

1917

1 January In an effort to conserve energy supplies, daylight saving was introduced throughout Australia and all clocks were advanced by one hour. It was abandoned later in the year after proving unpopular.

7 February After a month of negotiations the National Labor and Liberal parties agreed to a merger, taking the name Nationalist Party. On 17 February Hughes's new Nationalist Party cabinet, comprising five former National Labor and six former Liberal members, was sworn in.

5 March Hughes's proposal to prolong the current term of the House of Representatives until 8 October 1918 or a final peace declaration (whichever came first) was rejected by the Senate and the governor-general dissolved parliament.

19 March Beaumont Smith's film, *Our friends the Hayseeds*, was released in Sydney. This was Australia's first substantial film comedy; Smith made another eighteen feature films, six of which were devoted to the Hayseed family.

11 April The Fourth Division AIF assaulted the Hindenburg line near Bullecourt supported by tanks, the first time AIF troops had fought in association with these weapons, which were intended to flatten the barbed wire entanglements. The tanks were a failure, most being knocked out of action. The AIF lost more than 3000 men killed and 1170 taken prisoner.

5 May The seventh federal election saw a landslide victory for Hughes and the Nationalists, who won 53 seats in the House of Representatives compared to Labor's 22.

6 May T.J. Carr, Catholic archbishop of Melbourne, died aged 77. His successor was the Irishman Daniel Mannix, one of Hughes's most vocal opponents on conscription.

24 May The Australian boxer Les Darcy died at Memphis, Tennessee, from pneumonia. After a successful career in Australia, Darcy had left the country in breach of wartime regulations to fight in America. Government pressure prevented Darcy from getting fights. Darcy was greatly perturbed by the criticism his departure from Australia had generated and his health broke down. He was buried in Maitland, NSW, and his funeral became an occasion for anti-government protest, since many regarded him as a martyr for the Irish-Australian Catholic cause.

7 June The Second Anzac Corps, comprising the Third Australian Division, the New Zealand Division and a British division, attacked the village of Messines in Flanders, Belgium. The battle saw 6800 Australians killed and wounded.

July The commonwealth government introduced a war profits tax to ensure that the wealthy made an adequate contribution to the war effort. The tax was opposed by both business and Labor, the latter arguing that it did not go far enough.



1917 While Australians were dying in trenches in France, auctioneers in Australia were getting on with the business of selling land. The auction at Cooks Hill was aimed at Newcastle's growing middle class, including managerial staff at the recently opened steelworks. Suburban house building continued unabated throughout the war years in many cities and towns. Coloured lithograph published by William Brooks and Co, Sydney.

ANU ARCHIVES OF BUSINESS AND LABOUR

2 August A strike by railway and tramway employees began in NSW, spreading to Vic on 30 August and assuming the proportions of a general strike. Waterside workers, miners and other unionists in vital industries joined them to protest against the high cost of living caused by the prolonged war. The strike continued until 19 September in NSW and until 24 October in Vic. Strikebreakers were used in the dispute which involved about 14 per cent of the workforce and indicated how war-time pressures had divided society.

August Allied cavalry units in the Middle East were reorganised into three divisions comprising the Desert Mounted Corps and including British, Australian, New Zealand, Indian and French troops. Sir Harry Chauvel was appointed to command the corps and promoted to lieutenant-general, the first Australian soldier to reach that rank.

12 September The minister for defence, Senator George Pearce, announced that the government had decided to restrict the number of sporting fixtures. He said the government believed that too many young men were involved in sport and that the community ought to put more energy into the war effort.

19 September Serious street disturbances, organised against the high cost of living by the Women's Peace Army, took place in Melbourne. Shopfronts were damaged and six people were arrested.

20 September As part of the offensives of the third battle of Ypres, the First and Second Australian divisions spearheaded an eleven-division attack in the battle of Menin Road, in which one mile (1.6 kilometres) of territory was gained at the cost of 5000 Australian casualties. When the third battle of Ypres

ended on 10 November after fifteen weeks of fighting. Australian casualties totalled 38 000. Recruiting in Australia could not keep up with such losses.

September Anti-German feeling in SA was given official recognition when the state government passed the Nomenclature Act, which changed the names of over 40 towns and districts with German origins.

17 October The Trans-Australian Railway was opened connecting Perth to Brisbane via Sydney, although with several gauge breaks.

7 November Hughes announced another conscription referendum.

29 November A train carrying Hughes on a pre-referendum tour stopped at Warwick in Qld and as the prime minister addressed an open-air meeting he was struck by two eggs thrown by an opponent of conscription. Because local police would take no action, an irate Hughes established the commonwealth police force on 7 December.

20 December The second conscription referendum resulted in another defeat for Hughes's proposal for compulsory military service abroad. This poll was even less favourable to the government than the first, with 1 181 747 voting against and 1 015 159 voting for conscription and with Vic joining the states opposed.

1918

8 January Hughes resigned as he had promised to if the referendum was lost. After discussions with other leading politicians, the governor-general recommissioned Hughes as the only man who could form a ministry. Hughes's opponents saw this as a shabby backdown from his promise.

17 January A conference of state treasurers was held in Melbourne to discuss the financial relations between the commonwealth and the states.

20–22 January A cyclone and tidal wave inundated Mackay in Qld, killing 30 people and causing an estimated £1 500 000 damage.

2 February A tornado estimated to have reached speeds of 193 kilometres per hour struck the Vic suburb of Brighton, killing two people and destroying houses.

7 February Hughes was invited to attend an imperial conference in London in June. He and navy minister Joseph Cook left for the conference secretly at the end of April.

9–10 March A cyclone almost destroyed the sugar-growing centre of Innisfail in Qld. It devastated Cairns, Ingham and Cardwell before sweeping inland, killing seventeen people and causing tens of thousands of pounds' damage.

26 March The Australian divisions, which had been resting, were sent into action to stop the German advance on Amiens.

25 April Australian troops recaptured the important position of Villers-Bretonneux which the Germans had taken from inexperienced British troops on the previous day. During this engagement the German fighter ace von Richthofen, the 'Red Baron', was shot down. The Canadians claimed that one of their pilots had brought von Richthofen down, but the Australian war historian C.E.W. Bean gives the credit to an Australian machine-gunner firing from the ground. Between 21 March and 7 May the Australians suffered more than 15 000 casualties while playing a crucial role in halting the final German offensive on the western front.



9–10 March 1918 A cyclone hit Innisfail and surrounding coastal towns in north Queensland. Most of Innisfail, population 3500, was flattened, including the Central Auction Mart opened only nine years before.

QUEENSLAND NEWSPAPERS

April The Department of Repatriation was formed.

May Lieut-Gen John Monash took over command of the Australian divisions from Gen William Birdwood. Monash was the first Australian to lead the Australian divisions, which had been reorganised into an Australian corps.

26 June The steamship *Wimmera*, en route from Auckland to Sydney, struck a mine and sank with the loss of 26 of the 151 passengers and crew.

June The entire Australian wool clip was sold to the British government. This arrangement was to last for the duration of the war and for one year afterwards.

8 August The final Allied offensive began on the western front. The Australian divisions played a leading role in the offensive, capturing Mont St Quentin and Péronne on 2 September and breaking through the Hindenburg line in the first week of October.

15 September The government decided that 7000 Australian troops who had left Australia in the first months of the war and fought at Gallipoli should be granted leave in Australia instead of the regulation leave in Britain.

22 September Sydney received the first direct wireless message from Britain. The messages were sent from the prime minister and the navy minister (in Britain for the Imperial Conference) and received by Ernest Fisk, managing director of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd.

4 October The Commonwealth Electoral Act introduced preferential voting for the House of Representatives. Preferential voting for the Senate was introduced a year later.

11 November The Great War — as it was then known — ended at 11 am. Australia had sent 329 883 troops; half the total number of all men aged between 18 and 45 who enlisted in the AIF. 59 342 Australians died in action, from wounds, or as prisoners of war; 166 819 suffered injuries from wounds or gas. Proportionately, the Australian contribution of volunteers had been greater than that of any of the other Allies but, like the other dominions, Australia was not consulted in the drafting of the armistice terms.

November Deaths from influenza at the quarantine station in Sydney were reported among soldiers who had returned from overseas in transports.

10 December The light cruiser HMAS *Brisbane* and destroyers of the First Australian Flotilla operated in the Black Sea in support of White Russian forces against the Bolsheviks.

13 December The trade and customs minister, Jens Jensen, refusing to resign after being criticised by a royal commission into defence contracts, was dismissed by the governor-general on the advice of the prime minister.

14 December At the Corangamite by-election in Vic, the farmers' candidate, William Gibson, won the seat from the Labor candidate after the redistribution of preferences from the third candidate, who was the government's selected candidate. This was the first

election of a Country party candidate to the federal parliament and it was made possible by the recent introduction of preferential voting and the unpopularity of the Hughes government in country areas.

1919

18 January The peace conference opened in Paris with Hughes representing Australia. Mainly as a result of Hughes's agitation, the dominions received separate representation at the conference, and for the first time Australia played a role in its own right in international affairs. Hughes secured mandate control over German New Guinea and other islands south of the equator and prevented Japan from inserting a racial equality clause in the covenant of the League of Nations. Later Australia received £5½ million by way of reparations from Germany.

