

# APRIL

**1 April** Rod Cameron of Australian Nationwide Opinion Polls (ANOP) resigned as the ALP's pollster after 16 years. The ALP's future political research would be carried out by a special unit within the party organisation.

**1 April** The anti-union mining company Robe River Iron Associates asked its 700 workers at Cape Lambert, WA, to sign individual productivity contracts in exchange for a 4 per cent wage rise. Workers rejected the offer.

**1 April** The Australia-Japan Colloquium was held in Tokyo. Sponsored by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, the Australian embassy in Tokyo, the Australian Institute of International Affairs, the Australia-Japan Foundation, Qantas and the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* newspaper, the seminar brought together officials from both governments to commemorate Australia's Bicentenary and examine the direction of relations between Japan and Australia.

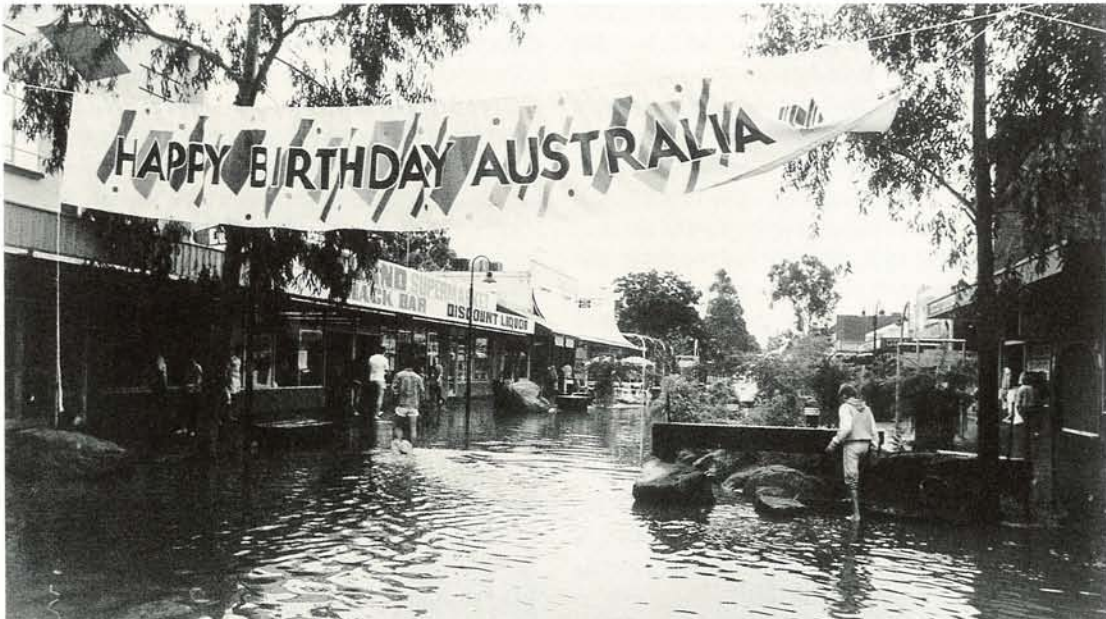
**1 April** Marine archaeologists recovered the bell of the barque *Zanoni* wrecked off Yorke Peninsula, SA, in 1867.

**1 April** The Australian Taxation Office announced a pilot project in SA, permitting taxation agents to submit taxation returns by floppy disk or other electronic means.

**1 April** A solo exhibition, *Imants Tillers: Works 1978-1988*, opened at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London.

**1-4 April** The national road toll during the Easter holiday period was 29 dead.

**1-11 April** Heavy rain caused widespread flooding in an arc west to east across the centre of Australia. In Port Hedland, WA, 230 mm of rain fell in three days, causing heavy stock losses. In Alice Springs six people drowned when the Todd River flooded after 80 per cent of the area's annual rainfall fell in five days. Floodwaters from the Finke River cut the Stuart Highway stranding many motorists. Southeast Qld was declared a natural disaster area on 5 April after 350 mm of rain caused heavy stock losses and an estimated \$100 million damage to cotton, soyabean and sorghum crops.



Shoppers knee-deep in flood water have little to celebrate as they wade through Todd Mall, Alice Springs, NT. Photograph by Steve Strike, Age, 2 April 1988.



## TRADE AND FOREIGN RELATIONSHIPS

In 1988, the policymakers in Canberra who manage Australia's foreign relations were pre-occupied with economic problems. During the year the world had moved into one of its rare and agreeable phases of *détente*, with some of the decade's more intractable issues, such as the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, tending towards resolution, and with considerable progress on arms control between the central powers.

The Hawke Labor government had settled the main outline and structure of its policymaking machinery well before the beginning of the year. The transition to a more trade-orientated diplomacy was symbolised in the Prime Minister's decision, announced soon after he was returned to office in July 1987, to increase the 'empire' of the then foreign affairs minister, Bill Hayden, by adding Trade to his portfolio. Former trade minister Michael Duffy became Minister for Trade Negotiations under Bill Hayden's general command. It was a controversial decision, and the Opposition promised to reverse it when they were returned to office. Some grumbling was heard from both segments of the large bureaucracy thus forcibly amalgamated. Still, the move could be seen as recognition that many of the most crucial foreseeable problems of world affairs for the next few years would be economic in nature.

Developments in the world economy were the major sources of difficulties facing Canberra policymakers and other Australians, as well as domestic factors. During the mid-1980s commodity prices were down, as the world seemed to be suffering from a glut of farm products and other commodities. Australia's export income is almost wholly dependent on the sale and price level of a few commodities: wool, coal, iron ore and other metals, wheat, meat, fruit and dairy produce. According to Treasurer Paul Keating, 1986 had been the worst year economically for Australia in the postwar period. By 1988 commodity prices were increasing again, but apprehension remained about the future direction of the world economy, especially in view of the great stock market crash of 1987.

In the competition for markets, Australia was caught in the crossfire of a 'trade war' between the United States and the European

Economic Community. In Europe, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) had been producing surplus foodstuffs that could then be 'dumped' elsewhere at low prices because of farm subsidies. Americans resented this policy, seeing it as driving US wheat growers off their farms. It generated a political response in the formation of an Export Enhancement Policy (EEP) that appeared to threaten many traditional Australian markets.

The Australian alliance with the United States, which for thirty-seven years (since the signing of the ANZUS treaty in 1951) had been widely regarded as the foundation stone of Australian security, was called into question by people representing producers of wheat, beef, sugar, barley and rice. Some of them suggested that the US should be evicted from the 'joint facilities' at Pine Gap or Nurrungar or North-West Cape. Despite this, however, the Prime Minister was able to renew the main bases agreement for a further term of ten years, and extend the period of notice to quit from one to three years. Renewed protests came from the anti-nuclear movement and the left of the Labor party, but these did not have much impact on government opinion.

In the Northern Hemisphere it had become clear that by mid-1988 devastating droughts and floods would temporarily transform surpluses into deficits for some varieties of grain, and that in general world reserve stocks of food might be depleted by the end of the decade. The outlook for other Australian export commodities had improved with the sustained economic boom in the major industrialised countries. Thus the immediate problems were



Cartoon by Moir, Sydney Morning Herald, 22 June 1988.





*The prime minister Bob Hawke and Hazel Hawke at a Texas barbecue with the president of Texas University William Cunningham and Isabella Cunningham.*

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considerably diminished, though policymakers remained apprehensive about the long-term prospects.

Apart from these protests and the brief effort to use Australia's security arrangements for trade leverage, Australia's relations with its major allies were relatively stable. New Zealand maintained the 'no nuclear ships' policy, which had, in Washington's eyes, excluded it, *de facto*, from the councils of ANZUS, but Hawke showed no sign of wishing to follow the same pathway. He continued to cultivate his cordial relations with President Reagan and US Secretary of State George Shultz. By late 1988, Republicans and Democrats were gearing up for the presidential election, and acquiring some knowledge of the possible new policymakers became mandatory for Canberra. Foreign affairs, however, did not become a major issue in the US election, and there was no indication that the new president, George Bush, would change US policy in the Pacific. However, protectionist pressures on the new administration may increase with the strengthening of the Democrats in Congress, which could, for example, have a bad effect on Australian beef producers, already somewhat disadvantaged by 'voluntary restraints'.

