

9 September Proposed changes to Qld laws governing public demonstrations prompted a march by 3500 protesters in Brisbane, during which police arrested 114 people.

16 September North West Cape, one of the most important US defence communications establishments, was declared operational.

19 November Australia launched its first satellite from the Woomera rocket range with a US Redstone rocket.

21 November For the first time since 1931, the federal government chose not to follow the UK government when it devalued the pound sterling. The government made this decision despite determined agitation by the Country party, which wanted the dollar devalued to protect primary producers and exporters.

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, UK Prime Minister Harold Wilson and US President Lyndon B. Johnson, attended the memorial service held for him in Melbourne's St Paul's Cathedral in January 1968.

18 December Country party leader John McEwen was commissioned as interim prime minister by the governor-general, Lord Casey, pending the election of a new government leader by the coalition parties. Though prime minister for only three weeks, McEwen helped shape the course of subsequent events by announcing on 20 December that he would not serve in a government led by William McMahon, the treasurer and Liberal party deputy leader.

1967 Direct subscriber trunk dialling became possible with the opening of the first automatic trunk switching centres in Sydney, Canberra, Newcastle, Geelong and Launceston.

1967 The federal government established an exclusive fishing zone of 12 miles (19 kilometres) around the Australian coastline.

1967 The American yacht *Intrepid* defeated *Dame Pattie*, Australia's challenger for the America's Cup, in four straight races off Newport, Rhode Island, US.

1967 The joint Australian-US space installation at Pine Gap near Alice Springs was established. It became operational in 1969 and allowed the US to monitor Soviet missile developments and intercept communications.

1968

9 January John Grey Gorton was elected leader of the parliamentary Liberal party and was sworn in as prime minister the following day — the first senator to become prime minister. He later resigned from the Senate to contest the seat of Higgins, Vic, left vacant by the disappearance of Harold Holt, which he won easily in the subsequent election.

2 February Gorton announced that no more Australian troops would be sent to Vietnam.

17 April The Labor party federal executive refused to accept the credentials of Tas delegate Brian Harradine because of his connections with the Catholic-based National Civic Council. Party leader Gough Whitlam saw this as a challenge to the principle of leadership and resigned.

30 April Jim Cairns challenged Gough Whitlam for the Labor party leadership, which Whitlam narrowly regained.

4 July Mounted police charged a crowd of 2000 people protesting against the Vietnam War outside the US consulate in Melbourne. Police made 45 arrests.

July Australia signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which came into effect in 1970.

July The discovery of Aboriginal bones at Lake Mungo in southwestern NSW proved that Aborigines had inhabited Australia for at least 25 000 years, a much longer period than had previously been thought. Later evidence suggested the period might be 40 000 years.

2 August Johannes Bjelke-Petersen was elected unopposed as Country party leader in Qld. Six days later he became Qld premier.

20 August Premier Bolte opened the new \$14 million National Art Gallery of Vic in Melbourne, the first stage of the state centre for the arts.

1 October NSW schoolteachers went on strike for the first time.

22 October The federal government announced that from 1 December full award wages would be paid to Aborigines in the NT pastoral industry and would flow on to those employed by the government on its settlements, in forestry projects and in the armed services and police force.

23 October Surgeons at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, performed Australia's first and the world's 64th heart transplant operation. The 57-year-old patient lived 45 days after the operation.

28 October Twice-daily suburban postal deliveries were abolished by the department of the postmaster-general.

November–December Bushfires in the Blue Mountains, NSW, burned for four weeks. Fourteen people died as a result of the fires.

1968 The number of Australian troops in South Vietnam rose to a peak of more than 8000. With public opposition to conscription and the war mounting, the federal government introduced increasingly severe measures to enforce conscription.

1968 The Aboriginal housing program, providing funds for the purchase or construction of housing for Aborigines, was set up by the federal government. The government also established an office of Aboriginal affairs which subsequently developed into the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

1968 At the Olympic Games in Mexico Australia won five gold medals.

1968 The woodchip industry began in Australia with a clear-felling project sponsored by the NSW government at Eden.

1968 Aborigines of the Gove Peninsula, NT, brought a case against the federal government and Nabalco Pty Ltd, claiming the defendants had misappropriated their lands. The case was decided against the claimants in 1971.

1969

8 January Bushfires burned large areas of Vic, leaving 23 people dead, 18 of them at Lara, where fires cut the Melbourne–Geelong freeway, trapping a number of motorists.

21 January Johnny Famechon became the third Australian to win a world boxing championship when he won the featherweight title in London.

7 February Nine passengers were killed when the *Southern Aurora* crashed into a freight train at Violet Town, Vic, after the driver had died of a heart attack.

March When natural gas from the Moonie and other fields was piped to Brisbane, the Qld capital became the first in Australia to receive a supply of natural gas.

13 April The last electric tram service ran in Brisbane. The tram service was replaced by buses.

10 May State elections in Tas resulted in the Labor party losing office for the first time in 35 years. The Liberal party formed a government with party leader Angas Bethune as premier. There was now no Labor government anywhere in Australia.

May The secretary of the Tramways Union, Clarrie O'Shea, was gaoled by Sir John Kerr, a judge of the arbitration court, for contempt of court and refusing to pay fines imposed by the court for contravening its no-strike orders. O'Shea's gaoling sparked off a series of national strikes. He was released after five days when his fines were paid anonymously.

3 June The recently refitted aircraft carrier *Melbourne* collided with a US destroyer, *Frank E. Evans*, in the South China Sea. The US ship, which was cut in half, sank with 74 lives lost. The captain of the *Melbourne* was exonerated in a subsequent inquiry.

19 June The commonwealth arbitration court unanimously ruled that women should get the same pay as men if they could prove they were doing work of equal value. The court determined that they should get at least 85 per cent of the male rate on 1 October, their pay then rising in steps to 100 per cent by 1 January 1972.

June The live rock musical *Hair* had its first performance at the Sydney Metro. With the cast appearing nude in one scene, it ushered in an era of greater theatrical freedom.

4 August A mineral exploration company, Tasminex, was formed in Tas. The company's nickel find

in WA was thought to be vast and the 2 500 000 shares issued rose to \$96. In March the next year they dropped to \$7.50 when it was revealed that only traces of nickel had been found. A subsequent inquiry found that Tasminex directors had profited from selling shares in the company.

1 October Poseidon No Liability, a mineral exploration and mining company, advised the Adelaide stock exchange that it had found a vast nickel lode in WA. The company's \$1 shares rose to \$280 by February 1970, when the Poseidon claim was valued at \$700 million. Prices slumped soon after this, causing huge



1969 Equal pay was a much debated issue in the 1960s. In its edition of 8 February 1969, the *Bulletin* discussed the working conditions and pay rates of women in the meat industry. Some people regarded this *Bulletin* cover as a trivialisation of the issue. On 19 June the commonwealth arbitration court unanimously ruled that women should get the same pay as men if they could prove they were doing work of equal value. Although equal pay now exists in many industries, women are still underrepresented in higher-paid positions.

losses to those who had bought into the company at peak trading. The company went into receivership in 1977.

25 October In the federal elections a strong swing against the Gorton coalition government brought eighteen additional seats to Labor. Labor's vote was 3.5 per cent larger than the coalition's but, as in all federal elections since the Labor party split of the mid-1950s, Democratic Labor Party preferences kept Labor out of office.

29 November Port Pirie–Broken Hill, the final section of the standard-gauge railway line between Sydney and Perth, was completed. The first train over the entire coast-to-coast route, a goods train, made its run the following January; the Indian-Pacific passenger service began in February.

16 December Gorton announced that the first withdrawal of troops from Vietnam would be made in the near future.

1969 Dr Bertrum Wainer revealed the existence of longstanding corruption in the Vic police force, centred on illegal abortions.

1969 SA was the first state to reform existing laws on abortion. It permitted abortion for women resident in SA, subject to certain qualifications.

1969 Sumner Locke Elliot's *Eden's lost* was published.

1970

17–18 January Cyclone Ada caused the loss of thirteen lives and millions of dollars' worth of damage to the Great Barrier Reef holiday islands.

30 March Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne commenced a five week tour of Australia as part of the celebrations to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Capt James Cook's arrival at Botany Bay on 29 April 1770. Aborigines protested at the celebrations.

20 April After opening as a college of the University of Queensland in Townsville in 1961, the James Cook University of North Queensland was proclaimed.

April Gorton announced a committee of scientists to investigate the impact of the crown-of-thorns starfish on the Great Barrier Reef. In March 1971 the committee reported that the starfish was not a threat to the reef.

8 May Demonstrations were held in all state capitals to protest against Australia's continued involvement in the Vietnam War. The demonstration in Melbourne, led by Dr Jim Cairns, MP, was the largest held in Australia.

2 June The Labor party, led by Don Dunstan, came into power in SA after defeating Steele Hall's Liberal government.

1 July Gorton opened the new Tullamarine airport in Melbourne. It combined domestic and international flights in the one terminal building.

1 July A new health insurance scheme came into operation. It provided a single medical table with sig-



November 1970 Onlookers and paparazzi greet Pope Paul VI at Circular Quay. During his visit, the first by a pope to Australia, he took part in the bicentenary celebrations of Cook's landing and attended the Catholic bishops' conference in Sydney. A mass at Randwick racecourse attracted over 100 000 school children and adults.

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS

nificantly increased benefits, under which the difference between the benefit and the most common fee for any service would not exceed \$5.

4 July The Metric Conversion Board was set up to begin planning Australia's conversion to the metric system of weights and measures. It envisaged that the process would be completed in ten years.

July The federal government initiated a change in policy regarding Aboriginal land needs. Assent was given to two land lease ordinances which gave the Aborigines land leasing rights for specified purposes over 93 900 square miles (243 201 square kilometres) of Aboriginal reserves in the NT.

1 September Qld Mines Ltd reported the discovery of a rich uranium deposit near Darwin in the NT. The area, called Nabarlek, was estimated to contain 55 000 tons of uranium oxide. On 17 September Gorton announced that the federal government would pass emergency legislation to stop any overseas takeover of Nabarlek. On 30 October, the Australian mining group Peko-Wallsend announced the presence of reserves of uranium 64 kilometres from Nabarlek which would be the largest in Australia, at 70 000 tons (71 123 tonnes) of uranium oxide.

