

# JULY

**1 July** On the last day of the NSW school term, the newly-formed School Students' Union organised a rally in Macquarie Place Park to protest against recent education changes announced by NSW Education Minister Terry Metherell during the budget session. Police estimated that 5500 people attended the rally. A similar protest was held in Newcastle's Civic Park. Further rallies were held throughout NSW on 27 July.



*One of the many demonstrations held by school children in NSW to protest against changes to the NSW education system. Photograph by Jack Atley, Sydney Morning Herald, 26 June 1988.*

**1 July** A dispute at the Seoul branch of the Westpac Banking Corporation was settled when management agreed on a 17.4 per cent wage increase and payments of 90 per cent of the strikers' salary for the 37 days of their walkout. Bank manager Hugh Spring issued a written apology for locking the striking Korean employees inside the bank on 27 May.

**1 July** Federal legislation banning the opening or operating of bank accounts under false names came into effect. Offenders are liable to two years gaol or a \$5000 fine, or both. Companies could face a fine of \$25 000.

**1 July** Control of the 164-year-old Tasmanian brewery Cascade passed from Sir Ron Brierley's Industrial Equity Ltd to the NZ liquor company Wilson Neill Ltd for more than \$100 million.

**1 July** The deputy prime minister of NZ, Geoffrey Palmer, and the Australian deputy prime minister, Lionel Bowen, signed a memorandum of understanding in Darwin in which the two governments will review areas of business law and regulatory practices that impede trade between Australia and New Zealand. The review is to be completed by 30 June 1990.

**1 July** The federal government announced a commission of inquiry into the tourism industry to be conducted by the Industries Assistance Commission. The commission, under its terms of reference, is required to 'identify and report on the factors affecting the development of the industries including major impediments to competitiveness and efficiency' by 30 June 1989. It will examine the effects of penalty rates on efficiency, overseas advertising, and the need for better international airports.

**1 July** Japan's prime minister, Noboru Takeshita, arrived in Brisbane on a five-day visit, which included trade talks with Prime Minister Bob Hawke and a visit to Expo '88.



*Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita protects himself against the unpredictable greeting of a koala. Photograph by David May, Time Australia, 11 July 1988.*

**1 July** The Electricity Trust of SA secured a \$105 million settlement package from its insurers to pay compensation for damage caused by the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires.

**2 July** Suzanne Vernon, a Roman Catholic leader of the Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW) in Wollongong, accompanied by the MOW Anglican leader Dr Patricia Brennan, left Sydney for the US to study the role of women in US churches and the level of support for women priests. Vernon, a high school teacher with two children, claimed that 'the injustice in denying women a full share in the ministry and management of the Church after 2000 years is crippling the Church'.

**2 July** Members of the extreme right-wing group Action Française protested outside the Australian Embassy in Paris over Australia's support for an independent New Caledonia.

**2 July** Australian immunologist Professor Bede Morris died, aged 62, in a car crash near Paris. In 1979 he carried out the first successful experiments mixing cattle species when he transplanted a calf embryo taken from a Friesian cow into the uterus of a Brahman cow. His work on the immune response system foreshadowed the use of in-vitro fertilisation techniques.

**3 July** The ships that took part in the First Fleet Re-enactment were decommissioned in a ceremony at Darling Harbour.

**3 July** New Zealand defeated Australia 32-7 in the first rugby union test at Concord Oval, Sydney.

**4 July** The Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld resumed hearings in Brisbane. Commissioner Tony Fitzgerald foreshadowed the establishment of a permanent anti-corruption commission when he announced that the inquiry would be wound up with 'no possibility' of eliminating corruption. He attacked elements of the media and the Qld police, claiming that they had spread disinformation throughout the community in an attempt to erode public and political support for the inquiry.

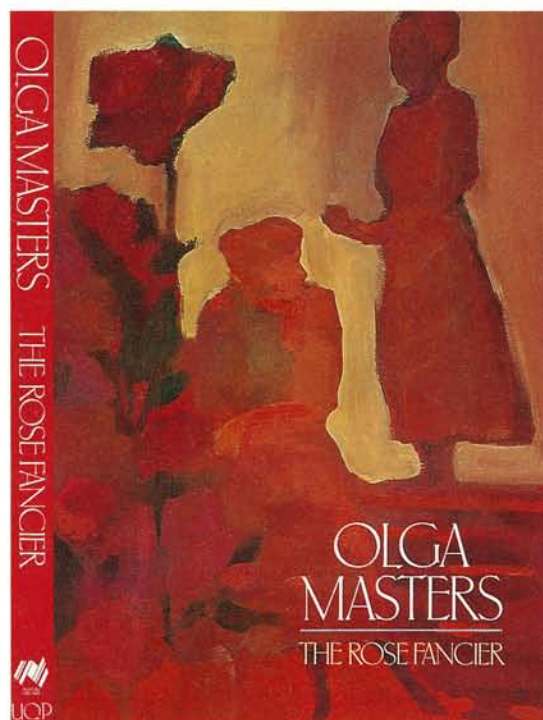
**4 July** The NSW Department of Roads and Traffic invited submissions from private com-

panies to build and operate a tollway between Buladelah and Coolongolook (north of Newcastle) as part of the Liberal government's plan to encourage non-government road building.