22 January The first case of pneumonic influenza was reported in Melbourne and three days later it broke out in Sydney. This 'Spanish flu', which continued with varying intensity in all states until February 1920, arrived with returning troops. The disease, which affected mainly the young and middle-aged, killed over 11 500 Australians, with half the deaths occurring in NSW. Many schools, libraries, churches, theatres, picture shows, hotels and racecourses were closed when the epidemic became widespread from February to July. Travel was restricted and people donned face masks while travelling.

22 January A conference of federal and state ministers was held in Melbourne to discuss repatriation and the financial relations between the states and the commonwealth.

1 March The Sydney paper *Smith's weekly* was founded in Sydney by Sir James Joynton Smith, Claude McKay and Clyde Packer to represent the views of returned soldiers. Unashamedly protectionist, patriotic and pro-digger, it was noted for its high standard of cartoons and drawings. The paper closed on 28 October 1950.

6 March The War Service Homes Commission, established by the commonwealth government, began operations. Its long-term, low-interest repayments aided thousands of returned soldiers in obtaining a home of their own. The consequent increase in the numbers of home buyers contributed to the growth of the suburbs and the popularity of the 'Californian bungalow'.

23 March The fear of the 'red menace' that stalked Australia during the Russian revolution manifested itself in Brisbane following a trade union march at which government-banned red flags were waved. A group of returned soldiers attacked the headquarters of the Russia Association. The scene was repeated the following night.

8 May A truce was announced in the 'battle of the barricades' on the Fremantle waterfront. Rioting had



1919 In Western Australia the 'Returned Soldiers Appeal' for Anzac Day featured a naval scene rather than the usual dove.

SPEARTRIT COLLECTION

broken out earlier when the National Workers' Union, an organisation of non-unionists formed in 1917, tried to work on the wharves during a Lumpers' Union strike. Police used bayonets during the rioting and one lumper died of wounds. The premier, Hal Colebatch, was assaulted and almost killed by flying masonry when he visited the scene.

9 May A seamen's strike crippled Australia's shipping, putting thousands of workers out of work and disrupting food and coal supplies. Despite fines and gaolings, the seamen remained on strike until 26 August when most of their demands for better wages and conditions were met.

May A strike closed mines at Broken Hill until November 1920.

28 June Hughes signed the Treaty of Versailles on Australia's behalf. By the treaty, Australia gained an official mandate over German New Guinea and surrounding islands.

13 August A public demonstration of broadcasting took place in Sydney when a recording of 'God save the King' was transmitted by Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd (AWA) to the office of the Royal Society of NSW.

4 October Raymond Longford's comedy film *The sentimental bloke*, based on C.J. Dennis's poems and starring Arthur Tauchert as the Bloke and Lottie Lyell as Doreen, was first screened.

14 October A peace loan of £25 000 000 was fully subscribed.

3 November A rally was held in Melbourne following the Australasian Irish race convention with Labor politician Thomas Joseph Ryan in the chair. A huge crowd affirmed Ireland's right to self-government. Hughes used the convention to damage the Labor party in the December elections by linking it to the Irish cause and raising questions about disloyalty to Britain and the empire.

10 December Ross and Keith Smith, J.M. Bennett and W.H. Shiers arrived in Darwin, completing the first direct flight from England to Australia. They won a £10 000 prize offered by the commonwealth government to the Australian airman who could perform this feat within 30 consecutive days.

13 December At the federal election, Hughes and the Nationalists were returned as a minority government. They lost a referendum on the transfer of state powers to the commonwealth for the control of trade and industry. Eleven 'Country' members, representing 9 per cent of the vote, held the balance of power.

1919 Soldier settlement schemes were implemented in all states.

1920

22–23 January The Australian Country Party was officially formed at a meeting in Melbourne of the eleven members who had been returned in the 1919 election to represent rural electorates.

20 March 'Honest' John Storey narrowly defeated a divided Nationalist party and brought Labor to power in NSW for the first time since the conscription crisis.

26 May The Prince of Wales arrived in Melbourne aboard the *Renown* at the start of a three-month tour.

19 June Franklyn Barrett's film version of the play, *The breaking of the drought*, was released. The drought scenes were regarded as so shocking that the film was banned for export as being 'harmful to the Commonwealth'.

June The repatriation of Australia's expeditionary forces was completed.

24 July Raymond Longford's film version of Steele Rudd's Dad and Dave stories, *On our selection*, was released.

September The Australasian Socialist Party convened a conference and established the united Communist Party of Australia. Within weeks the party split into two rival parties — trade unionists versus doctrinal purists. In 1922 the trade-union faction, grouped around Jock Garden, was affiliated with the international body.

7 November A member of federal parliament, Hugh Mahon, in addressing a large Irish demonstration in Melbourne concerning the banning of Archbishop Mannix from Ireland by the British government,

referred to 'this bloody and accursed Empire'. Hughes moved that he should be expelled from parliament; the motion was carried.

16 November Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services Ltd, now known as Qantas, was founded by Hudson Fysh and P.J. McGinness, with the backing of pastoralists. In November 1922 they began operating an air service between Charleville and Cloncurry.

1920 The Commonwealth Prickly Pear Board was formed to investigate biological control of the pest. By 1928 it had established the potential of the moth cactoblastis, imported from Buenos Aires, to destroy prickly pear. The pest was under control by 1934. This opened up large tracts of land that had previously been useless, especially in Qld.

1920 A royal commission headed by Albert Bathurst Piddington reported on the cost of living and the basic wage. It found that the commonwealth basic wage of £4 was inadequate. Although the report was not acted on, from 1921 onwards the federal arbitration court adopted the principle of automatic wage adjustments in accordance with the cost of living.

1920 The rotary hoe, developed by A.C. Howard, an inventor from Crookwell, was demonstrated at Gilgandra, NSW.



1920 Norman Lindsay's solution to the ills that beset Australia at the beginning of the 1920s. Billy Bluegum happily dispenses with politicians, profiteers, bolsheviks, strikers, sectarians, women with lapdogs and the price of food. Bulletin, 11 December 1920.

1920 Test cricket matches, postponed during the war, were resumed.

1920 A housewives' association was formed in WA to fight high food prices and to represent women's interests to government. Similar organisations were formed in other states; they organised co-operative buying schemes and boycotts.

1921

22 January Gladys Moncrieff first appeared as the star in the *Maid of the mountains* at the Theatre Royal in Melbourne. She sang the role more than 3000 times, endearing herself to audiences as 'Our Glad'.

7 March The commonwealth Department of Health was established, taking over from the commonwealth Quarantine Service, but with wider responsibilities, including the operation of public health laboratories, disease prevention and public health education.

12 March Edith Dircksey Cowan became the first woman to be elected to an Australian parliament when she won the seat of West Perth for the Nationalists at the WA elections.

19 September An explosion occurred at the Mt Mulligan colliery in Qld, killing 75 men.

22 September A commonwealth royal commission into railway gauges recommended the use of a uniform gauge throughout Australia; the proposal foundered over the enormous cost of conversion.

September Mr Justice Henry Bournes Higgins resigned as president of the arbitration court at the end of his second term in protest against a bill to amend the Arbitration Act. Following strikes in the shipping industry, Hughes attempted to bypass the court by encouraging private arbitration through special tribunals.

11 October The ninth Federal Labor Conference in Brisbane voted 22 to 10 for the 'socialization of industry, production, distribution and exchange to be the objective of the Labor Party', but an amendment immediately destroyed the socialist intent by reaffirming support for private ownership.

27 October In Qld the Labor-dominated legislative council voted itself out of existence in line with Labor party policy. The act abolishing the council was proclaimed on 23 March 1922. Qld is the only state that has abolished its legislative council.

1921 The census showed that the non-Aboriginal population of Australia had reached 5 435 700. Aborigines were listed separately.

1921 The first Archibald Prize for portraiture was awarded to William Beckwith McInnes for his portrait of Desbrowe Annear. McInnes won five of the first six awards.

1921 The Australian Federation of Women Voters was formed.

1921 The comic strip 'Ginger Meggs', by J.C.

Bancks, first appeared under the title 'Us Fellers' in the Sydney *Sunday Sun*.

1921 A Californian, S.M. McKimmin, opened the Golden Gate Sundae Shop in Sydney, said to be the first soda fountain in Australia. Other American products, Life Savers ('the candy with the hole') and Kellogg's Cornflakes went on the market soon after.

1921 An act of parliament protected the term 'Anzac' against use for commercial purposes. By 1927 Anzac Day had been declared a statutory holiday in all states.

1921 C.E.W. Bean's *Story of Anzac* was published as the first volume of a twelve-volume *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–18*. Bean was editor of the series, writing six of the volumes himself.

1922

25 March In NSW Labor lost an early election. The Nationalists under Fuller came to power with the support of the Progressives.

April The Country Women's Association of NSW — the first in Australia — was founded at a meeting of country women in Sydney. The aim of the association was to improve the welfare of women and children in the country.

April A slump in the steel industry forced BHP to close its Newcastle works until May 1923.

May Louis Esson, George Dawe and Vance Palmer were instrumental in forming the Pioneer Players in Melbourne, with the aim of presenting regular seasons of Australian drama. Their first play was Esson's *The battler*. They gave their last performance in June 1926.

May The Empire Settlement Act, by which the British government agreed to co-operate with the dominions in developing migration schemes, came into force. The act emphasised the settlement of new immigrants on the land.