On regional issues, there were hopeful and less hopeful developments. The most encouraging single change was the settling of the long-running though low-key conflict with

Indonesia over exploration of the oil resources that may lie under the Timor Sea, and that may be more substantial than those in Bass Strait. An agreement was announced in September to divide the relevant area of seabed into three zones: one each for Australia and Indonesia and the third to be jointly administered. As the former colonial power in East Timor, Portugal protested, regarding the Indonesian annexation of East Timor as contrary to international law. From Australia's point of view, however, the agreement provided two advantages: the clearing-up of a sore point with an increasingly formidable neighbour, and the prospect of maintaining relative self-sufficiency in oil after Bass Strait 'dries up', thus reducing future pressure on the ever-uncertain external balances. On the whole the relationship with Indonesia, which has survived much friction, seemed to be improving, though maintaining its usual fluctuations. The visit of the new Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans to Indonesia in October was relatively successful, especially as it was marked by the issue of visas to a number of Australian journalists travelling with the minister. (Refusal to issue visas to the media has been a particular source of friction in the relationship.) On the other hand, recent incidents such as the unexplained shooting of an Australian yachtsman and his fiancée on board their boat, the exchange of shots across the Irian Jaya-Papua New Guinea border in July, the





Cartoon by Moir, Sydney Morning Herald.

temporary closing for air and sea exercises of the Sunda and Lombok Straits (which are of great importance to international shipping and to some Australian exports) and the frequent incursion of Indonesian fishing boats into Australian coastal waters have not encouraged good relations. A raid on a Papua New Guinea village by Indonesian troops in platoon strength, presumably in search of guerrillas, was a more serious border incident that almost coincided with the minister's visit. There was, therefore, no expectation in Canberra that future relations with Indonesia would be entirely harmonious.

The level of Australia's dispute with France over New Caledonia declined considerably after the defeat of Jacques Chirac's bid for the Presidency and the return of François Mitterand with a reasonably biddable Assembly. The election results in France meant a more conciliatory attitude to the Melanesian community (locally known as Kanaks) who comprise about 43 per cent of the population. New Caledonia seemed likely to be divided into three provinces: in two of them the Kanaks would predominate, while the third region, with Noumea at its centre, would be dominated by the settler communities (mostly French and Asian). There was, of course, no guarantee that this arrangement would maintain long-term harmony between the peoples of the island, but the prospects at least seemed better than they had done immediately before the election, when there had been some distressing incidents of bloodshed. On the subject of continued nuclear testing in French Polynesia, the other issue concerning France in the Pacific, there was no sign that the government in Paris would make any concessions, and

political dissent among the Polynesians seemed at a relatively low level.

By contrast, there was a temporary sharpening of differences with Fiji. The regime installed after the two *coups* of 1987 remained in office and, though the Australian government continued to disapprove of the unconstitutional means by which the change had been effected, diplomatic recognition was restored by Canberra on the basis that recognition is in essence of the sovereign state concerned, rather than of the government which is *de facto* in power. Economic sanctions, which had not been effective, were relaxed, and there was a restored conditional offer of aid. These measures did not, however, prevent a diplomatic tiff blowing up in September.

As a gesture to the Pacific islanders, who felt that Hayden had visited them rather late and sparsely in his five years as foreign affairs minister and who were also miffed by the publication in an Australian journal of some rather acerbic comments scribbled by Hayden on various documents, the new minister pointedly made his first official tour in the Pacific. Initially, his intended three days in Fiji had to be cancelled when those in power refused to receive him if he met with the deposed prime minister, Dr Timoci Bavadra. The subsequent meeting of the South Pacific Forum, attended by Hawke as well as Evans, saw a resolution of this dispute and Senator Evans' visit went ahead in due course, but with some friction.

The incident made it clear that in Fiji, as in the much smaller island territory of Vanuatu, Australians had still to walk carefully to avoid offending local sensitivities. In Vanuatu, local political conflicts seemed to come down mostly to personal rivalry for the leadership between the prime minister, Father Walter Lini, and a younger colleague, Barak Sope. There was, however, some troubling policy potential in that rivalry; Barak Sope seemed to have a certain orientation towards Libya, and some of his followers were alleged to have had military training there. Though Libya's Colonel Gaddafi has less capacity to meddle in Pacific affairs than is sometimes believed, he is a convenient bogeyman for various groups in the Islands (and among Australian Aborigines) to raise when the Australian government is seen as less than responsive. Australian policymakers must, therefore, map out a delicate pathway, avoiding any heavy-footed 'Big Brother' approach while making clear that the political way of life and

diplomatic affiliations of their Pacific neighbours remain an inevitable concern.

Meanwhile, Papua New Guinea suffered some rapid changes of political leadership, the outcome of which was the installation of Rabbie Namaliu as prime minister, with Michael Somare as foreign affairs minister. This presented no problems for Canberra. The relationship between Australia and its former colonial dependency was believed to be moving towards a more mature equality. The effort to promote that change had provided the reasoning behind a Joint Declaration of Principles, stemming in part from the Defence department in Canberra, as possible military emergencies are one aspect of Australia's preoccupations in Papua New Guinea. However, the island is well endowed with economic resources, unlike many of the smaller territories. Aid dependency on outside sources for the smaller islands is very high and the adoption of Western foods and lifestyles often results in the loss of traditional skills in fishing and the raising of indigenous food crops. The resulting economic and social stresses produce political dissatisfactions, and sometimes the search for alternative diplomatic friends.

A more disturbing development during the year, one that seemed to have some potential to cause long-term damage to Australia's economic and political relationships with Asian neighbours, was the Australian debate over multiculturalism and levels of Asian migration. Australia is on the fringe of Asia, but outside the great trading blocs that seem likely to dominate the world economy in the next few decades. The most obvious of these is the European Economic Community, a highly prosperous market of 320 million people that will move to a new stage of integration in the early 1990s, and that could (if other European nations and possibly Turkey are added to the present twelve members) expand to about 400 million people. In the process of its formation, the new Europe has transmuted itself from being a major food importer to being a large exporter, with obvious consequences for Australian markets. There is also now a North American bloc of the United States and Canada, and some economists have foreshadowed the possibility of a North American-Japan bloc as a response to the European Community. In an economic future dominated by such enormous players, Australian policymakers will find difficulty in exerting any leverage on such matters as market

share. Good diplomatic relations with the economically fast-growing Asian societies of the Pacific Rim are, therefore, essential to Australia, and could certainly be endangered if Australia was believed to be reverting to the policies of the 'White Australia' epoch.

Unpleasant reminders of some of the traditional feuds of southern Europe troubled government in the final weeks of the year. A Croatian demonstration outside the Yugoslav consulate in Sydney got out of hand: a group of teenagers climbed a fence into the consulate grounds, and one of them, sixteen-year-old Josef Tokic, was shot in the neck by a security guard. Prime Minister Bob Hawke said forcibly that the accused man and the gun must be produced for police investigations and prospective trial. When the consular officials remained recalcitrant, the decision was taken to expel the staff. In retaliation the Yugoslav government expelled three officials from the Australian Embassy in Belgrade. About the same time there were less serious incidents arising from the visit to Australia of the Greek president to open an exhibition concerned with ancient Macedonia. The Macedonian community in Australia, which resents being identified with Greece, organised protests that produced angry scuffles at several points on the President's tour.

On the economic front, the short-term prospects for Australia in late 1988 seemed fairly reasonable, although there was a feeling that distant storms were approaching. That was partly because the rapid visible changes in Asia were uncertain in future direction. Even Burma, which had seemed for several decades to be opting for a hermit-like policy of autarchic socialism, growing steadily poorer in the process, suddenly developed a revolutionary ferment of 'people power', and showed a new interest in rejoining the world. Its neighbour India, already the hegemonial power of south Asia, appeared likely to attain the same ascendancy in the Indian Ocean area by acquiring substantial naval assets (including a nuclear-powered submarine) from the Soviet Union. Australia is a very minor naval power in the same ocean, but must remain concerned with it, since half our coastline looks in that direction. The Department of Defence in Canberra has cherished the ambition of sustaining a 'two-ocean navy', dividing Australia's small fleet between east and west coast bases. But the financial stringencies arising from Australia's reduced external income meant that any major



**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUMMARY**  
(\$ million)

	Current transactions						Net capital transactions					
	Merchandise trade			Net services	Net income	Net un- required transfers	Balance on current account	Official			Non- official plus balancing item	Balance on capital account plus balancing item
	Exports f.o.b.	Imports f.o.b.	Balance on merchandise trade					General govern- ment	Reserve Bank	Total		
<i>1987-88—</i>												
July	2991	-3388	-397	-385	-712	167	-1327	1066	-407	659	668	1327
August	3140	-3119	21	-309	-723	160	-851	442	-854	-412	1263	851
September	2999	-3224	-225	-418	-712	127	-1228	-158	-596	-754	1982	1228
October	3270	-3396	-126	-371	-985	162	-1320	-555	1327	772	548	1320
November	3323	-3480	-157	-179	-684	166	-854	116	1848	1964	-1110	854
December	3713	-3485	228	-198	-843	147	-666	-289	394	105	561	666
January	3497	-2935	562	-230	-956	128	-496	2114	65	2179	-1683	496
February	3574	-3599	-25	-124	-953	114	-988	121	-283	-162	1150	988
March	3547	-3708	-161	-217	-996	168	-1206	78	-858	-780	1986	1206
April	3556	-3097	459	-205	-986	176	-556	867	-1465	-598	1154	556
May	3455	-3654	-199	-207	-1044	104	-1346	185	-2179	-1994	3340	1346
June	3489	-3325	164	-285	-959	150	-930	-960	-924	-1884	2814	930
<i>1988-89—</i>												
July	3095	-3660	-565	-308	-836	182	-1527	188	-536	-348	1875	1527
August	3428	-3891	-463	-233	-807	176	-1327	-187	-151	-338	1665	1327
September	3397	-3431	-34	-348	-769	161	-990	-253	-107	-360	1350	990

Australian Bureau Statistics, Catalogue no 1304.0.

ambitions of that sort had to be put 'on hold'.

