn't the only country unhappy with deal. France fumed because AUKUS terminated a \$37 billion agreement it struck with Australia in 2016 to build a dozen diesel-electric powered submarines. As a result, Paris recalled its ambassadors to Canberra and Washington, a move without precedent in bilateral relations with either country.

Billionaires and the space race

Oliver Daemen, from left, Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon and space tourism company Blue Origin, Wally Funk and Bezos' brother Mark pose for photos in front of the Blue Origin New Shepard rocket, left rear, after their launch from the spaceport near Van Horn, Texas, Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

Alec Baldwin and the movie-set shooting

On Oct. 21, on a movie set in New Mexico, what was

supposed to be fiction lurched into reality in the most destructive of ways.

Cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was shot and killed by a prop gun held by Alec Baldwin, one of the country's most prominent actors. The ensuing anguish and investigation revealed what some said were dangerous gun-handling protocols on a set where some crew members had complained about conditions.

Baldwin has not been charged, though the investigation continues and lawsuits have been filed.

Britney was freed. Bennifer came back

Britney Spears supporters celebrate the ruling that ends the pop singer's conservatorship on Nov. 12, 2021, in Los Angeles. A Los Angeles judge ended the conservatorship that has controlled Spears' life and money for nearly 14 years.

Migration Crises Test Rich Countries.

The downturn in international migration flows in 2020 triggered by COVID-19 continued into 2021. That didn't translate, however, into the end of migration crises. A case in point was the southern U.S. border. By October, the number of people entering the United States illegally had hit 1.7 million over the prior year, the highest number since 1960. COVID-19, economic hardship.

The European Union saw a 70 percent rise compared to 2020 in the number people entering illegally, with critics arguing that the EU was failing its duty to help migrants. A surge in migrants crossing the English Channel from France triggered a diplomatic row between Paris and London. Meanwhile, Belarus encouraged migrants to cross its territory



to enter Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland in a bid to pressure the EU to end sanctions it imposed to protest the rigged 2020 Belarussian presidential election.

Countries Fail the Climate Change Challenge—Again.

"A code red for humanity." That's how UN Secretary General António Guterres' described the UN report released in August that concluded that humanity faces catastrophic climate change unless the emission of heat-trapping gases is slashed. But one didn't need to read the 4,000-page report to know that. Extreme weather dominated the news in 2021, as it has for much of the past decade.

Climate optimists could find some developments to cheer in 2021. President Biden committed the United States to rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement on his first day in office. China agreed in September to discontinue financing coal-fired power plants overseas, and Iceland opened a facility to take carbon dioxide out of the air. At the COP-26 meeting in Glasgow in November countries pledged to take steps to address climate change, including by cutting methane emissions. But pledges aren't accomplishments. Carbon emissions jumped in 2021 as the global economy roared back to life.

The Taliban Return to Power.

The U.S. war in Afghanistan ended as it started twenty years earlier: with the Taliban in power. In 2020, President Donald Trump struck a deal with the Taliban that required withdrawing all U.S. troops by May 1, 2021. Two weeks before that deadline, President Joe Biden ordered that a complete U.S. withdrawal be concluded by no later than September 11, 2021—



the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. As the withdrawal proceeded, the Afghanistan national army collapsed and the Taliban overran the country. Kabul fell on August 15, trapping thousands of foreigners in the capital city. The United States launched a massive effort to evacuate stranded Americans by August 31, a deadline set by the Taliban.

The Followers of President Trump stormed the Capitol

The Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol was bad. It may have set the stage for worse

On Jan. 6, when followers of President Trump stormed the Capitol to try to block the election of President Biden, the insurrection seemed like a bizarre anomaly — a freak storm whipped up by pro-Trump extremists and right-wing militias.

But in the months since the attack, the movement that spawned the uprising — sometimes called “election denialism” — has turned out to be larger, more durable and every bit as worrisome as the violence of that chaotic day.

Joe Biden Becomes President.

“America is back.” Joe Biden made that point repeatedly in 2021. He moved quickly upon taking office to fulfill his promise to strengthen relations with America’s allies. He returned the United States to the Paris Climate Agreement and the World Health Organization, renewed New START for five years, sought to revive the Iran nuclear deal, and ended U.S. support for offensive military operations in Yemen. These moves away from former President Donald Trump’s America First policies drew applause overseas; initial polls showed a sharp improvement in the U.S. image abroad.

COVID-19 Vaccines Arrive as the Virus Mutates.

