

Years before present

HUMAN EVENTS

-55 000

-55 000

Conjectured first arrival of humans on the continent. Many archaeological sites from this period may now be under the sea.

-45 000

-38 000

Oldest known Aboriginal tools at upper Swan River, WA.

-35 000

-32 000

Campsite at Lake Mungo, NSW. Stone tools at Keilor, Vic.

-30 000

Use of ochre suggests ritual burial at Lake Mungo.

-28 000

Evidence for occupation at Devils Lair, WA, shows an economy that exploited a wide range of resources.

-26 000

Human cremation and burial, Lake Mungo. 'Dinnertime camps' for eating yabbies and frogs occur around Lake Tandou, NSW.

-25 000

-24 000

Cave Bay Cave, Tas, occupied. Ground edge axes at Malangerr, NT, are among the oldest in the world.

-20 000

Flint mining and possible finger drawing occur at Koonalda Cave, Nullarbor Plain, 100 km from the coast.

Mt Newman, WA, 500 km from the coast, also occupied, while Kutikina Cave, Tas, is the southern-most ice-age site in the world.

Humans co-existed with marsupials that are now extinct. Termite mound used for fuel or as heat retainer at Walkunder Arch, the oldest-known occupation in north Queensland. Ochre, possibly used in art, is present in the earliest occupation of Kenniff Cave, Qld, and in Arnhem Land at Naulabila and Malakunanja.

-18 000

Seed grinding begins in Arnhem Land, a process that continues until the nineteenth century. First occupations at Roonka, an open campsite on the Murray River, and Miriwon rock shelter, Ord River, WA. At Miriwon a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial resources are used.

-15 000

-10 000

First occupation of Puntutjarpa rock shelter in the Central Desert. Painted rock art has probably appeared in Arnhem Land.

-8000

Sea level rises bring littoral resources to Oenpelli region, NT. Roonka begins to be used as a cemetery with different forms of burial and grave goods, continuing until recent times.

Cave Bay Cave, Tas, reoccupied. Its occupants have a coastal economy based on shellfish, fish and mutton-birds.

-6000

Small distinctive, finely worked stone tools are added to the traditional tool kit in Arnhem Land.

-5000

-4000

The dingo has arrived in Australia, probably brought by humans. Occupation at Bass Point, NSW, increases in intensity. Small tools common in New South Wales.

-2000

Population expansion and increase in semiarid areas – the Victorian Mallee and Nullarbor Plain.

Aborigines exploit the rich freshwater environment of the Alligator Rivers wetlands with its diverse resources, continuing to the present day. Possible beginnings of X-ray art in the area.

-1000

Hook and line fishing makes wider ranges of deepwater fish available. Indonesian trepang fishers have extended contact with Aborigines of the northern coast.

Present day

Present day

First European settlement of Sydney. First European settlement of northern coast at Port Essington. First European settlement of central Australia.

Aboriginal Australia

TIME LINE TO 1788

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

-55 000

Sea level 120 metres lower than today.

-50 000

Australia, New Guinea and Tasmania are joined and the continent is 25 per cent larger than these three islands today.

-36 000

Onset of cold phase and last glaciation of Australian Alps.

-32 000

Lake-full period, Willandra Lakes.

-24 000

Very arid inland. Drop in mean temperature. Ice-sheet formation in southeastern highlands.

-20 000

Changes to environment due to burning by Aborigines are seen, for example, in the earliest occupation of Burrill Lake, NSW.

-8000

Isthmus between Australia and New Guinea breached by rising seas.

-6000

Present-day sea levels reached.

-2000

5000 years after present sea levels were reached sediment deposition creates the Alligator Rivers wetlands, NT.

Present day

Extensive changes to environment due to European intervention.



Illustration by Mike Corman

Ancient World

Ancient World

Philosophers, poets and geographers in Greece and Rome speculated on the existence of unknown southern lands.

13th century

Scholars such as Roger Bacon and Albert the Great re-examined Greek and Roman theories. Bacon supported the idea of a 'place beyond the Tropic of Capricorn'.

1298

The Venetian merchant and explorer Marco Polo mentioned a province south of Java, known as Locach, in an account of his travels.

1405-33

During the Indian Ocean explorations of the Chinese admiral Cheng Ho, one of his ships is quite likely to have visited Australia and left a statue found in 1879 at Darwin.

1488

The Portuguese explorer Bartholomew Diaz rounded the Cape of Good Hope.

1497-99

The Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama discovered a searoute to India.

1502

The Italian explorer Ludovico di Varthema set off to travel to Java. His belief in a southern continent influenced later Portuguese travellers.

1513

The Spanish explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa viewed the Pacific Ocean from Panama.

1514

After the voyage of António de Abreu to the Moluccas, the Portuguese reached Timor, only 500 kilometres from the Australian coast.

1500

1515

The Portuguese traveller Tomé Pires wrote of Arabs trading in the Moluccas.

1519-21

The Portuguese navigator, Ferdinand Magellan, in Spanish service, sailed through the straits that bear his name and across the Pacific Ocean. One of his ships completed the first world circumnavigation.

1522

Some scholars claim that both the west and the east coasts of Australia were explored by the Portuguese, beginning with Christóvão de Mendonça in 1522. This is disputed, but it is probable that they knew the northwest.

1523-24

The 'Johann Schöner' globe showed a vast imaginary continent south of the East Indies termed 'Regio Patalis'.

1526-27

The Portuguese navigator Jorge de Meneses discovered a portion of the north coast of New Guinea and called it Os Papuas.

1528

The Spanish explorer Alvaro de Saavedra examined part of the coast of New Guinea beyond that explored by Meneses.

1529

An agreement between Spain and Portugal placed the Moluccas under Portuguese control. The line of demarcation would have placed western Australia, if discovered, within Portuguese area.

1531

The name 'Terra Australis' was used on a world map by the French cartographer Oronce Finé.

1532

The Basle edition of Marco Polo's *Novus Orbis* referred to a land south of Java as 'Boearch'.

1536-67

Dieppe maps by French cartographers, based on Portuguese sources. The Dauphin Map shows 'Java La Grande', a large landmass south of Java.

Terra Australis

1540

1544

A manuscript (possibly imaginative) of the French mariner Jean Fonteneau described Java stretching south with Terra Australis to the west.

1545

The Spanish mariner Ynigo Ortiz de Retez sailed from the Moluccas along the New Guinea coast for 885 kilometres.

1568

The Spanish mariner Alvaro de Mendaña sighted the Solomon Islands while searching for rich lands west of South America referred to in the legends of the Inca people.

1569

Gerard Mercator's nautical chart marked 'Beach' as a north pointing cape south of Java, projecting from a vast Terra Australis, and referred to the 'Austral continent'.

1577-80

Francis Drake's circumnavigation of the world brought the English into the Pacific Ocean.

1597

Descriptionis Ptolomaicae augmentium by Cornelius Wytfliet contained a chart showing New Guinea as an island separated from Terra Australis.

1598-1600

The English geographer Richard Hakluyt's *Voyages* contained a map which could be interpreted as portraying the northern coast of Australia.

1600-02

The Portuguese geographer Emanuel Godinho de Erédia described several journeys by Malays to strange lands south of Timor.

1605-06

The Portuguese explorer Pedro Fernandez de Quiros discovered Australia del Espiritu Santo (Vanuatu).

1606

The first Dutch contact with the continent of Australia was made by Willem Janszoon in the *Duyfken* who explored the western coast of Cape York Peninsula.

1606

On the same expedition Luis Vaez de Torres passed between New Guinea and Australia, through the strait which now bears his name.

1610

1611

The Dutch commander Hendrik Brouwer departed from the old Portuguese route to the Indies and sailed east after rounding the Cape of Good Hope for about 6500 kilometres before turning north.

1613

The Dutch East India Company recommended Brouwer's route to its ships, making the Dutch discovery of New Holland inevitable.

1616

Discovery of Cape Horn by Willem Corneliszoon Schouten and Jacob le Maire.

October 1616

The Dutch explorer Dirck Hartog in the *Eendracht* sighted the northwest coast of Australia.

25 October 1616

Hartog left a pewter plate, on which details of the visit were described, on Dirk Hartog Island. He later examined the coast between 26°S and 22°S and named Eendracht Land.

May 1618

Another Dutch ship, the *Zeewolf*, commanded by Haevik Claeszoon van Hillegom, en route for the East Indies came upon the west coast of Australia.

1619

The *Mauritius* with Jansz on board landed, probably at present day Exmouth Gulf. Jansz did not realise it was the same continent he had landed on in 1606.

July 1619

The *Dordrecht* and the *Amsterdam*, commanded by the Dutch explorer Frederik de Houtman, anchored off Bunbury in southwest Australia.

March 1622

The crew of the Dutch ship the *Leeuwin* is believed to have sighted and named Cape Leeuwin and Leeuwin Land.

May 1622

The first English ship to sight Australia, the *Tryal*, was wrecked near the present-day Monte Bello Islands off Western Australia.