Though Australia's relations with its major ally, the United States, remained stable, American strategic dispositions in the Pacific and Asia appeared to be eroding. The two major bases in the Philippines, Clark Field and Subic Bay, had their tenure extended to 1991 at the cost of larger US aid payments, but beyond that date their future remained uncertain. The prospects in South Korea, where there was a strong drive towards democratisation, had also become rather fluid, with a strand of anti-American feeling in student demonstrations.

America's relationship with China remained cordial (as did Australia's, with a visit from the Chinese prime minister). Both China and the Soviet Union appeared to be retreating rapidly from the ideologies of Maoism and Stalinism respectively, moving towards greater reliance on market forces in the manner of Western societies. The quarrels that broke the original 1950 alliance between them initially concerned ideology and diplomatic strategy, though territorial questions were also raised. Whether the present ideological changes will allow resto-

ration of 'party-to-party' rapprochement, as in the alliance period, remains uncertain, but Mikhail Gorbachev is clearly working to secure a better diplomatic relationship. The Chinese had imposed three specific conditions for better relations: the Soviet exit from Afghanistan, a reduction in Soviet troop concentrations on the Chinese border and the exit of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. By 1988, the first two of those conditions were being met and the third, Vietnamese exit from Cambodia, was promised for 1990. The question of how far and how fast Soviet-Chinese relations will improve is important to many societies in Asia and the Pacific: not only Australia but especially Japan, India and Vietnam. Even without a renewal of the old alliance, a reasonable level of governmental cordiality would change many diplomatic and strategic calculations. In a speech in July 1986, Gorbachev indicated that the Soviet Union would increase its level of interest in the Pacific. On the other hand, Moscow's growing difficulties within its own multinational empire, and with its East European buffer zone, did not seem likely to allow very much immediate

COMPONENTS OF RESIDENT POPULATION GROWTH,  
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1988p

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
NUMBER									
Natural increase(a)	42 178	30 461	20 353	8 495	14 964	3 078	2 734	3 155	125 418
Overseas migration	59 084	35 701	19 657	5 668	20 060	829	960	1 233	143 192
Interstate migration	-14 221	-14 802	26 170	-333	8 389	-3 434	-4 611	2 842	..
Net migration	44 863	20 899	45 827	5 335	28 449	-2 605	-3 651	4 075	143 192
Total increase	87 041	51 360	66 180	13 830	43 413	473	-917	7 230	268 610
RATE OF GROWTH (per cent)									
Natural increase(a)	0.75	0.72	0.76	0.61	1.00	0.69	1.75	1.19	0.77
Overseas migration	1.05	0.85	0.73	0.41	1.34	0.19	0.61	0.46	0.88
Interstate migration	-0.25	-0.35	0.98	-0.02	0.56	-0.77	-2.94	1.07	..
Net migration	0.80	0.50	1.71	0.38	1.90	-0.58	-2.33	1.53	0.88
Total increase	1.55	1.22	2.47	0.99	2.89	0.11	-0.59	2.72	1.65

(a) Calculated at a preliminary stage of processing in order to compile population estimates at the end of the period. Figures may therefore vary from the difference between registered births and deaths shown in the following tables. p = preliminary — figure or series subject to revision  
Australian Bureau Statistics, Catalogue no 1304.0.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

	Australia
As at 30 June—	
1983	15 393.5
1984	15 579.4
1985	15 788.3
1986(a)	16 018.4
1987	16 263.3
1988p	16 531.9

(a) Based on census counts, place of usual residence, adjusted for census under-enumeration, and including an estimate of Australian residents temporarily overseas on census night. p = preliminary — figure or series subject to revision  
Australian Bureau Statistics, Catalogue no 1304.0.

attention to so distant a scene as the Pacific, except its far northern strategic redoubts such as the Sea of Okhotsk. China, on the other hand, lives entirely in Asia and the Pacific, and has no such distractions from it. Chinese determination to enforce what it regards as valid claims was manifested in its small victorious battle with Vietnamese gunboats over the Spratley Islands: rather insignificant rocky outcrops that may, it is thought, prove to be embedded in oil-bearing formations. And both China and Russia are interested in fishing the waters of the South Pacific. Naturally that prospect is of interest, and possibly of concern, to Australia as well as to the small powers of the South Pacific.

As the year moved towards its close, the situation appeared to be, as the weather forecasters put it, 'future outlook unsettled'. George Bush, the new man in the White House, seemed

likely to prove as amiable a friend for Australian policymakers as his predecessor had been, but the protectionist pressures in Congress may have been strengthened. The changes set in train by Gorbachev in the Soviet Union and by Deng Xiaoping in China were both proceeding, but both were encountering great difficulties and opposition from vested interests. Their success, or even their survival, cannot be taken for granted. The Soviet Union's East European zone of influence appeared pregnant with many potential crises. In western Europe, the tide of prosperity rolled on, but uncertainty remained whether after 1992 the new Europe would become a protectionist fortress against the outside world, especially in farm products.

Indeed the future of large trade blocs or cartels, and the possibilities of bilateralism or protectionism posed the chief questions about Australia's immediate future. The prospects were not wholly bleak: the Closer Economic Relationship (CER) with New Zealand was going well, and Australia had been able to benefit from American leverage concerning the market for beef in Japan, a success that may in time offer wider benefits. The proposals advanced by the 'Cairns Group' (an Australia-organised alignment of thirteen countries interested in agriculture exports) seemed to warrant some cautious encouragement in the United States and Britain. But local economic difficulties continued to cast shadows over our ability to compete adequately in the emerging global economy.

CORAL BELL





**2 April** Rioting broke out among the crowd of 12 000 spectators at the National Street Machine competition in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales. It was estimated that 3000 people were involved in the rioting and police made 64 arrests.

**2-3 April** Australia was eliminated after losing 8-4 to Scotland in the Bicentennial International Rugby Union Sevens Championships at Concord Oval, Sydney. New Zealand defeated Scotland 22-12 in the final.

**3 April** Transport Minister Gareth Evans announced the proposed merger of Qantas, Australian Airlines and Air New Zealand. Variousy dubbed 'Anzac' or 'Qivi' Airlines, 49 per cent of the new airline would be sold to private enterprise, 41 per cent would be held by the Australian government and 10 per cent by the New Zealand government. The proposed merger was to enable Qantas to raise the capital needed for it to remain competitive with other international airlines. Plans for the merger were abandoned on 10 April.

**3 April** Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden began a two-week official tour of South Korea, Japan and the Philippines to discuss political and trade issues.

**3 April** In Sydney, federal police detained eleven Tahitian tourists, suspected of being terrorists, as they were about to board a flight to Singapore. The French embassy in Singapore informed Australian police that they believed the men were linked with the pro-independence movement in French Polynesia and that they were headed for training in Libya. After being detained for 24 hours, the men were allowed to continue their journey, but were refused entry to Malaysia and Singapore. The eleven returned to Tahiti, via Sydney, on 6 April.

**3 April** An Australian trade mission including Deputy Prime Minister Lionel Bowen and Brisbane's Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson visited Houston, Texas, to study industry and employment opportunities resulting from the proposed privately-run space launch and recov-

ery facilities at Cape York Peninsula in north Queensland.

**3 April** Primary Industries Minister John Kerin refused to sanction agreements by four NSW coal companies to supply Japanese steel mills with hard coking coal, insisting they renegotiate for a higher price. Kerin claimed that the low prices jeopardised the viability of the Australian coal industry, which, in the past 12 months, had seen the closure of 18 mines and the loss of 4000 jobs. The federal government announced it would consider introducing national price-setting arrangements for export coal following cut-price deals between a further seven Australian coal producers and Japanese steel mills. On 14 April Japanese steel mills agreed to increase the price they had contracted to pay for Australian coal by 10 per cent.