The vaccines created to address the novel coronavirus may join the smallpox, polio, and measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines as major advances in saving lives and diminishing morbidity. The speed at which COVID-19 vaccines were developed was stunning. Vaccines historically took ten to fifteen years to develop. The quickest any vaccine had been developed previously was the four years it took to create the mumps vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines were created in less than a year. Just as important, the leading COVID-19 vaccines worked stunningly well; the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are both more than 90 percent effective against early COVID-19 variants. More than 7.4 billion vaccine doses were administered in 184 countries in the first eleven months of 2021, with seventy countries making donations.

The Delta variant, first identified in December 2020 in India, was more infectious than its predecessors and soon became the dominant strain around the world. In November 2021, South African scientists identified the emergence of the Omicron variant. Within weeks it had been found around the world. As 2021 ended, it was unclear whether Omicron presented a greater health threat or would send the global economy into another tailspin. What was clear is that more than 5 million people globally and 800,000 Americans had died from COVID-19.

Other stories to note in 2021.

In January, Saudi Arabia agreed to reopen its border with Qatar, ending a three-year-long diplomatic crisis. In February, the U.S.

Senate acquitted former President Donald Trump in his second impeachment trial. In March, Pope Francis met in Iraq with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the first ever meeting between a pope and a grand ayatollah. In April, a dispute over access to water triggered a clash on the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border, leaving 55 people dead and some 50,000 displaced. A cyberattack orchestrated in May by Russian criminal hackers forced the closure of the Colonial Pipeline, disrupting the delivery of gasoline in the eastern United States. In June, G7 leaders agreed to back a minimum global corporate tax rate of at least 15 percent. Lithuania agreed in July to allow Taiwan to open a de facto embassy in Vilnius, a decision that prompted China to downgrade relations with the Baltic country. In August, the White House approved the sale of \$750 million in arms to Taiwan, a decision that China quickly denounced. In September, the United States dropped a three-year-old request that Canada extradite a senior Huawei executive, prompting China to release two Canadian citizens it had arrested when the extradition warrant was first filed back in 2018. In October, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists released the Pandora Papers, which contained more than 12 million documents showing how the wealthy and powerful use off-shore accounts to evade taxes and hide money. In November, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi survived a drone strike on his home. A Russian military buildup near the Ukrainian border prompted Biden to warn Russian President Vladimir Putin in a December video call that the United States “would respond with strong economic and other measures in the event” Russia invaded Ukraine.

Former Miss Universe Australia
Olivia Molly Rogers
spills the details of her wild
night with Leonardo DiCaprio



Former Miss Universe Australia Olivia Rogers has revealed the friendly encounter she had with Oscar winner Leonardo DiCaprio. In her book *Find Your Light*, the 29-year-old details the moment she was acquainted by *The Wolf Of Wallstreet* actor. At the time, the South Australian beauty was in America, after competing in the 2017 Miss Universe International Final in Sin City. ‘I spun around, bent down to say hello and quickly realised that I was meeting Leonardo DiCaprio,’ she recalled. She revealed that ironically, their meeting which took place on a boat felt very ‘Titanic.’ ‘As he introduced himself, still cradling my now sweaty hand, I could only think of one thing: ‘Don’t let go Jack,’ she joked. Olivia also added she was invited to attend an after party at Leo’s home in the Hollywood hills.

Cate Blanchett

begs children to be ‘responsible’ with content they share online

Cate Blanchett begs her children to be “responsible” with the content they share online. The Oscar-winning actress shares sons Dashiell, 19, Roman, 17, and Ignatius, 13, as well as six-year-old daughter Edith with husband Andrew Upton. Discussing parenting in the digital age for an interview with *Porter* magazine, Cate explained that she regularly speaks to her kids about the kind of items they post on social media and requests that they always check the sources. “I’m old enough to have been taught at school what a primary, secondary and tertiary source is. I say to the children when they mention something, ‘Where did you read it? Who has (authenticated) that? You have to learn how to read an image and article. And if you’re going to share something, you’d better make sure you have checked the sources.’ Of course, they roll their eyes,” she shared. “But when you hear them talk to their friends, I think they’re responsible.”



Elsewhere in the chat, Cate also spoke about how she has witnessed a change in the way people discuss the big issues. “I’m very sad about the loss of genuine debate... where leaders, public intellectuals and everyday citizens try to find common ground, try to understand the issue, rather than try to win,”

Jane Campion on her Oscars frontrunner *The Power of the Dog* and the canny casting of Benedict Cumberbatch



The Oscars 2022 nominees won’t be announced until February 8, but at time of writing, two films are topping experts’ Best Picture predictions — and one of them is *The Power of the Dog*: a Montana-set western starring Benedict Cumberbatch as a rancher with a cruel streak, streaming now on Netflix. *The Power of the Dog* marks the return of New Zealand-Australian director Jane Campion to the big screen, following the success of her detective drama *Top of the Lake* (2013-2017).