1623

The Dutch East India Company sent the *Pera* and the *Arnhem* under the command of Jan Carstensz to explore south of New Guinea. Carstensz discovered and named Carpentaria and Arnhem Land.

1625

1626

The first printed map on which the Australian continent is represented is in the journal of the Nassau fleet under Hermite, on which 'Land Eendracht' is shown.

1627

Hessel Gerritsz, a Dutch cartographer, published the copper engraved *Caert van 't Land van D'Eendracht* showing the western coast of Australia.

1627

The Dutch *Gulden zeevaard* commanded by François Thijssen, sighted land on 26 January and sailed along the southern coast for 1000 nautical miles between Cape Leeuwin and Nuyts Archipelago.

1628

The Dutch *Vyanen* under Gerrit Frederikszoen de Witt sighted the coast in latitude 21°S and sailed about 200 nautical miles along it.

June 1629

The *Batavia* was wrecked on Houtman Abrolhos; its Dutch commander François Pelsaert made surveys in the area.

1636

The *Klein-Amsterdam* and the *Wesel* under Dutch commander Gerrit Thomaszoon Pool and Pieter Pieterszoon were sent to investigate the north and northwest coasts.

1640

Willem Janszoon Blaeu published a map of Australia in his *Le théâtre du monde*, showing Dutch discoveries.

1641-42

The Dutch decided to seek a route from the East Indies, south of the Australian continent, to South America in order to conquer Chile and Peru. In August 1642 the *Heemskerck* and the *Zeehaen* under Abel Tasman were sent by the governor-general of the Dutch East Indies, Anthony van Diemen. From Tasman to Flinders the continent was generally known as New Holland.

24 November 1642

Tasman discovered and named Van Diemen's Land.

3 December 1642

Tasman took possession of Van Diemen's Land for Holland at either North Bay or Marion Bay.

13 December 1642

Tasman sighted the South Island of New Zealand, believing it to be the Great South Land.

1650

1694

The Dutch ship *De Ridderschap van Holland* was wrecked in Australian waters. This resulted in the Dutch re-entering Australian waters to look for survivors.

1694

A summary of Abel Tasman's journal was published in London.

December 1696

Willem de Vlamingh searching for *De Ridderschap van Holland* sighted New Holland and anchored off what is now Rottneest Island, near Perth.

5 January 1697

De Vlamingh landed on the mainland and explored about 80 kilometres inland. He then sailed north, anchoring off present day Geraldton.

February 1697

De Vlamingh reached Dirk Hartog Island and removed Hartog's pewter plate left there in 1616, replacing it with another one.

1697

As a result of De Vlamingh's voyage a chart of the west coast was compiled by Isaac de Graaf.

1697

Dampier published his successful *A new voyage round the world* with comments on the Aborigines, nature and history of New Holland.

January 1699

Dampier, given command of HMS *Roebuck*, sailed at his own suggestion for the east of 'Terra Australis'.

30 July 1699

Dampier sighted the west coast of New Holland near Abrolhos Island. He sailed north and anchored in Shark Bay, Dampier Archipelago and north of Roebuck Bay.

1700

1705

Publication of the *Complete collection of voyages and travel* by John Harris, in which he suggested settlement of Van Diemen's Land.

1711

The formation of the South Sea Company.

1712

The *Zuytdorp*, a Dutch East India ship, appears to have been wrecked north of the Murchison River in Western Australia.

1717-18

Jean Pierre Purry of the Dutch East India Company suggested colonisation of Pieter Nuyts Land.

1718

Transportation Act passed in England.

1727

The wreck of the Dutch ship *Zeewijk* on Houtman Abrolhos. Some charting and exploring was carried out by the survivors.

1744-48

A new edition of John Harris' *Complete collection of voyages and travel*, edited by John Campbell, suggested settlement of New Holland for patriotic and economic reasons.



1750

1756

The *Rijder* and the *Buis* in the Gulf of Carpentaria were the last Dutch vessels on any voyages of significance in Australian waters.

1756

Charles de Brosses' *Histoire des navigations aux Terres Australes* mentioned the possibility of France founding a colony and a system of transportation.

1764-66

John Byron in the *Dolphin* opened the era of official circumnavigations.

1765

Alexander Dalrymple, fired by the discoveries of Quiros, became a propagandist of discovery in the South Seas.

1766-68

In his *Terra Australis Incognita* the Scot John Callender recommended that the unknown continent should be explored by the English.

1766-68

Captain Samuel Wallis commanded an expedition to the Pacific.

1766

The Frenchman Louis Antoine de Bougainville, commander of the *Boucluse* and *L'étoile* on voyages to the Pacific, sighted the Great Barrier Reef.

1768

James Cook appointed to command HM Bark *Endeavour* to observe the transit of Venus at Tahiti, and search for the Great South Land.

1769

Alexander Dalrymple, in *An account of the discoveries made in the South Pacific Ocean, previous to 1764*, argued that the unknown space in the Pacific must be mostly land.



1770+

20 April 1770

Zachary Hicks, first lieutenant of the *Endeavour*, sighted land off the east coast of New Holland, which was named Point Hicks.

29 April 1770

Cook and others from the *Endeavour* landed at Botany Bay.

7 May 1770

The *Endeavour* sailed past the entrances of Port Jackson, Broken Bay and Port Stephens.

18 June 1770

The *Endeavour* was anchored for repairs on the Endeavour River, after being damaged on the Great Barrier Reef.

22 August 1770

Cook confirmed Torres's discovery of the channel between New Holland and New Guinea. Cook took possession of the east coast of New Holland on what is now called Possession Island. It was named New South Wales. Publication of *Collection of voyages to the South Seas* by Dalrymple.

1772

François de Saint Alouarn in the *Gros ventre* made contact with parts of the Australian coastline while en route from Kerguelen Island to Timor.

1772-75

Cook commanded HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Adventure* on a voyage to the South Seas. He discovered Norfolk Island and New Caledonia.

1773

Captain Tobias Furneaux on the *Adventure* examined part of the coast of Van Diemen's Land, assuming it to be part of the mainland of eastern Australia.

1776-80

During Cook's third voyage to the South Seas he spent a few days at Van Diemen's Land.

1786

Dalrymple's *Memoir concerning the Chagos and adjacent islands* mentioned the 'Dauphin' map and queried Cook's position as discoverer of eastern Australia.

Australia and The World

TIME LINE TO 1788

2 June Queen Elizabeth's coronation took place in Westminster Abbey. The *Australian women's weekly* sold almost one million copies of its coronation issue.

4 June *The phantom stockman*, the first of five feature films made by Lee Robinson in partnership with Chips Rafferty, opened in Brisbane.

24 June Canberra and London simultaneously announced that the British government was developing atomic weapons and would test them in Australia.

July The federal coalition government's national health scheme came into operation. Persons contributing to an approved medical benefits organisation were entitled to receive some reimbursement from the commonwealth for medical service payments. The independence of doctors and their incomes were protected by having patients pay their doctor first and then claim a partial refund.

27 October The arbitration court abolished the automatic quarterly cost of living adjustments to the basic wage.

October Atomic testing began at Woomera, SA.

5 December Western Australian Petroleum Limited announced that it had struck oil in commercial quantities in Rough Range No 1 Well near Exmouth Gulf. Their report of oil flows at the rate of 500 barrels a day produced a boom in oil shares, but subsequent deep drilling failed to confirm first expectations.

11 December The Income Tax (International Agreement) Act ended double taxation between the US and Australia and ensured that earnings on American capital invested in Australia could be sent to the US tax-free.

1953 B.Y. Mills in the CSIRO's division of radiophysics developed the Mills Cross radio telescope. Soon adopted worldwide, it was capable of making radio astronomical observations at wavelengths in the metre range. CSIRO also developed a process that prevented shrinkage of wool.

1953 Dymphna Cusack's *Southern steel* and the autobiography of a Sydney barmaid, *Caddie*, were published.



19 May 1953 The hundred thousandth Holden rolls off the production line at the Fishermens Bend plant, Melbourne. The first Holdens, released in 1949, cost £675. With registration and insurance it came to £760. As it cost almost twice the average annual male wage, few Australian families could afford the new vehicle, which GMH billed as 'Australia's Own Car'.

GMH ARCHIVES

1954

3 February Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip arrived in Sydney to begin an Australian tour, the first by a reigning monarch.

13 February The first permanent Australian station in Antarctica was set up by Sir Douglas Mawson.

20–22 February A severe cyclone in NSW caused major flooding of the northern rivers. Twenty-six people died.

13 April Menzies announced to the House of Representatives that Vladimir Petrov, the third secretary of the Soviet embassy and the director of Soviet espionage in Australia, had sought and been granted political asylum. Menzies indicated that the following day, before the House rose for the 1954 general election (set for 29 May), he intended to legislate for a royal commission into Soviet espionage in Australia, including within its brief whether Australians had aided and abetted Russian spies.

14 April The federal ALP caucus declared its support for the Royal Commission on Soviet Espionage.

20 April Mrs Petrov sought political asylum after the BOAC plane carrying her back to Russia landed at Darwin airport and her escorts were disarmed by commonwealth police.