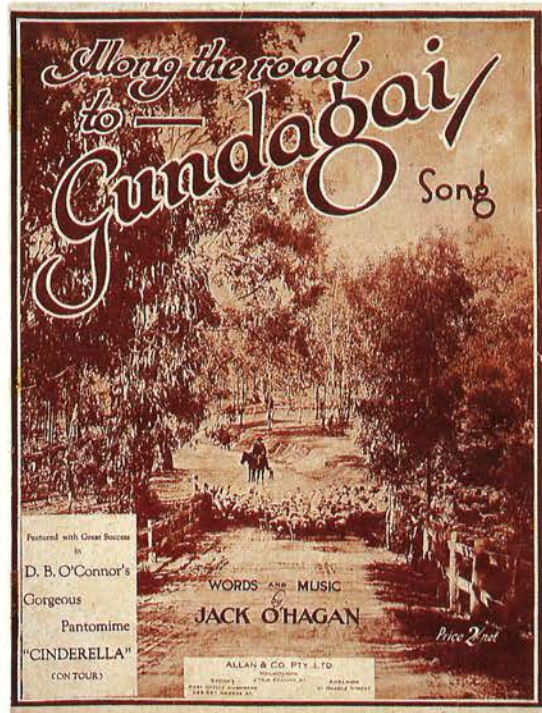
10 June At the Tas elections, the newly formed Country party held the balance of power with five members. When Walter Lee, the former Labor premier, was unable to work with them in coalition, John Hayes was elected premier.

3 July A 'New States' conference was held at Albury with the objective of dividing up the larger states into smaller government units.

2 September The writer Henry Lawson died. Hughes decreed a state funeral and after an impressive ceremony at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, Lawson was buried in Waverley cemetery.

11 September The *Sun News-Pictorial* was launched in Melbourne. A great success, with special appeal to the young, it was taken over by the *Weekly Times* in 1925.

November The Sydney Harbour Bridge bill was passed, enabling the construction of a bridge linking Sydney's north shore with the city.



1922 'Along the road to Gundagai', written by Jack O'Hagan, was published in sheet music by Allan and Company in 1922.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

1922 Melbourne University Press, Australia's first university publishing house, was founded. Its first publication was Myra Willard's *History of the white Australia policy* in 1923.

1922 The sculptor Bertram Mackennal was the first Australian artist to become a member of the Royal Academy in London.

1922 The Smith Family was founded in Sydney by a group of five businessmen who wished to remain anonymous. Beginning modestly as an organisation that held a Christmas party for underprivileged children, it grew into one of the largest welfare organisations in Australia.

1922 Qld became the first state to abolish capital punishment. Vic was the last state in 1975.

1922 The Qld government began a statewide building program for maternity hospitals.

1923

9 February The Country party refused a coalition with the Nationalists while they were led by Hughes, who tendered his resignation and recommended that Stanley Melbourne Bruce be appointed prime minister.

February The Mt Isa silver-lead field was discovered by John Campbell Miles. In 1925 Mt Isa Mines Ltd

took over all mining leases for the area and began mining in May 1931.

May The literary quarterly *Vision* was founded. The magazine was edited by Jack Lindsay, Kenneth Slessor and F.C. Johnson, with illustrations by Norman Lindsay, and championed universalist as opposed to nationalist verse and fulminated against modernism in both literature and art. *Vision* ceased publication after four issues.

May–June The premiers' conference agreed to establish a loan council to co-ordinate all government borrowing in Australia. The Loan Council became one of the main features of the Australian federal system, co-ordinating and regulating state government borrowing and increasing the federal government's control of the national economy.

14 August The Tas premier, John Hayes, resigned over a railways crisis and Walter Lee once again became premier, but only until the fall of his Labor government in October.

28 August The construction of Parliament House, Canberra, commenced.

1 September An explosion at the Bellbird coalmine, Cessnock, NSW, resulted in 20 deaths.

31 October Six hundred and forty men, comprising almost one-third of Vic's police force, refused to work. Discontent with low wages and undermanning played a part but the main cause for complaint was an internal supervisory system, which the policemen saw as spying. On 3 and 4 November, the weekend before the Melbourne Cup, large crowds rioted and looted in the city. The government raised a force of

'specials' to deal with the crisis and the strikers were never reinstated.

November Following the Vic police strike, many of the special constables involved in the restoration of law and order joined a militant right-wing group known as the White Guard. Led by Sir Brudenell White, a retired chief of the general staff of the AIF, the group was composed largely of ex-servicemen who saw themselves as the front line against bolshevism.

13 November Radio station 2SB Sydney, later to become 2BL, pioneered sealed-set radio broadcasting in Australia with the transmission of a concert from the studios of Sydney Broadcasters Ltd. Under the sealed-set system, radio receivers were set to one wavelength only and the owner paid the licence directly to that station.

1923 Vegemite was developed by the chemist C.P. Callister. Made to compete with the British yeast and vegetable extract Marmite, Vegemite was not an overnight success. Marketing campaigns gradually induced widespread acceptance of the product.

1923 D.H. Lawrence published the novel *Kangaroo*, set in Australia, which he wrote while living in Thirroul, NSW.

1923 An Australian company led by Edward Hallstrom began making kerosene refrigerators called Silent Knight. Electric Kelvinators were imported from the United States in 1927 and retailed by a local company, Email. Most Australian homes still used ice chests; electric refrigerators were not common until the 1950s.



1923 Special constables protect shops in Melbourne after looting during the Melbourne police strike.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

1923 A royal commission was convened in NSW to examine the claims of the 'New State' movements. Interest in these movements declined after the commission reported on them unfavourably in 1925.

1923 The electrification of Melbourne's cable tramway began.

1923 The Qld government introduced an unemployment insurance scheme.

1924

10 January The radio station 2FC opened, broadcasting news, music and race results from a studio on the roof of the department store Farmer and Co in Sydney.

26 January 3AR became the first Melbourne radio station.

30 January For the first time, a federal cabinet meeting was held in Canberra.

7 April The longest recorded heatwave in Australia ended. The temperature at Marble Bar, WA, had remained at 100° Fahrenheit (37° Celsius) or more for 170 consecutive days.

15 June The Vic State Electricity Commission, headed by the war general Sir John Monash, began operating its first permanent power generator at Yallourn. Initially the brown coal was brought from Morwell, but mining began at Yallourn in August. Commercial briquette production began in 1925.

17 July Compulsory voting was introduced for federal elections. Voting had previously been compulsory only for federal referendums.

1924 At the Paris Olympics, three Australians won gold medals: A.W. Winter for the hop, step and jump; R.C. Eve for diving and Andrew 'Boy' Charlton for the 1500 metres freestyle swimming.

1924 An Australian Woolworths, unconnected with the overseas firm, began operations in Sydney with a policy of favouring Australian-made goods.

1924 The Waite Agricultural Research Institute was established in association with the University of Adelaide.

1924 The American architect Walter Burley Griffin moved to Sydney after completing the Capitol Theatre, Melbourne, to begin the development of the suburb of Castlecrag, situated on Middle Harbour. Griffin's houses and streetscapes were designed to blend in with the bush environment.

1924 The Shell Co began refining petrol at Clyde, NSW, and Commonwealth Oil Refineries began operations at Laverton, Vic.

1924 The last Cobb and Co coach ran from Yuleba to Surat in Qld.

1924 The spiritualist Order of the Star of the East, built an amphitheatre at Balmoral beach, Sydney, from which to view the Second Coming. Seats cost

between £5 and £100. The subscriptions were not reimbursed.

1924 Ernest Fisk established the first human voice contact via radio between Australia and England in a broadcast to Guglielmo Marconi.

1924 Aborigines in Sydney formed the Aborigines Progressive Association which remained active until 1927.

1925

March Margaret Preston published an article in *Art in Australia* entitled 'The indigenous art of Australia'. The article pioneered appreciation of Aboriginal art.

April Britain and Australia signed a £34 million agreement to provide loan funds to promote the policy of 'Men, money and markets' to assist immigrants to settle on land in Australia.

30 May John Thomas Lang led Labor to power in NSW. In its two years in power, his government introduced a series of reforms, which included the restoration of the 44-hour week, the introduction of widows' pensions and child endowment, the abolition of fees for secondary schools and the establishment of the NSW Industrial Commission and the Government Insurance Office.

30 May Millicent Preston Stanley became the first woman elected to the NSW parliament, when she won the Eastern Suburbs seat for the Nationalists.

9 June Ten people were killed in a train derailment at Traveston, Qld.

June The Australian Guarantee Corporation was set up for the specific purpose of financing the purchase of motor vehicles.

June Following a series of stoppages on the waterfront and the temporary deregistration of the seamen's union, the prime minister, S.M. Bruce, passed legislation amending the Immigration Act to allow the deportation of immigrants for offences against federal commerce and arbitration laws. The legislation was aimed at the seamen's leaders, Tom Walsh and Jack Johnson, but efforts to deport them failed when the high court found that they were not immigrants, having lived in Australia for 32 and 15 years respectively. Bruce also amended the Navigation Act, enabling him to suspend some of its conditions, and thereby threatening seamen in the coastal trade with overseas competition. Bruce orchestrated a campaign linking the industrial crisis with the 'red' menace.

June One of Australia's leading intellectuals and poets, Christopher Brennan, was dismissed from his post at the University of Sydney on grounds of adultery.

1925 The first chair of anthropology in Australia was founded at the University of Sydney, with Alfred Reginald Radcliffe-Brown as its first occupant.

1925 The 'Big Brother' movement began as a joint

Australian-British scheme to assist adolescents to migrate as farm workers under the guidance of a 'big brother' in Australia.

