

Australian government removes journalism from Skilled Occupation List



Top 10 places to visit before you die: One of them Santorini!

“Santorini is one of the places that every inhabitant of the planet must see before they die”, “The Clackamas Print” newspaper listed Santorini in a list of ten places to see. Below find the other top destinations:

1. New York City – While I’ve never been there (except to the airport), New York City makes this list because of how famous it is.
2. Madrid, Spain – Madrid is one of the most historical and beautiful cities in Spain in my opinion.
3. Florence, Italy – Florence is my favorite city in the world (BEFORE it became a scene in the second “Twilight” movie).
4. Nice, France – The city of Nice has castles from the 15th century that you can actually walk through; it will blow your mind.
5. The pyramids in Egypt – ‘Cause you just gotta see ‘em!
6. Santorini, Greece – Greek culture is SO interesting to me, and the city of Santorini is supposedly one of the prettiest in the country.
7. London, England – London has been in so many movies it’s not even funny ... even then I think it’s still worth seeing with your own eyes.
8. Frankfurt, Germany – Because who doesn’t love lederhosen and lebkuchen?
9. San Jose, Costa Rica – The people of Costa Rica (while still a second-world country) are the happiest people you will ever meet.
10. Sydney, Australia – They say Australia has the most dangerous species of animals in the world, but I’d still love to visit because it would be so different from the ordinary.

Journalism no longer features on a list of occupations used by the Australian government to control which migrant workers can seek permanent residency in the country.

The new Skilled Occupation List (SOL), which was compiled independent body Skills Australia on behalf of the government’s Department of Immigration and Citizenship, cuts the number of “highly valued occupations” from 400 to 181.

Journalists are still eligible for permanent visas under the separate Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL), which allows Australian employer’s to sponsor overseas workers. But the new list will mean journalists will be unable to obtain a visa under the country’s general migration scheme, which is “for people who are not sponsored by an employer and who have skills in particular occupations required in Australia”.

The new SOL will come into effect from 1 July and will be reviewed annually, but is expected “to remain stable for some time”, the department says in its new guidelines.

According to the new guidelines: “The introduction of a new list of occupations is part of a package of proposed reforms that reflects the government’s commitment to a labour market demand-driven skilled migration program. The number of places available to independent skilled migrants in the skilled migration program is expected to fall as the number of places available for employer-sponsored skilled migrants increases. Employer-

sponsored migration matches migrants directly to jobs in Australia, making it the best method to ensure the labour market gets the skills it needs now. It is therefore important that the smaller number of independent skilled migration places that are available are filled by migrants with skills that are critical to Australia’s economic development in the medium to long term. The new list of occupations identifies these skills.”

The reduction in occupations and removal of journalists from the SOL is a fair reflection of the “the times we are living in and the state of the news industry”, Jonathan Este, director of communications with the Australian journalists union, the Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance, told Journalism.co.uk.

“The fact is that there are plenty of Australian journalists looking for jobs and plenty more in education who will be entering the employment market during the next few years. It is hard to imagine a situation in which we would need to bring in a journalist, even for a specialist or non-English language publication,” he said.

Journalists and related professions, print journalists, television journalists and radio journalists were previously listed separately on the SOL. According to a report by the Australian Associated Press agency, the government is cracking down on the number of people seeking permanent residency through “low-value education courses”, such as short, vocational courses in hairdressing and cooking, who have

secured residency with relative ease after entering the country for these training programmes.

“It’s true that Australia is hardly wanting for more out-of-work journalists, but I think the bigger picture here is that the government is treating a symptom rather than a cause: people couldn’t “exploit” these “low-value education courses” if the government didn’t allow them to exist in the first place. Australia’s education industry is rife with shonky “training colleges” offering worthless qualifications to unsuspecting foreign students. But it’s a AUS\$15 billion-industry, and fee-paying overseas students effectively fund our tertiary education system, so the government has allowed it to flourish,” Ruth Brown, web editor at Australian news and comment website Crikey, told Journalism.co.uk.

“Whether it will affect the Australian journalism industry, I couldn’t say with any authority. However, Australia is very multicultural society, and part of that is a strong tradition of foreign language media outlets. This could potentially affect news organisations like Melbourne paper Neos Kosmos - Melbourne has the largest Greek-speaking population outside of Greece, and the paper is an important part of the Greek community here.”

People who have already applied for visas under the general skilled migration program will not be affected by the implementation of the new list.

Article from Online Journalism News

Argonauts 'gulp' air to swim freely

Unique, free-swimming octopuses called argonauts use their stunning white shells to remain neutrally buoyant beneath the sea surface, say Australian researchers.

Dr Julian Finn and Dr Mark Norman from Museum Victoria in Melbourne have for the first time observed the animals, Argonauta argo, in the wild, in the Sea of Japan.

They report their findings today in the Proceedings of the Royal Society.

The females of these rarely-seen octopuses sport the fragile white shells, and since antiquity the animals have been spotted floating on the surface of the sea, sometimes in long chains of 20 animals or more.

The ancient Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle postulated that argonauts used these shells to ‘sail’ across the sea surface, hence their name.

This was proved to be wrong and scientists then thought that the shells acted predominantly as brood chambers for eggs and that air caught in the shells could cause mass strandings.

Now, Drs Finn and Norman say instead females actively fill their shells with air and then jet down into the water column, where the air compresses as water pressure increases with depth.

This allows argonauts to remain neutrally buoyant at depths of up to 10 metres, with the volume of air in their shells exactly compensating for their weight, they say.

Experiment

Dr Finn took three female argonauts captured by

Japanese fishermen scuba diving in Okidomari Harbour on the western coast of Honshu and released them at depths of two to seven metres. Prior to release, the shells were depleted of air.

All three argonauts jetted to the surface and rocked their shells forward to ‘gulp’ air, which they then sealed in their shells with specially-adapted tentacles. The argonauts then dived until buoyancy from the trapped, compressed air cancelled their weight.

“To my delight the argonauts immediately put to rest decades of conflicting opinions, demonstrating their expert ability at obtaining and managing surface-acquired air,” says Dr Finn.

“Female argonauts released with no air in their shells flailed from side-to-side when swimming, struggling to maintain vertical orientation. Arg-



onauts released with ample air in their shells at the water surface displayed no difficulty in diving to depth.”

A 'whacky' octopus

The study demonstrates a convergent evolution between argonauts and true nautilus, unrelated cephalopods which achieve buoyancy through controlling fluid levels in their chambered shells, to which they are attached.

“Our study has demonstrated how the dexterity and morphological plasticity of the female argonaut has allowed neutral buoyancy to be attained with far less morphological architecture and complexity than that of the [true] nautilus,” says Dr Finn.

Dr Finn says that the animals, whose females can be 600 times heavier than the shell-less, minute males, were “pretty whacky”.

While females cruise the surface, the smaller males actively swim over a greater depth range. When they encounter a female they transfer their sperm to an arm which they detach and leave with her.

“Males grow to a size comparable to other octopus [larvae] that migrate with the plankton,” says Dr Finn. Males don’t appear to counteract their weight because they are so small, while the heavier females need to counteract their weight to avoid spending energy, he says.

“They have made a lot of strange adaptations [in order to] live in the open ocean.”

Article from ABC news