25 April The Soviet Union broke off diplomatic relations with Australia. Australian diplomats left Moscow on 29 April, and the Soviet ambassador and his staff left Fremantle the same day. Diplomatic relations were not resumed for five years.

4 May Menzies delivered the Liberal party policy speech for the general election. He criticised Evatt's general social welfare pledges. 'Don't give the Reds a second chance' by electing a Labor government was a central theme in the coalition's campaign.

29 May The Liberal–Country party coalition won the election with a reduced majority. Because of a series of electoral anomalies, the ALP, which won 50 per cent of the first preference votes, won only 57 seats in the House of Representatives, while the coalition, with 47 per cent of the vote, won 64 seats.

30 June The census recorded the Australian population at 8 986 530. 'Full-blood' Aborigines, estimated at 39 319, were counted separately.

6–8 September The minister for external affairs, Mr Casey, attended a conference in the Philippines to discuss the security of southeast Asia and the southwest Pacific. Foreign ministers from France, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Siam (Thailand), the United Kingdom and the United States also attended. Invitations were declined by India, Ceylon, Burma and Indonesia. The conference followed the defeat of the French in Indo-China by Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh and the signing of the Geneva Accord which established an armistice and temporarily divided Vietnam. The conference ended in September with all delegates signing the South East Asia Collective Defence Treaty, which was

accompanied by a unilateral United States declaration that the pact was directed against communist aggression and a declaration by the conference that the provisions of the treaty would apply to Cambodia, Laos and South Vietnam.

September Menzies opened Australia's first uranium treatment plant, enabling regular shipments to Britain and the US, in accordance with the 1952 agreement.

5 October Dr Evatt released a press statement which was to precipitate a split in the ALP. He attacked the activities of the Catholic Social Studies Movement, and alleged that a small minority of ALP members associated with the Industrial Group was following directions from outside the ALP. He announced that he would bring the matter before the next meeting of the federal executive. These actions followed attacks on Dr Evatt for the loss of the May election and for appearances, during September, at the Petrov Royal Commission on behalf of two members of his staff. (They were later absolved by the commission.)

13 November A referendum in NSW endorsed 10 pm closing for hotels in place of the 6 pm closing that had been in force since World War I. It came into effect on 1 Feb 1955.

22 November Roy Rene ('Mo'), Australia's most popular vaudeville comedian, died.

3 December The federal executive of the ALP, following a series of meetings beginning 27 and 28 October, decided to withdraw support for the Industrial Groups (originally set up to fight communism in the unions) from 31 December 1954. It dismissed the Victorian executive and called a special conference of the Victorian branch for 26 and 27 February 1955, to elect a new state executive which would send delegates to a postponed federal conference to be held in Hobart in March 1955.

1954 *Overland*, a Melbourne political and literary quarterly, edited by Stephen Murray-Smith, began publication. Vance Palmer's *The legend of the nineties* was published.

1954 *The back of beyond*, John Heyer's documentary about life on the Birdsville Track, won the Grand Prix at the Venice Film Festival. The federal Department of the Interior produced *The Queen in Australia*, the nation's first full-length colour feature film.

1954 The Third Battalion was withdrawn from Korea. The last Australian troops did not return until 1958.

1954 The Qld government established a Literature Board of Review to prohibit the distribution of 'objectionable' material. Its censors scrutinised material already admitted by the commonwealth censorship body which was itself regarded by many as unreasonably restrictive.

1954 The federal government began subsidising the capital costs of homes for the aged. This method of subsidisation was later extended to home nursing agencies, mental hospitals, marriage guidance services and sheltered workshops.



3 February 1954 *Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip arrived in Sydney to begin an Australian tour. Over the next two months they visited every state and the ACT. On this first tour by a reigning monarch, more than 70 per cent of Australians are estimated to have seen the Queen in person. Among the Queen's many official duties were the opening of the 21st session of federal parliament and the unveiling of the Australian-American war memorial in Canberra, constructed by the Australian government to mark its gratitude for the United States' assistance during the war. The royal couple left Fremantle on 1 April.*

AUSTRALIA POST

1955

3 January Charles Chauvel's film *Jedda* premiered in Darwin. It featured two Aborigines, Robert Tudawali and Ngarla Kunoth, in a story about the mishandling of racial integration. The film portrays Aboriginal culture as 'primitive'.

January The Australian Broadcasting Control Board began hearing evidence from twelve applicants for television licences. The Board granted licences in Sydney to Frank Packer's Consolidated Press (TCN-9) and John Fairfax and Sons (ATN-7) and in Melbourne to General Television Corporation (GTV-9) and the Herald and Weekly Times (HSV-7). Overseas investment was limited to 20 per cent of any one company and no individual overseas holding could be more than 15 per cent.

25 February Spectacular flooding of the Hunter and northern rivers of NSW claimed at least 22 lives. More than 10 000 houses were flooded and 100 houses were swept away in Maitland, the worst-affected town.

26-27 February On instructions from the Movement a large proportion of the Vic ALP refused to participate in a special conference. An entirely new set of pro-Evatt, anti-Grouper delegates were elected to attend the federal conference. The old executive continued to keep control of party premises and refused to dissolve itself.

15 March The Hobart federal conference of the ALP, confronted with two sets of Vic delegates from the 'old' and 'new' executives, decided to seat the 'new' delegation. The entire NSW delegation, five of the six Queenslanders (including the premier of Qld, Vince Gair), four of the six West Australians and two Tasmanians then boycotted the conference, leaving only nineteen members to carry on. Most of those boycotting the conference were members of the Movement and all were supporters of the Industrial Groups. In their absence the conference adopted radical foreign policies, including opposition to sending Australian troops to Malaya, and called for the recognition of communist China.

29 March The new Vic executive of the ALP met and expelled Mr J.M. Mullens, the federal member for Gellibrand. It suspended 105 other ALP members including six members of the House of Representatives, four state ministers and thirteen other members of the Vic Legislative Assembly. On 7 April it expelled 104 members for refusing to pledge loyalty to the executive and declared 78 of the party's 320 Vic branches bogus.

30 March Mr Cain, the Vic premier, dismissed the four ministers suspended by the state executive. The following day the supporters of the 'old' executive in the Legislative Assembly formed a separate parliamentary Labor party led by Mr Barry.

1 April On his return from the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference held in London, Menzies announced that Australian armed forces would join a Commonwealth Strategic Reserve based in Malaya. Australia would contribute a military battalion, a fighter wing of two squadrons, a bomber wing of one squadron, an airfield construction squadron and two destroyers or frigates. The ALP opposed the decision.

4 April The British and Australian governments announced an agreement to establish a new atomic testing ground in the SA desert to be called Maralinga (an Aboriginal word for thunder).

17 April In federal parliament, the seven supporters of the 'old' executive who had been expelled by the ALP announced the formation of the Australian Labor Party (Anti-Communist). This party, led by Mr Joshua, was later joined by Senator Cole of Tas.

19 April The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories in Melbourne began mass production of Salk poliomyelitis vaccine.

20 April The Cain ALP government in Vic was defeated in parliament on a motion of no confidence. The opposition was supported by the Barry Labor party.

23 April Menzies declared open the first stage of the Snowy Mountains scheme, the Guthega power station in the upper Snowy River, NSW.

29 April Australia's 33 Catholic bishops and archbishops issued a pastoral letter to be read out in all their churches, warning of the 'menace' of communism and praising those who opposed it.

28 May Both the Cain and Barry-led Labor parties contested the Vic elections, which resulted in a disastrous splitting of the Labor vote. A Liberal-Country party coalition government came to power led by Henry Bolte, who was to remain premier for seventeen years.

11 June Journalist Frank Browne and newspaper proprietor Benjamin Fitzpatrick were charged before the House of Representatives with a breach of parliamentary privilege. They had published articles in the Bankstown *Observer* alleging the involvement of Mr Morgan, the member for Reid, in an immigration scandal. They were not allowed legal representation and were sentenced to three months' imprisonment. It was the first time federal parliament had imposed such a penalty.

30 June By this date more than two million motor vehicles were registered in Australia.

July Bauxite deposits were found at Weipa in Cape York Peninsula, Qld.

30 August Menzies opened hot strip and cold reduction steel mills at Port Kembla, NSW. The hot strip mill was built by Australian Iron and Steel and the cold reduction mill by John Lysaght (Australia).

22 August The Royal Commission on Soviet Espionage issued its report. It concluded that the documents Petrov had brought with him were genuine and found that there had been leakages from the Department of External Affairs between 1945 and 1948, but none since. No prosecutions were entered into, however, and no new spies uncovered. In the House of Representatives, Dr H. V. Evatt attacked the report and its findings and accused Menzies of using the defection for electoral purposes.

13 September Australian troops arrived at Penang, Malaya, as part of the SEATO commitment.

28 November Ray Lawler's play *Summer of the seventeenth doll* was first performed in Melbourne at the Union Theatre. Later it was successfully toured by the Elizabethan Trust and was the first play taken overseas by an Australian company.

23 November The Cocos (Keeling) Islands, previously part of the British colony of Singapore, became an Australian territory.