It’s her first feature since 2009’s *Bright Star* — and her first film to centre on a male protagonist. Campion is currently leading industry polls for Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay. It’s the closest she’s come to the Oscars race since her 1993 film *The Piano*, which was nominated for eight Academy Awards (including Best Director, the second woman of seven ever nominated for that award) and won three (including Best Screenplay for Campion).

Kim Kardashian

to receive Fashion Icon Award at 2021 People's Choice Awards



Kim Kardashian is to be honoured with the Fashion Icon Award at the upcoming 2021 People's Choice Awards.

Whether she's wearing casual attire from her estranged husband Kanye West's Yeezy clothing line, designs from her very own SKIMS shapewear range, or custom-made looks for appearances at the Met Gala, the reality TV personality is always one to watch on the red carpet.

Now, the team behind the People's Choice Awards have decided to honour Kim for her contribution to the fashion world.

"For nearly two decades, Kim Kardashian West's style evolution has disrupted and influenced trends

on a global level and cemented herself as a force to be reckoned with within the fashion industry," said Jen Neal, executive vice president, entertainment live events, specials & E! News at NBCUniversal Entertainment Television and Streaming. "For being a cultural inspiration, trailblazer and so much more, we can't wait to honour Kim with this year's People's Fashion Icon Award."

In addition to receiving the prestigious prize, Kim is also nominated in the Social Star of 2021 category, where she will compete against the likes of Britney Spears, Addison Rae, Charli D'Amelio, Dwayne Johnson, Justin Bieber, Kylie Jenner, and Lil Nas X.

Nathan Buckley's

girlfriend Alex Pike, 44, reveals how she plans to live to be 120 years old



Alex Pike has revealed that she hopes to live to the age of 120.

The 44-year-old cosmetic nurse told the Ageless by Rescu podcast that she plans to be on the earth a further 76 years.

'I want to live to 120 and that is my goal,' she told host Bahar Etminan during an episode of the show last month.

Her tips for extending her life include drinking green juice daily to 'get her body into an alkaline state', guided meditation - and staring at the sun.

Her tips for extending her life include drinking green juice daily to 'get her body into an alkaline state', guided meditation - and staring at the sun.

'I'm a firm believer in spending some time in the sun without sunglasses on and really looking into the sun directly,' she said.

'I think it is really healing and really good for your energy levels.'

Alex also cut out alcohol and took up walking 10 kilometres per day to keep herself youthful, as well as doing a 24 fast once a month.

'I am just not good on alcohol, so I try to avoid that as much as possible,' she said.

Cold therapy - which involves having a daily cold shower and swimming in the ocean in colder months - is also part of her anti-ageing plan.

Additionally she undertakes pilates, drinks a minimum of three litres of filtered water every day, places pink Himalayan salt under her tongue and does music therapy.

Alex has had a little help from surgeons, too, and says she is a big fan of Botox.

Prince William reveals the truth behind his love for Tina Turner in tearful interview



Prince William has revealed the true reason he has such a soft spot for the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll, Tina Turner.

In a tearful interview, William shared how Turner was one of the many artists his mother would cheerfully sing along to with him and his brother, Prince Harry, while on the way to school, The Times reports.

"One of the songs I massively remember and has

stuck with me all this time, and I to this day still quite enjoy secretly, is Tina Turner's 'The Best,'" William shares.

According to The Times, the prince teared up while recording the interview for Time to Walk, an Apple Music "audio experience" which encourages listeners to do more walking for mental health and fitness.



Australia's Richest Billionaires 2021

It's been a year like no other, and we aren't talking about the pandemic. There were rapid-fire public offerings, surging cryptocurrencies and skyrocketing stock prices. The number of billionaires on Forbes' 35th annual list of the world's wealthiest exploded to an unprecedented 2,755—660 more than a year ago.

1- Gina Rinehart

Net Worth: \$23.6 B

Age: 67

Source: Mining

Industry: Metals & Mining

Gina Rinehart is Australia's richest citizen, who built her wealth on iron ore. The daughter of high profile iron-ore explorer Lang Hancock, Rinehart rebuilt her late father's financially distressed company, Hancock Prospecting. The biggest piece of her fortune comes from the Roy Hill mining project, which started shipments to Asia in 2015. The mining magnate is also Australia's second-largest cattle producer, with a portfolio of properties across the country.

2- Andrew Forrest

Net Worth: \$20.4 B

Age: 59

Source: Mining

Industry: Metals & Mining

Forrest started his first mining company, Anaconda Nickel (now called Minara Resources) in 1994. Nine years later, he founded Fortescue Metals Group, which mines and ships iron ore to China. Investing in sustainable energy projects, he's now focused on repositioning the company into a green energy powerhouse to produce steel in Australia. He now also has farming interests to capitalize on China's growing appetite for meat and dairy products.