18 September The second Vietnam moratorium campaign reached its climax with huge rallies in all capital cities. Unlike the May rallies, these were marked by violent clashes between police and demonstrators.

15 October Part of the West Gate Bridge in Melbourne collapsed during construction, killing 35 workers.

November Vic made the wearing of car seat belts compulsory. Other states soon followed.

November Pope Paul VI became the first pope to visit Australia when he took part in the celebrations for the bicentenary of Cook's landing and attended the Catholic bishops' conference in Sydney.

November The total number of Australian troops in Vietnam was reduced for the first time when a returning battalion was not replaced.

November A federal election for one half of the Senate resulted in the five members of the fiercely anti-Labor Democratic Labor Party (DLP) holding the balance of power.

1970 Australia lost the cricket Ashes to England for the first time in twelve years.

1970 WA and then NSW were the first states to lower the voting age to 18, SA did likewise in 1971 and in 1973 Tas, Qld, Vic and the commonwealth followed.

1970 Germaine Greer's *The female eunuch*, Hugh Stretton's *Ideas for Australian cities* and Charles Rowley's *The destruction of Aboriginal society* were published.

1970 In the America's Cup *Gretel II* was defeated by the American defender *Intrepid*.

1971

January The Vic government announced that Vic Aborigines would be given ownership of reserves of land in the Lake Tyers and Framlingham areas of Vic.

February WA had its first Labor government in twelve years when John Tonkin became premier, ending the term of Sir David Brand.

February Despite strong opposition from conservationists, the Qld government approved sand mining on Fraser Island.

10 March Gorton stepped down as prime minister and leader of the Liberal party after losing an election for leadership of the party on his own casting vote. On 22 March, William McMahon formed a new government.

10 March The Tas parliament approved the damming of Lake Pedder by the Hydro Electric Commission, amid strong protest from conservationists.

March Torrential rains broke a severe drought in southwestern Qld and northeastern SA.

April An Australian table tennis team visited China. The visit marked a change in Australian attitudes towards China, until then regarded generally as expansionist and the greatest threat to the region's security.

April The Yirrkala Aborigines' legal challenge for land rights at Gove in the NT was dismissed by the supreme court in the Territory. The court ruled that Aboriginal titles to land did not hold good under Australian law. The Aborigines had earlier challenged the white claim to ownership of the billion-dollar bauxite deposits in Gove Peninsula.

April Australia signed a five-nation defence pact with Singapore, Malaysia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

May Neville Bonner became the first Aborigine to sit in federal parliament when he was selected by the Qld Liberal party to fill a casual Senate vacancy.

May The federal government announced that there were to be no cigarette advertisements on radio and television during children's peak viewing times.

30 June For the first time 'full-blood' Aborigines were officially counted as part of the Australian population following the referendum of 1967. The continent's population numbered 12 755 638.

June An ALP delegation led by E.G. Whitlam left for a visit to the People's Republic of China, during which the Chinese were told that a Labor government in Australia would establish diplomatic ties with the People's Republic. McMahon strongly attacked Whitlam's overtures to China, and claimed that the foreign minister, Chou En-lai, 'played him [Whitlam] as a fisherman plays a trout'. McMahon was greatly embarrassed in July when the US president, Richard Nixon, announced his intention of visiting the People's Republic of China.

June The South African Springbok rugby team started their Australian tour. Anti-apartheid demonstrations were held wherever the team played. McMahon promised the use of the RAAF if necessary to transport the players around the country.

20 July Malcolm Fraser, who four months earlier had resigned as minister for defence during a dispute with Prime Minister Gorton told a Melbourne audience that 'life is not meant to be easy'.

24 July During the Springbok football tour of Qld, Premier Bjelke-Petersen, who supported the tour, declared a state of emergency.

9 August The Commonwealth Trade Practices Act came into force, making resale price maintenance illegal (that is, the practice of insisting on a fixed resale price as a condition for the supply of goods) unless an exemption was granted by the Trade Practices Tribunal. On 30 May 1972 the tribunal decided that books should not be exempted from the ban.

18 August McMahon announced that the bulk of Australia's troops still in Vietnam would be withdrawn by Christmas.

August National service (compulsory military training) was reduced from two years to eighteen months.

October Jack Munday, secretary of the NSW branch of the Builders' Labourers' Federation, launched the first of the 'green bans' by withholding union labour from a building project at Hunters Hill in Sydney that threatened to encroach on Kelly's Bush.

2 November Sonia McMahon, the prime minister's wife, caused a sensation by wearing a dress split to the thighs at a White House reception in Washington.

November Vic became the first state to introduce late-night shopping.

1971 Griffith University in Brisbane was established.

1971 David Williamson's play *Don's party* was performed for the first time. It received critical acclaim for its portrayal of Australian middle-class life.

1971 The WA parliament legislated for the introduction of Australia's first ombudsman. By 1978 all state

governments and the federal government had introduced similar legislation.

1971 *Portnoy's complaint* by US writer Philip Roth was published in Australia. Penguin Books was convicted of obscenity in Vic. David Ireland's *The unknown industrial prisoner* won the Miles Franklin Award.

1972

17 January The Boilermakers' and Blacksmiths' Society, the Sheet Metal Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Engineering Union combined to form Australia's largest trade union, the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union, with a membership of more than 150 000.

January Aborigines demanding land rights set up a tent 'embassy' in front of Parliament House in Canberra. The embassy remained on the lawns of Parliament House until July, when it was forcibly removed by police.

19 February The last RAAF aircraft on service in Vietnam left to return to Australia.

12 May The Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) was formed to highlight women's rights at elections and to encourage female participation in the political process.

15 June A dispute over a log of claims including a 35-hour week led to a strike in the oil industry and seriously disrupted petrol supplies until early August.

30 June The Ord River Dam, part of the Ord River scheme in the Kimberley district, WA, which had commenced in 1967, was officially opened.

June A 35-hour week was granted to waterside workers by the federal arbitration court.

8 August Footprints dating from 355 million years ago, the oldest footprints known in the world, were found in Gippsland, Vic.

24 August The federal government approved uranium export contracts for Queensland Mines Ltd and Mary Kathleen Uranium Ltd.

16 September Terrorists exploded bombs inside two Yugoslav travel agencies in Sydney.

September As part of the gradual change to metric units, temperature measurements were changed to Celsius.

31 October The federal parliament passed a new Foreign Takeovers Act enabling the government to freeze the bids for the takeover of Australian companies by foreign corporations.

October The federal government passed the Child Care Act, providing capital and recurrent grants to non-profit child care centres.

13 November E.G. Whitlam opened the Labor party's election campaign for the federal elections with the slogan 'It's time' (that is, for a change).

November The women's magazine *Cleo*, with a nude male centrefold, was launched by Australian Consolidated Press. It was edited by Ita Buttrose.

2 December In the election for the House of Representatives, Whitlam led the Australian Labor Party to victory, to form the first federal Labor government in 23 years. The party did not have a majority in the Senate.

5 December Whitlam was sworn in as prime minister of Australia. With his deputy Lance Barnard, he



1972 On 13 November E.G. Whitlam delivered Labor's policy speech in the western Sydney suburb of Blacktown, with the slogan 'It's time' (for a change). In the election of 2 December the ALP won office to become the first federal Labor government in 23 years. The party did not have a majority in the Senate. Election material, 1972 elections.

SOCIAL SCIENCES RESOURCES CENTRE, MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

formed a two-man interim ministry that introduced policy changes, including the end of national service (compulsory military training) and the release of national service offenders, the cessation of all remaining military involvement in Indochina, recognition of the People's Republic of China and the German Democratic Republic, and asked the arbitration court to reopen the issue of equal pay for women.

15 December The principle of equal pay for work of equal value was approved by the full bench of the arbitration court.

19 December The second Whitlam ministry was sworn in with 27 ministers administering 37 departments, 16 of which were new.

20 December Billy Snedden was elected parliamentary Liberal party leader after the resignation of William McMahon.

December Elizabeth Evatt was appointed the first woman president of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

December Mr Justice Woodward was appointed as commissioner to head a judicial inquiry into Aboriginal land rights in federal territories.

December A department of Aboriginal affairs was established by the Whitlam government.

1972 The ACTU placed a ban on all French ships and aircraft in Australia as a protest against continuing French nuclear tests in the Pacific.

1972 At the Olympic Games in Munich Australia won eight gold medals. The outstanding performer was Shane Gould, aged 15, who became the first to hold all women's freestyle swimming records at once.

1973

11 January The federal government prohibited the export of kangaroo skins.

26 January The first Australian country music awards were presented at the Country Music Festival in Tamworth, NSW, held over the Australia Day long weekend.

January Annual leave for commonwealth public servants was extended from three to four weeks.

1 February The UK–Australia trade pact came to an end. This meant that preferential tariff agreements between the two countries no longer applied. The preferential agreement had been jeopardised when the UK decided to join the EEC.

3 March Commonwealth police and the Labor attorney-general, Lionel Murphy, instigated a search of the ASIO files on Croatian dissidents during a surprise 'raid' on ASIO offices in Canberra and Melbourne. The raid was poorly executed and became one of a number of embarrassing gaffes by Whitlam's ministers.

8 March Fifteen people died in a Brisbane nightclub fire caused by arson.



20 October 1973 *The opening of the Sydney Opera House. It had taken more than fourteen years to construct and cost more than \$100 million, raised by the sale of lottery tickets.*

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS

March The federal government announced that it would abolish all tuition fees at Australian universities and other tertiary education institutions. The measure took effect on 1 January 1974.

8 April Official figures put the number of Aborigines at 116 000, with Qld having the highest number of any state.

1 June The first RAAF F-111As arrived in Australia from the US.

22 June Following representations made by Australia, the International Court of Justice ordered France to suspend nuclear tests in the atmosphere over the Indian Ocean. France ignored the order.