1925 The first Australian jazz record was made by a group known as the Californians, featuring the trombone and trumpet playing of Frank Coughlan.

1925 An *Australian encyclopaedia*, edited by Arthur Jose, was published in two volumes by Angus and Robertson.

1925 The Ford Motor Co began assembling cars at Geelong, Vic. The engines were imported.

1925 An 'Australia-made' preference league sponsored the 'great white train' tour of NSW with sixteen display vans exhibiting Australian products.

1926

February Thirty-one people died in Vic as bushfires swept across the state.

1 March The first regular electric train service in NSW, between Sydney Central and Oatley, began.

10 March The NSW Widows' Pension Scheme began operation following legislation in 1925. Widows received £1 a week plus 10s for each child.

13 March Anna Pavlova began her first Australian tour in Melbourne. The tour was of great importance in promoting public interest in ballet and setting new standards for local dancers. A young Australian dancer, Robert Helpmann, studied with her company during the tour.

May Legislation was initiated leading to the formation of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (later CSIRO) in place of the Institute of Science and Industry.

June Two referendums to increase commonwealth powers in industrial disputes were lost.

June Following the murder of a white man, eleven Aborigines were killed while in police custody at



1927 The first Australian commemorative stamp, issued for the opening of Parliament House, Canberra.

AUSTRALIA POST

Dala, WA, and their bodies burned. A royal commission appointed by the WA government found two policemen responsible for four of the deaths. They were not prosecuted.

3 September The *Canberra Times* began publication.

25 November The Sydney Contemporary Group of painters held their first exhibition. Formed by Thea Proctor and Roy de Maistre, the group aimed to exhibit works of artists including Roland Wakelin, Grace Cossington-Smith and Margaret Preston, who were influenced by the post-impressionists.

20 December A regular service began on the first section of the Sydney underground railway, between Central and St James stations.

1926 General Motors set up an assembly plant for motor vehicles in Melbourne.

1926 The *Australian woman's mirror*, an offshoot of the *Bulletin*, was founded as a weekly. It was taken over by Australian Consolidated Press in 1960.

1926 Hoyts Theatres Ltd was formed with F.W. Thring as the managing director. Its rivalry with Union Theatres resulted in the building of large-scale picture palaces, including Sydney's lavish State Theatre in 1929.

1926 The NT was divided into two sections, North and Central Australia, each section being administered by a government resident. The division was repealed in 1931.

1926 Under the Paterson plan, a bounty was introduced for butter exports. It was financed by increased prices in Australia. Aimed at helping the dairy industry and struggling soldier settlers, it resulted in Australian butter being cheaper in London than in Sydney.

1927

1 January The Lang government introduced a tax of ½d per copy on all newspapers with a circulation of more than 15 000 and priced less than 3d. The tax was contested and judged to be illegal by the high court on 3 March.

26 March The Liberal and Country parties of SA combined to defeat L.L. Hill's Labor government at the election. Richard Butler became premier.

March A Family Endowment Act was passed in NSW. It provided assistance for families with an income up to £364 per annum for every child up to the age of fourteen.

8 April Beam wireless transmission began between Australia and England.

9 April Labor came to power in Vic, winning 28 seats against a divided opposition. Edmond John Hogan became premier.

3 May The Australasian (after 1943 Australian) Council of Trade Unions was formed at a trade union congress held in Melbourne. The Australian Workers' Union refused to join until 1976.



April 1927 King Billy, the last Aboriginal chief of Canberra, turned away from the opening of parliament. He died shortly afterwards.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

9 May Parliament House, Canberra, was officially opened by the Duke of York; the singing of the national anthem was led by Dame Nellie Melba. The first Australian commemorative stamp, worth 1½ was issued in connection with the event.

2 June A royal commission into the state of the Australian film industry was appointed. Its report, tabled in April 1928, revealed that there were 1250 picture theatres in Australia and that the industry employed 20 000 people. Australian film makers were being squeezed out of the box office by imported, generally American, films.

20 June The film version by the American Norman Dawn of Marcus Clarke's novel *For the term of his natural life* premiered at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle. It was one of the most lavishly produced silent films in Australia and enjoyed immense success, but it lost money when sound had to be added in 1929 for the overseas market.

8 October In elections in NSW, Lang's Labor government lost its majority and Thomas Bavin, leader of the Nationalists, was elected coalition premier.

26 October Joseph 'Squizzy' Taylor, alleged king of the Melbourne underworld, was fatally shot in Carlton in mysterious circumstances.

3 November More than forty people were drowned when the Sydney ferry *Greycliffe* sank after colliding with the American liner *Tahiti*. Many of those aboard were schoolchildren on their way home. In the subsequent inquiry, the captain of the *Tahiti* was blamed for the disaster because the liner had travelled too fast while still inside the heads.

1927 A financial agreement was reached between the

federal and state governments resulting in the Australian Loan Council becoming a permanent body. Under the agreement the Loan Council's approval was required before the states could borrow money. This transfer of powers, which also made the commonwealth the sole borrowing authority overseas, was ratified by a referendum coinciding with the elections of 1928.

1927 New car registrations for the year reached a peak of 82 500, a figure which was not matched until after World War II.

1927 In SA this was the driest year on record.

1927 The Sydney exhibition of works of the SA painter Hans Heysen created an Australian sales record.

1927 Aborigines were banned from central Perth. The ban was not removed until 1948.

1928

27 January Twelve children died in Bundaberg, Qld, after being inoculated against diphtheria with contaminated vaccine.

7–22 February Bert Hinkler made the first solo flight from England to Australia in 15½ days.

March The first Australian motor-racing grand prix was held at Cowes, Vic.

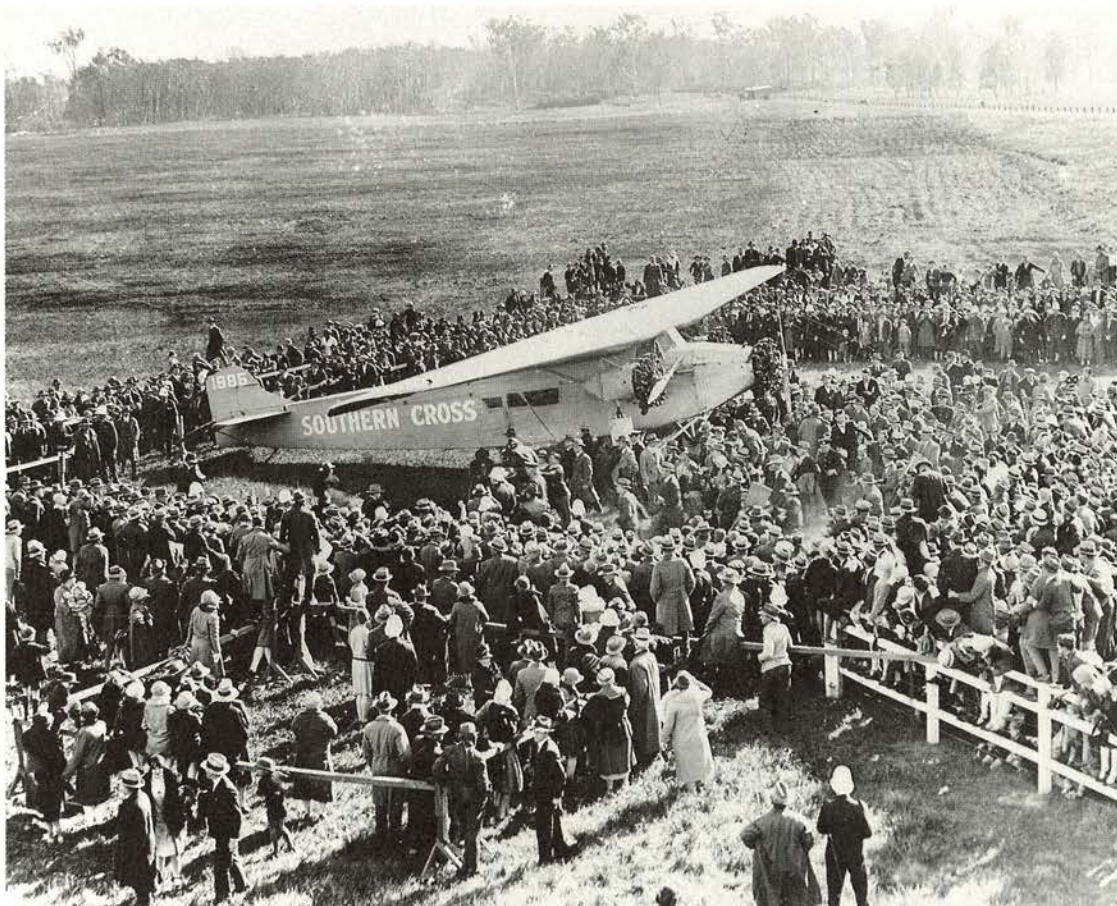
17 April The Nationalist government sold the Commonwealth Shipping Line to Lord Kylsant for £1 900 000.

30 May Labor under Joseph Lyons in Tas lost office to a reunited Nationalist Party. Lyons resigned the following month and entered federal politics.

May The Flying Doctor Service made its inaugural flight out of its Cloncurry base, Qld. The service was established under the direction of Rev John Flynn, superintendent of the Presbyterian Australian Inland Mission. It extended over 13 million square kilometres by the time he died in 1951. A pedal radio system was invented by Alfred Traeger for use by the service; it also enabled outback families to communicate.