3- Mike Cannon-Brookes

Rank As Per Forbes Richest People In The World: #145

Net Worth: \$14.2 B

Age: 41

Source: Software

Industry: Technology

Mike Cannon-Brookes is cofounder of collaboration software firm Atlassian, based in Sydney. He and co-CEO Scott Farquhar started the company soon after graduating from college, funding it with credit cards.

4- Scott Farquhar

Net Worth: \$14 B

Age: 41

Source: Software

Industry: Technology

Scott Farquhar is cofounder of collaboration software company Atlassian, based in Sydney, Australia.

5- Harry Triguboff

Net Worth: \$11.2 B

Age: 88

Source: Real Estate

Industry: Real Estate

Triguboff is one of Australia's richest people. Born in China to Russian parents, he came to Australia as a teenager. Triguboff found success in business by providing higher-density living options in Sydney, Australia's largest city.

6- Anthony Pratt

Net Worth: \$10.8 B

Age: 60

Source: Manufacturing

Industry: Manufacturing

Pratt is the executive chairman of Australia's biggest private company, Visy Asia-Pacific, a packaging and recycling business.

7- Blair Parry-Okeden

Net Worth: \$9.4 B

Age: 70

Source: Media, Automotive

Industry: Media & Entertainment

Blair Parry-Okeden inherited a 25% stake in Cox Enterprises in 2007 when her mother, Barbara Cox Anthony, passed away. Cox Enterprises is a \$19.2 billion (sales) automotive and media company based in Atlanta; it owns cable TV firm Cox Communications.

8- John, Alan & Bruce Wilson

Net Worth: \$4.8 B

Source: Retailing

Industry: Fashion & Retail

The Wilson brothers own a



majority stake in Reece Group, Australia's biggest bathroom and plumbing supplies chain.

9- Kerry Stokes

Net Worth: \$4.3 B

Age: 80

Source: Construction

Equipment, Media

Industry: Diversified

Kerry Stokes took a winding path en route to earning a fortune with his Seven Group Holdings, which has many media, construction and mining assets. Early in his life his mother gave him up for adoption, and he later dropped out of school at age 14. He started his career selling Caterpillar tractors and trucks in Australia and eventually China, before moving into media with Seven Group.

10- John Gandel

Net Worth: \$3.8 B

Age: 86

Source: Shopping Malls

Industry: Real Estate

Gandel owns half of the southern hemisphere's largest shopping mall, Chadstone, with more than 500 stores in eastern Melbourne.

11- Clive Palmer

Net Worth: \$3.8 B

Age: 67

Source: Mining

Industry: Metals & Mining

The ebullient resources player and former member of the Australian Parliament, Clive Palmer became a billionaire in 2019. His fortune soared after a court ordered a flow of iron-ore royalties to his company, Mineralogy, to resume. He started Mineralogy in 1984 and has built a portfolio of iron-ore, thermal-coal and hydrocarbon assets. He also owned Queensland Nickel, which operated a nickel-and-cobalt refinery, but the company collapsed in 2016.



Meghan Markle's best fashion looks in 2021

Meghan wowed in this Carolina Herrera gown at the 2021 Salute to Freedom Gala at New York's Intrepid Museum - her and Prince Harry's first red carpet event since stepping down as senior members of the royal family.

Fans also noticed that Meghan paid tribute to her mother-in-law Diana as she wore the late Princess of Wales' diamond tennis bracelet to accessorise her look. Meghan wore the same piece during her and Harry's interview with Oprah Winfrey back in March.

Meghanmarkle2

One of Meghan's most talked-about looks from 2021 was this sparkly white mini dress that she rocked at the Global Citizen Live event in New York City in September.

After years of opting for more conservative outfits during her time as a working royal, Meghan showed a little more leg with this embellished Valentino dress.

Meghanmarkle3

No one can rock a longline coat like Meghan! For her recent New York trip, the duchess paired this Max Mara camel coat with a black dress by The Row, black Maison Valentino sunglasses and Giorgio Armani heels.

Meghanmarkle4

Meghan's trip to New York in September proved the duchess can rock daywear just as much as her famous red carpet looks.

Leaving the Global Citizen concert in Central Park, Meghan added this structured black coat to her Valentino mini. She took inspiration from Diana with this Dior Lady D-Lite bag, which retails for around \$6800.