June Maternity leave was granted to women employees in the federal public service. They were entitled to 12 weeks' leave on full pay with up to 40 weeks' leave without pay. Male employees could also take one week's leave on full pay at the time of the birth of the child.

18 July The federal government reduced all tariffs on imported goods by 25 per cent. This had drastic short-term consequences for Australian manufacturing, particularly industries such as textiles and footwear that had survived only through high levels of protection. Many jobs were lost as a direct result.

24 July A three-year trade agreement was signed between Australia and the People's Republic of China.

25 July Murdoch University in Perth, the second in WA, was proclaimed and its first undergraduates enrolled two years later.

September Federal and state parliamentarians met in Sydney for the first constitutional convention since Federation. It achieved little.

September The death penalty was abolished in the ACT and the NT.

September A bus accident in the Snowy Mountains killed eighteen pensioners and injured several others.

1 October The postal services began using metric measures.

20 October The Queen officially opened the Sydney Opera House. It had taken fourteen years to construct and cost more than \$100 million, financed by selling lottery tickets.

23 October The Albury–Wodonga development agreement was signed by Whitlam and the premiers of NSW and Vic, designating the area a growth centre.

31 October Whitlam began an official visit to China, the first by an Australian prime minister.

4 November A tornado hit the southwestern suburbs of Brisbane, causing widespread damage to 600 houses.

17 November Liberal Premier Askin held a snap poll in NSW and improved his majority in parliament. The election was memorable for the fact that the DLP won the seat of Gordon when the incumbent, A. H. Jago, minister for health, forgot to nominate. This was the DLP's only Australian success at a lower house election.

8 December Referendums proposing to give power to the federal government to control both prices and incomes were defeated in every state.

1973 The Wrest Point casino in Hobart, Tas, was officially opened, making it the first legal casino in Australia.

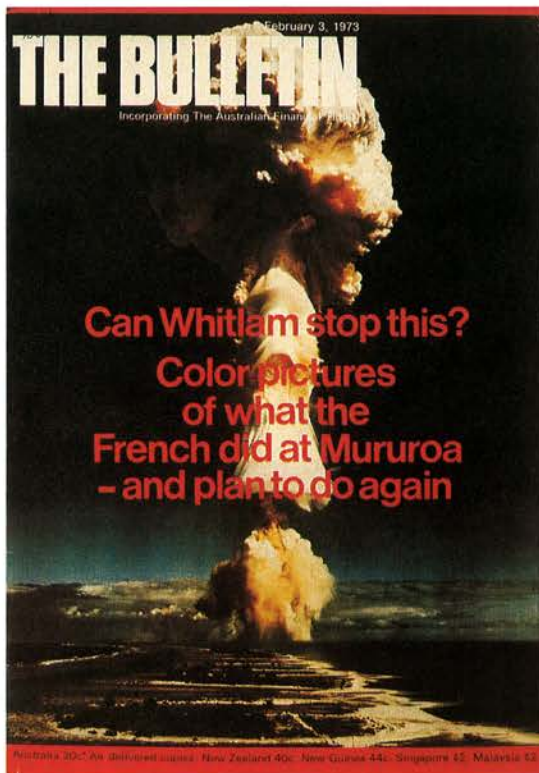
1973 The Adelaide Festival Centre was opened, having cost \$6.6 million to build.

1973 The novelist Patrick White became the first Australian to win the Nobel Prize for literature. His novel *The eye of the storm* was published in the same year.

1973 Amid much public controversy, the federal government paid \$1.3 million for the painting *Blue poles* by the American artist Jackson Pollock.

1973 To assist marketing Australian wine, 'casks' were introduced, plastic containers in firm cardboard carrying-cases. The advantage of the casks over bottles or flagons was that the wine would not spoil once opened. The casks, which were much cheaper than bottled wine, have contributed to an enormous increase in wine consumption in Australia.

1973 The federal parliament enacted legislation providing that Queen Elizabeth was to be known as the Queen of Australia.



1973 An official French government photograph of atomic tests on Mururoa atoll in the Pacific appears on the cover of the Bulletin. Such photographs were not published in France for fear of arousing opposition to the tests. On 22 June, following representations made by Australia, the International Court of Justice ordered France to suspend nuclear tests in the atmosphere. France ignored the order.

1974

January Many parts of Australia suffered serious flooding. Brisbane was particularly affected with more than 6000 homes flooded and the loss of 13 lives; the floods in Qld caused about \$200 million damage.

3 February Rioting prisoners burned down part of the Bathurst gaol, NSW, as a protest against conditions there. Just under twenty were wounded by gunfire, some seriously. This riot and allegations of brutality at other NSW gaols led to the appointment of the Nagle royal commission in 1976.

23 February Official post offices closed on Saturdays and mail deliveries on Saturdays ceased.

14 March Whitlam appointed DLP Senator Vince Gair as Australia's ambassador to Eire in an attempt to check the influence of the DLP in the Senate and to increase Labor's numbers in the Senate.

30 March In WA a coalition of the Liberal and Country parties came to power under Charles Court.

2 April The Qld premier, Bjelke-Petersen, issued writs for the return of only five senators from his state before Senator Gair resigned, foiling Whitlam's attempt to enhance Labor's chance of winning Qld seats in the federal Senate elections.

8 April Following a public opinion poll, the federal Labor government announced that 'Advance Australia fair' was to be the new national anthem. 'God save the Queen' would be used on special occasions to honour the Queen or to acknowledge Australia's links with Britain.



1974 On 24 and 25 December Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin. The death toll and extent of destruction was higher than in any other natural disaster in Australia. Most buildings in the city were flattened and at least fifty people died.

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS

10 April Whitlam obtained a double dissolution of parliament following the Senate's failure to pass three appropriation bills.

18 May In the election following the double dissolution of federal parliament, the Labor party was returned with a slightly reduced majority in the lower house but still without a majority in the Senate. Four referendums conducted at the same time as the elections were lost. The proposals dealt with one person one vote elections, simultaneous Senate and House of Representatives elections, methods of altering the constitution and local government.

May The report of the Woodward commission on Aboriginal land rights in federal territories was released. It recommended that where the traditional land ownership rights in Aboriginal reserves and other unalienated crown lands could be demonstrated, Aborigines should receive title; that in alienated land where traditional ownership could be shown or was socially and economically essential, title should be given. Aboriginal claims to mineral rights were not accepted but the commission recommended that mining on reserves was to be allowed only with Aboriginal consent, except in areas where mining was deemed to be in the national interest.

21 June With the announcement of the defeat of Vic Senator F.P. McManus in the national election, the Democratic Labor Party no longer had any representation in the federal parliament.

11 July Sir John Kerr, formerly chief justice of NSW, became governor-general, the first head of state nominated by Labor since 1947.

6 August The two houses of the federal parliament sat together for the first time to deal with six bills rejected by the Senate before the double dissolution. The proceedings were telecast for the first time. The bills were passed by an absolute majority of members present. They reduced the permissible variation in the number of electors from 20 to 10 per cent, gave two senators each to the NT and the ACT; enabled the size of the Senate to be increased without a corresponding increase in the House of Representatives; established a national health scheme and also a petroleum and minerals authority. The last was later declared invalid by the high court on a technicality.

24 September The SEATO council meeting in New York, with foreign affairs minister Senator D.R. Willesee, decided to dissolve SEATO as it was a 'vestige of the Cold War'.

28 September A legislative assembly was elected in the ACT for the first time. The role of the assembly was advisory with control vested in the Department of the Capital Territory.

1 October The Commonwealth Trade Practices Act came into force. The act outlawed restrictive or anti-competitive trade practices and pyramid selling.

20 November Sir Robert Askin retired after a nine-year term (1965-74) as Liberal premier of NSW. He was replaced by Tom Lewis.

November ABC-TV took on a new image with the launching of a rock music program, *Countdown*, aimed at a youthful audience.

24-25 December Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin. The death toll and extent of destruction was

higher than in any other natural disaster in Australia. Most buildings in the city were flattened and at least 50 people died. Twenty-six thousand people were evacuated by air from the scene of destruction.

1974 Road speed signs became metric.

1974 The major Australian banks introduced the Bankcard credit card system.

1974 In the America's Cup, the West Australian yacht *Southern Cross*, owned by Alan Bond, lost four successive races to the American defender *Courageous*.

1974 The Vic parliament was the first in Australia to enact legislation — the Historic Buildings Preservation Act — giving the government the power to prevent the demolition or alteration of historic buildings.

1974 All broadcast listeners' licences were abolished when the federal government decided to fund national broadcasting from general taxation.

1974 Deakin University in Geelong, the fourth in Vic, was established.



1975 'Shame Fraser, shame' badges were sold by the ALP and worn during the campaign both by party members and by others who believed that Malcolm Fraser had engineered the dismissal of a government that had a majority in the House of Representatives.

CLARK COLLECTION

1975

1 **January** The University of Wollongong, which had formerly been a college of the University of NSW, was established.

5 **January** The freighter *Lake Illawarra* rammed into the Tasman Bridge in Hobart, causing the death of twelve people. The bridge was reopened on 8 October 1977.

February According to official figures, 5.2 per cent of the workforce were unemployed, the highest rate since the depression of the 1930s.

1 **March** Colour television was officially introduced in Australia.

21 **March** Malcolm Fraser became the leader of the Liberal party after successfully challenging Billy Snedden.

8 **April** A bill to abolish the death penalty in Vic was passed, ending a long and bitter debate.

30 **April** The Conciliation and Arbitration Commission introduced indexation of wages according to variations in the cost of living.

11 **June** The Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act became effective. A commissioner for community relations was appointed to investigate complaints of racial discrimination. If conciliation between parties failed, the complainant was empowered to take civil action.

13 **June** The first honours awards were made under the Order of Australia.

30 **June** In the Bass by-election, Whitlam and Fraser campaigned against each other for the first time. The massive swing against Labor and the consequent Liberal victory encouraged the opposition to force an early election.

1 **July** The Postmaster General's Department was divided into the Australian Postal Commission (Australia Post) and the Australian Telecommunications Commission (Telecom Australia).