10 December Menzies called an early election with a view to synchronising House of Representatives and Senate elections. The Liberal-Country party coalition capitalised on dissensions within the Labor party and

increased its majority in the House of Representatives from seven to twenty-eight. The anti-communist Labor party lost all its seats in the House but gained one seat in the Senate, where it held the balance of power.

December Barry Humphries' Edna Everage, a suburban housewife, made her first stage appearance during a Christmas revue in Melbourne.

1955 The Australian Atomic Energy Commission began construction of a nuclear reactor and research centre at Lucas Heights near Sydney. In SA the uranium treatment plant at Port Pirie commenced operation.

1955 Australia and the US signed a secret agreement to set up a joint seismic facility at Alice Springs designed to monitor the Soviet atomic test program.

1955 A.D. Hope's *The wandering islands*, Alan Marshall's *I can jump puddles*, Patrick White's *The tree of man* and Douglas Stewart and Nancy Keesing's *Australian bush ballads* were published.

1956

1 January Australian troops fired their first shots against communist guerillas in Kedah state, Malaya. Patrol actions continued in central Malaya and near the Thai border for the next four years until the official end of the 'Emergency' on 31 July 1960.

22 January The Circular Quay station of Sydney's underground railway opened, completing the loop from Central station.

23 January All ports and shipping were paralysed when waterside workers went on strike for 23 days over issues involving work practices and control of hiring.

17 February The conciliation commissioner reduced the award wages for shearers by 5 per cent in all states except Qld. Shearers refused to work for the new rate and remained on strike for ten months until on 12 October the federal government agreed to their demands.

1 March The first commercial contract for the sale of uranium was signed between Mary Kathleen Uranium Ltd and the British Atomic Energy Authority.

9 March Customs officers charged Sir Eugene Goossens, conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and director of the NSW Conservatorium of Music, with importing obscene pictures. He resigned his posts and returned to London.

24 March Vic held a referendum on extended hotel trading hours and a decisive 'no' vote was returned.

30 March Australia and the Netherlands agreed to give financial assistance to up to 75 000 Dutch to come to Australia over the next five years.

25 April Vince Gair, the ALP premier of Qld, was expelled from the party for refusing to implement a state executive directive that annual leave for shift

workers would be increased from three weeks to four weeks from 1 January 1957. On 26 April, Gair was followed by 25 ALP parliamentarians including 9 of the 10 other cabinet members. The group formed the Queensland Labor Party.

16 May A British atomic test took place at the Montebello Islands off the northwest coast of WA.

24 May The Conciliation and Arbitration Commission increased the basic wage by 10s a week for males and 7s 6d for females. It refused a union request to reintroduce quarterly cost of living adjustments.

June The state governments began a free mass vaccination program with Salk poliomyelitis vaccine produced by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory. Within one year one million injections were given and only 125 new cases of polio were reported, compared to 4735 between 1951 and 1954.

July The Menzies government decided to subsidise church schools in the ACT by paying the interest on loans raised after this date for new buildings. The offer was accepted by the Catholic and Anglican churches, the only ones with schools in the Territory.

16 September Australia's first regular television service was launched in Sydney by the commercial station TCN-9.

September The first testing of British atomic weapons on the Australian mainland began at Maralinga, SA.

19 October Henry Bolte opened the Eildon Dam, the largest water storage system in the Southern Hemisphere.

October Parliament assented to legislation authorising the establishment of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

5 November The ABC's first television station, ABN-2 in Sydney, began broadcasting.

8 November A.G. Townley, minister for immigration, announced that Australia would accept 3000 of the refugees fleeing Hungary in the wake of the Soviet invasion.

19 November Melbourne's ABC station ABV-2 commenced transmission, in time to broadcast the Olympic Games.

22 November The Duke of Edinburgh declared the Olympic Games in Melbourne officially open. They were the first Olympic Games to be held in the Southern Hemisphere and attracted competitors from 67 countries. Australia had its best performance ever, winning thirteen gold medals in swimming, athletics and cycling. Dawn Fraser won two for the 100 metres freestyle and the relay team, and Betty Cuthbert won three for the 100 metres, 200 metres and the relay team. After the games closed in December, 45 members of the Hungarian team sought asylum in Australia.

24 December The Fairfax group launched *Woman's day*, an amalgamation of two other women's magazines.

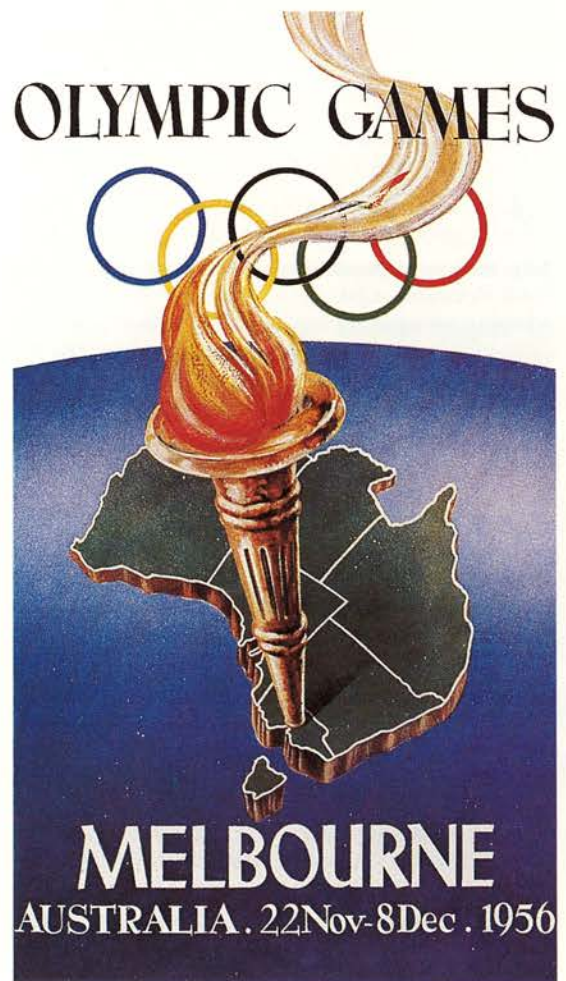
1956 After President Nasser of Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal in July, Menzies took an active part in negotiations in London among the canal's users and was appointed chairman of the delegation sent to negotiate with Nasser. The failure of this delegation led to the suspension of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Australia.

1956 The status of 'permanent resident' was introduced to allow non-European migrants to claim citizenship and bring out their families. Fifteen years' residency was required to qualify, compared to five years for European migrants.

1956 The first subscriber trunk dialling (STD) services were introduced between Dandenong and Melbourne, and St Marys and Sydney.

1956 *Quadrant*, a conservative intellectual journal, began publication in Sydney with James McAuley, the Tas poet and academic, as its first editor.

1956 Poker machines were legalised in NSW clubs.



1956 *The first Olympic Games held in Australia opened at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in November 1956. Cover from the official program.*

SPEARRITT COLLECTION

1957

19 January The last issue of the Melbourne *Argus* appeared. It became a daily morning newspaper shortly after its first publication on 2 June 1846 and competed with the *Age* for over a century before rising costs forced its closure.

29 January The NSW government announced the winner of its competition to design an opera house for Sydney. From the 233 entries received, the judges selected the Danish architect Joern Utzon's innovative design of a series of sails rising above the water.

1 May The federal government introduced a new system of selection for national service trainees for the army. Eighteen-year-old men would be selected on the basis of a 'birthday ballot'. The first ballot was drawn on 27 May. National service for the navy and air force was abolished.

24 June The federal treasurer, Arthur Fadden, officially closed the outlet gates of the Adaminaby Dam, allowing the reservoir to fill. This completed the second stage of the Snowy Mountains scheme.

6 July Australia and Japan signed a trade agreement to establish 'most favoured nation' treatment of each other's products.

3 August In the Qld election the Liberal-Country party won 42 seats to the ALP's 20 and the Queensland Labor Party's 11.

23 August Ansett Airways Pty Ltd took over ANA and thus became the principal competitor of the government's airline TAA.

10 October Bishop Derenik Polodian consecrated Australia's first Armenian church, in Sydney.

October The National Capital Development Commission was established by the Menzies government to co-ordinate the development of Canberra as the centre of commonwealth administration and government.

13 November In Tas the treasurer, Dr R.J.D. Turnbull, was accused of seeking a bribe over a lottery licence transfer. During the police investigation and trial he refused to resign. On 24 October 1958 he was found not guilty and resumed his parliamentary duties. Two years later on 7 April 1959, Turnbull was dismissed from his post after the premier, Eric Reece, refused to work with him.

26 November In NSW the report of the committee on secondary education was tabled. Chaired by Dr H.S. Wyndham, director-general of education, it recommended radical reorganisation of the system. The new proposals became known as the 'Wyndham scheme' and were introduced into NSW schools in 1962 after the passing of the 1961 Education Act. Under the scheme all students proceeded to secondary school without having to sit an examination and studied for four years before being externally examined for the School Certificate. Students wishing to matriculate then did a further two years and sat for the Higher School Certificate.