Sending warm
wishes of joy and
happiness this
holiday season and
the New Year

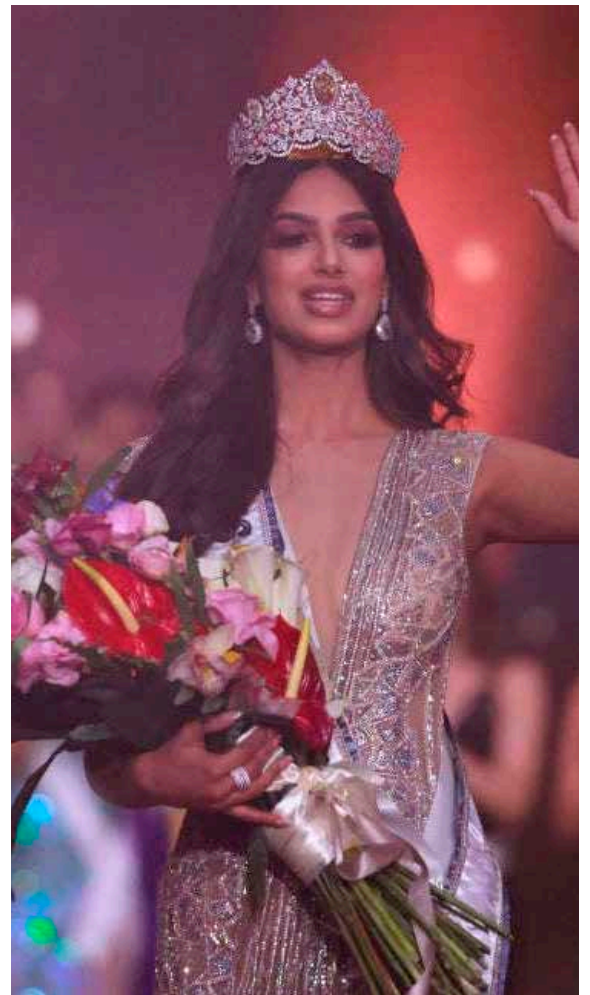
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Miss Universe 2021 See Who Was Crowned the New Winner!



After an exciting three-hour beauty pageant featuring contestants from all across the globe, the world now has a new Miss Universe!

Miss India Harnaaz Sandhu earned the coveted crown on Sunday, and was brought to tears by the exciting victory. She takes on the title held by the outgoing Miss Universe, Andrea Meza.

Meza only held the title since May, after the 2020 Miss Universe was postponed significantly due to the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent shutdowns.

Sandhu beat out 79 other participating contestants from qualifying nations across the globe to earn the title and the crown. She is only the third Indian woman to be crowned Miss Universe.

Meanwhile, Miss Paraguay Nadia Ferreira came in as the night's runner-up, with Miss South Africa Lalela Mswane coming in as the 2nd runner-up.

The 70th annual Miss Universe was hosted yet again by Steve Harvey. This marked Harvey's sixth time as host in seven years, after he skipped the 2020 Miss Universe due to COVID-19 safety concerns.



Cllr Rachelle Harika

**I wish
you and your families
a Happy Christmas and safe New Year**

أتمنى لكم وعائلاتكم

عيداً مجيداً وسنة سعيدة



Australian Arab Business Council Christmas Party



As the end of the year draws near, the Australian Arab Business Council is warmly inviting all the members and corporate partners to celebrate a successful 2020 with the annual Christmas Party. The evening was filled with musical entertainment provided by Arabic Singer Karmelan, accompanied by a talented group of drummers and belly dancers. Sam McCool delivered an exciting show during the night.

Photos By Abou George



COVID & HEALTH

Omicron may be able to evade vaccines. Here's what Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca plan to do about that

The United States led the global race to develop a viable vaccine against COVID-19. But a year after the first shots received emergency approval from federal regulators, new variants of the virus are changing the game. Omicron, the wildcard variant already detected in multiple US states and more than 77 countries, including Australia, is the latest to emerge.

With its dastardly combination of mutations, scientists fear it may spread quickly and sidestep vaccines.

A small study out of South Africa suggests the Pfizer vaccine provides only partial protection from Omicron, but boosters might make up the difference.

Governments and companies worldwide are already moving to stop the variant wreaking havoc, with some floating the possibility of variant-specific booster shots.

Here's what's happening so far, and what it could mean for you.

The race to update vaccines

One of the biggest questions facing scientists as they scramble to learn more about the Omicron variant is how existing COVID-19 vaccines will perform against it.

"There are three main characteristics that we worry about with viruses like Omicron," said Dr Celine Gounder, an epidemiologist from the NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

First of all, is it more infectious or contagious?

"Number two, is it more virulent or less virulent? In other words, does it cause less-severe disease in individuals who are infected?

"And, number three, is it immune-evading? And this is one characteristic of Omicron that is concerning."