31 May–9 June Charles Kingsford Smith and C.P. Ulm, assisted by H. Lyon and J. Warner, made the first flight across the Pacific, taking 83 hours and 11 minutes to fly from California to Brisbane. Kingsford Smith and Ulm later teamed with H.A. Litchfield and T.H. McWilliam to make the first non-stop flight across Australia on 8 August and the first flight to New Zealand on 10–11 September. All three flights were made in the *Southern Cross*.

7 August A white man was killed near Coniston, NT. C.A. Cawood, government resident of central Australia, sent out Const Murray and two trackers to find the murderers. They rode through a number of camps, killing Aborigines as they encountered them. Murray was eventually held responsible for the killing of at least 31 Aborigines, in what became known as



1928 Charles Kingsford-Smith and C.P. Ulm at Eagle Farm airport, Brisbane, surrounded by admiring onlookers.

QUEENSLAND NEWSPAPERS

the Coniston massacre. A board of inquiry found that the killings were justified. The Aborigines arrested for the original murder were found not guilty.

August The first blast furnace was blown in at the new Port Kembla steelworks, owned by Australian Iron and Steel Ltd.

5–9 September A Eucharistic congress was held in Sydney, attended by the papal legate, Cardinal Cerretti.

2 November Police opened fire on striking waterside workers in Melbourne, killing one man.

21 November The Vic Labor government fell after losing censure motions on its handling of the waterfront strike and plans for electoral redistribution. Sir William McPherson formed a National government.

December The 'talkies' came to Sydney with the screening of *The jazz singer* at the Lyceum and *The red dance* at the Regent.

1928 Following the Coniston massacre, demand grew for a proper investigation of the conditions of the Aborigines in the NT. J.W. Bleakley, chief

protector of Aborigines in Qld, was appointed to report on the conditions of Aborigines in the NT. He was particularly concerned to have 'half-caste' children removed from Aboriginal mothers; some were. He recommended special courts for Aborigines and the creation of large Aboriginal reserves.

1928 The first traffic lights in Australia were installed at the corner of Collins and Swanston streets, Melbourne.

1928 Donald Bradman played in his first test match during the English tour of Australia. In the 1928–29 season his tally of 1690 runs was the highest aggregate recorded in first-class cricket.

1928 H.R. (Bobby) Pearce won Australia's only gold medal at the Amsterdam Olympics, for the single sculls.

1928 The first year to record more than 1000 deaths on the road. Over half a million motor vehicles were registered in Australia.

1928 Catching popular enthusiasm for aviation exploits, Bert Apperoth first marketed Aeroplane Jelly.

1929

January Mr Justice Lukin handed down a harsh award for timber workers, extending working hours back to 48 from 44, which precipitated a bitter and sometimes violent strike. There was a strike fund of £122,000, but non-union labour was found to work the mills and the strike was unsuccessful.

15 February Coalminers in NSW were locked out when they refused to accept a reduction in the hewing rate. The prime minister, S.M. Bruce, intervened in April to have prosecution of a mine owner withdrawn during attempts to reopen mines with government subsidies. Violence broke out on 16 December when the Rothbury mine was leased by the NSW government and reopened under police protection. The police fired when attacked and a bystander was killed. The lockout did not end until June 1930.

March The foundation of the journal *Australian quarterly* indicated a growing interest in the serious study of public affairs, especially by influential public servants and academics.

4 April During severe floods in Tas a dam in the Cascade River at Derby burst, flooding houses and mine shafts. Fourteen people died.

April Commonwealth censors banned James Joyce's novel *Ulysses*.

20 June The American F.A.B. Peters established his ice-cream company in Melbourne. Peters Ice-cream was launched as 'the health food of a nation'.

2 August The Central Australia Railway, served by the *Ghan*, linked Alice Springs to Oodnadatta and thence to Adelaide. The line through Oodnadatta closed in 1980, to be replaced by a line through Tarcoola.

10 September The Bruce–Page government was defeated on the maritime industries bill, which would have returned industrial arbitration to the states. W.M. Hughes crossed the floor with four other members to vote with Labor.

12 October At the elections following the fall of Bruce, Labor swept into power in the lower house, but was still faced with an opposition-controlled Senate. Bruce was the first (and so far only) prime minister to lose his seat (Flinders) at an election. The new prime minister was James Henry Scullin.

October The Wall Street crash in New York resulted in the drying-up of Australian credit in London. Australia was already having difficulty raising loan funds because of a formidable floating debt.

1 November Compulsory military training was abolished and voluntary enlistment substituted.

11 November The Who's for Australia League, a right-wing pressure group, was formed in response to increasing union unrest, the election of a federal Labor government and a worsening economic situation. It merged into the All for Australia League in 1931.

21 November The Scullin Labor government

increased duty on many imports to an unprecedented level to protect employment in local industries.

30 November Edmond Hogan led Labor back to power in Vic with the support of the Country party and independent members.

1929 Mr Justice Pike handed down a report on the first decade of soldier settlement. He listed four main causes for failure: want of capital, the small size of holdings, the unsuitability of many of the settlers and a drop in the value of primary products.

1929 Katharine Susannah Prichard's novel, *Coonardoo*, which portrays racial tensions on a WA cattle station, was published after winning the *Bulletin* prize the previous year.

1929 The publication of *Ultima Thule* completed Henry Handel Richardson's trilogy *The fortunes of Richard Mahony*.

1929 Keith Murdoch acquired large interests in News Ltd of SA, spreading his newspaper and broadcasting interests interstate.

1929 The first Russian Orthodox church was built in Brisbane.

1929 The NSW government amended the Vagrancy Act to include the offence of 'consorting', aimed at breaking up underworld gangs, prostitution, sly grogging and starting-price bookmaking.

1930

1 January Charles Kingsford Smith and Charles Ulm, founders of Australian National Airlines, began air services between Sydney and Brisbane.

January Don Bradman broke the world record for an individual first-class cricket score: 452 not out, scored in 415 minutes, for NSW in a match against Qld.

March Norman Lindsay's novel *Redheap* was published in London. Judged 'indecent and obscene', the book was banned in Australia until 1958.

5 April In SA the Liberal–Country coalition led by Richard Layton Butler lost to Labor in the state election. Lionel Laughton Hill became premier.

30 April Australia and Britain were linked by radio telephone service. The British prime minister, Ramsay MacDonald, made the first call to the Australian prime minister, J.H. Scullin.

April The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) started in Melbourne with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

April In NSW the premier, Thomas Bavin repealed Lang's Act of 1925, which had established a 44-hour week, replacing it with a 48-hour week. The salaries of public servants were reduced and men were employed on public works projects at under-award wages.

24 May Amy Johnson became the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia. Flying a Gypsy

Moth, *Jason*, she landed in Darwin after a twenty-day flight.

May A scheme for providing relief work for unemployed married men was established in Qld. Wages were less than award scale for a 44-hour week.

1 June The first Australian talkie film, *The cheaters*, opened in Sydney at the Roxy Theatre, Parramatta. Originally silent but released as a partial talkie, the film had few commercial screenings owing to its poor sound quality.

9 July The treasurer, E.G. Theodore, resigned from the Scullin ministry when a Qld royal commission found he had been party to defrauding the government of £30 000 in the sale of the Mungana mine when he was premier of Qld.

12 July Harold Bell Lasseter headed a seven-man expedition, which left Alice Springs in search of a reef of gold he claimed to have found seventeen years before, west of the MacDonnell Ranges. Accidents, rough terrain and dissension among the group forced most of the party to turn back in September but Lasseter continued with Paul Johns and some camels. The two men quarrelled and Lasseter went on alone. He died of starvation in the Petermann Ranges. The existence of 'Lasseter's reef' has still not been established.

July Don Bradman scored 334 runs in a match at Leeds between Australia and England, a record in test cricket.

July Jack Lang attacked the Bavin Nationalist government of NSW and the federal Labor government under Scullin on their economic policies to deal with the depression. He was particularly critical of the commonwealth's decision to seek advice from the Bank of England and to bring Sir Otto Niemeyer to Australia. The commonwealth had invited Niemeyer when advised by the Bank of England that money owing would be called up unless Niemeyer investigated Australian conditions and recommended solutions.

19 August The two half arches of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, held from the northern and southern shores by steel cables, were joined at 10 pm. The roadway decking was hung by May 1931.

August At the premiers' conference in Melbourne, Sir Otto Niemeyer prescribed budget balancing, a reduction in the Australian standard of living and the gradual liquidation of outstanding obligations in London. This became known as the Melbourne Agreement.

September The anthropological journal, *Oceania*, began publication.

6 October The first substantial mechanised mail-handling equipment was installed at Sydney GPO.

25 October The Labor party won the NSW state election by twenty seats, defeating the Nationalist-Country coalition government. Lang's platform included extensive public works to ease unemployment, an increase in child endowment,

rural relief through increased markets for primary produce and a balanced budget, none of which he was able to achieve.

4 November Phar Lap won the Melbourne Cup.

12 December A campaign was launched to encourage Australians to buy bonds to raise a £14 million conversion loan at lower terms of interest towards Australia's overseas debt. For 'All for Australia Day' some businessmen had announced that they would subscribe the day's takings towards the loan; people were encouraged to do their Christmas shopping on that day to increase the takings. People co-operated so enthusiastically that the loan was oversubscribed by £1 million.