**3 April** Queenslander Michael Doohen won the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix at Mt Panorama, Bathurst, New South Wales.

**3 April** The first leg of the Bicentennial Trans-Australia Ballooning Challenge got underway. Seventy-eight hot-air balloons from seventeen countries competed in the 6000 kilometre challenge in Perth, Kalgoorlie, the Barossa Valley, Mildura, Broken Hill, Dubbo and Sydney where the teams arrived on 15 April.

**4 April** James McClelland criticised the Hawke government's handling of compensation claims for Australian ex-servicemen and civilians affected by radiation from nuclear testing at Maralinga, SA, during the 1950s. His criticism was in response to the British government's decision on 3 April to pay war pensions to British ex-servicemen affected by the tests. McClelland was head of the 1985 Royal Commission of Inquiry into British Nuclear Tests.

**4 April** Sydney runner Scott Antonich won the final of the \$12 000 Stawell Gift, a 120-metre sprint race, in a time of 12.28 seconds.

**5 April** In the Northern Territory Ray Hanrahan resigned as deputy chief minister,



minister for education and tourism and deputy leader of the Country-Liberal party. The cabinet elected Barry Coulter as the new deputy chief minister on 6 April.

**5-9 April** The World Health Organisation and the Department of Community Services and Health jointly convened an international conference on health promotion with the theme 'Healthy public policy', in Adelaide. The conference coincided with World Health Day on 7 April and the first international No Tobacco Day. A report *Health for all Australians*, prepared by the Australian Health Targets and

Implementation Committee, claimed that the gap between the health of economically well-off and poor Australians was widening.

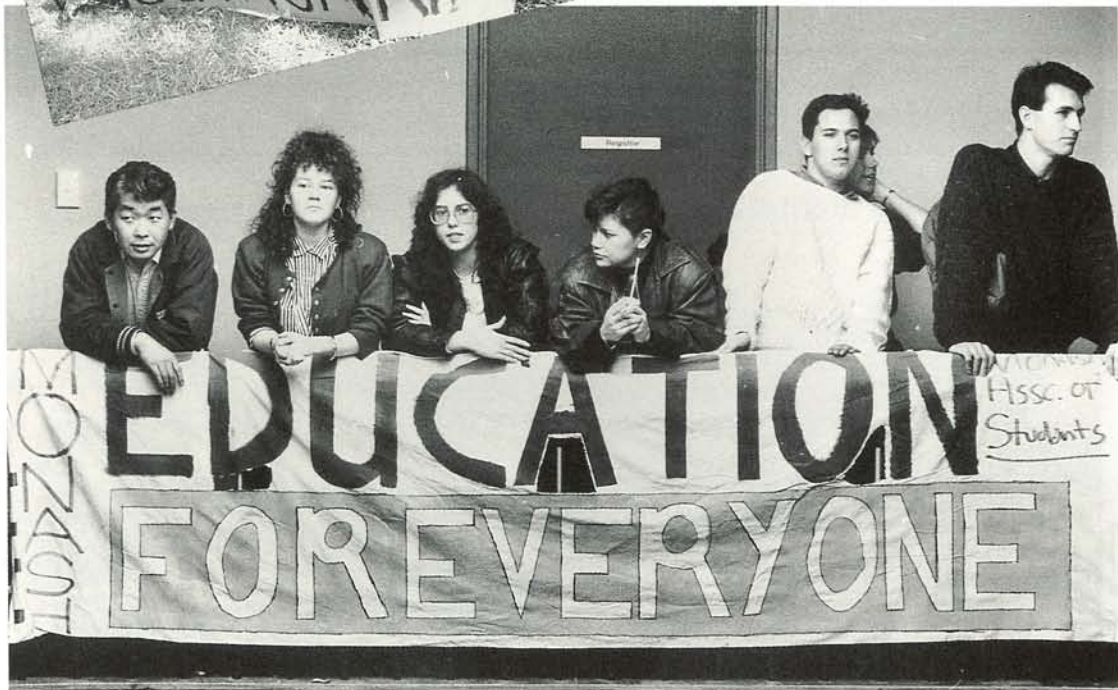
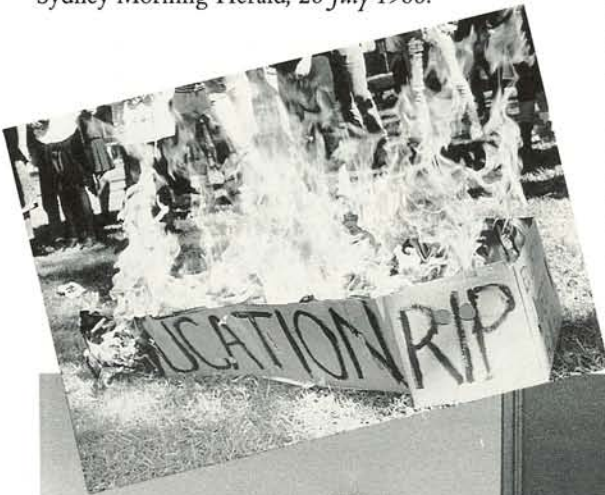
**6 April** Primary Industries Minister John Kerin attended the World Food Conference in Brussels.

**6 April** The NSW Labor party caucus appointed Bob Carr as opposition leader. He replaced Barrie Unsworth who resigned as leader on 21 March after the party's defeat in the 19 March state elections. Andrew Refshauge was elected deputy opposition leader.

**6 April** Immigration Minister Clyde Holding announced an additional intake of 12 000 immigrants bringing the total for 1987-88 to 132 000.

**6 April** The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee released its response to Education Minister John Dawkins' *Higher education: a policy discussion paper*. Dawkins had presented the Green Paper to parliament on 9 December 1987. The committee criticised the introduction of a tertiary fee or levy claiming it would be a

Inset. *Students mourn the 'death of free education'.* Sydney Morning Herald, 28 July 1988.



*University Students protest outside the Registrar of Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, against the introduction of a graduate tax. Age, 21 July, 1988.*



severe disincentive to mature age and economically disadvantaged students. It also called on the government to achieve its proposed 40 per cent increase in graduates by the year 2000 by increasing education funding to a minimum of 1 per cent of the gross domestic product.

**6 April** Benjamin Morrison, aged 55, was found hanging in the Fremantle police lock-up. His death would be investigated by the Muirhead Royal Commission.

**6 April** The Committee to Defend Black Rights, representing the families of Aborigines who have died in custody, presented the Muirhead Royal Commission with a list of 67 demands, which included a guarantee to fund the second national conference of the families of victims and a restructuring of the commission.

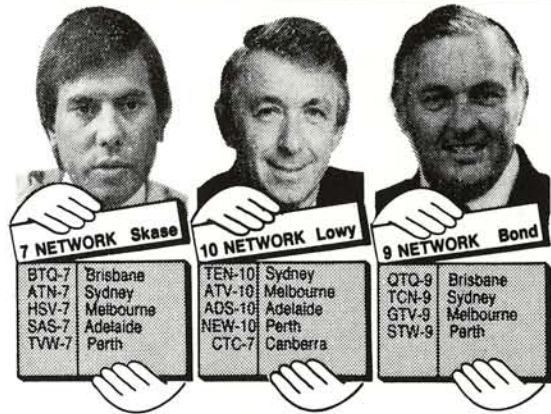
**6 April** The Mandela Foundation of Australia was launched to raise funds for the legal costs of political prisoners in South Africa and to support them and their dependants during their period of incarceration — and for victims of apartheid in general. Its patrons are Prime Minister Bob Hawke and former prime minister, Malcolm Fraser.

**6 April** Christopher Skase's Qintex Ltd announced the purchase of the television

**6 April 1788** '...some of the officers went to Botany Bay, No ships there, they found that the Inscription which had been painted on board & fixed on a Tree near the place the French Abbé who died was buried, while those Ships were at Botany Bay, was torn down by the Natives. The inscription was not so much defaced but that it was copied by one of the Gentlemen & the same ordered by Governor Phillip to be engraved on a piece of copper & nailed in the place the other had been taken from.'