The new variant has around 50 mutations — more than double its predecessor, Delta — including many on its spike, the viral protein that vaccines or illness train the body's immune system to fight with antibodies.

Even so, Dr Gounder is optimistic current vaccines will continue to provide some level of protection, especially with the addition of booster shots.

"We suspect there may be some reduction in vaccine effectiveness but that people will still remain well protected against severe disease, hospitalisation and death, even with an Omicron infection," she said.

While scientists assess the threat of the new variant, vaccine manufacturers are looking at whether their products may need to be modified.

What are vaccine manufacturers doing?



The makers of US-approved vaccines Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, as well as AstraZeneca — which is widely used in Europe and Australia — have all begun to study Omicron.

"[We] believe that fully vaccinated individuals will still have a high level of protection against severe disease caused by Omicron," said a spokesperson for BioNTech, which developed its shot with Pfizer.

"We anticipate that booster vaccination will further increase protection against severe disease and potentially provide protection against disease of any severity."

Similarly, Moderna is developing an Omicron-specific booster version of its mRNA vaccine that could be ready for clinical testing in 60 to 90 days.

"From the beginning, we have said that, as we seek to defeat the pandemic, it is imperative that we are proactive as the virus evolves," Moderna chief executive Stephane Bancel said in a statement.

How soon could Omicron boosters be available?

If modified vaccines prove necessary, the White House believes it could make them widely available within a few months.

That includes the time needed to develop and manufacture the doses, as well as obtaining necessary federal approvals.

"We are planning in that scenario not only for supporting the manufacturers through that process if needed, but also for how would we rapidly get shots in arms," White House coronavirus response coordinator Jeff Zients told a recent briefing.

"And we know how to do that, given the experience we've had the last year, and that is lessons learned about how we deployed the federal pharmacy programs, set up mass-vaccination sites, go to community health centres and rural clinics."

Australia would still need to make its own decisions on whether to approve new booster shots and how to distribute them.

There are currently no changes to the national guidance in response to Omicron.

Boosters, Delta and the long winter ahead

In the US, Delta remains the dominant strain of COVID-19 and is leading a surge of cases going into winter.

The main things people can do to protect themselves — regardless of variants — are to get vaccinated, and wear masks indoors and in public places, according to Dr Gounder.

In countries where the option is available, she also recommends bolstering immunity with booster shots, particularly for the elderly and immunocompromised.

Since the first cases of Omicron were reported in Botswana and South Africa last month, President Joe Biden has announced a new national strategy to deal with it.

The plan includes encouraging all adults to get vaccine or booster shots as soon as possible, increasing access to at-home rapid tests, and more stringent testing for international travellers.

"We're going to fight this variant with science and speed, not chaos and confusion," he said.

COVID & HEALTH

Finland's PM apologises for clubbing until 4am when she should have been isolating



Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin has apologised to the public after a photo surfaced of her in a nightclub after her foreign minister tested positive for COVID-19.

"I did wrong. I should have considered the situation more carefully," Marin said in a television interview by public broadcaster Yle on Wednesday night (Thursday AEDT).

"I should have used better judgment on Saturday night," she said. "I'm really sorry that I didn't understand how to do this."

Marin said she decided not to cut her night out short after being told she had been exposed to the coronavirus the day before, she wrote on Facebook on Monday after a Finnish gossip magazine published a video of her in Butchers nightclub. Witnesses told the magazine, Seiska, that she was dancing until 4am.

Marin, 36, became the world's youngest leader when she became Prime Minister at the age of 34 two years ago as part of a coalition of centre-left parties.

Finland, with a population of about 5.5 million, has not suffered as badly during the pandemic as many other European nations, recording about 196,000 cases and 1384 deaths.

But coronavirus case numbers have surged recently, with more than 3000 new cases reported on the same day that Marin went clubbing, up from a low of 65 new cases a day in June. More than 73 per cent of Finland's population is double-vaccinated.

Marin was not the only member of the government to ignore the nation's own laws about isolating after COVID exposure.

Economic Affairs Minister Mika Lintila attended a floorball match between Finland and Latvia on Sunday despite being advised to avoid contact with others, Helsingin Sanomat newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Defence Minister Antti Kaikkonen went to a dinner party on Saturday while Finance Minister Annika Saarikko and Science and Culture Minister Antti Kurvinen cancelled their attendance of the same event to avoid contacts, evening paper Ilta-Sanomat reported on Tuesday.

The ministers were exposed on Friday at a meeting attended by Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, who on Saturday tested positive for COVID-19.

Merck says its Covid pill should be effective against Omicron



Merck & Co believes its promising new Covid treatment is effective against the Omicron variant.