1 **July** The new national scheme of medical and hospital benefits known as Medibank came into operation. Australians were now entitled to free health care, with standard ward accommodation and treatment in public hospitals. By 1 October, all the states had signed the hospital agreement. The federal government was to meet half the net operating costs in the state public hospitals.

8 **July** Appeals from the High Court of Australia to the Privy Council in England were abolished.

16 **July** Justice Fox was appointed to inquire into uranium mining proposals for the NT Aboriginal lands in Jabiru.

28 **August** The Commission of Inquiry into Poverty, chaired by Ronald Henderson of the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, Melbourne, tabled its report in federal parliament. It found that 10 per cent of Australian adult income units were below the poverty line in 1973 and another 8 per cent were only just above the poverty line.

3 **September** The Qld parliament rejected an ALP nominee to fill a seat in the federal Senate left vacant after the death of Labor Senator Milliner. Albert Field, an ALP member and trade union official, volunteered for the position, and was appointed by the Qld premier, Bjelke-Petersen. Field voted consistently with the opposition, enabling them to block the government's money bills.

16 **September** Papua New Guinea became fully independent from Australia but remained within the Commonwealth of Nations with Queen Elizabeth II as head of state.

8 **October** The press released information regarding moves by the Labor government to raise overseas loan money from the Middle East and the secret negotiations involved. The so-called 'loans affair' became a crucial factor in the constitutional crisis that developed when the Senate, controlled by the opposition, delayed approval of the government's money



5 January 1975 *The Tasman Bridge, Hobart, collapsed after being rammed by the freighter Lake Illawarra. The captain was suspended for six months and later that year retired. A Bailey bridge was opened further up the river to alleviate the delays to commuters.*

TASMANIAN TOURIST BUREAU

bills for 1975–76. Jim Cairns, deputy prime minister and minister for the environment, had been sacked on 2 July for misleading parliament over his attempts to raise other government loans overseas. In October a beleaguered Whitlam denied that his government was still involved in loan-raising activities, but evidence from a London-based intermediary, Tirath Khemlani, was produced in parliament to show that Rex Connor, minister for minerals and energy, had been continuing negotiations despite the revocation of his authority to raise such loans. Connor was also sacked.

15 October Malcolm Fraser, claiming ‘extraordinary and reprehensible circumstances’, announced that the opposition would refuse to pass the budget bills in the Senate unless an election was called for the House of Representatives.

October Margaret Throsby became the first woman to read the main ABC radio news bulletin.

October The Australian Heritage Act was passed. It required that commonwealth government departments and authorities should take no steps that would have an adverse effect on National Estate property without referring to the Heritage Commission.

3 November Malcolm Fraser offered to pass the budget if the government called a House of Representatives election at the same time as the half-Senate election due before mid-1976. Since the half-Senate election was the government’s recourse to end the deadlock, Whitlam declined.

11 November Whitlam intended to advise Sir John Kerr, the governor-general, to issue writs for a half-Senate election. Before he could tender the advice, the governor-general dismissed the Labor government and invited Malcolm Fraser to become prime minister and form a caretaker government. Fraser accepted and both houses were dissolved. There was intense controversy over the governor-general’s actions, especially

when the governor-general announced that he had sought the advice of Sir Garfield Barwick, chief justice of Australia and a former Liberal minister.

13 December The Liberal–National Country party coalition, led by caretaker prime minister Malcolm Fraser, won a landslide victory in the national elections. Labor lost 33 seats, including several held by ministers.

17 December In a high court decision, the sovereignty of offshore areas was given to the federal government. The states had challenged the validity of the Commonwealth Seas and Submerged Lands Act of 1973 which gave the federal government sovereignty over offshore areas, and therefore control over matters such as oil drilling.

25 December A fire at the Savoy Hotel, Kings Cross, Sydney, killed fifteen people.

1975 SA became the first state to legalise homosexual relations between consenting male adults.

1975 Five Australian journalists were killed in East Timor while covering the border crisis. There were unproven allegations that Indonesian troops were involved.

1975 The film *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, directed by Peter Weir, became a huge success.

1975 Vic was the first state to introduce random breath testing in an effort to reduce the number of accidents caused by drunken drivers. NSW introduced similar legislation in 1982.

1975 Xavier Herbert’s *Poor fellow, my country* and Anne Summers’ *Damned whores and God’s police* were published.

1975 The ‘Hospital hour’ on ABC radio came to an end after 37 years.

1975 The Archibald Prize was won by John Bloomfield for his portrait of the film director Tim Burstall. The prize was withdrawn when it was disclosed that Bloomfield painted the portrait from a photograph and had not met Burstall.

1975 Solo, a chain of discount petrol stations, was launched by the ACTU.

1976

5 January The Family Law Act came into force. The ‘no-fault’ divorce based on 12 months’ separation as proof of irretrievable breakdown was introduced. The act also set up the Family Court of Australia and Elizabeth Evatt was appointed its first chief judge.

1 April OTC and Telecom Australia introduced international subscriber dialing (ISD) in Sydney.

21 April In one of the biggest robberies in Australian history \$1.34 million was stolen from the Victoria Club, Melbourne.

1 May In NSW Neville Wran led Labor into office after elections for the legislative assembly.

4 June The ACTU voted to continue its ban on the mining of all uranium with the exception of the Mary Kathleen mines, NT. At Mary Kathleen mining was to continue with the proviso that the uranium mined should be stockpiled until the outcome of the Ranger Inquiry was known.

16 June Australia and Japan signed a treaty of friendship, the first in Australian history.

26 June ABC-FM was introduced in Adelaide, Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.

12 July About half of the national workforce took part in a general strike to protest at proposed changes by the Fraser government to Medibank.

1 September Cigarette and cigarette tobacco advertising was banned from television and radio.

20 September A large rally outside Sydney's town hall protested at the action of the governor-general, Sir John Kerr, in dismissing the Whitlam government. It was one of many such demonstrations in the wake of the fall of the Labor government.

30 September A national strike was organised by students against the level of tertiary students' allowances.

30 September The final program of Gwen Meredith's ABC serial *Blue hills* was broadcast.

1 October The first of many major changes to Medibank was introduced. A 2.5 per cent levy on taxable income came into force for those without private insurance. The government established Medibank Private as an alternative to private health funds.

25 October The report of the Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry was released. It recommended that permits should be banned for all mining on the island except for limited sand mining on some beach areas and that the island become part of the National Estate.

11 November After considering the first report of the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry, the federal government approved the export of uranium from its stockpile and the Mary Kathleen project to meet contracts approved before 2 December 1972.

30 November Rape in marriage was made a criminal offence in SA. This was the first time such legislation was enacted in the English-speaking world.

1 December Sir Douglas Nicholls became the first Aborigine to be appointed to a vice-regal office in Australia when he became governor of SA.

December The Aboriginal land rights bill was passed by the federal parliament, implementing the main recommendations of the Woodward commission which had examined land rights in the NT.

1976 Nude bathing was permitted on specified beaches in SA and NSW.

1976 Flexitime was introduced for federal public servants.

1976 The Australian films *Caddie*, *Don's party*, *The devil's playground* and *Storm boy* were released.

1976 A family allowance was introduced to replace child and student endowments. Family allowances

were payable to the mother or guardian of children under 16 and full-time students under 25 years.

1976 'God save the Queen' was reinstated as Australia's national anthem. It had earlier been replaced by 'Advance Australia fair'.

1976 The bones of Truganini, reputedly the last full-blood Tasmanian Aborigine, were cremated on the hundredth anniversary of her death.

1976 SA abolished the death penalty, leaving only WA with capital punishment.

1977

1 January Qld was the first state to abolish death duties. Other states and the federal government followed suit in the next two years.

18 January In the worst rail disaster in Australia's history a train was crushed by a bridge at Granville in Sydney, causing the death of more than eighty people and injuries to many others.

12 February In major fires which affected Vic's Western District, five people were killed and the town of Streatham was destroyed.

7 March Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by Prince Philip, arrived in Australia for the beginning of her silver jubilee tour.

17 March Australia defeated England in the centenary test match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground by 45 runs, exactly the same margin of victory as in 1877.

13 April The premiers' conference agreed to a three months' freeze on prices and wages. It lasted six weeks.

9 May Following his resignation from the Liberal party, Don Chipp formed the Australian Democrats. It was envisaged as providing a middle-road alternative to the policies of the Liberal and Labor parties.

21 May Four referendums were held about changes to the constitution: to ensure that Senate elections were held simultaneously with the House of Representatives; that casual vacancies in the Senate should be filled by a person from the same political party as the senator vacating the seat; to allow electors in the territories as well as the states to vote at referendums; and to compel judges of federal courts to retire at 70. All the referendums except the one concerning simultaneous elections were carried.

21 May The Fraser government held a poll which showed that more than 40 per cent of Australian voters expressed their preference for 'Advance Australia fair' as the national song, with only 20 per cent favouring 'God save the Queen', which remained the national anthem for regal and vice-regal occasions.

25 May The second and final report of the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry was released. The report recommended that uranium mining should be allowed to proceed subject to certain conditions; that mining should be restricted to the ore area (the Magela basin); that a uranium marketing authority should be set

up with government and mining representatives; that a national park should be established in the area with provision for sacred sites; and that Aborigines should be given land rights within the national park area.

May The *Canberra Times* became the first Australian paper to make a complete transition to computer typesetting. There was great union resistance to this move.

22 June The Congregational, Methodist and most Presbyterian churches amalgamated to form the Uniting Church.

4 July The Australian Wheat Board announced a record wheat sale to China of 3 million tonnes worth \$280 million.

7 July At its national conference in Perth, the ALP adopted the policy of an indefinite moratorium on the mining and processing of uranium in Australia.

25 August Outlining the federal government's uranium policy to parliament, Fraser announced that

the government was to allow uranium mining and export subject to certain conditions.

August In the wake of the disappearance of anti-drug campaigner Donald Mackay from Griffith, NSW, the NSW government appointed a Royal Commission into Drug Trafficking under Mr Justice P.M. Woodward.

5 September Premier Bjelke-Petersen of Qld announced a total ban on street marches. There was widespread protest and large illegal marches to challenge the law.