18 December A telephone trunk line was established between Adelaide and Perth.

December The Farmers' Debt Adjustment Act was passed in WA to prevent immediate foreclosure by instituting 'stay orders' until farmers' affairs could be examined and solutions found.

December In NSW an anti-eviction bill restricted the forced sale of tenants' furniture by landlords, and a moratorium extended the date for payment of the principal on mortgages and other loans. A state lottery was introduced to assist hospitals, and the unemployment relief tax was increased from 3d to 1s in the pound.

December Edward Aloysius McTiernan and Herbert Vere Evatt, prominent Labor party lawyers and former NSW parliamentarians, were appointed by the federal Labor government to the high court.

December In NSW Lang requested Gov Game to appoint 40 to 50 new members to the legislative council in the hope that the council would vote itself out of existence. Game refused.

1930 Export income fell to half the 1928 level. The Australian pound was devalued. Wool and wheat prices fell.

1930 Lennie Lower's *Here's luck*, W.K. Hancock's *Australia* and E.O.G. Shann's *An economic history of Australia* were published.

1930 Doris Fitton formed the Independent Theatre Company in Sydney, which greatly improved acting standards through its drama schools and serious dramatic repertoire.

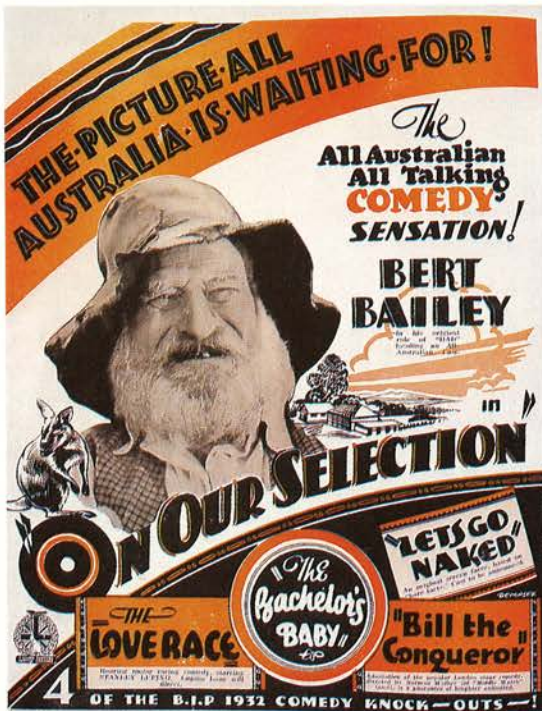
1930 The first Empire Games, for male competitors only, were held in Canada. Australia won three gold medals.

1931

1 January In NSW the Lang Labor government reduced standard working hours to 44 per week.

15 January The Golden Eagle, the largest nugget found in WA, with a gross weight of 35 303 grams, was unearthed at Larkinsville.

22 January Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs took office as the first Australian-born governor-general. The prime



1931 *On our selection*, directed by Ken Hall, was the first production from the new Australian studio Cinesound. For this film a Tasmanian radio engineer, Arthur Smith, developed recording equipment to circumvent the use of American patent sound systems. The opening sequence featured a 'bushland symphony' of bird songs and Australian audiences heard the sounds of the bush in their cinemas for the first time. Like many films of the decade, *On our selection* made only oblique mention of the depression, through reference to the struggles of the man on the land. Although advertised in the magazine *Everyones* on 25 November 1931, the film did not open in the cinemas until 6 August 1932, at the height of the depression, when more than one-third of the workforce was unemployed.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

minister, J.H. Scullin, recommended the appointment despite opposition in April 1930 from King George V, who preferred a British-born appointee.

22 January The basic wage was reduced by 10 per cent, the commonwealth arbitration court taking into account the economy's capacity to pay.

29 January J.A. Lyons and J.E. Fenton resigned from the Scullin Labor government in protest against E.G. Theodore's reappointment as treasurer while not yet cleared of allegations connected with the Mungana mine. Theodore advocated expansionist schemes to revive the economy.

January Scullin returned from four months overseas, during which he attended the Imperial Conference and made representations to British creditors about Australia's economic difficulties.

16 February The New Guard, a quasi-fascist movement organised on military lines, was formed at the Imperial Services Club, Sydney, under the leadership of a solicitor and former military officer, Eric Campbell. The New Guard declared its loyalty to the throne and the British Empire. It aimed to counter the threat of communism and opposed J.T. Lang's Labor government, expressing the hope that it would stamp out 'the bushfire of Langism'.

21 February Phar Lap won the Caulfield Futurity Stakes, becoming Australia's greatest stakes winner with £100 000 in less than three seasons.

February At the premiers' conference in Canberra, the premier of NSW, Lang, submitted the 'Lang plan' which advocated the suspension of interest payments to British bond holders and reductions of interest rates on government borrowing in Australia to 3 per cent. The scheme met opposition from Scullin and Theodore, but the NSW executive ruled that all party members should give it support.

19 March General Motors (US) and the SA firm Holden merged to form General Motors–Holden.

21 March An ANA three-engine aircraft, *Southern Cloud*, carrying two pilots and six passengers, disappeared in the Snowy Mountains. The disaster precipitated the installation of radio by Australian airlines. The aircraft was not found until October 1958.

26 March The premier of NSW, Lang, informed Scullin that his government would not meet interest payments due in London on 1 April. The commonwealth government paid the debt, meeting the obligations of the financial agreement of 1927, which provided that all state debts were underwritten by the commonwealth.

March E.J. Ward, returned at the East Sydney by-election for the commonwealth parliament, declared himself a supporter of the platform of the NSW branch of the ALP. When caucus refused to admit Ward, he and six other NSW members (Beasley, Eldridge, James, Lazzarini, Senators Dunn and Rae) withdrew to form a separate parliamentary group known as the 'Lang Labor' group. The 'Lang plan', announced in February, was approved by the NSW state party conference.

March Five ALP members, later six, including J.A. Lyons and J.E. Fenton, left the party after the opposition leader, J.G. Latham, moved a motion of no confidence in Scullin's Labor government.

2 April Passengers and crew came safely ashore when *MV Malabar* was wrecked at Long Bay, Sydney, on a voyage from Melbourne.

17 April J.G. Latham resigned as leader of the federal opposition, nominating Joseph Lyons as his successor.

19 April The United Australia Party (UAP) was formed at a private meeting in Melbourne, attended by Lyons, Pratt, Menzies, Rickertson, Henderson

and Higgins, members of the National Union, the SA Citizens' League and the Vic and NSW All for Australia leagues. The next month the remnants of W.M. Hughes's Australia Party also joined. Lyons became the leader and Latham his deputy.

22 April A run on the NSW State Savings Bank, sparked by rumours that the government bank might not pay, forced it to close its doors. The bank was absorbed by the Commonwealth Bank in December.

29 April The first airmail from England reached Sydney. An Imperial Airways aircraft, carrying the mail from England to Darwin, crashed at Koepang, Dutch East Indies, and Charles Kingsford Smith and G.V. Allan brought the mail to Darwin.

April The federal ALP expelled Lang and his controlling faction of the NSW branch from the party.

25 May–10 June The 'premiers' plan' was adopted at the premiers' conference. The plan called for a reduction in government spending by 20 per cent, including wages and pensions. The government's internal debts were to be converted on the basis of 22½ per cent reduction of interest. Additional revenue was to be secured through federal and state taxes. The premiers' plan was signed by Scullin and all state premiers, including Lang, on 10 June.

June The airline ANA ceased operating because of poor patronage, bad publicity over the loss of the *Southern Cloud* in March and the restrictive financial climate of the time.

June At Newtown, Sydney, fourteen anti-evictionists and thirteen police were injured when police attempted to remove protesters from a house where residents were in rent arrears.

July Lang renounced the premiers' plan. Having left the Loan Council and now being faced with the depletion of treasury funds, he requested commonwealth financial assistance. A huge public meeting in the Domain overwhelmingly supported these actions and his attempt to reform the legislative council. The *New Guard*, led by E. Campbell, advocated his dismissal at a series of public meetings.

20 August The first NSW state lottery was drawn.

August–October Payment of public servants' wages in NSW stopped because the state treasury had run out of money. Lang rejoined the Loan Council, which provided him with £500 000, but this did not cover his deficit, which exceeded £11 500 000.

26 September A.R. Harwood's *Spur of the moment* and *Isle of intrigue* were released at the Palace Theatre, Melbourne, the first full-length Australian-made talkies.

8 October Gen Sir John Monash died in Melbourne. More than 300 000 people lined the streets for his funeral, one of the largest in Australian history.

4 November *Coppelia* was presented in Sydney by an amateur group called the First Australian Ballet, led by Mischa Burlakov and Louise Lightfoot.

7 November The first regular and fully Australian cinema newsreel, *Cinesound review*, had its first showing.

25 November The UAP opposition and the Lang Labor group combined to defeat the Scullin government by 37 votes to 32. Parliament was dissolved.

November Gov Game agreed to grant Lang 25 new members in the NSW legislative council to enable him to gain control of the council.

2 December The Australian currency was devalued from £1.25 to £1 stg. The nexus between British and Australian currencies remained until November 1967.

19 December In elections for the commonwealth parliament, the UAP won an absolute majority in the House of Representatives. J.A. Lyons became prime minister.

1931 *Lasseter's last ride: an epic of central Australian gold discovery* by Ion Idriess was published in Sydney.