Molnupiravir, developed by the Kenilworth, New Jersey-based pharmaceutical, stops the virus from making copies of itself, which prevents it from spreading throughout the body. Merck believes that since the drug does not target the spike protein, where many of the concerning Omicron variant mutations are occurring, its drug should be effective still.

Recent trial data has found the drug can reduce risk of death from the virus by 30 percent - but some vaccine and drug manufacturers fear their products will not be as effective against the recently discovered, highly mutated, strain.

It comes as an advisory panel from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) meets on Tuesday to decide whether or not Merck's therapy can receive emergency use authorization.

Vic creates Australia's first mRNA vaccine

Victorian scientists have created Australia's first mRNA COVID-19 vaccine with clinical trials due to begin next year.

The vaccine was created in Melbourne within five months by Monash University researchers, pharmaceutical manufacturer IDT Australia and the Doherty Institute.

About 450 doses have been produced at the Boronia site, enabling 150 people to take part in phase one clinical trials, with results expected later in 2022.

Equipment was shipped from Canada to help create the vaccine, with a machine processing nanoparticles into final liquid drug form.

"This is an Australian first that confirms Victoria as a leader in mRNA therapeutics and manufacturing – it is an incredible achievement to have made an mRNA vaccine candidate that is ready for clinical trials," Innovation Minister Jaala Pulford said.

"We're serious about developing our mRNA manufacturing capacity and doing it quickly as we can, because it will save lives."

Victoria had another 918 COVID-19 infections and six deaths on Tuesday. The state is managing 11,417 active COVID-19 cases.



There are 305 COVID patients in the state's hospitals, 41 of them are actively infected with the virus in intensive care and 19 requiring ventilation.

The seven-day hospitalisation average is 298.

Virus testers processed 45,658 results on Monday, while 3726 people were vaccinated against COVID-19 in state-run hubs.

There's now 91 per cent of Victorians aged over 12 fully vaccinated.



COVID & HEALTH

Omicron is sneaky It could be fatal for us

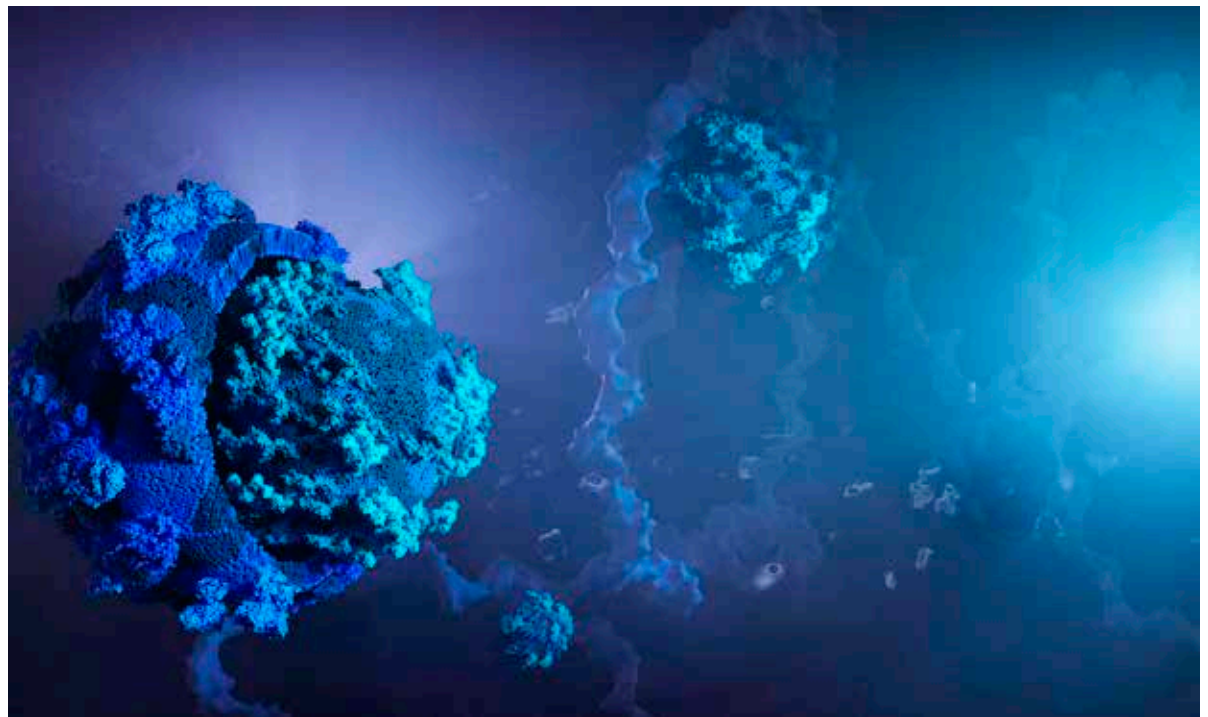
The emergence and rapid spread of the Omicron Sars-CoV-2 variant feels like a flashback to last year's grim festive season when much of the world went into lockdown to avert the worst of the Alpha variant wave. But though the sense of eerie, impending doom feels familiar, the epidemiological and political situations are different from one year ago.