24 September The Victorian Football League grand final was televised live for the first time.

4 October Following the start on 28 September of a seven-week stoppage by State Electricity Commission maintenance workers in the Latrobe valley, which severely disrupted power supplies in Vic, the Vic parliament passed legislation giving the government the power to declare a state of emergency. The strike, over indexation of over-award payments, ended on 26 October.

11 October The federal cabinet approved amendments to the Social Service Act which prevented payment of unemployment benefits to workers stood down owing to stoppages.

18 November The treasurer, Phillip Lynch, resigned over allegations that he had gained financially from land transactions on the Mornington Peninsula. He was cleared and restored to the ministry.

8 December Sir John Kerr resigned as governor-general after much criticism of his role in the Whitlam dismissal. He was succeeded by Sir Zelman Cowen.

10 December At the federal election the Fraser government was returned with a reduced majority. The Australian Democrats polled well with a national vote of 11.1 per cent, winning 2 Senate seats. Whitlam stood down as Labor leader, a position he had held since 1967.

21 December The NSW Heritage Act created a Heritage Council with the power to preserve items of the states' environmental heritage including buildings and places. The council has since prevented the demolition of many structures.

22 December Caucus elected Bill Hayden federal ALP leader.

1977 The Western Plains Zoo opened in Dubbo, NSW.

1977 Colleen McCullough's *The thorn birds* was published and sold over 100 000 hardback copies. It was later made into a TV mini-series.



18 January 1977 The 6.09 commuter train from Mount Victoria, in the Blue Mountains, left the rails at Granville in Sydney and hit one of the supports of an overhead road bridge. The bridge collapsed onto the train, crushing a number of carriages, causing the death of over 80 people and leaving many others injured. It was the worst rail disaster in Australia's history. An inquiry concluded that inadequate track maintenance was a contributing cause of the derailment.

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS

1978

17 January The SA police commissioner Harold Salisbury was dismissed by the Dunstan Labor government after accusations that he misled the government over files and documents kept by the Special Branch.



1978 Refugee 'boat people' arriving in Darwin from Vietnam.

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS

26 January The Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act was proclaimed. Aborigines regained ownership of some traditional land in the NT. The first meetings of the newly established Northern Land Council and Central Land Council were held.

9 February Sir John Kerr was appointed Australia's ambassador to UNESCO but amid widespread criticism of the appointment he resigned three weeks later.

13 February Melbourne's first permanent mall was opened in Bourke St.

February Three men were killed in a bomb blast outside the Sydney Hilton where a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was being held. The federal government called out the army to protect the delegates.

February The Tas Trades and Labour Council voted in favour of honouring existing uranium contracts, thus tipping the balance on ACTU policy.

11 May Deakin University in Geelong, Vic, was officially opened.

15 May Sir Robert Menzies, former prime minister of Australia and the founder of the Liberal party, died.

May Fred Schepisi's film *The chant of Jimmy Blacksmith* was released.

17 June In NSW a referendum was carried making the legislative council a body elected by the people.

1 July The NT was granted a legislative assembly and extensive powers of self-government.

20 July Australia's first nuclear safeguards agreement was signed with Finland.

31 July Gough Whitlam resigned from parliament.

July Regular passenger train services ceased in Tas.

15 August The federal government announced the abolition of maternity allowances.

August More than 26 000 members of the Australian Telecommunications Employers' Association went on a four-week strike over the introduction of new technology into Telecom.

1 November The Medibank tax levy was abolished, as was bulk billing except for pensioners and 'disadvantaged' persons. The universal commonwealth benefit was put at 40 per cent of the scheduled fee, with patients contributing a maximum of \$20, whether insured or uninsured.

3 November The Ranger uranium agreement signed by the Northern Land Council was ratified by the Aboriginal owners and uranium mining was allowed to proceed on the Aboriginal reserves involved.

22 November Parliament approved the building of a new parliament house on Capital Hill, Canberra, to be completed for the 1988 bicentennial celebrations.

25 November ACT residents rejected self-government in a referendum held to canvass opinion regarding the territory's future political status.

November The West Gate Bridge over the Yarra in Melbourne was opened. The bridge had the second largest single span in Australia.

1978 J.E. Richardson, professor of law at the Australian National University, became the first commonwealth ombudsman.

1978 With the decision of the Cheynes Beach Whaling Co of WA to cease operations, the last Australian-based whaling fleet was disbanded.

1978 Refugee 'boat people' arrived in Darwin from Vietnam.

1978 Australia declared a 200-mile (320-kilometre) economic zone around its coastline.

1978 Patricia O'Shane became the first Aborigine to graduate in law and to become a barrister.

1978 Amid growing concern that Australians had been deceived by Britain's testing of weapons at Maralinga, SA, in the 1950s, Australia asked Britain to remove 500 grams of plutonium buried at the site.

1979

February The collapse of Associated Securities Ltd, Australia's fourth-largest financial company, caused financial loss for thousands of investors.

9 March The Conciliation and Arbitration Commission granted maternity leave of up to 12 months to working women who had at least 12 months' unbroken service. Employers were also forbidden to dismiss women on the grounds of pregnancy or absence on maternity leave. In 1973 women in the commonwealth public service had been granted maternity leave of up to 40 weeks without pay and 12 weeks with pay.

2 April Six truck drivers began a blockade at Razorback Mountain, NSW, over state haulage and maintenance taxes. It rapidly spread through four states and involved an estimated 4000 trucks.

21 April Amid public condemnation and widespread anger the Bjelke-Petersen government allowed the secret demolition of the historic Bellevue Hotel in Brisbane.

April The film *Mad Max*, directed by George Miller and starring Mel Gibson, was released and became one of Australia's biggest money-earning films.

May A confidential Treasury report was leaked which estimated the commonwealth government's loss of revenue through tax evasion as high as \$3000 million.

4 June Prime Minister Fraser announced that there would be no further exploration for oil on the Great Barrier Reef until the results of research on the impact of drilling became known.

9 June A fire in the ghost train at the Luna Park amusement centre in Sydney killed seven people.

21 June A 24-hour national strike, the second in Australia's history, was called by the ACTU to protest at the arrest of union officials in WA during strike action against the assembly law.



1979 Amid public condemnation and widespread anger from conservationists, the Bjelke-Petersen government ordered the demolition, under cover of darkness, of the Bellevue Hotel in Brisbane, built in 1886. It was replaced by a high-rise hotel. Courier Mail, 21 April 1979.

23 June Sydney's Eastern Suburbs Railway, plans for which had first been drafted in the 1870s, was opened.

June The Supreme Court of NSW convicted three members of the Ananda Marga sect on a charge of conspiracy to murder the leader of the National Front. Two of the three members were also convicted of attempted murder of a police officer. The three were released in 1985 after many protests and inquiries.

29 July Fourteen miners were killed by an explosion of methane gas at the coalmine in Appin, NSW.

27 September Ian Sinclair, deputy leader of the National Country party and minister for primary industry, was forced to resign following allegations that he had committed forgery and other offences as director of his family companies. He was later found not guilty and reinstated in the ministry.

16 October The Hydro Electric Commission report on power development in Tas was tabled in the Tas parliament. It proposed the damming of the lower Gordon, Franklin and King rivers.

19 October The Australian Federal Police was formed by combining the Commonwealth Police with the Territory Police and the Federal Narcotics Bureau.

5 November The first game of Lotto was played in NSW. Operated by the state lotteries offices and a private company, it quickly became a huge source of revenue for the government of NSW.

6 November The report of the Woodward Royal Commission into Drug Trafficking was tabled in the NSW parliament. It stated that anti-drug campaigner Donald Mackay had been murdered by a Griffith-based drug organisation called 'L'Onorata Societe' or 'N. Dranghita' and recommended that there should be no concession for 'soft drug' trafficking. The NSW government was quick to act in increasing penalties and imprisonment terms for drug trafficking.

30 November At a meeting of 24 major unions, the proposal to block the mining and export of uranium was rejected by all ACTU affiliates.

1979 The Essential Services Act was passed in Qld amid much controversy and concern even within the cabinet. The act gave huge powers to ministers, who could declare industries 'essential' as they saw fit. It also allowed the government to sell the assets of those unionists who refused to pay fines imposed under the provisions of the act.

1979 WA celebrated the 150th anniversary of its foundation as a colony.

1980

9 January Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the imposition of sanctions against the Soviet Union by the US, Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser announced similar sanctions by the Australian government. Additional grain sales to the Soviet Union were banned.

22 January Debbie Wardley became Australia's first female commercial airline pilot when she co-piloted an Ansett flight from Alice Springs to Darwin. She had earlier won a court battle against Ansett, alleging sex discrimination in employment.

February The SA minister of mines and energy Eric Goldsworthy announced his government's policy on uranium development. Mineral and uranium resources at Roxby Downs would be mined, providing between 4000 and 5000 jobs. Environmental impact procedures would be enforced to ensure the safe conduct of uranium mining, transport and waste management.

13 March The Adelaide *Advertiser* began a series of articles investigating the possible effects of British nuclear testing at Maralinga and Emu in SA between

1952 and 1957. Death and sickness were reported among servicemen and civilians who had worked on the project.

18 March Surveyors with Amax Iron Ore Corp were told by Aborigines that a site they were exploring on Noonkanbah cattle station, WA, was of religious significance. The Aborigines had a pastoral lease of Noonkanbah and had agreed in 1979 to drilling in places that would not interfere with sacred sites. Premier Court of WA ignored these objections, saying 'this is not a land rights issue'. James Biendurry, president of the Land Rights Council, unsuccessfully requested federal assistance and on 12 August 54 people were arrested trying to prevent a convoy of trucks from reaching the drilling site.

25 March Defence minister Killen announced that the US navy had been offered base and home port facilities at Cockburn Sound in WA.

20 April The Australian Olympic Federation voted by a narrow majority to send a team to the Olympic Games in Moscow. While 28 competitors later withdrew in response to government pressure and boycotts by other international teams, 176 Australians participated in the games.

13 May Members of the Australian Journalists' Association went on strike demanding extra pay for the operation of visual display terminals. They did not return to work until 12 June, when their demands were met.