1931 Kenneth Slessor's most famous poem 'Five visions of Captain Cook' appeared in the book of poems *Trio*, published in Sydney, which also included poems by Harley Matthews and Colin Simpson.

1931 The Commonwealth Financial Emergency Act was passed. It reduced the maternity allowance and imposed a means test on it until 1943. It also reduced invalid and old age pensions. Relatives could be compelled to support a pensioner. The pension reductions were repealed in 1935.

1931 The federal government declared Arnhem Land an Aboriginal reserve.

1932

29 January The NSW government again defaulted on interest payments due overseas.

February Arnold Shore, George Bell and William Frater founded an art school in Melbourne which became famous for its impressionist methods and modern design. It influenced artists such as Russell Drysdale, Sali Herman and Peter Purves-Smith.

19 March The Sydney Harbour Bridge was officially opened by Lang. The opening ceremony was disrupted when a member of the *New Guard*, Francis Edward de Groot, disguised as a military horseman, slashed the ribbon before the premier could get to it. The bridge was the widest and heaviest arch bridge in the world.

26 March The feature film *The sentimental bloke* was released in Melbourne, the most expensive of all productions by the Efftee firm, a pioneering Melbourne film production company.

5 April Phar Lap died in the USA after winning the Agua Caliente Handicap in Mexico. The cause of death remains uncertain; many Australians believed that the horse had been poisoned.



1932 *The Sydney Harbour Bridge was one of the largest construction projects undertaken in Australia. Although begun in the relatively prosperous 1920s it opened in the midst of depression. Coloured souvenir photograph.*

SPEARRITT COLLECTION

11 April The commonwealth required trading banks to hand over NSW funds lodged with them. Lang appealed to the high court, which found in favour of the commonwealth on 22 April.

12 April Desperate for funds because he had been denied parliamentary appropriation, Lang authorised a circular to NSW public servants requesting that they would not draw cheques against government expenditure, that payments would be made by cash or bearer cheques and that all moneys collected should be sent directly to the state treasury. The last request was in contravention of the Audit Act 1902.

22 April The high court found that the commonwealth could lawfully impound NSW funds.

5 May Proclamation No 42 1932 was issued by the commonwealth government, directing public servants to dispose of moneys as the federal treasurer instructed.

10 May Lang issued a second circular arguing that the state could not pay public servants if the commonwealth held all its money, and therefore advising them to resist the commonwealth proclamation directing the disposition of the state's

funds. Most sections of the state public service obeyed Lang.

12 May The NSW governor, Sir Philip Game, and the NSW chief justice, Sir Philip Street, concluded that Lang's circular to public servants was illegal. Game informed Lang and demanded that he withdraw it.

12 May In a desperate attempt to raise revenue, the NSW parliament passed legislation requiring mortgagees to pay the treasury 10 per cent of each mortgage.

13 May Gov Game dismissed Lang for breaches of federal law. He invited B.S.B. Stevens to form a government until elections could be called.

14 May A UAP–Country party coalition defeated Labor in Vic. Sir Stanley Seymour Argyle became premier.

11 June The Country National Progressives lost office in Qld by winning only 28 seats to Labor's 33 seats. W.F. Smith became premier.

11 June Food relief reached its peak in NSW with 413 171 food orders being issued in the four weeks ending 11 June.

30 June Unemployment among registered trade unionists peaked at 28 per cent. Unemployment among all workers was much higher than this but many workers, including some women and youths, did not register as unemployed and were not recorded in official statistics.

1 July The Australian Broadcasting Commission was established by the commonwealth government to transmit radio programs nationwide. It succeeded the Australian Broadcasting Company and was funded by broadcasting licence fees, not advertising. The ABC started with 12 stations and a staff of 256.

17 July Townspeople of Cairns attacked travelling unemployed who were occupying the showground while waiting for the local council to build a shelter promised to them. A number of people were injured and six people were subsequently gaoled for several months. Newspapers branded the riot 'communist-inspired'.

July–August The Imperial Economic Conference met in Ottawa, Canada, to negotiate trade agreements between members of the British Empire. Australia undertook to lower tariffs on certain British imports in return for quantity restrictions on a limited range of primary produce from other countries.

27 September Maude Rose Bonney became the first woman to fly around Australia, starting from Brisbane on 15 August in a DH60G Moth.

18 November At the Melbourne Cricket Ground the visiting English test cricket team led by D.R. Jardine used 'bodyline' tactics for the first time in a preliminary match against the Australian eleven. Harold Larwood bowled for the English and in the course of the match Bill Woodfull, the Australian captain, was struck, although he recovered and resumed play within a few minutes.

2–7 December The first cricket test was played in Sydney and the English won by 10 wickets. Don

Bradman was pronounced unfit and did not play, and there was some speculation about whether bodyline had intimidated him.

6 December In NSW parliament surrendered power to set and alter standard hours of work for any industry or class of workers and gave it exclusively to the industrial commission.

30 December–3 January 1933 The second cricket test was played at Melbourne and won by Australia with 111 runs. The attendance, 63 993, was a world record for a cricket match.

1932 Claire Dennis, at sixteen the youngest competitor at the Los Angeles Olympic Games, won one of Australia's three gold medals, for the 200 metres backstroke, with a time of 3 minutes 6.3 seconds.

1932 The commonwealth parliament passed the Financial Agreement and Enforcement Act 1932. This authorised the commonwealth to take NSW revenues and moneys to recover money advanced to meet defaulted interest payments by NSW. The high court upheld it.

1932 Employment councils were established in each state to recommend relief works to be undertaken. Relief work mainly took the form of work on water supply or sewerage, road construction and rural development. The councils were too slow to be entirely successful.

1932 West Australian Walter Lindrum became world billiards champion. He retired undefeated from open competition in 1934, although he continued to play challenge and exhibition matches.

1933

13–19 January England won the third cricket test in Adelaide by 338 runs. A number of Australian players, including Woodfull, Ponsford and Oldfield, were injured by the English bodyline attack. The public became incensed. During the test the Australian Board of Control cabled London to complain that bodyline had become a serious menace to cricket, was creating bitter feelings between the teams and could upset the friendly relations between Australia and England.

7 February The Australian Antarctic Territory, an area of six million square kilometres, was created by a British order-in-council. The Australian Antarctic Acceptance Act was ratified on 24 August 1936.

10–16 February England won the fourth test in Brisbane by six wickets and the Ashes by three to one with one test remaining. Whether the test would be played or not had been in doubt because of Australian accusations that bodyline was unsportsmanlike. England then won the fifth test in Sydney, played 23–28 February, by eight wickets. Contrary to custom, there were no official speeches after the tests.

15 March Charles Chauvel's *In the wake of the Bounty* was screened in Sydney with Australian-born Errol Flynn starring as Fletcher Christian.



1932 Two months after the Sydney Harbour Bridge opened, the film *Frankenstein* came to Sydney. Residents of Hobart, Perth and Launceston had already succumbed to the 'monster's supernatural clutch'. *Everyones*, 18 May 1932.

BOOROWA PRODUCTIONS

March Sr Elizabeth Kenny opened a clinic in Townsville, Qld, to combat the after-effects of poliomyelitis. In 1938, when she was operating eight clinics, a royal commission condemned her methods. Kenny later won acceptance in America.

8 April The Liberal Country League gained office in the SA election due to the split in the Labor vote over acceptance of the premiers' plan. Richard Layton Butler became premier.

8 April The Nationalist Country coalition in WA was defeated in the elections with a loss of eight seats. The premier, Sir James Mitchell, lost his seat. Labor's Philip Collier became premier. On the same day West Australians voted at a referendum to secede from the commonwealth. The vote was 138 653 to 70 766 in favour. 'Yes' voters believed that federal economic policies were benefiting the eastern states but had raised the cost of living in the west. The vote appeared to be a protest rather than a serious attack on the federation, particularly when the party that supported secession was put out of office on the same day.

27 April The body of Bert Hinkler was found in the Italian Alps where his DH80 Puss Moth had crashed on 7 January on a flight from England to Australia.

10 June The first issue of the *Australian women's weekly* was published in Sydney by Frank Packer; it sold 120 000 copies.

30 June The third commonwealth census showed that the non-Aboriginal population of Australia was 6 629 839.

3 August Melbourne-born Frank Beaurepaire, who represented Australia at three Olympics, formed the Olympic Tyre and Rubber Company, which grew out of a tyre repair service he had established in 1922.

28 August The Brisbane *Courier-Mail* was formed by a merger of the *Brisbane Courier* and the *Daily Mail*.

9 October Faced with a possible cancellation of the forthcoming Australian cricket tour, the MCC assured the Australian Board of Control that bodyline would not be used.

18 October The Royal Commission into New States began in NSW. Reporting in January 1935, it recommended dividing the state into three self-governing units but its proposals were shelved.

11 November Millie, Lady Peacock won her husband's legislative assembly seat in the Allendale by-election, becoming the first woman to enter the Vic parliament. She did not contest the 1935 election.

1933 The commonwealth arbitration court rejected the unions' application for restoration of the 10 per cent cut in the basic wage but ordered a new price index to be used for making cost of living adjustments. This in effect increased the basic wage for the six capitals by 2s 6d to £3 4s 2d per week.

1933 The NSW government passed the Farmers' Relief Act, which established the Farmers' Relief Board, empowered to grant stay orders for the financial protection of farmers. Similar legislation was passed in all states.