1957 The National Civic Council, a right-wing, Catholic-based movement, was established to carry on the work of the Movement, which had been proscribed by the Catholic Church. The NCC inherited the Movement's fierce anti-communism and advocated social change designed to strengthen the family. It retained solid Catholic support and had close links with the Democratic Labor Party.

1957 Nino Culotta's (John O'Grady's) *They're a weird mob*, Patrick White's *Voss* and Nevil Shute's *On the beach* were published.

1958

14 January Two Qantas Lockheed Constellations took off from Melbourne airport to inaugurate the airline's round-the-world service. The *Southern Aurora* flew eastwards and the *Southern Zephyr* westwards, and both arrived in London and returned within six days.

3 February In Hobart waterside workers refused to work with Frank Hursey and his son Dennis after they had been expelled from the union for non-payment of their union dues. They had refused to pay their full dues as a protest against the union decision in October 1956 to strike a 10s political levy in support of the ALP, Frank Hursey having stood in the 1956 state election as an anti-communist Labor candidate. The union organised pickets to stop them signing on for work and they took their case to the Tas supreme court.

5 February Harold Macmillan arrived in Melbourne to begin his visit to Australia to discuss defence and economic affairs. This was the first time a British prime minister made an official visit to Australia.

14-16 February A federal conference of nine Aboriginal organisations met in Adelaide. The Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines was founded. In 1964 it changed its name to include Torres Strait Islanders and became FCAATSI.

7 March BHP and the SA government announced that a steel-making plant and rolling mills would be built at Whyalla.

March Sydney radio station 2UE announced the first Australian 'Top 40' chart.

15 April The Vic parliament passed the Monash University Act to establish a new university in Melbourne, concentrating on technology. It was named in honour of Gen Sir John Monash.

17 April For the first time the federal government released the list of books prohibited entry into Australia. Included among the 178 titles were Boccaccio's *Ten tales from the Decameron*, D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's lover* and *She done him wrong* by Mae West.

18 April At Lucas Heights outside Sydney, Australia's first nuclear reactor became operational.

July Trams ceased running in Perth. By the end of the year Adelaide had also phased out its tram services,

except for the line from the city to Glenelg. In both cities services were replaced with buses.

26 September T.M. Fitzgerald's fortnightly *Nation* commenced publication. It provided critical comment on national and international politics and culture and continued until July 1972 when it merged with the *Sunday Review* to become *Nation Review*.

1 October By enacting the Christmas Island bill, federal parliament transferred control of this Indian Ocean island from Britain to Australia. The island was important for its phosphate deposits.

October The highly respected Aboriginal painter, Albert Namatjira, was sentenced to six months' gaol for supplying liquor to another Aborigine. After widespread public outcry his sentence was reduced to three months and served 'in the open'.

22 November A divided Labor vote helped the Liberal-Country party coalition win its fifth consecutive federal election.

20 December Nine-year-old Mary Hattam of Ceduna in SA was found raped and murdered in a cave. Aboriginal trackers identified footprints as those of Rupert Max Stuart, an Aboriginal itinerant worker. He was tried and sentenced to death, but his sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment.

31 December NSW passed the Industrial Arbitration (Female Rates) Amendment Act, which required women to be given equal pay with men if doing work 'of the same or like nature and of equal value'. It was to be phased in over five years.

December The Murray committee tabled its report in federal parliament. Its investigation of Australian universities had uncovered serious problems, including high failure rates, insufficient teaching staff, inadequate equipment and accommodation. The Menzies government agreed to establish a permanent universities commission, thereby committing itself to a continuing role, in co-operation with state governments, in financing tertiary education.

1958 The headquarters of the army, Royal Australian Navy, the Royal Australian Air Force and the defence department were transferred from Melbourne to Canberra.

1958 A ten-volume *Australian encyclopaedia*, edited by A.H. Chisholm, and Russel Ward's *The Australian legend* were published.

1958 Slim Dusty's 'The pub with no beer' topped the hit parade and became the first Australian-recorded song to enter the charts in England.

1958 Randolph Stow's *To the islands* won the Miles Franklin Award for Australian literature.

1959

24 January The musical *My fair lady* opened at Her Majesty's Theatre in Melbourne. Costing £75 000 to stage, it was one of the most lavish productions ever seen in Australia. It ran for more than five years.

January A Japanese trade fair opened in Sydney and then toured to other state capitals. In 1959 Japan became Australia's largest buyer of coal and the second largest wool buyer.

12 February Menzies opened the Sidney Myer Music Bowl in King's Domain, Melbourne.

March The population of Australia reached 10 million.

23 April The Reserve Bank of Australia was formed to take over the central banking functions of the Commonwealth Bank.

4 May Tumut 1, the first major power station of the Snowy Mountains scheme, commenced operation.

May The evangelist Billy Graham held his first crusade in Australia and New Zealand.

1 June The 1958 Migrant Act came into effect, replacing the dictation test with an entry permit system.

10 June The Vic state parliament approved in principle the design of Melbourne's underground railway. Construction was scheduled to begin in 1966. The first stations did not open until 1982.

2 July Qantas's first jet aeroplane, an American-made Boeing 707, arrived in Sydney.

August The Antipodean Group held its first exhibition in Melbourne. It comprised artists and critics including Arthur and David Boyd, Charles Blackman, John Brack, Bob Dickerson, John Perceval, Clifton Pugh and Bernard Smith. The group stressed the importance of reflecting Australian myths and legends in their works.

14 September Sir Thomas Playford, the premier of SA, completed a record unbroken term of premiership in a British Commonwealth state, of twenty years, ten months and nine days. The previous record of twenty years, ten months and eight days was that of Sir Robert Walpole, prime minister of Britain, 1721-42.

7 November The Australian and New Zealand Congress of International Co-operation and Disarmament was held in South Melbourne Town Hall. Patrons were the author J.B. Priestley and professors Marcus Oliphant and Linus Pauling. It was supported by the ACTU and the Vic ALP. As some of its organisers were communists, the congress did not attract government support.

1 December Australia signed the Antarctic Treaty. This froze territorial claims to the Antarctic, preserved the status quo of sovereignty and assured that the continent would be used only for peaceful scientific purposes.

12 December Federal award gas employees were granted three weeks' annual leave. This did not become standard in federal awards until 1963.

17 December The film *On the beach* premiered in eighteen major cities throughout the world. It starred Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner in Nevil Shute's story about the effect of atomic war on Australia. Most of it

was filmed in and around Melbourne. Ava Gardner is reputed to have remarked that 'Melbourne sure is the right place' to film a story about 'the end of the world'. The statement was in fact invented by a Melbourne journalist covering the film.

December At Sebring in Florida, Jack Brabham became the first Australian Grand Prix world champion.

1959 The Vic Aboriginal Advancement League assisted residents at Cumerroogunga reserve in NSW to regain land leased to crown tenants since the 1920s. When the lease ended in 1960, an Aboriginal co-operative began farming the land.

1959 Morris West's *The devil's advocate* and Judith Wright's *The generations of men* were published.

1959 Australia resumed diplomatic relations with Egypt and the Soviet Union. Relations with Egypt were broken off during the Suez crisis; with the Soviet Union over the Petrov affair.

1959 *6 o'clock rock*, the ABC's answer to Channel 9's *Bandstand* began, compered by Johnny O'Keefe.

1959 Female state school teachers in NSW became the first group of women in 60 years to win an equal pay decision. The Women's Public Service Association and Women's Post and Telegraph Association had equal pay provisions written into the Commonwealth Public Service Act in 1902 but the provisions of that act only applied to unmarried women as a marriage bar existed in the commonwealth public service until 1966.

1959 The Matrimonial Causes Act was passed by federal parliament. The act made divorce possible without a matrimonial offence being proved if the couple had been continually separated for not less than five years. The fault concept of divorce was retained and divorce could be obtained on any one of fourteen separate grounds, including commission of acts of adultery, cruelty, brutality and desertion. The immediate effect of the law was to stop newspapers reporting the proceedings of a divorce case.

1960

15 February Dr H.V. Evatt assumed office as chief justice of the NSW supreme court, bringing to an end his stormy nine-year leadership of the federal ALP.

23 February Concerned at the rise in costs and prices, the federal government introduced a new import licensing policy that released 90 per cent of imports from control. It hoped that the resultant flow of goods would keep prices down. At the same time the government squashed attempts at a general wage rise and supported the Reserve Bank's attempts to restrict bank credit and hire-purchase finance.

25 February An agreement was signed in Canberra between Australia and the US to allow the establishment of American-supplied satellite tracking stations. Under the agreement, stations were

constructed at Orroral Valley, Honeysuckle Creek and Tidbinbilla, ACT, and manned by the commonwealth Department of Science and Technology on behalf of the US.

1 March A new pharmaceutical benefit scheme covering a more comprehensive list of drugs and medicines came into operation. All patients except pensioners would now need to pay chemists 5 shillings for each prescription, the remainder of the cost being met by the government.