24 May Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip arrived on a five-day visit. On 26 May the Queen opened the new \$49 million high court building in Canberra.

31 May The Australian Royal Commission into Drug Trafficking, set up in 1978, estimated that there were up to 20000 'hard core' heroin addicts in Australia. It uncovered evidence of widespread criminal involvement.

23 June Australia's first 'test-tube' baby, Candice Reed, was born in Melbourne's Queen Victoria Medical Centre to Linda and John Reed. Conceived by *in vitro* fertilisation and ovum transplant, she was the third 'test-tube' baby to be born in the world.

23 June Justice David Opas, a 44-year-old family law court judge, was shot dead at his home. An extensive investigation failed to discover his murderer.

26 June In Qld coalminers struck over the federal government's intention to impose tax on company-subsidised housing. Lasting ten weeks, the strike closed down mines, cost the federal government \$200 million and the state government \$40 million, and lost the country long-term coal contracts with Japan. Miners returned to work on 4 September when the government agreed to discount 90 per cent of the tax.

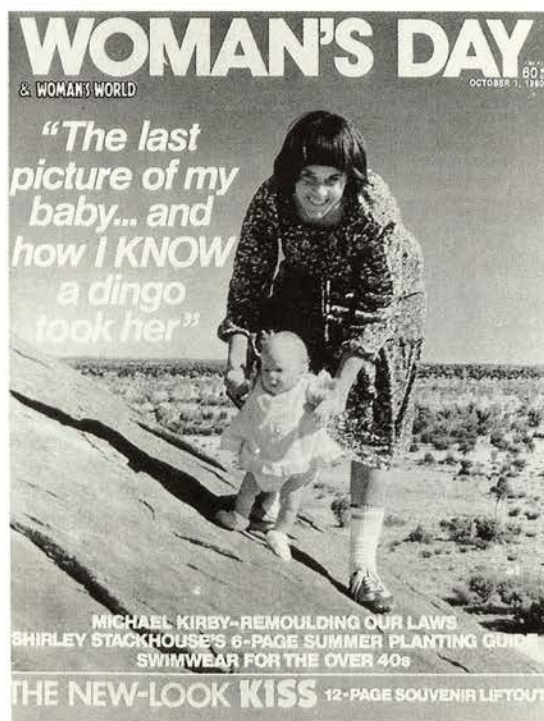
26 June The American architectural firm Mitchell-Giurgola, in conjunction with the expatriate Australian architect Richard Thorp, won the design for a new federal parliament house. Instead of a traditional monumental style they proposed a building nestled into the hill.

June With *A woman of the future* David Ireland became the first writer to win the Miles Franklin Award three times. His earlier successes had been *The unknown industrial prisoner* (1971) and *The glass canoe* (1976).

June Near Marble Bar, WA, Australian and American scientists uncovered the world's oldest known fossil, a primitive bacterium which had lived three-and-a-half billion years ago.

1 July The federal government decision to eliminate all remaining British tariff preferences came into effect.

1 July General Motors-Holden announced that its Pagewood plant in NSW, opened by R.G. Menzies in 1939, would close on 29 August. The closure affected 1500 workers.



1980 On 17 August nine-week-old Azaria Chamberlain disappeared at Ayer's Rock, NT, while on a camping trip with her parents and two brothers. Her mother, Lindy Chamberlain, blamed a dingo and at the inquest held on 20 February 1981 the NT coroner upheld her claim. Following new evidence, a second inquest was held in September 1981 and the parents committed for trial. On 29 October 1982 the jury found Lindy Chamberlain, by then pregnant with her fourth child, guilty of murder. She was sentenced to life imprisonment. Her husband Michael, a Seventh Day Adventist pastor, was released on a good behaviour bond. Lindy Chamberlain was released from gaol by the NT government after serving nearly three years of her sentence. She and her husband continued to protest their innocence.

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS

1981

11 July In Tas the Labor government decided to reject the Hydro-Electric Commission's recommendation for damming the Gordon River below its junction with the Franklin. Instead it would dam the Gordon above its junction with the Olga, which would be less damaging to the environment. The Franklin and its surroundings would become a national park.

15 July The NSW government announced that oil companies would have to make lead-free petrol available to motorists by 1984, in response to heavy pollution levels in Sydney.

16 July Labor MLC Peter Baldwin was severely bashed outside his home in the Sydney suburb of Marrickville. Baldwin believed the attack, which embarrassed the state government, was due to his campaign against criminal elements in some inner-city ALP branches.

14 August Drillers refused to work the rig at Noonkanbah, WA, in support of Aboriginal claims that this was a sacred site. As a result the state government took over the rig and began drilling on 22 August.

17 August Nine-week-old Azaria Chamberlain disappeared at Ayers Rock. Her parents were on a camping holiday with their two sons and baby daughter. Mrs Chamberlain reported that a dingo had taken Azaria while she was sleeping in their tent.

8 September Cliff Dolan succeeded Bob Hawke as president of the ACTU. Hawke had resigned in order to enter federal politics, and successfully contested the Vic seat of Wills in the October federal election.

18 October At the federal election the Liberal-National Country party coalition was returned to government under the leadership of Malcolm Fraser with a House of Representatives majority reduced from 48 to 23. The coalition won 46 per cent of the vote, Labor 45.8, and the Australian Democrats 6.5 per cent.

24 October In Melbourne and Sydney transmission of Australia's first multicultural television, Network 0/28, began.

13 November The Tas premier, D.A. Lowe, introduced legislation in the house to authorise the flooding of the Gordon above Olga. Despite vigorous opposition it was passed by the legislative assembly, only to be rejected by the legislative council.

29 November For the first time in a Qld election Liberal candidates stood against National Party ministers. This did not improve the Liberals' position either electorally or within the coalition. They lost three seats, two to Labor and one to the National Party.

17 December The first assassination of a diplomat in Australia occurred when two gunmen shot the Turkish consul-general Sarik Ariyat and his bodyguard Engin Sever at Vaucluse in Sydney.

1980 At the Olympic Games in Moscow Australia won two gold medals, two silver and five bronze. The gold medals were won by the men's 100-metre medley relay team and Michelle Ford in the women's 800-metre freestyle.

9 January While granting workers their quarterly wage rise, the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission also argued that the indexation system had become unworkable. A public inquiry into wage fixation followed. As a result the commission announced on 7 April that there would be only one wage adjustment a year. A second would be considered if there was a significant change in prices.

30 January Sir Garfield Barwick retired and was replaced as chief justice of the high court by Sir Harry Gibbs in February.

February In NSW, Mary Gaudron took up her appointment as solicitor-general, becoming the first woman in Australia to occupy this position.

11 March The prime minister, Malcolm Fraser, informed parliament that American B-52 bombers and other aircraft from their base at Guam would be allowed to land in Darwin. Prior Australian consent would be required if any were carrying nuclear weapons.

19 March The SA parliament passed the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act. It provided for 100 000 square kilometres to be handed over to the nine elected Pitjantjatjara councillors.

30 April The committee of review into government functions, nicknamed the 'razor gang', released its final report. Among their recommendations were the abolition of some government organisations, such as the Prices Justification Tribunal and the 'Life be in it' campaign.

26 May A.A. Street, the minister for foreign affairs, announced that the US had asked Australia to send a peace-keeping force to the Sinai desert. Australian troops eventually went to the Sinai in March 1982 after Britain and three other European countries had also agreed to contribute to the force.

15 June Under section 63 of the Banking Act 1959, the federal government consented to the amalgamation of the Bank of NSW and the Commercial Bank of Australia to form the Westpac Banking Corporation, and the merger of the National Bank and Commercial Banking Company of Sydney to form the National Australia Bank.

23 June The Qld government announced its approval of sand mining on Moreton Island 40 kilometres from the mouth of the Brisbane River. This was bitterly opposed by the Labor party, conservationists and the Brisbane City Council.

24 July The Qld government declared a state of emergency in response to a strike by transport workers that threatened food supplies. It remained in force until the end of September.

30 July At its national conference, the ALP reworded the socialist objective and endorsed the principle of affirmative action. They proposed that the proportion of women in the party should be reflected in the composition of delegations and ultimately in parliament.

31 July The Conciliation and Arbitration Commission decided to end the policy of wage indexation it had pursued for the last six years.

7 August Peter Weir's *Gallipoli* opened to enthusiastic reviews and soon established a new record for local film earnings.

24 August The name of the Church of England in Australia was changed to the Anglican Church of Australia.

August Twelve years after deposits were first discovered, Ranger Uranium went into production.

August The Anglican General Synod agreed to lift legal restrictions preventing the ordination of women.

25 September The federal government began court action to deregister the Builders' Labourers' Federation on the basis of its disruptive industrial record.

12 December The Tas government held a referendum to decide the fate of the Franklin River. Despite vigorous campaigning for a 'no dams' option, voters were only given the choice between damming the Gordon River below the Franklin River or above the Olga River. The final result found 47 per cent in favour of the Gordon-below-Franklin option, only 8 per cent in favour of the alternative scheme and that 45 per cent voted informally. Both conservationists and government claimed victory.

1981 Patricia O'Shane, who in 1976 had become the first Aborigine to be admitted to practise as a barrister, was appointed permanent head of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

1982

January The federal government nominated the South-West National Park, the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Tas, for the World Heritage List. The proposed Franklin dam lay within the nominated area.

13 February Australia's Community Refugee Settlement scheme began when the first Indochinese refugees arrived in Whyalla, SA.

3 April After 27 years in power the Vic Liberal government fell, following a landslide victory at the polls by the ALP. This was the first time that a Vic political party had secured an absolute majority. The new premier of Vic was John Cain, son of the state's last Labor premier.

8 April In support of the British military action against Argentina in the Falklands, Australia placed a ban on Argentinian imports. It was lifted on 29 June when Britain won the war.

6 May The federal government approved a \$160 million contract for Aussat, a domestic communications satellite system that would provide television to one million people in rural Australia.

15 May In the legislative assembly election in Tas the Liberal party had its first outright victory, defeating the Labor government that had ruled for 45 of the last 48 years. The Liberals gained 48.5 per cent of the vote against 36.9 per cent for the ALP. Robin Gray assumed office as premier while Ken Wriedt replaced Harry Holgate as Labor leader.