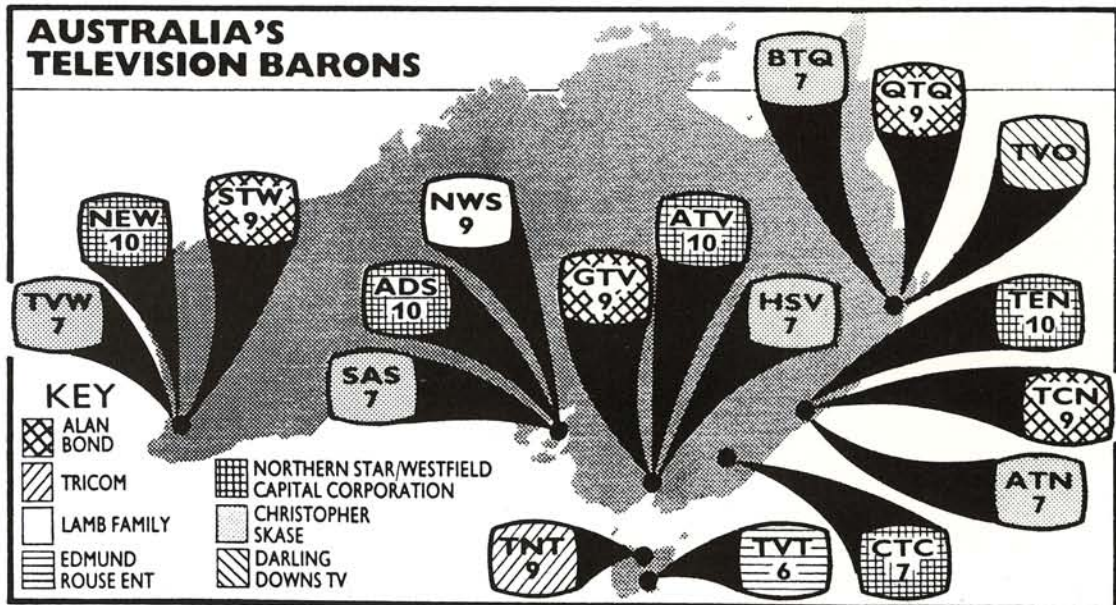
WILLIAM BRADLEY

**THE BIG THREE NETWORKS**



Right. Age, 7 April 1988.

Below. Sydney Morning Herald, 7 April 1988.





stations TVW 7 in Perth and SAS 7 in Adelaide for \$126.3 million from Robert Holmes à Court's Bell Group. The purchase resulted in Skase's 7 network breaking the 60 per cent audience reach limit imposed by the federal government in 1987.

**7 April** A meeting of the ALP national executive appointed Bob Hogg as the party's new national secretary and elected SA Premier John Bannon as ALP national president. Hogg replaced Bob McMullan and Bannon replaced Mick Young.

**7 April** The Department of Foreign Affairs rejected a plea from Iran to make hospital beds available in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra for 5000 Iranian soldiers injured by cyanide and mustard gases during an attack on Halabja by Iraq in March. On 14 April Trade Negotiations Minister Michael Duffy announced that Australia would contribute \$100 000 to an International Committee of the Red Cross appeal for victims of the Iran-Iraq War.

**7 April** Chief of Defence Force General Peter Gratton announced the creation of a new position with the rank of three-star general, 'Commander of Joint Forces of Australia', to coordinate maritime, land and air operations in the event of war. The new role would only be filled permanently in wartime.

**7 April** Racehorse trainer Bart Cummings paid a record \$1.1 million for a colt.

**8 April** The Melbourne Magistrate's Court released John Dixon-Jenkins from Pentridge Prison. Dixon-Jenkins, dubbed the 'mad bomber', had served four of his six-year sentence for planting fake bombs in ten schools, a department store and a restaurant in Melbourne in 1984. He had been on a 99-day hunger strike in prison.

**8 April** Federal Liberal party president John Elliott and Liberal leader John Howard clashed over Elliott's support of a consumption tax during the Liberal party's federal council meeting in Melbourne.

**8 April** Queensland Premier Mike Ahern opened the new State Library. Built at a cost of \$26 million, the library is the fourth and final



*Mike Ahern became Queensland National Party Premier in 1987 and set up the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld. Photograph by Peter O'Halloran.*  
CALL THE SHOTS

stage of the ten-year \$174 million Queensland Cultural Centre project that includes the Performing Arts Complex, the Queensland Art Gallery and the Queensland Museum.

**8 April** More than 300 women marched on the Canberra nightclub JD's Tavern to protest against a spate of violent assaults on women in Canberra. The body of a Queanbeyan woman, Bente Mosessen, who had disappeared from the nightclub two weeks earlier, had been found mutilated 40 kilometres southwest of Canberra.

**8 April** Sir Francis Renouf sold his Sydney harbourside property 'Paradis sur Mer' for a record \$19.2 million.

**9 April** The Liberal party candidate Bill Taylor won the by-election for the federal seat of Groom in Qld. The by-election was caused by the resignation of National party member Tom McVeigh. Former Qld National party premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen had publicly supported the Liberal candidate during the campaign.

**9 April** The National AIDS Council launched a series of eleven advertising posters to be displayed on public transport and billboards as part of a \$700 000 national AIDS campaign. Three of the posters featured condoms, which caused public controversy. The posters were the third stage in the campaign against AIDS, following advertisements featuring the Grim Reaper and a series of educational brochures.



**April 1788** 'Notwithstanding it was the anxious care of every one who could prevent it, that the venereal disease might not be introduced into the settlement, it was not only found to exist amongst the convicts, but the very sufferers themselves were known to conceal their having it. To stop this evil, it was ordered by the governor, that any man or woman having and concealing this disorder should receive corporal punishment, and be put upon a short allowance of provisions for six months.'

JUDGE ADVOCATE DAVID COLLINS

**9 April** France defeated Australia in the quarter-finals of the Davis Cup tennis tournament in France.

**10 April** A car belonging to an employee of the South African embassy was firebombed in Canberra. The South African foreign minister Pik Botha alleged that the attack was sparked by the anti-apartheid rhetoric of Australian government officials.

**10 April** The Australian rowing selection committee failed to name any women in the 30-member train-on squad for the Seoul Olympics. Women omitted included former lightweight sculling champion Adair Ferguson and the women's four who won the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic bronze medal.

**10 April** The Victorian men's eight won the Bicentennial Kings Cup at the National Rowing Regatta held on the Nepean River, Penrith, New South Wales.

**10 April** The first of three charity matches featuring 21 of the 22 players from the 1977 Centenary Men's Cricket Test match between Australia and England was held in Perth. The other matches were held in Adelaide and Brisbane. The Australian team won all three games.

**11 April** Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu and First Deputy Prime Minister Elena Ceausescu arrived in Canberra for talks with Prime Minister Bob Hawke on trade and immigration. More than 50 demonstrators

protested outside Parliament House against alleged Romanian abuse of human rights. On 12 April the Romanian president signed a \$500 million contract with mining magnate Lang Hancock to export Qld coal to Romania.

**11 April** The National Book Council's annual literary awards — renamed the Banjo Awards in honour of the poet A.B. (Banjo) Paterson — were announced. Professor Manning Clark won the \$10 000 Gold Banjo Award for the sixth volume of *A history of Australia*. Morris Lurie won the \$7500 Silver Banjo Award for *Whole life*. More than 60 entries were received.

**11 April** Victorian police arrested 35 people for possession of cocaine in drug raids in Melbourne and Dandenong.

**11 April** The Independent Police Complaints Authority of Victoria released a report condemning police procedure in handling sexual offences throughout Australia. It found police were often 'sexist, stereotyped and judgmental' in their investigations and called for the disbandment of the Vic police Sexual Offences Squad.

**12 April** The record company CBS released the official Australian Olympic team song *You're not alone*. Written and recorded by a variety of Australians including John Schumann, Kate Ceberano, Jon English, Julie Anthony and Norman May, the proceeds from the record would help to send Australia's team to the Seoul Olympics in September.

**12 April** The exhibition *The stars disordered* opened at the Queensland University Art Museum. Artists Peter Kennedy and John Hughes collaborated to produce a video and twenty paintings exploring the possible experiences of a young Australian in 50 to 60 years time. The exhibition toured Australia.

**12 April** The two-week \$100 000 Bicentennial Shoot competition, a rifle championship featuring 1200 shooters from 16 countries, commenced at the Anzac Rifle Range, Sydney.

**13 April** Industry Minister John Button announced a cut of 12.5 per cent in car import tariffs. The reduced tariff, from 57.5 per cent to



45 per cent, would offset increased costs caused by the drop in value of the Australian dollar.

**13 April** Territories Minister Gary Punch released a draft plan for ACT self-government. The plan recommended a seventeen-member ACT legislative assembly elected by a single electorate and headed by a chief minister.

**13 April** The sale of Australian embassy land in Tokyo was finalised. Contracts permitting the sale of 6150 square metres of embassy land to the Japanese MITA consortium were exchanged on 22 April.

**13 April** Immigration Minister Clyde Holding released figures which showed that by January 1988 a total of 58 000 foreigners had expired visas and remained in Australia illegally.