7 March Arthur Augustus Calwell was elected to the position of leader of the ALP to succeed Dr H.V. Evatt. He had served as deputy leader of the party since 1951. E.G. Whitlam was elected deputy leader.

March Adelaide held its inaugural Festival of Arts.

24 May In Vic, totalisator agency boards were authorised by parliament. Intended to stamp out starting price (SP) betting, the TABs provided off-course betting for horse and trotting races throughout the state. Similar legislation was passed in WA on 6 October, in Qld in 1962, ACT and NSW in 1964, SA in 1967 and Tas in 1975.

30 May The Commonwealth Literature Censorship Board banned Nabokov's *Lolita* and Behan's *Borstal boy* because of sexual explicitness.

4 June ABT-2 commenced broadcasting in Hobart. Every Australian capital city now had both commercial and national television and the second stage of the government's television development plan was complete.

10 June A TAA Fokker Friendship crashed off Mackay, Qld, killing 29 people. This was TAA's first fatal passenger accident, with the same loss of life as the ANA crash on 26 June 1950.

30 June National compulsory military service training came to an end.

7 July Eight-year-old Graeme Thorne was kidnapped in Sydney. A ransom of £25 000 was demanded of his parents, who had recently won the £100 000 Opera House lottery. When his body was found on 16 August and a Hungarian migrant, Stephen Bradley, was convicted of his murder, there was great public demand for return of the death penalty. With a Labor government opposed to capital punishment, however, Bradley was sentenced to life imprisonment.

August–September At the Olympic Games in Rome Australia won eight gold medals. Herb Elliott in the 1500 metres race and Dawn Fraser in the 100 metres freestyle set Olympic and world records.

3 October The Vic premier, Henry Bolte, opened the Chadstone shopping centre in Melbourne with parking for 2500 cars. At the time it was the largest shopping centre in Australia.

14 October Robert James Heffron, the premier of NSW, opened Warragamba Dam. It was the largest mass gravity dam in the Southern Hemisphere, holding nearly four times as much water as Sydney Harbour, and it had taken twelve years to build.

17 October Federal parliament passed the Papua New Guinea Act. This act increased the number of indigenous members of the representative governing body in the Territory from four appointed representatives out of 29 in 1960, to 12 out of 37 (six elected and six appointed) in 1961.

21 October Sir Macfarlane Burnet, together with Sir Peter Medawar of Britain, won the Nobel Prize for medicine. The award was for their work on acquired immunological tolerance to tissue transplants.

16 November Falling wool prices, drought and inflation led the treasurer, Harold Holt, to impose a credit squeeze. Bank overdraft rates were raised and tax deductions for interest paid on borrowed money abolished. The sales tax on motor vehicles was raised from 30 to 40 per cent. The result was a severe recession, especially in the building industry. This was criticised as an example of the Menzies' government's 'stop-go' economic policy.

17 November The WA government announced that it had reached agreement with BHP to extend the company's investment in Kwinana to include an iron and steel production plant. BHP would be given use of the Koolyanobbing iron ore deposits near Southern Cross and a standard-gauge railway would be built between the deposits and Kalgoorlie to connect with the trans-Australia railway.

November The minister for customs and excise rejected the advice of his censorship board to remove the ban on D.H. Lawrence's novel *Lady Chatterley's lover*. In the ensuing debate the editor of the *Catholic weekly* said he had burned his copy years before.

3 December The Menzies government announced that it would lift the embargo on the export of iron ore imposed in 1938. It was hoped that this would assist the balance of payments and encourage exploration.

13 December Crimes Act amendments, drawn up by the attorney-general, Garfield Barwick, became law. They dealt with treason, the new crime of treachery, sabotage and espionage. The proposals were attacked by some lawyers and trade unionists because of the broad definitions given to espionage and treachery. Barwick allowed only minor amendments to the bill. The bill remains one of the toughest of its kind in the English-speaking world.

1960 Australia and the US agreed to co-operate on the establishment and staffing of space vehicle tracking stations in Australia. These would be part of an international network for NASA's space program.

1960 State art galleries organised the largest exhibition of Australian Aboriginal art yet seen. More than 100 pieces toured Australia.

1960 The last trams ran in Hobart, to be replaced by buses.

1960 The architect Robin Boyd's *The Australian ugliness* was published in Melbourne.

1960 The WA Department of Native Affairs ceased to remove Aboriginal children from their parents to missions for education.

1961

1 January The postmaster-general issued a directive requiring all future television commercials to be Australian-made.

January Oral contraceptives for women went on sale.

1 February One national and uniform divorce law came into operation following implementation of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959. A divorce could now be secured after a long period of separation without the innocent party having to 'initiate' proceedings.

10 February GMH announced the dismissal of 2600 workers and cutbacks in production; Ford followed suit three days later, sacking 800.

25 February Sydney's last tram ran, from La Perouse to the Randwick workshops. Buses had gradually been replacing trams in Sydney since the 1930s.

February A record crowd of 90 800 attended the second day of the fifth Australia–West Indies cricket test in Melbourne.

11 March The Vic premier, Henry Bolte, opened Monash University in the Melbourne suburb of Clayton.

March *Four corners* began on ABC television, heralding a new approach to current affairs programs. It featured an aggressive interview technique and an increase of political commentary.

29 April A 'no' vote (57.6 per cent of the ballot) was returned in a referendum in NSW to abolish the legislative council, following a heated Labor-led campaign in favour of 'yes'.

30 June The census revealed that the Australian population was now 10 508 186, 5.9 million of whom lived in capital cities. 'Full-blood' Aborigines, estimated at 40 081, were counted separately.

June Unemployment reached 110 401, 2.6 per cent of the workforce, the highest level since World War II.

17 July Irate Yugoslav and other migrants at Bonegilla hostel, Vic, staged a violent demonstration and tried to burn down the camp. They were protesting about conditions in the migrant centre.

August The Qld government declared a state of emergency because of industrial unrest in Mt Isa.

31 October A 210-foot (64-metre) telescope, one of the two largest in the world, was completed at Parkes, NSW.

3 December Oil was discovered at Moonie, southern Qld. It became the first proven commercial Australian oilfield.

9 December The Menzies coalition government was returned in the federal election with a majority of one after the election of the Speaker. The election was finally decided in the Qld seat of Moreton, retained by Jim Killen (Liberal) by 110 votes which included 14 per cent of the preferences of the Communist party candidate.



1961 *The ABC's Four corners first went to air in Sydney on Saturday 19 August 1961 at 10 pm. A single telerecording of the program, hosted by Michael Charlton, was then sent around to each capital city, finally reaching Perth two weeks after it had been seen in Sydney. Within a few months it was broadcast simultaneously in all states, giving Australia its first national weekly television program. TV Times.*

NATIONAL LIBRARY

December The Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies was established in Canberra.

1961 The 'credit squeeze' of November 1960, introduced by the treasurer Harold Holt, dominated economic and political affairs. The effects of 'Holt's jolt', seen first in the motor vehicle industry, were also marked in the building, timber and steel industries.

1961 The UK medical journal *Lancet* published a letter from the Sydney obstetrician and gynaecologist William McBride confirming the link between thalidomide and deformities in children born to women to whom the drug had been prescribed during pregnancy.

1961 Patrick White's novel *Riders in the chariot* and H.M. Green's two-volume *A history of Australian literature* were published.

1961 Alan Seymour's play *The one day of the year* enjoyed success during a tour of Australia and a four-week season in England.

1961 The WA parliament passed legislation permitting bauxite mining in jarrah forests.

1961 The NSW parliament passed the Strata Title Act which for the first time entitled ownership of single units within a building, similar to the Torrens title for houses. It replaced the old system of buying shares in a company that owned the block of units. Similar legislation was introduced in Tas in 1962, Qld in 1965, WA in 1966, SA and Vic in 1967, ACT in 1970 and NT in 1975.

1961 The first freeway in Vic was opened, a section of the Melbourne–Geelong road bypassing the town of Werribee.

1962

1 January A new constitution for the Church of England in Australia made the Australian Anglican Church autonomous.

3 January The first train to run the length of the Sydney–Melbourne standard-gauge line arrived in Melbourne, ending 80 years of transferring goods and passengers from one gauge to another at Albury.

14–17 January Eight lives and 600 houses were lost in Vic's worst bushfires since 1939.

1 March The Cahill Expressway, Sydney's first freeway, was opened.

26 March William Dobell's painting *Study of woman in restaurant* brought the record Australian price of 4500 guineas at a Sydney auction.

9 April Menzies opened the Sydney–Canberra–Melbourne coaxial cable system, the first major step towards Australia-wide telephone subscriber trunk dialling (STD).

12 April The *Southern Aurora*, the new Sydney–Melbourne standard-gauge passenger train, left Sydney on its inaugural trip.

10 July Melbourne's new King St Bridge closed, following cracks and slumping of some sections.

16–20 July Goulburn's Catholic schools were closed in protest over the NSW government's refusal to assist Catholic schools financially.

27 July Leslie Bury, federal minister for air, resigned after saying that rural industries would have to adjust to the UK's entry to the European Common Market. He was later reinstated to the ministry.