1933 Frank Clune's *Try anything once* and Kenneth Slessor's *Darlinghurst nights* were published.

1933 Gladys Moncrieff starred in an Australian musical, *Collit's inn*, by T.S. Gunn and Varney Monk, produced by Frank Thring.

1934

29 January One man died in an outbreak of violence against Italian, Yugoslav and Greek miners in Kalgoorlie and Boulder, WA, after an argument at the foreign-owned Home from Home Hotel. A mob of men went on a rampage that led to another two deaths in a Yugoslav camp.

11–13 March A severe cyclone swept through the area between Thursday Island and Townsville, Qld, causing extensive damage to the pearling fleet and killing 75 people.

11 May A bust of Adam Lindsay Gordon was placed in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey, making him the only Australian poet to be so honoured.

August Tuckiar, an Arnhem Land Aborigine, was tried and sentenced to death for the murder of Police Const McColl in August 1933 at Woodah Island. Tuckiar was convicted on flimsy and often conflicting evidence. The presiding judge, Mr Justice Wells, virtually directed the jury to find the accused guilty and imposed the death sentence. The high court upheld Tuckiar's appeal and criticised both the defence and the judge. Tuckiar was sent home but disappeared in suspicious circumstances before reaching his destination.

1 September The discovery of a partly burned, pyjama-clad body near Albury, NSW, opened a ten-year inquiry that became known as the pyjama-girl case. The body was thought to be that of Linda Agostini, wife of Italian restaurant worker Antonio Agostini, which he denied. In 1944 he confessed to the killing and was convicted of manslaughter. He was deported to Italy after serving three years and nine months of a six year sentence.

15 September In the federal elections, Douglas Social Credit candidates, who supported the theory of Maj C.H. Douglas that poverty could be alleviated if the state used its credit to equalise consumption and production, received nearly 170 000 votes without gaining a seat.

15 September The United Australia Party, led by Joseph Lyons, retained government but lost its absolute majority, losing seats to Labor, Lang Labor and the Country party. Lyons remained prime minister and on 9 November the UAP re-established its coalition with the Country party, whose leader, Earle Page, became unofficial deputy prime minister.

September Angela Thirkell's book *Trooper to the Southern Cross* was published, based on her journey on a troop ship returning to Australia in 1919. She wrote under the pseudonym Leslie Parker, fearing a backlash because she had satirised the army.



November 1934 *The All Australia Congress Against War and Fascism, which invited the Czech communist Egon Kisch to address it, coincided with the opening of Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. The Congress complained that soldiers earning 6s a day in 1914 were reduced to 12s a week dole workers in 1934. Relief engraving by an unknown artist, printed by Starlight Press, Melbourne.*

ANU ARCHIVES OF BUSINESS AND LABOUR

20 October The centenary air race from London to Melbourne began. Australia's chocolate millionaire, Sir MacPherson Robertson, donated a £10 000 prize. C.W.A. Scott and T.C. Black won in 2 days and 23 hours.

October The Duke of Gloucester officiated at a ceremony to mark Vic's centenary celebrations. Some 250 000 people watched as HMS *Sussex* made its way up Port Phillip Bay to Melbourne and a motorcade brought the Duke along St Kilda Road to the city.

6 November A Czech communist, Egon Kisch, arrived in Fremantle on his way to Melbourne to address an anti-war congress. The federal government refused him entry because of his supposed political connections. He later jumped ship in Melbourne, but broke his leg and was arrested. The government made him take a dictation test in Gaelic, knowing he would fail it, and then declared him a prohibited immigrant. He appealed against this and a court subsequently ruled that the test had been invalid because Gaelic was not a European language. He was then freed, but was given a test in another language deemed to be European. He failed this, was legally declared a prohibited immigrant and was deported.

11 November The Duke of Gloucester officially dedicated Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance, built at a cost of £240 000 as a memorial to Australians who lost their lives in World War I.

16 November *Strike me lucky*, a film directed by Ken Hall and starring Mo (Roy Rene), was released in Sydney by Cinesound. It failed at the box office because Mo's humour depended on establishing a rapport with a live audience.

November The Book Censorship Abolition League was formed in Melbourne to condemn the censoring

of books such as Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave new world*, Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders* and Ernest Hemingway's *A farewell to arms*.

1934 Radium Hill mine, SA, where radioactive minerals were discovered in 1906 and mined for medical purposes, coloured glass and ceramics, closed down.

1934 Thirty-five people died in Vic when the Yarra River and rivers in central and southern Gippsland flooded.

1934 The Australian National Travel Association published the first issue of its monthly magazine, *Walkabout*.

1934 The commonwealth arbitration court rescinded the 10 per cent wage cut of 1931. However, the basic wage remained below the pre-cut level because its method of calculation changed.

1934 The Sulman Award for architecture in NSW, named after one of Sydney's leading architects, was awarded for the first time. Science House in Gloucester Street, Sydney, was the first winner.

1934 Christina Stead's *Seven poor men of Sydney*, Brian Penton's *The landtakers* and William Moore's *The story of Australian art* were published.

1934 Synthetic cricket broadcasts created great public interest and the number of wireless licences rose significantly during the England–Australia test series. Commentators based their descriptions of play on cables sent to Sydney from Lords and added their own sound effects.

1934 Seven fatal shark attacks occurred in Qld, NSW and NT.

1935

19 March The Country party in Vic announced its withdrawal from the coalition with the United Australia Party. S.S. Argyle continued as UAP premier. On 28 April the Country party joined Labor in the legislative assembly to carry a motion of no confidence in the minority UAP government. Its leader, A.A. Dunstan, became premier.

24–29 March Twenty pearling vessels sank off the northwest coast of WA in a cyclone. One hundred and forty crew drowned.

25 April An arm was found in Coogee beach aquarium, Sydney, when a newly acquired shark disgorged its stomach contents. A distinctive tattoo enabled police to identify the limb as that of missing ex-boxer James Smith. Patrick Brady, an associate of Smith, was arrested, and he implicated Smith's employer, Reg Holmes. Holmes was shot dead on the eve of the coroner's inquiry. Two men charged with Smith's murder were later acquitted. Brady was also charged but acquitted when his counsel argued that the severed arm alone was not sufficient evidence that Smith was dead.

15 May Charles Kingsford Smith, A.G. Taylor and J. Stannage departed in the *Southern Cross* on a special jubilee mail flight to New Zealand. When engine failure occurred over the Tasman, Taylor crossed the wings in midair to transfer oil from one engine to the other. He later received the George Cross for bravery.

August The Vic government gave GMH land at Fishermens Bend in Melbourne on which to establish a new car assembly plant. Throughout the 1930s the Vic, NSW and SA governments vied with each other to encourage the establishment of car assembly plants because they provided much-needed employment.

October BHP absorbed Australian Iron and Steel Ltd to create a monopoly of steel production in Australia.

7 or 8 November Kingsford Smith and J.T. Pethybridge disappeared while attempting a record-breaking

flight from England to Australia. It is thought that the *Lady Southern Star* crashed off the coast of Burma, but neither the wreckage nor traces of the two airmen have ever been found.

1935 Former prime minister W.M. Hughes published *Australia and war today: the price of peace* in which he argued that Australia's defences were inadequate.

1935 Fearful that a hardline attitude might result in war, the federal government introduced mild trade sanctions against Italy after it invaded Ethiopia.

1935 The giant cane toad was introduced in northern Qld by officers of the federal government's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to control the grey-backed beetle which was destroying the sugar crop. The toads themselves became a pest.

1935 Muriel Heagney, who had formed an unemployed girls' relief movement in 1930, published *Are women taking men's jobs?* to counter propaganda against the employment of women. Based on a survey she conducted in Vic, the book made equal pay a serious issue, but it brought no immediate results.

1935 Luna Park opened in Sydney on land used during the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

1935 Kylie Tennant won the S.H. Prior Memorial Prize for her novel *Tiburou* about a country town during the depression.

1935 Charles Chauvel won the federal government's film competition with *Heritage*, a history of Australia.

1935 Construction began on the Story Bridge over the Brisbane River. It opened in 1940.

1935 The commonwealth government appointed a royal commission to inquire into the monetary and banking system. After extensive investigations during 1936 its report, presented in 1937, recommended greater central control of the banking system. It concluded that the national interest would be best served by a system of privately owned trading banks controlled by a strong central bank.



1935 The first greyhound racing track in Australia had opened at Harold Park in Sydney on 28 May 1927. Although opposed by some religious organisations, betting on mechanical hare racing proved extremely popular in New South Wales. Mechanical hare racing began in Tasmania in 1933 but in most other states it remained illegal for some time. Racing at Harold Park on Saturday nights began at 7.45 pm, with prize money of £500. Admission to the paddock was 5s, the leger 2s 6d, 'ladies to all parts' 2s 6d.

SPEARRITT COLLECTION

1936

1 January SS *Paringa* of 1395 tons (1423 tonnes), sank during a storm in Bass Strait while towing the tanker *Vincas* from Melbourne to Japan. Thirty-one people died.

January The monthly journal *Catholic worker* was first published, under the editorship of B. A. Santamaria.

23 March The *Sydney Daily Telegraph* was taken over by Consolidated Press under managing director Frank Packer.

1 June Arnold Karl Sodeman was hanged in Melbourne for strangling four girls between 9 November 1930 and 1 December 1935.

22 July At the Savoy Theatre, Sydney, the cast and audience-defied police attempts to stop the performance of the anti-Nazi play *Till the day I die* by American playwright Clifford Odets.