24 May The Vic premier announced that his government would pass legislation to transfer ownership of Framlingham forest near Warrnambool to Aborigines.

27 May A report on tax evasion in Vic was released. This gave details of tax evasion schemes involving over 900 companies and estimated the revenue lost to government at \$200 million.

27 May The Cain government announced that Vic would be a nuclear-free state and nuclear-powered or armed vessels would not be allowed entry to its ports. He later had to reverse the decision in view of federal power in this area.

2 June Aborigines at Hermannsburg mission, NT, were given freehold title to their land.

15 June In an attempt to stop the damming of the Franklin River, the Tasmanian Wilderness Society began a high court action challenging the federal government's right to provide loan funds for the dam. It was eventually successful.

29 June After eighteen months of negotiations, Aboriginal landowners and Pancontinental Mining reached agreement over the mining of uranium at Jabiluka. The Aboriginal Benefit Trust was to receive a 2.5 per cent royalty on production, amounting to about \$4 million per year.

4 July The minister for communications, Neil Brown, announced that the Australian Broadcasting Commission would become a corporation with a nine-member board of directors to replace the existing eleven commissioners.

16 July At the ballot over leadership of the ALP, Bill Hayden gained 42 votes to the 37 of his challenger, Bob Hawke.

25 July The federal government announced that it would be introducing retrospective legislation to recover company tax evaded through 'bottom of the harbour' schemes. The legislation was passed on 29 October.

25 August The first volume of the fourth interim report of the Royal Commission into the Federated Ship Painters' and Dockers' Union was tabled in parliament. The commission was led by Frank Costigan. Its report established that graft and corruption were widespread in the union.

25 August Unions lifted their ban on live meat exports to the Middle East.

27 August After reporting a fall in net profits, BHP asked the government to restrict steel imports. When it refused to do so, BHP announced that up to 10 000 workers would be retrenched from steelworks at Port Kembla and Newcastle.



21 March 1982 *Half a million people walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge to celebrate its golden jubilee. The Department of Main Roads allowed pedestrians the freedom of the roadway for four hours. Photograph by P. Spearritt.*

19 September The Woodward Royal Commission into the Meat Industry tabled its report. It found bribery and corruption among some meat inspectors of the primary industry department and extensive commercial cheating by meat inspectors, including the substitution of horse and kangaroo meat for beef.

15 October The Adelaide Anglican Synod voted against the ordination of women, thereby vetoing the decision of the 1981 General Synod.

26 October After prolonged protests by conservationists, the NSW government decided to protect most of the state's remaining rainforest from logging. It declared 90 000 hectares as national park.

October An Australian rugby league team began a two-month tour of England and for the first time beat England in all three tests.

October The Australian National Gallery was opened in Canberra.

6 November In SA a 6 per cent swing gave the Labor party the four extra seats it needed to govern and John Bannon became premier.

12 November Kerry Packer announced that the *Australian women's weekly*, which had celebrated its

fiftieth birthday, would become a monthly publication.

November Thomas Keneally's novel *Schindler's ark* won the Booker Prize. It was the first Australian book to win this prestigious British award.

1 December The Freedom of Information Act came into operation.

15 December Conservationists started a blockade to prevent Hydro-Electric Commission workers from beginning work on the Gordon River dam. Over the next four days 196 protesters were arrested including Dr Bob Brown, leader of the anti-dam movement.

1982 *Mad Max II* became the greatest financial success of Australian films, running for 32 weeks at its first-release cinema in Sydney. Warner Brothers bought distribution rights for the film in 44 countries.

1983

19 January Prime Minister Fraser visited Tas to inspect work on the Gordon dam. He offered the state government \$500 million compensation if it did not go ahead with the dam's construction. This was refused by Premier Gray.

3 February Fraser announced that the governor-general had agreed to a double dissolution of parliament following the Senate's rejection in 1982 of thirteen bills. He therefore called an election. On the same day, at a shadow cabinet meeting in Brisbane, Bill Hayden resigned as leader of the ALP and Bob Hawke was elected in his place.

5 February The marathon runner Robert de Castella won the Gasparilla Classic in Tampa, Florida and then went on to win the marathon at Helsinki's world athletic championship.

7 February Unemployment statistics were released showing that at the end of January 602 000 Australians were on the dole, 250 000 more than in January 1982.

16 February This day became known as 'Ash Wednesday' after bushfires swept through large areas of SA and Vic. Seventy-one people died and \$400 million worth of property was destroyed.

19 February After nine years of Liberal government in WA, Brian Burke led the ALP to victory, though he failed to gain control of the upper house.

5 March At the federal election, the ALP under the leadership of Bob Hawke won its greatest victory since 1929 with a 5 per cent swing that gave it a working majority of 24 in the House of Representatives. Control of the Senate remained with the Democrats. Tas remained bitterly divided over the Gordon dam issue and had a 3 per cent swing to the Liberal party. As soon as it became apparent that his party had lost, Malcolm Fraser stepped down as leader.

8 March Following an outflow of over \$2000 million in the weeks leading up to the election, the Australian dollar was devalued by 10 per cent.

11 March Andrew Peacock and John Howard were both nominated for the Liberal party leadership and Peacock was elected by 36 votes to 20. Howard was elected deputy leader.

20 March The Prince and Princess of Wales began a four-week tour of Australia.

March A 47-month drought that had affected southern Australia finally ended. It had been caused by El Niño, a climatic effect resulting from raised sea temperatures in the eastern Pacific. In NSW alone it had cost the government \$155 million in relief spending and directly contributed to the loss of 30 000 jobs.

11 April Prime Minister Hawke convened an economic summit in Canberra. Business leaders, trade unionists and government representatives met to discuss means of implementing the prices and incomes policy and general economic strategy. Its final communique declared that inflation and unemployment should be dealt with simultaneously. The summit supported a prices and incomes accord.

21 April Claiming that Soviet diplomat Valery N. Ivanov was a KGB spy, the Hawke government decided to expel him. On 12 May Hawke announced that a royal commission on Australia's security and intelligence agencies would be convened by Justice R. Hope. One of its tasks was to investigate the circumstances surrounding Ivanov's relationship with David Combe, a Canberra lobbyist and former national ALP secretary.

30 April On ABC television the current affairs program *Four corners* alleged that Premier Neville Wran of NSW might have tried to influence a 1977 court case involving the former chief of the Australian Rugby League, Kevin Humphreys. On 10 May the NSW attorney-general announced that the government would conduct a royal commission into the *Four corners* allegations. Wran stood down for the duration of the inquiry. The commission, under Justice Street, found that the magistrate, Murray Farquhar, had influenced the outcome of committal proceedings against Kevin Humphreys, but that this had not been at Wran's direction. The premier was exonerated and he returned to office.

3 May The Vic potato farmer Cliff Young, aged 61, became a national hero when he won the Sydney-to-Melbourne marathon.

25 May The federal government filed an interim injunction to prevent the Tasmanian Hydro-Electric Commission from undertaking further work on the dam while a high court decision was pending. The high court held that legislation passed by the Hawke government to protect southwest Tas and other areas on the World Heritage List was valid.

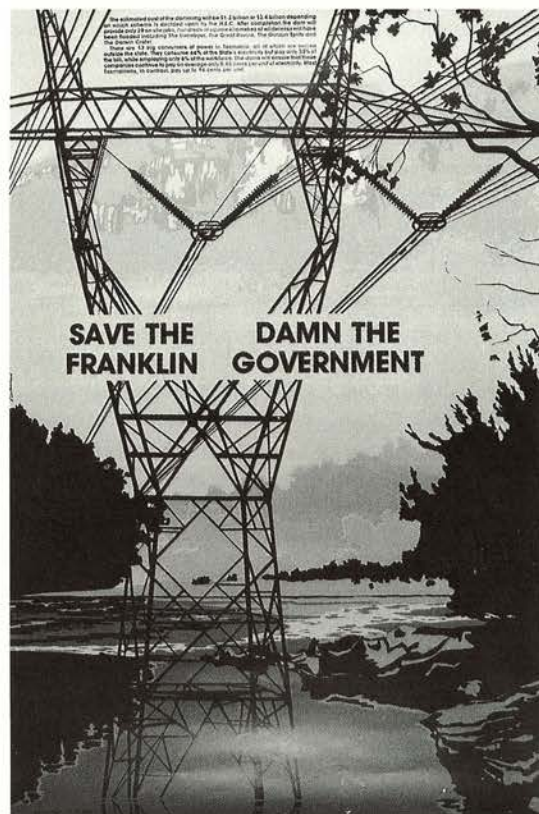
May The enactment of the Maralinga Tjajtura bill restored to Aborigines land that the government had resumed in 1953 for testing atomic weapons.

2 June Australia and New Zealand signed a memorandum of understanding on closer defence logistic co-operation.

21 June The NSW equal employment tribunal determined that the sexual discrimination provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Act covered sexual harassment. It was considering two cases brought against the commissioner of main roads, Bruce Loder, by female employees who claimed they had been subjected to sexual harassment in their workplace. One complaint was subsequently withdrawn and the other dismissed.

1 July The Australian Broadcasting Corporation came into existence with an extra \$5 million budget and businessman Ken Myer as the new chairman.

20 July The minister for foreign affairs, Bill Hayden, signed a joint communique with the US government affirming that, under the terms of the ANZUS agreement, American naval ships could dock in Australian ports. Prior notice had to be given if the ships carried nuclear warheads.



1983 In the weeks before the federal election of 5 March the Tasmanian Wilderness Society and other conservation groups campaigned vigorously for the federal government to prevent the Tasmanian Hydro-Electric Commission from flooding the Franklin River. The ALP, led by R.J. Hawke, won office at the election, in part because it promised to prevent the flooding of the river. The high court later held that legislation passed by the new parliament to protect southwest Tasmania and other areas on the World Heritage List was valid. Poster by R. Clutterbuck.

22 July Landing in Sydney, Dick Smith completed the first around-the-world solo helicopter flight.

July The federal government announced the appointment of Richard Butler as Australia's first ambassador for disarmament. He was to represent Australia at the forthcoming conference on disarmament.