The Omicron wave represents a key turning point in the pandemic. But no plausible outcome looks particularly auspicious – it feels largely like a lose-lose deal. If it turns out to be roughly as severe as previous pandemic waves, it might normalise harsh mitigation measures and render the prospect of a return to post-pandemic normality fairly remote. If it turned out to be milder than feared, this could spell the end of lockdowns with Covid-19 on its way into endemicity. The cost would be a loss of trust in political and public health authorities, which may make it difficult to deal with future threats. Omicron is a different beast to the Alpha and Delta variants, which emerged in the pre-vaccine phase of the pandemic and spread in largely immunologically naive populations. Their threat came from the increased ability to replicate quickly within their host and their higher contagiousness. Both variants were associated with higher hospital admission rates and deaths. However, neither variant was good at escaping immune recognition, although each could cause occasional “breakthrough infections” in immunised people, with high contagiousness allowing these variants to barge through the first-line immune defence.

Omicron is different. Rather than just relying on brute force, as Delta did, it is far better at sneaking through immune defences, thanks to a number of mutations that it acquired in key regions of its spike protein. These reduce the ability of neutralising antibodies to bind to it. As such, it spreads primarily by (re-)infecting previously immunised hosts.

The centre of the Omicron outbreak was Gauteng province in South Africa, which experienced a dramatic rise of nearly 400% in the number of cases in the first week of December. The Gauteng outbreak seems to be receding with its peak expected within a week or so. Other regions of South Africa also show signs of their epidemics slowing down despite no measures having been taken to suppress transmission.

Many countries are seeing rapid rises of Omicron cases, which are recorded as doubling every two to three days in the UK. But there is considerable uncertainty about the virulence



of Omicron. Early, largely anecdotal, evidence from South Africa suggested Omicron might be milder. Such data has to be interpreted carefully as essentially all infections start with mild symptoms and there is a time lag before severe disease develops. As additional data has landed in the past two weeks, the hypothesis of the Omicron wave being significantly milder becomes increasingly plausible. Reported deaths and hospitalisations in South Africa, in particular those requiring intensive care or ventilation, have remained far below numbers recorded during previous waves.

Virulence is not just a property of a pathogen but of the interaction with its host. Most populations on Earth have acquired high rates of immunisation through vaccination and prior infection. While Omicron can largely bypass neutralising antibodies, it remains well recognised by T-cells, which do the heavy lifting to control infections that can't be averted. As such, vaccines largely retain their efficacy against severe symptoms caused by the variant and a recent third dose still seems to provide significant protection against infection.

Irrespective of the relative virulence of Omicron, the large peak of cases anticipated over the coming weeks is expected to add further stress to healthcare services, which no government can allow to become overwhelmed under its watch. A case for harsh mitigation measures based entirely on the protection of healthcare services might be less well received by many nearly two years into the pandemic, in particular given the uncertainty around the severity of Omicron.

A lockdown to deal with Omicron may be a more difficult sell as it comes with no obvious endpoint

The first lockdowns in early 2020 were generally

well accepted by the population as a temporary measure in the face of an exceptional threat. Many felt that later lockdowns were justified as a means to delay the epidemic until the population could be vaccinated. A lockdown to deal with Omicron may be a more difficult sell; it comes with no obvious endpoint besides its objective to “flatten the curve” and allow for a marginal increase in the number of people vaccinated or boosted before the peak of the wave.

How to respond to the Omicron wave poses extreme challenges to political and public health authorities globally. So far, western governments have enforced early, harsh travel bans against African countries, which have been widely criticised, including by the World Health Organization. Given the rapid rise in local community transmission of Omicron, those travel restrictions have lost all efficacy they might have had early on. Increasing the rate of vaccination, including third doses, in particular for those most at risk, should make a real difference in terms of morbidity and mortality over the coming months, but time is rapidly running out given the remarkably fast increase in daily Omicron case numbers. Many governments are also taking more intrusive or coercive measures, which could rapidly escalate to compare with previous lockdowns.

How effective those measures are at reducing viral transmission over the coming weeks will largely depend on the population's willingness to follow the rules. In the absence of a clear sense of fear and a possible loss of trust, adherence may be far lower.

As I noted, Omicron's legacy could be huge if its impact proves to be especially rough or mild. But even an intermediate outcome might cause additional resentment and further the deep divisions in society.