3 September The University of Sydney's chair of Australian literature was established, the first in Australia.

28 September Sixty-five trams, one-fifth of the fleet, were destroyed by fire in Brisbane.

2 November The Australian Ballet began its inaugural season performing *Swan lake* in Sydney, with Peggy van Praagh as artistic director.

3–4 November The Qld Labor Party, headed by former premier Vince Gair, decided to affiliate with the Democratic Labor Party.



3 January 1962 A crowd at the Dynon railway yard, Melbourne, farewells the official Sydney–Melbourne standard gauge train, going 'straight thru', ending almost eighty years of changing trains at Albury.

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS

5 November After four postponements of execution, the Vic cabinet commuted the death sentence of Robert Peter Tait, convicted of brutally murdering an elderly woman in a Hawthorn vicarage, to life imprisonment.

22 November The Duke of Edinburgh opened the Commonwealth Games in Perth. Australia led the medal tally with 38 gold, 36 silver and 31 bronze medals.

13 December The last telegram transmitted within NSW by morse code was sent from Sydney to Bombala.

27 December Australia retained the major trophy of world amateur team tennis, the Davis Cup, when Rod Laver and Roy Emerson defeated the Mexican challengers Osuna and Palafox.

1962 Rod Laver won the US men's singles tennis title, completing the first 'grand slam' of world tennis by taking out the Australian, French, Wimbledon and US singles championships in one year. Margaret Smith (later Court) became the first Australian to win the US women's singles title, as well as the Australian and French championships.

1962 The final sections of the Sturt Highway in NSW were tar-sealed, allowing motorists for the first time to travel between Adelaide and Sydney by a direct route sealed all the way.

1962 Aborigines in WA, Qld and the NT gained the right to vote in federal elections if they chose to enrol as electors, thus giving them the same rights that Aborigines in the other four states had achieved in 1949.

1962 The Federation of Australian Commercial Broadcasters formed to fight back against the growing popularity of television. As a result commercial radio became oriented more towards news, music and community programs.

1962 The Consolidated Zinc Corp and Rio Tinto Mining Co of Australia merged to form the mining company Conzinc Riotinto.

1962 A shipment of 60 000 live sheep left for Kuwait, the beginning of an increasingly important export trade with Middle Eastern nations.

1962 Exploitation of the iron ore deposits at Mt Tom Price in WA began.

1962 Returning from the UK, the comedian Barry Humphries toured Australia with the first of his one-man satirical shows on Australian suburbia, *A nice night's entertainment*.

1962 A team of 30 Australian military advisers was sent to Vietnam to help train the South Vietnamese army. This was the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

1962 *Gretel* was the first Australian yacht to challenge for the America's Cup, held off Newport, Rhode Island, USA. The American yacht *Weatherly* defeated it by four races to one.

1963

28 January Melbourne experienced its heaviest recorded rainfall (131.8 millimetres–519 points) and heaviest local flooding in 31 years.

13 February Dr J. Vernon was appointed to chair a committee of inquiry into the economy. When the report was presented two years later its recommendations included the introduction of a uniform tariff of around 30 per cent.

18 February Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip arrived in Canberra by aeroplane to start a 38-day Australian tour.

February Ivan Skripov, first secretary at the Soviet embassy in Canberra, was expelled following allegations of spying.

21 March Arthur Calwell and Gough Whitlam, leader and deputy leader of the Labor party, were photographed waiting outside a special party conference in a Canberra hotel. Menzies capitalised on the incident by referring repeatedly to Labor's '36 faceless men' who supposedly dictated party policy to its parliamentary leaders.

April Richard Walsh and Richard Neville launched the satirical weekly magazine, *Oz*, with a satire on the royal tour. The magazine ceased publication in October 1965. In 1964 Walsh and Neville received prison sentences, subsequently quashed on appeal, for the magazine's alleged emphasis on sex, violence and crime.

April Full-scale mining operations began in Weipa, Qld, by Comalco Ltd and the first regular shipment of bauxite left for Japan.

7 May The Sydney coroner's court began the Bogle-Chandler inquest. On 1 January Gilbert Bogle and Margaret Chandler had been found dead in bushland near Lane Cove, Sydney, apparently victims of poisoning, after attending a New Year's Eve party. The circumstances of their death remain a mystery.

July Margaret Smith became the first Australian to win the women's singles tennis championship at Wimbledon.

17 October Sir John Eccles, professor of neurophysiology at the Australian National University, who had discovered the chemical

processes of nerve cell impulses, shared the Nobel Prize for medicine.

23 October The federal government announced it would order from General Dynamics 24 F-111A fighter bombers to replace the RAAF's Canberra bombers produced by the Government Aircraft Factory.

6 November Dr Daniel Mannix, Catholic archbishop of Melbourne since 1917, died aged 99.

30 November The Menzies Liberal-Country party governing coalition was returned in the federal elections, increasing its House of Representatives majority from 1 to 21.

2 December Compac (the Commonwealth Pacific cable), running from Australia to Vancouver via New Zealand, Fiji and Hawaii, was opened.

1963 The federal government approved the agreement for the US to establish and operate a naval communication station at North West Cape, WA. It also let a contract for the construction of a US space tracking station at Tidbinbilla near Canberra.

1963 The first stage of the Ord River irrigation scheme in the Kimberley district of WA was started. In 1965 water was supplied to cotton farmers from the Kununurra Dam marking the scheme's completion.



1963 As he had done during the royal tour of 1954, Menzies managed to keep in the limelight of the Queen's visit. Some magazines took the unprecedented step of satirising this tour; the *Bulletin* and the newly launched magazine *Oz* went so far as to suggest that it had been a 'flop'. *Woman's day*, 25 March 1963.

1963 Licences for a third commercial television station in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide were granted, and for a second in Perth. The groupings of television stations which later became the Seven and Nine networks were formed.

1963 Three weeks' paid annual leave became the general standard after adoption by the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, which had rejected claims for this twice in the past four years.

1963 Lifeline, Australia's first telephone counselling service, was opened by the Central Methodist Mission in Sydney.

1963 Australia became a signatory to the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

1963 Hal Porter's *The watcher on the cast-iron balcony* and Geoffrey Blainey's *The rush that never ended* were published.

1963 Michael Edgley, the show business entrepreneur, arranged a tour by the Georgian State Dance Company, then the largest group of Soviet performers to have appeared in Australia.

1963 The commercial abalone fishing industry recommenced on the Tas east coast. The Chinese had run similar enterprises in the nineteenth century.

1963 Two private companies won licences to install in shops and other public places the public telephones that became known as 'red phones'.

1963 Australia's population reached 11 million.

1964

January Channel ATN-7 produced the *Mavis Bramston show*, Australian television's first topical satire.

10 February The destroyer HMAS *Voyager* sank off Jervis Bay with the loss of 82 lives after colliding with the aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne*, flagship of the Royal Australian Navy. A royal commission inquiring into the incident later in the year failed to ascertain its cause. Continuing controversy over responsibility for the collision led to a second royal commission in 1967–68, which blamed the captain of the destroyer.

14 March Robert Helpmann's ballet *The display* had its world premiere at the Adelaide Festival. Malcolm Williamson composed the music and Sidney Nolan designed the set.

8 April The Moonie–Brisbane oil pipeline was opened, bringing Australia's first commercial oilfield into production.

27 April Sir Garfield Barwick, formerly attorney-general and minister for external affairs in the Menzies government, succeeded Sir Owen Dixon as chief justice of the High Court of Australia.

May The Menzies government enacted legislation making possible commonwealth financial grants to non-government schools for science teaching

facilities. For the first time in almost a century church schools would receive direct 'state aid'.

12 June The Beatles, Britain's leading rock music group, arrived in Sydney for an Australian tour. They were welcomed by huge crowds of young people.

12 June The fourth university in NSW, Macquarie, in the Sydney suburb of North Ryde, was formally established. La Trobe University in Melbourne was established in the same year.

6 July Australia suffered its first battle casualty in Vietnam.

13 July News Ltd launched a new national daily newspaper, the *Australian*, in Canberra, which remained its home until production moved to Sydney in 1967.

17 July Donald Campbell set the world land speed record for a 'conventional' motor vehicle at Lake Eyre, SA, with a speed of 403.1 miles (648.6 kilometres) per hour in his vehicle, the *Bluebird*.

July WA Petroleum struck oil and gas on Barrow Island, northwest of Exmouth, a field the firm brought into production in 1967.

25 August Dissatisfied with a recent wage increase, miners at Mt Isa began a long and at times violent strike. The mine was closed and Premier Nicklin's coalition government in Qld declared a state of emergency. The mine reopened the following February, but some miners did not return to work until April.

2 October The Gladesville Bridge over the Parramatta River was opened. Its span of 305 metres made it the world's longest concrete arch.

24 October The Olympic Games in Tokyo ended with Australians winning six gold medals. Betty Cuthbert won the 400 metres women's athletics and swimmer Dawn Fraser won her second gold medal for the 100 metres freestyle.