**13 April** The Bible Society of Australia launched an Australian edition of the *Good news bible* entitled the *Good news Australian bible*. The new edition was adapted and illustrated by Australians.

**13 April** The NSW Council of Churches and the Parents and Citizens Concerned for Child Education called on the NSW Education Minister Terry Metherell to remove books with violence and swearing from the secondary school curriculum. The books targeted included Thomas Keneally, *The chant of Jimmy Blacksmith*, Edward Albee, *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf*, Peter Schaffer, *Equus*, Angelo Loukakís, *For the patriarch*, Peter Kocan, *The cure* and *The treatment*, and J.D. Salinger, *Catcher in the rye*.

**13 April** The Australian men's lawn bowls team won the Trans-Tasman Test Series 2-0 against New Zealand at Tweed Heads, New South Wales.

**14 April** Qld Premier Mike Ahern alleged in state parliament that former Qld premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen had attempted to halt the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld in December 1987.

**14 April** The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics awarded an Australian scientist Professor Graeme Bird the Exceptional Scien-

tific Achievement Medal and the Thermophysics Award for his development of the Direct Simulation Monte Carlo method. The method uses computer simulation of gas flow to improve wind tunnel prediction techniques.

**14 April** The Evatt Research Centre, an ACTU organisation, released a report critical of the federal government's moves to privatise public companies.

**15 April** Federal cabinet approved the restructuring of the Muirhead Royal Commission and the appointment of three additional commissioners to assist James Muirhead — J.H. Wootten, Elliott Johnston and L.F. Wyvill. The restructuring narrowed the terms of reference and extended the commission's final reporting date by twelve months to 31 December 1989.



First year NIDA students perform *The living newspaper*. Photograph by Andrew Rankin.

JOHN FAIRFAX & SONS LTD

**15 April** Prime Minister Bob Hawke opened the new \$7.1 million drama complex of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in Sydney.

**15 April** The co-ordinator of the Australian Bicentennial women's program, Gillian Bonham, announced that \$200 000 would be used to fund community and cultural projects by more than 300 women's groups throughout Australia.

**15 April** Prime Minister Bob Hawke launched Glenyse Ward's *Wandering girl*, the fourth in a series of books about the Aboriginal way of life by Aboriginal authors. Aimed at a





Hazel Hawke with Aboriginal women who performed the Honey Ant Dreaming at the opening of the Yuelamu Museum, NT. Age, 18 April 1988.

young audience the other books in the series are Pat Torres and Magdalene Williams, *The story of crow and Jalygurr — Aussie animal rhymes* and Merrilee Lands, *Mayi — some bush fruits of Dampierland*.

**15 April** The exhibition *People, print and paper. Celebrating the books of Australia 1788–1988* opened at the National Library, Canberra.

**16 April** Hazel Hawke opened the Yuelamu Museum and Art Gallery at Mt Allan Station, a 2600 square-kilometre station on the edge of the Tanami Desert, NT. The property's traditional owners, the Yuelamu community, built the museum with a \$100 000 grant from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Bicentennial program. The museum houses a collection of Aboriginal paintings and artefacts.

**16 April** The National party candidate Warren Truss lost the former safe seat of Barambah in a Qld state by-election caused by the resignation of former premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. An independent candidate Trevor Perrett won the seat on ALP preferences after a 35 per cent swing against the National party.

**16–30 April** A contingent of 187 Australian soldiers made up the royal guard at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London as part of Australian Bicentenary celebrations in England. The soldiers were drawn from all battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment and the Australian Army Band Corps.

**16 April 1788** 'We saw, however, some proofs of their [the Aborigines] ingenuity, in various figures cut on the smooth surface of some large stones. They consisted chiefly of representations of themselves in different attitudes, of their canoes, of several sorts of fish and animals; and, considering the rudeness of the instruments with which the figures must have been executed, they seemed to exhibit tolerably strong likenesses. On the stones, where the natives had been thus exercising their abilities in sculpture, were several weather-beaten shells.'

JOHN WHITE

**17 April** Nearly 100 Australian and overseas teams competed in the fourth International Dragon Boat race on Sydney Harbour.



Women and men compete in the Dragon Boat race at Farm Cove, Sydney. Photograph by Colin Townsend, Sydney Morning Herald, 18 April 1988.

**17 April** The National Trust's major Bicentennial project, Juniper Hall, Paddington, was officially opened in Sydney at the commencement of Heritage Week. Juniper Hall, built in 1824 by Robert Cooper, a gin distiller, was restored at a cost of \$2 million.

**17 April** More than 350 women and men left Melbourne on a 1000-kilometre horse ride to



honour the horse's contribution to the European exploration of Australia. Named the Federation Ride (after the main sponsor Federation Insurance) the three-week trek ended in Canberra on 8 May.

**18 April** Defence Minister Kim Beazley tabled the annual report of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation in parliament. The report claimed that about 50 foreign agents were operating in Australia.

**18 April** Federal Director of Public Prosecutions Ian Temby cleared Health Minister Neal Blewett and his staff of any wrongdoing over the public release of confidential information from the Health Insurance Commission.

**18 April** 'Say no to drugs', an anti-drug advertising campaign sponsored by an American-based company Valvoline, was officially launched in Sydney. The campaign featured Australian sports women and men and media personalities.

**18 April** The Qld parliament appointed Patsy Wolfe, a Brisbane barrister, as deputy commissioner to the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Queensland.

**19 April** Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived in Perth at the start of a three-week visit to Australia to celebrate the Bicentenary. The tour took them to Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Hobart, where the Queen delivered the Anzac Day address at the cenotaph, Burnie, Launceston, Melbourne, Geelong, Longreach, Brisbane, Sydney, Albury, Newcastle and Canberra.

**19 April** Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen unveiled the restored painting by Charles Nuttall, *The opening of the first Australian federal parliament by HRH the Duke of Cornwall and York* at the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne. Painted in 1901, the canvas was re-discovered in 1984 in the cellar of the Exhibition Building.



*The restored 1901 painting, Charles Nuttall, The opening of the first Australian federal parliament by HRH the Duke of Cornwall and York, was unveiled by the Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen.*

ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDING TRUSTEES



**19 April** An Aboriginal current affairs television program *Urrpeye* (The messenger) went to air in Alice Springs. The weekly program, hosted by Erica Glynn, was produced by the Aboriginal owned and controlled Imparja Television and telecast in English. A second weekly magazine-format program *Nganampa* (Ours) was first broadcast on 21 April in three Aboriginal languages with English subtitles.

**20 April** Primary Industries and Energy Minister John Kerin presented a ministerial statement on Australian nuclear safeguards in parliament. The statement refuted allegations printed in the West German magazine *Der spiegel* on 18 January, 15 and 22 February 1988 that the European Atomic Energy Community, Euratom, had circumvented conditions placed on Australian origin nuclear material by the Australian/Euratom Safeguards Agreement. Kerin stated that the government 'would continue to monitor the operation of Australia's bilateral safeguards agreements, in light of commercial and international developments in the nuclear fuel cycle, to ensure that Australian obligated nuclear material remains in peaceful use and Australian safeguards conditions continue to be observed.'

**20-22 April** All domestic and international flights were delayed or disrupted as a result of stopwork meetings by members of the air traffic controllers and Qantas flight attendants unions. On 22 April the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission awarded air traffic controllers, represented by the Civil Air Operations Officers' Association, a 4 per cent second-tier wage increase. Qantas flight attendants, members of the Australian International Cabin Crew Association, protested against changes to their working conditions.

**22 April** Sir Harold Wyndham, former director-general of education in NSW and author of the influential 1958 Wyndham Report on secondary school curricula, died aged 85 in Sydney. As a result of the Wyndham Report secondary school courses in NSW were extended from five to six years and school counsellors were introduced.

**22 April** *The land of the Lightning Brothers*, a film about Aboriginal rock art in WA, made with the assistance of the Wardaman people of Bindjari outstation and Katherine, won the Australian National Heritage Film Award.

**22 April** Australian Olympic Federation selectors named Julie Speight in the track cycle team to represent Australia at the Seoul Olympics. Speight, the Australian sprint cycle champion, is the first woman to represent Australia in cycling at an Olympic Games.

**23 April** A WA woman died at the King Edward Memorial Hospital's in-vitro fertilisation clinic in Perth after a laparoscopy.

**23 April** The NSW Department of Agriculture opened the Camden Park Estate to public visitors. Camden Park was established in 1805 by Elizabeth and John Macarthur, pioneers of the Australian wool industry.