9 August A coalition crisis in Qld erupted after Terry White was elected Liberal leader, despite Premier Bjelke-Petersen's threat that he would not have him in the ministry. After some hesitation Liberal ministers resigned on 17 August when the premier refused to accept him as the new treasurer, a position traditionally held by the Liberal leader. Two days later a cabinet of seventeen National Party ministers was sworn in, and the coalition officially ended. Now holding minority government, Bjelke-Petersen called an election for 22 October.

11 August The federal minister for industry and commerce announced an annual bounty of \$72 million for the steel industry over the next five years. Quotas would be tightened and tariffs increased to ensure that Australian steelmakers received 80 per cent of the domestic market.

16 September Legislation to establish Medicare, a national health scheme similar to the Whitlam government's Medibank, was introduced into parliament. It was to provide all Australians with basic health and hospital care and would be financed by a 1 per cent levy on all incomes.

23 September The Conciliation and Arbitration Commission announced the end of the nine-month-old wage freeze. A centralised wage fixing system was reintroduced, starting with a 4.3 per cent rise on 6 October. From then on, wages would be adjusted twice yearly in accordance with moves in the consumer price index.

26 September Alan Bond's yacht *Australia II*, skippered by John Bertrand, won the America's Cup, becoming the first yacht to defeat the Americans in the race's 132-year history. Its success was attributed to the revolutionary winged keel designed by Ben Lexcen.

September About 750 demonstrators converged on Roxby Downs, SA, protesting against the mining and export of uranium. More than 200 were arrested.

September *Careful he might hear you* directed by Carl Schultz won eight Australilan Film Institute awards, including that for best film.

September A national technology conference in Canberra brought together representatives from industry, unions, universities, CSIRO and commonwealth and state departments. It aimed at increasing awareness of the range and speed of the technological revolution and at developing strategies that would enable Australians to benefit from it.

7 October The Tasmanian and commonwealth governments signed a financial agreement that gave the state \$258.3 million for works to replace the Gordon-below-Franklin dam.

22 October The Qld election saw a substantial defeat of the Liberal party, which lost twelve of its twenty seats. However, the Nationals failed to win a majority. Later, two Liberal parliamentarians, Brian Austin and Donald Lane, announced that they were joining the National Party. Their defection gave the Nationals government.

31 October Federal cabinet met to review the government's uranium policy. It decided that mining at Roxby Downs could proceed, and two new contracts for Ranger were approved. Additional contracts for new mines would be deferred, pending completion of an inquiry into nuclear safeguards and waste disposal.

11 November Hawke announced that the government had agreed to transfer the title of Uluru (Ayers Rock-Mt Olga) National Park to its traditional owners. The transfer took place in October 1985.

27 November A special conference of the Vic ALP passed a censure motion against the prime minister and his cabinet for their support of uranium mining.

6 December The Hope Royal Commission on Australian Security and Intelligence tabled its report in parliament. This found overwhelming evidence that Valery N. Ivanov was a KGB agent. It also held there had been no denial of natural justice to lobbyist David Combe when he had been forbidden access to ministers.

16 December The Senate passed the Sex Discrimination Act. This made illegal discrimination on the basis of sex, marital status or pregnancy in the areas of employment, accommodation, education, provision of goods and services and activities of clubs.

1984

1 January Federal government subsidies of the steel industry began. These provided \$62.4 million a year for the next five years.

5 January The federal government announced changes to the administration of the public service. These were intended to make it more flexible, to encourage outside applicants for top jobs and increase mobility within the public service.

6 January Helen Muir gave birth to the world's first test-tube quadruplets at Melbourne's Royal Women's Hospital.

1 February Medicare came into effect. The only state refusing to endorse this new health scheme was Qld, which eventually signed on 5 March.

2 February The Melbourne *Age* began publishing material based on telephone conversations illegally tapped by NSW police. The tapes contained material implicating senior public servants and judicial figures in corruption and organised crime.

22 February The Martin report on the banking system was released. It recommended broad deregulation of the banking industry.

26 February When New Zealand decided to prevent the visit of nuclear-armed ships to its ports, defence minister Gordon Scholes confirmed that American and British nuclear-equipped warships would continue to dock in Australian ports.

17 March Prof Geoffrey Blainey stated that too many Asians were being allowed to migrate to Australia and that as a result the traditional British character of Australia was under threat. Though made to a small group of Rotarians in a country town in Vic, these comments soon attracted widespread publicity and provoked a heated debate.

29 March Charles Perkins was appointed secretary of the commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs, thereby becoming the first Aborigine to head a federal government department.

March Zoe Leyland was born in Melbourne, the first baby ever to be born from an implanted frozen embryo.

3 April BHP bought the American company Utah International which had coalmines in Qld, the US, Canada, Chile and Brazil.

6 April In a referendum, the inhabitants of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands voted against independence and in favour of integrating with Australia.

8 April At fourteen Fiona Coote became the youngest Australian ever to receive a heart transplant. Her operation was one of a series of heart transplants carried out by doctors at Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital using new anti-rejection techniques.

11 April Hawke announced that the national anthem 'Advance Australia fair' had been amended to eliminate sexist language.

17 April The Vic government introduced a bill aimed at legalising prostitution and at placing it under government regulation and control. It was passed by the council on 2 May and by the assembly a day later.

1 May A report recommending the establishment of a national crime authority to take over from the Costigan royal commission was tabled in parliament. Despite accusations by the press and public (including Costigan himself) that it would be a watchdog with no teeth, the commission was formed and Justice Donald Stewart appointed head.

14 May A \$1 coin was released to replace the \$1 note. It was designed by Stuart Devlin, and featured five kangaroos on one side and the Queen's head on the other.

4 June In NSW public hospitals some surgeons, notably those in orthopaedics and radiology, went on strike in opposition to the new health care scheme. They remained out until 8 June and, having failed to win satisfaction from negotiations with the government, went out on strike again between 12 and 16 November.

25 June The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage (Interim Protection) Act came into force, protecting significant Aboriginal sites and objects from injury and desecration.

30 June A bumper wheat crop and good exports of wool and sugar gave Australia its first trade surplus for five years.

4 July Pearl Watson, wife of a family court judge, was killed when a bomb exploded outside their home unit in the Sydney suburb of Greenwich. Her death was connected with three other attacks made against the family court. Despite intensive investigations her murderer was not found.

28 July The Olympic Games opened in Los Angeles. Australians took gold medals in cycling and swimming and Glynnis Nunn won the women's heptathlon. Dean Lukin won the super heavyweight event with a 412.5-kilogram score, the first time Australia had won a gold medal in this event. In all, Australians won four gold, eight silver and twelve bronze medals.

31 July The NSW cabinet adopted the recommendations of the Slattery inquiry into the prisoners early release scheme. Rex Jackson, former minister for corrective services, solicitor Howard Hilton and businessmen Frank Hakkim and Keith Harris were to be charged over the early release of three prisoners from Broken Hill jail. Slattery found that the prisoners had been released without regard to their proper entitlement or routine procedure.

18 August The racehorse Fine Cotton won the Second Commerce Novice race at Brisbane's Eagle Farm racetrack. With punters standing to win over \$1 million, officials found that a faster horse, Bold Personality, had been substituted.

August Researchers at the Australian National University reported findings in Lake George sediment cores that suggested Aborigines had been there as early as 130 000 years ago.

August Australia's population reached 15.45 million.

2 September Two rival motorbike gangs fought a battle in the car park of a Sydney suburban hotel. The 'Milperra massacre' left six bikies and a fourteen-year-old girl dead and more than thirty people wounded. Thirty-one members of the two gangs were charged on seven counts of murder.

2 September The Vic premier, John Cain, opened the first section of the Loy Yang 2000 megawatt power station. Costing \$4600 million, this was the biggest construction project undertaken by a state government.

13 September The federal government announced the establishment of an Australian sports commission. As an advisory body, it would determine the needs and priorities of the sporting community and suggest means of achieving them.

17 September A 50-year-old farmer, Gianfranco Tizzone, pleaded guilty to conspiring to murder anti-drugs campaigner Donald Mackay in 1977.

27 September Premier Burke of WA told a news conference that his government would not accept the Seaman report's recommendation that Aborigines should be given a final say over mining proposals for their land.



2 September 1984 Two rival motorbike gangs fought a battle in the car park of a Sydney suburban hotel. The 'Milperra massacre', as it was dubbed by the press, left six 'bikies' and a fourteen-year-old girl dead and more than thirty people wounded.

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS

September The Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia from 1952 until 1963 began in Sydney.

3 October For the first time an Australian team reached the summit of Mt Everest.

8 October Hawke called a federal election for 1 December after only 21 months in office. Ostensibly this was to coincide with the half-senate election, but political commentators saw it as the government's attempt to cash in on its current popularity and the favourable state of the economy.

October After 36 years the family model of the Holden car ceased production.

October The National Film and Sound Archives opened in Canberra.

1 November After four years of intensive and wide-ranging investigation, the report of the Costigan Royal Commission into the Federated Ship Painters' and Dockers' Union was released. The overall conclusion was that crime permeated all sections of Australian life.

14 November In NSW the Nuclear Disarmament Party launched its election campaign. The NDP had

been formed six months earlier in protest against the ALP's 'softness' on uranium mining and the proliferation of nuclear arms.

17 November Vic celebrated the 150th anniversary of its first permanent settlement at Portland.

November In Qld three babies died after receiving blood contaminated with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

1 December The federal Labor government was returned to office with a reduced majority, still having failed to gain control of the Senate. Despite promising pre-election forecasts, the Nuclear Disarmament Party only managed to gain one Senate seat, that won by WA Jo Vallentine.

13 December The director of public prosecutions, Ian Temby, announced that Justice Lionel Murphy of the High Court would be charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice. In April 1986 Murphy was found not guilty.

18 December In a ceremony at Maralinga in SA, premier John Bannon presented tribal elders with title to some 76 000 square kilometres of land. It had been appropriated more than 30 years earlier for British atomic weapons testing.