October Australian troops were involved in active operations against Indonesian guerillas in Malacca during Indonesia's 'confrontation' of Malaysia. Australia's armed services played a part throughout this three-year confrontation, 1964–66.

10 November The Menzies government reintroduced compulsory military service, for two years for males aged twenty, selected by a lottery draw of birth dates. Conscripts would be liable to service overseas if necessary.

31 December Following his world land speed record in SA in July, Donald Campbell set a world water speed record of 276.33 miles (444.6 kilometres) per hour in his hydroplane (called *Bluebird* like his land vehicle) on Lake Dumbleyung, WA.

December Esso–BHP struck oil in Bass Strait after five years of searching. The new oilfield proved one of Australia's richest.

1964 The Tasman Bridge across the Derwent River in Hobart and the bridge connecting Bribie Island, Qld, to the mainland were completed.

1964 Donald Horne's book *The lucky country: Australia in the sixties*, an examination of Australian society, institutions and attitudes, was published.

1964 George Johnston's autobiographical novel, *My brother Jack*, was published.

1964 The boxer Lionel Rose, an Aboriginal, became the second Australian to win a world boxing championship when he won the bantamweight title.

1965

January The Seekers' record 'I'll never find another you' became the first Australian single to sell a million copies.

10 March SA experienced its first Labor government in 32 years with the loss of the election by the government of Sir Thomas Playford, who had been premier for over 27 years. The new premier was Frank Walsh.

29 April Menzies announced the government's decision to send a battalion of troops to Vietnam. Arthur Calwell, leader of the Labor party, bitterly opposed the decision.

1 May The Labor party lost office in NSW after 24 years in government. The Liberal leader, Robin Askin led a Liberal-Country party coalition.

May The first Australian battalion of 1500 men arrived in Vietnam, stationed in Bien Hoa with the US 173rd Airborne Brigade.

17 June Joan Sutherland returned home, to be acclaimed as the only Australian other than Dame Nellie Melba to have achieved renown as an operatic performer. She appeared in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide in operas staged by the Elizabethan Trust Opera Co.

2 July The first teachers' strike in Australia in 45 years occurred when members of the Vic Secondary Teachers' Association struck over salary issues.

September The newly elected SA Labor government recommended that Roma Flinders Mitchell, QC, should be made a judge of the SA supreme court, Australia's first woman judge.

1 October The Australian Ballet made its first overseas appearance with three performances at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

2 November The English model Jean Shrimpton, the world's highest paid model, attracted great public attention by wearing a dress in Melbourne 5 inches (13 centimetres) above the knee.

1965 After testing in Tas, Sabin oral poliomyelitis vaccine was launched. A national campaign of immunisation subsequently took place in 1967.

1965 D.H. Lawrence's novel *Lady Chatterley's lover* and Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* were taken off the commonwealth's list of banned books.

1965 The University of Newcastle became an autonomous institution.



30 October 1965 Jean Shrimpton bares her knees and head on Derby Day, a preliminary to the Melbourne Cup. As the Victorian Racing Club's guest of honour, Shrimpton agreed to dress more conventionally on Cup day, 2 November. *Melbourne Herald*.

1966

20 January Sir Robert Menzies retired at the age of 71 after a record term of sixteen years as prime minister. He was succeeded by his deputy of the last ten years, Harold Holt.

26 January Senator Dame Annabelle Rankin became the first woman to hold a federal portfolio on her appointment as minister for housing in the Holt coalition government.

26 January Three Adelaide children, Jane (aged 9), Annabelle (7), and Grant (4) Beaumont, disappeared during a visit to Glenelg beach. They were never found.

28 January Australia's 'mineral boom' gained momentum with the discovery of Western Mining Corporation's nickel ore deposits at Kambalda, WA.

During 1967 Western Mining went on to build an extraction plant for processing the Kambalda ores.

January The NSW government established a state law reform commission, and other states followed.

14 February Decimal currency was introduced.

28 February Joern Utzon, the Danish designer and supervising architect of the Sydney Opera House, resigned in a dispute with the NSW government over rising costs and the extent of government control of the project.

25 March SA's second university, Flinders, was opened at Bedford Park.

March The federal government announced an increase to 4500 of the Australian contingent in Vietnam, three times the number originally sent.

18 April The first group of conscripts, 1000 'national service' troops, left for Vietnam.

21 June Arthur Calwell, leader of the federal opposition, suffered serious facial injuries when shot by a youth, Peter Kocan, while driving away from Mosman Town Hall, Sydney, after addressing a meeting against the Vietnam War. Kocan was later sentenced to life imprisonment.

30 June The census recorded the Australian population at 11 540 764. 'Full-blood' Aborigines, estimated at 80 207, were counted separately.

June–July During a visit to the USA, Prime Minister Holt promised US President Lyndon B. Johnson full Australian support for escalation of the Vietnam War by the US. In saying he would go 'all the way with LBJ', he coined a phrase taken up and used against his government by opponents of the war.

18 August Australian troops defeated a large enemy force in the battle of Long Tan in Vietnam. They killed 245 Vietcong soldiers; their own casualties included 18 dead.

19 August *They're a weird mob*, Michael Powell's film of the novel by 'Nino Culotta' (John O'Grady), was released. This British–Australian coproduction was a novelty that attracted large audiences in Australia, earning gross revenues of \$2 million within one year.

October US President Johnson visited Australia, returning Prime Minister Holt's visit to the US three months before. Large crowds of anti-war protesters disrupted his receptions in both Sydney and Melbourne. In Sydney Premier Askin told a police superintendent to 'run over the bastards' when demonstrators lay on the road in front of the presidential motorcade. In Melbourne a demonstrator tossed a can of white paint over the president's limousine.

26 November The Holt government was returned with ten more seats at the federal election. Fought mainly over conscription and Australia's participation in the Vietnam War, the election campaign had been one of the most violent and bitter of the postwar campaigns.

1966 The Gurindji Aborigines of the NT walked off the Wave Hill and Newcastle Waters cattle stations,

beginning a successful seven-year struggle to obtain title to their land. This was later seen by Aborigines elsewhere as the birth of the land rights movement.

1966 Japan, taking 19.4 per cent of Australian exports, became Australia's main overseas customer replacing the UK, which took 13.4 per cent.

1966 The ban on the permanent appointment of married women in the commonwealth public service was lifted.

1966 Geoffrey Blainey's book *The tyranny of distance*, a study of the effect of isolation on Australia's development, was published, its title adding a phrase to Australian English.

1966 Automatic telex was introduced, permitting subscribers to exchange written information rapidly.

1966 Crown-of-thorns starfish, which had been observed on the Great Barrier Reef for several years, increased to plague proportions, causing many to believe that they seriously threatened the coral of which the reef is composed.

1967

3 February Ronald Ryan became the last person to be executed in Australia when he was hanged in Pentridge gaol, Melbourne, for killing a warder while escaping from the gaol in December 1965.



1967 On 17 December Prime Minister Harold Holt disappeared while swimming in heavy surf near Portsea, Vic. Despite an intensive search his body was never recovered. Representatives of 29 countries, including Prince Charles, British Prime Minister Harold Wilson and US President Lyndon B. Johnson, attended a memorial service held for him in Melbourne's St Paul's Cathedral in January 1968.



1960s Australian soldiers in Vietnam resting in the jungle. The herbicide 245-D, known as agent-orange, was used to clear the dense jungle that severely hindered western methods of warfare. At home, many Australians were taking part in moratorium rallies to protest against Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS

7 February One of the worst bushfires in Australia's recorded history swept down from Mt Wellington to within 2 kilometres of central Hobart. Losses included 59 people killed, 1500 motor vehicles and 1300 buildings. Damage was estimated at \$40 million, and 3000 people were left homeless.

10 April *This day tonight*, ABC television's long-running current affairs program, was launched, with Bill Peach as compere.

29 April A referendum on the creation of a new state in northern NSW returned a 'no' vote of 54 per cent, dashing long-held hopes in the New England region.

April In an attempt to control the buffalo fly, CSIRO mounted its first large-scale program releasing dung beetles, in a band between Broome, WA and Townsville, Qld.

25 May The Tas government sought approval from parliament for a \$100 million hydro-electric scheme on the Gordon River. This began an unsuccessful seven-year campaign by environmentalists to save Lake Pedder, which had been a national park since

1955 and which would be destroyed by the dam built in connection with the hydro-electric scheme. The dam was completed in 1972 after one of the most bitter conservationist campaigns in Australian history.

27 May A record 'yes' vote of 90.8 per cent in a federal referendum allowed the federal parliament concurrent power with the states in Aboriginal affairs and decided that Aborigines were to be counted in the census.

June The Conciliation and Arbitration Commission replaced the 60-year-old method of determining pay levels according to the 'basic wage'. Instead it adopted the idea of a 'total wage'. It replaced the traditional formula of basic wage plus margins for skill with a total wage which represented the minimum wage legally payable.

July Australian postal authorities introduced a national four-digit postcode system to assist in the sorting of mail.

6 September The federal government decided to limit appeals from the High Court of Australia to the Privy Council.