**23 April** The play *Capricornia* opened at the Belvoir St Theatre, Sydney. Adapted by Louis Nowra from Xavier Herbert's novel of the same name (published in 1938) concerning the relationship between Europeans and Aborigines, the play starred Laurence Clifford, Lydia Miller and Justine Saunders.

**23 April** Sixty-nine camels and their riders competing in the \$110 000 Great Australian Bicentennial Camel Race left Ayers Rock at the start of the 3338-kilometre trek to the Qld Gold Coast.

**23 April** More than one-hundred vintage and modern light aeroplanes left Brisbane's Archerfield aerodrome at the start of the Hinkler Bicentennial Air Race. The race covered 4500 kilometres around Queensland and finished at the Expo site in Brisbane on 1 May. It commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of Qld aviator Bert Hinkler's fifteen-and-a-half day record-breaking flight from London to Darwin.

**24 April** A group committed to a neutral Australia formed the Australian Association for Armed Neutrality in Melbourne. Members include Don Chipp, Phillip Adams and Alan Renouf.



ANZAC DAY IN FRANCE



*Wreaths laid by Australians on the memorial to the Third Division of the AIF at Saille-le-Sec on the Somme, Sunday 24 April 1988.*

KEN INGLIS



*Australians make their way through the Imperial War Graves Cemetery as French soldiers await the progress of the official party towards the Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Monday 25 April 1988.*

KEN INGLIS

**23-25 April** To mark the Australian Bicentenary France honoured Australians who fought and died in France during World War 1.

On 23 April ceremonies were held in the Somme villages of Vignacourt and Bullecourt. At Vignacourt a street was named 'Rue des Australiens'. During a commemorative service in the parish church at Bullecourt attended by Australian officials, servicemen and private visitors, a plaque was unveiled by the Australian Ambassador, Ted Pocock, and the Mayor, Jean Letaille. The wording on the plaque reads, 'Sacred to the memory of the 10 000 members of the Australian Imperial Force who were killed and wounded in the two battles of Bullecourt, April-May 1917, and to the Australian dead and their comrades in arms who lie forever in the soil of France.' The service was followed by a torchlight parade to battle fields.

On 24 April, after services in the parish churches, Franco-Australian parties laid wreaths on memorials to the men of three Australian divisions, at Mont St Quentin, Saille-le-Sec and Pozières. A lunch at Pozières was followed by a tour of battle fields.

On Anzac Day the Australian National War Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux was the scene of the largest ceremony ever held there since its inauguration in 1938. The Memorial bears the names of 11 000 'missing' Australians and marks the feat of Australian forces in liberating the town of Villers-Bretonneux from the Germans on 25 April 1918. Contingents of French and Australian servicemen and French veterans flanked the dais for speeches by the French minister for defence, Andre Giraud, and the Australian ambassador. The minister pinned medals on the lapels of four Australian veterans, making each a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. Robert Harris, aged 92, Fred Hocking, 90, Ronald Morris, 94, and Clarence Wignell, aged 90, had all served in France and flew from Australia for the occasion.

KEN INGLIS



**25 April** More than 65 000 war veterans marched in Anzac Day parades throughout Australia. In Canberra, Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen unveiled a statue of Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick and his donkey by sculptor Peter Corlett outside the Australian War Memorial. Kirkpatrick reputedly brought at least a dozen wounded soldiers a day from the heights above Anzac Cove to dressing stations on the beach at Gallipoli before he was killed on 19 May 1915.



*War veterans march to the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne on Anzac Day. Photograph by Mike Martin, Age, 26 April 1988.*

**25 April** Members of Australia's literary community formed the Save Wyewurk Emergency Committee. Wyewurk, at Thirroul on the NSW south coast, was the home of English

### LEISURE IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY — EXPO '88

**30 April** Six thousand guests, 100 000 visitors and millions of people all over the world watched Queen Elizabeth II open World Expo '88 in Brisbane. Set on a 40-hectare site across the river from Brisbane's central business district, Expo '88 cost \$600 million to stage. Exhibitions from 34 countries, 52 governments and 150 companies contributed to the theme *Leisure in the age of technology*. The opening ceremony was held on a huge stage built out over the Brisbane River and included a ski-past, with water skiers carrying the national flags of the countries represented at the exhibition. By the time Expo '88 opened, 8.4 million tickets had already been sold.

The Australian pavilion featured an Aboriginal cave that was the focus of live theatre and the telling of the legend of the Rainbow Serpent. Queensland's pavilion had eight display theatres and a three-dimensional mural with diverse landscapes — from the arid Simpson Desert through the Great Dividing Range to the coastal plains and the sea. The Vic pavilion featured holographic techniques to produce an illusion of hang-gliding over some of the state's most beautiful scenery, while the NSW exhibition included a simulated voyage from England to Australia aboard the *HMS Sirius*. Tasmania exhibited a model of Port Arthur as a penal colony and WA featured the gold rush era. At the SA pavilion visitors could taste wines from the Barossa Valley and other wine-making parts of the state.

History was a major theme in a number of the overseas pavilions. Japan displayed a detailed model of Tokyo as it was in 1788. Britain re-created a traditional British pub. China exhibited warriors from the famous terracotta army and a bronze chariot buried with Chinese Emperor Qin Shihuang 2000 years ago. Greece displayed memorabilia of the ancient Greeks whose achievements form one of the bases of Western culture. Five-hundred-year-old charts belonging to the classic age of Spanish seafaring and exploration were a feature of the Spanish pavilion and the Hungarians built a replica of a turn-of-the-century restaurant serving authentic Hungarian cuisine. France offered visitors champagne in a fifteenth-century setting. The most publicised historical exhibit was an original of the Magna Carta — the charter of freedoms drawn up by English nobles in the time of King John — lent by Lincoln Cathedral.

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author D.H. Lawrence and his wife Frieda for eight weeks in the winter of 1922. The present owner planned to add a two-storey extension to the house. The Heritage Council approved redesigned extensions in June.

**26 April** The Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld resumed in Brisbane after a month's recess.

**26 April** A Dutch delegation on the care of the aged arrived in Australia for a two-week visit as Holland's Bicentennial gift to Australia.

**26 April** The sculptor and potter Guy Boyd died aged 64 in Melbourne.

**26 April** Publisher Dick Smith launched an

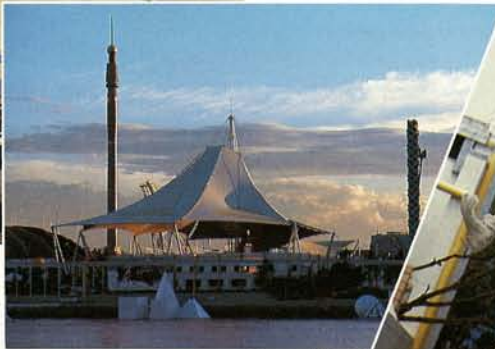
anti-smoking publication for children, *Truth an ad*. The one-off magazine offered a \$30 000 prize for the best anti-smoking advertisement designed by a school child. Sixty-thousand copies of the magazine were distributed throughout Australian schools.

**27 April** Defence Personnel Minister Ros Kelly announced a \$70 000 bonus to be paid to RAAF pilots who renewed their contracts for six years with the Air Force. The move was designed to stem the flow of qualified pilots to commercial airlines.

**27 April** Soviet cosmonauts invited Australia to send an astronaut to join them aboard the MIR space station as a trainee cosmonaut. The



Photograph by Lee Pearce.

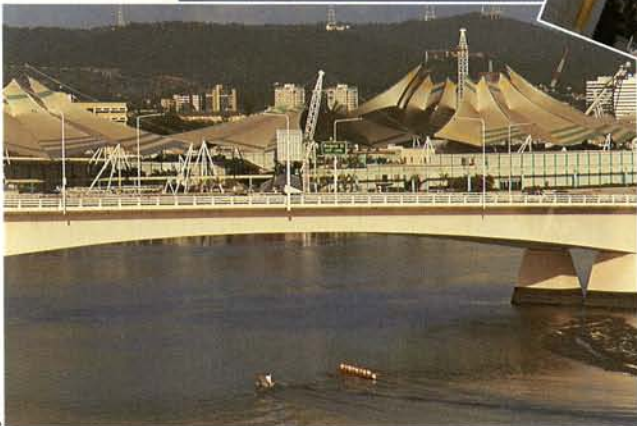


Photograph by  
Brian Alexander.  
WELDON TRANNIES



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Photograph by Lee Pearce.



Situated adjacent to the Brisbane River, the six-month long Expo '88 attracted millions of tourists to Brisbane.

Photograph by Lee Pearce.

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offer, recorded on videotape, was made on behalf of the Soviet government to encourage joint progress in the peaceful development of space.

**27 April** The National Intelligence Studies Centre, Washington, awarded the 1987 Best Book Award to Australian author Robert Manne for *The Petrov affair: politics and espionage*.

**28 April** Resources Minister Peter Cook tabled the report *Energy 2000 — a national energy policy paper* in parliament. The result of three years consultation, the key objectives of the energy policy review were the security of energy supplies, the development of exports in the energy sector and greater efficiency in the domestic energy sector.

**28 April** Queen Elizabeth II opened the exhibition *First impressions* at the Museum of Victoria. It featured the first illustrations of early Australia by Europeans held by the natural history department of the British Museum and lent to Australia as part of Britain's Bicentennial gift. The exhibition would tour all capital cities, finishing at the Northern Territory Museum of Arts and Sciences in August 1989.

**29 April** In a joint takeover bid worth a total of \$340 million Bond Corporation Holdings Ltd and the WA government's State Government Insurance Commission each bought a 19.9 per cent share in Robert Holmes à Court's Bell Group Ltd.

**29 April** Queen Elizabeth II opened the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre at Longreach in central western Queensland. The \$11 million museum is dedicated to Australia's women and men pioneer settlers.

**29 April-6 May** The fifteenth National Wheelchair Games were held in Perth.

**April** The Department of Community Services and Health released a discussion paper *Commonwealth perspectives on IVF funding*. It stated that 5500 women per year were undergoing in-vitro fertilisation treatment in Australia.

**April** More than 130 Australian artisans displayed works in the *Australian Crafts 1988* exhibition held in Melbourne. Three prizes were awarded to Gwyn Hanssen for ceramic bowls and still life, Mark Edgoose for *Coleptera* and Sue Wraight for her carving *Rhinoceros*.



Queen Elizabeth II enjoying the antics of a sheepdog at the National Wool Centre in Victoria. Photograph by Andy Moore, 28 April 1988.

SYDNEY FREELANCE





## AIDS IN 1988

The story of AIDS and its impact on Australia in 1988 is complex, though the progress of the disease itself can be summed up simply in statistics. Between 15 000 and 25 000 Australians were thought to carry the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), many of them unaware of the fact. During the year at least 425 of these carriers developed the symptoms that constitute AIDS, while at least 158 people died of AIDS, compared with 188 in 1987. The decline in mortality was probably due to treatment with the drug zidovudine (also known as AZT), which slows progress of the disease. Given that AIDS has an average incubation period of seven years these statistics do not provide evidence concerning the number of people who became infected during 1988; instead, they reflect the pattern of HIV transmission in the early 1980s.

Beyond these statistics lie the effects on people living with HIV infection and on their carers, the costs for individuals and for society, the mobilisation of government and community responses and the impact on the values and behaviour of Australians. In August 1988 these themes were discussed at the Third National Conference on AIDS. Public health officials, scientists, politicians, health care workers, community representatives and people living with HIV met in Hobart for three days to hear and discuss 150 papers, displaying a remarkable measure of consensus on the priority given to education and research. The implications of AIDS for business were emphasised. Policies recently developed by ANZ Bank and other employers — and the new insurance code of practice on AIDS, the first such code adopted in any country — all stressed the avoidance of discrimination and assurance of confidentiality. The conference also received estimates of the costs, not only for health care but indirectly for wages, production and the community, imposed by an epidemic that strikes most heavily at those in the middle of their productive years.

Various studies were reported showing that education campaigns among gay men had succeeded in changing behaviour that involved the risk of HIV transmission. Programs targeted on other groups — intravenous drug users, prisoners, adolescents, ethnic groups, and Aboriginal communities — were also surveyed, with

the uniform conclusion that community-based education proved most effective. On the other hand, education and infection control programs for health care workers were generally found inadequate.

On the last afternoon of the conference, Wilson Tuckey, who as opposition spokesperson on health had tacitly supported government AIDS policies, arrived to speak on the politics of AIDS. Ignoring earlier conference discussion on the limited utility of widespread testing and other traditional public health measures, Tuckey addressed the conference as though it were a special interest group that, for dubious reasons, had succeeded too well in isolating AIDS from public health controls. His provocative remarks infuriated the audience and brought swift rebuttals. Widely reported by the media, Tuckey's comment sparked off residual antagonism to the AIDS policy consensus on talk-back radio and in letters to newspaper editors. Within six weeks Tuckey was replaced in the shadow health portfolio by Peter Shack, who accepted the validity of the consensus position and restored bipartisanship on AIDS.

What was not so widely reported was the conclusion of the Hobart conference following Tuckey's comments. With feelings still running high, a large number of people living with HIV, together with their carers, gathered on the stage to assert their presence and establish a voice of their own within the policy community. This helped to mobilise several groups who had previously lacked an effective voice. A few weeks after the conference, with government funding, representatives from each state and territory met to organise a People Living With AIDS Coalition. Later, a conference on AIDS and the Australian sex industry led to the formation of a national Australian Prostitutes Collective, and a meeting of representatives of intravenous drug users established the IV League. The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, comprising AIDS Councils in each state and territory, offered each of these three groups membership and support, reconfirming its role as the peak community association on AIDS.

Community involvement in AIDS programs had been a feature of AIDS policy since the disease first appeared on the Australian public agenda in 1983. Voluntary groups within the Sydney and Melbourne gay communities were the first to mobilise support services for people with AIDS and collaborated with a few medical



specialists on research into the transmission and progression of HIV infection. When the federal and state governments began to develop and fund AIDS programs in November 1984 these groups were the only available reservoirs of expertise in community education and care.

Committed to community participation in public health, Minister for Health Neal Blewett encouraged recognition and funding of the AIDS Councils. He appointed both a medical and scientific AIDS Task Force and a National Advisory Committee on AIDS (NACAIDS), composed of representatives of professions, state and federal governments and community groups. Both were effective in promoting public awareness and providing professional education but, under their respective chairs, Professor David Penington and Ms Ita Buttrose, they developed rival strategies for changing behaviour. While Penington emphasised the need for medical control and HIV testing, NACAIDS and the AIDS Councils stressed community-based education in safer sex practices. Despite these differences, and the initial refusal of the Queensland Government to collaborate with its AIDS Council and with NACAIDS programs, a strong consensus on education emerged within an expanding AIDS policy. Meanwhile AIDS policy remained non-partisan with the aid of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Liaison Group.

During 1987 the first national public awareness campaign, produced by NACAIDS and focusing on the Grim Reaper, resulted in open controversy between Penington and Buttrose on the nature of heterosexual risk of HIV transmission. The campaign also led to a substantial increase in public concern, mobilisation of churches, business and other groups, and a growth in government funding of, and bureaucratic controls over, proliferating research, education, care and treatment programs. Blewett, who was promoted to cabinet as Minister for Community Services and Health after the 1987 elections, responded with a restructuring of advisory bodies and a review of national strategy.

After the resignations of Penington in 1987 and Buttrose early in 1988 Blewett, with state government support, replaced the Task Force and NACAIDS with a new Australian National Council on AIDS (ANCA), chaired by Professor Peter Karmel and supported by a

National AIDS Forum. An Intergovernmental Committee on AIDS, bringing together federal and state officials, provided co-ordination on finance and programs. The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, which had united the state AIDS Councils since 1985, was given increased recognition and funding for its education and care programs.

Since policy on AIDS was becoming increasingly complex, with massive financial implications, Blewett set in train a broad review of policy. The review, directed by Elizabeth Reid, produced a lengthy policy discussion paper which was jointly launched in November 1988 by Blewett and the new shadow minister, Shack, and tabled in federal and state parliaments. It was intended to serve as the basis for wide consultations, leading to an eventual White Paper on the federal government's national strategy on AIDS. Although the options presented in the discussion paper were broad, it seemed unlikely that the White Paper would produce a major shift in the established consensus on AIDS policies.

It is difficult to estimate the shift in Australian values that had taken place as a result of AIDS by 1988. As Blewett pointed out at the Hobart conference, five years earlier it would have been unthinkable to use public transport for promoting condoms for safe sex, to broadcast radio commercials concerning bisexual husbands and to distribute free syringes to drug addicts. It would also have been electorally disastrous for governments to engage in these programs, yet they provoked no substantial partisan or public debate.

Despite Tuckey's outburst, the commitment to determining AIDS policy, in the light of dispassionate analysis of the technical implications of HIV transmission, remained intact during 1988. The commitment to community involvement in public health policy was also renewed despite the inevitable growth in AIDS bureaucracy at both federal and state levels. Both of these commitments required political leadership on an issue that would never win elections. Although there is no accepted basis for evaluating Australia's record, overseas AIDS specialists with a fund of comparative experience continued to find Australia's management of AIDS exceptionally enlightened and innovative.

J. A. BALLARD