**4 July** At the NSW Central Local Court twelve prisoners from Parklea Prison faced charges relating to a riot in the maximum security wing of the gaol on 13 December 1987. To maximise security, only four prisoners were allowed in the dock, the rest watched proceedings from their holding cells on closed-circuit televisions, talking to their lawyers via a telephone link.

**4 July** The bulk ore carrier freighter *Singa sea* was wrecked about 1200 nautical miles off the coast of Perth during heavy seas. The Singapore-registered vessel, with 25 Filipino crew, left the port of Bunbury, WA, with a cargo of mineral sands bound for Rotterdam.

**4 July** Olga Masters' *The rose fancier and other stories*, published by the University of Queensland Press, was launched during Manly's Bicentennial Writers' Festival. Masters, who lived in the nearby suburb of Balgowlah and worked on



Front cover designed by Christopher McVinish using an illustration by Cynthia Breusch.  
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND PRESS

## A 'WANT OF NECESSARIES'

**4 July 1788** 'Sir, Among the troops, their wives and children, as well as among the convicts who have been ill, the want of necessaries to aid the operation of medicine has been most materially and sensibly felt. My duty leads me to mention this circumstance to your Excellency in order that you may use such means for their procurement as may seem most expedient.

'For your Excellency's information I have taken the liberty to insert the articles in the margin which come under the head of necessaries, to which I beg leave to add blankets and sheets for the hospital, none of which are in the colony, altho' they are essential and absolutely necessary. The want of them makes that observance and attention to cleanliness (a circumstance which among sick persons cannot be too much inculcated or attended to), utterly impossible. With respect to necessaries, our situation here, constantly living on salt provisions without any possibility of a change, makes them more necessary than perhaps in any other quarter of the globe. I have the honour to be, with respect, Sir, your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servant John White, Surgeon.'

SURGEON GENERAL JOHN WHITE

the local paper the *Manly Daily*, died in October 1986.

**4 July** Fiji coup leader Brigadier Rabuka applied for a visa to visit Australia to promote his book, *No other way*, on the coup. Prime Minister Bob Hawke refused the application, citing security problems as a reason for the rejection.

**5 July** Twenty-eight thousand coalminers began a seven-day strike, their second national strike in less than three weeks, to protest against moves by Qld and NSW coal associations to secure award changes. The changes included provision for weekend mining, nine-hour shifts to replace the current seven-hour shifts, and an end to the industry's annual three-week shut down at Christmas.

**5 July** In response to an increase in the number of Canadians visiting Australia, the federal government signed a trade agreement with Canada giving Canadian Airlines greater landing rights in Australia with a reciprocal arrangement for Qantas in Canada.

**5 July** After a meeting in Tokyo with the Minister for Finance Kiichi Miyazawa, Treasurer Paul Keating told Japan's business leaders that much of Japan's economy appeared 'regulated and hidebound'. He called on Japan, the world's greatest creditor nation, to follow Australia's lead in cutting trade barriers and to demonstrate 'leadership by action'.

**5 July** A Soviet delegation met government and business representatives in Canberra, Perth, Sydney and Melbourne to discuss expansion of trade between Australia and the USSR. Prime Minister Bob Hawke and a senior Soviet official, Vladimir Kamentsev, discussed the possibility of increased Australian exports to the USSR, and possible joint ventures, including mineral extraction in Australia and the use of Australian parts for refuelling Soviet fishing vessels.

**5-7 July** Widespread flooding in SA, NSW and Qld forced the evacuation of homes and cut communications.

**6 July** Victorian rail and tram workers were joined by power workers and metal trades and building workers in a 24-hour strike over the state government's refusal to support an immediate 6 per cent pay rise.

**6 July** Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski unveiled a plaque at the Victoria Barracks, Sydney, dedicated to the French Canadian political prisoners, who were sentenced by the British government to transportation for rebelling against British domination. The exiles helped to build the Victoria Barracks.

**6 July** Solicitors for Kelvin Condren, a 27-year-old Aborigine who was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Patricia Carlton in Mt Isa, Qld, in 1983, presented Qld Governor Sir Walter Campbell with a petition asking for a pardon or a referral of the case to the Qld Court of Criminal Appeal. The pet-



*Kelvin Condren inside Townsville gaol, Qld. Australian, 30-31 July 1988.*

ition claims that Condren was in police custody when the murder took place.

**7 July** The NSW cabinet's Policies and Priorities Committee decided that no changes would be made to the HSC curriculum until 1990 at the earliest. About 70 000 TAFE students, including those on unemployment benefit or from low-income families, migrants studying English language courses and students enrolled in courses designated for Aboriginal people, will be exempt from the \$100 administration fee introduced in the May mini-budget. The Higher School Certificate would contain the controversial aggregate result, now renamed 'tertiary entry score'.

**7 July** At the opening session of the Twenty-first Post-Ministerial Conference of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Bangkok, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden advocated that delegates should follow Canberra's lead on sanctions against South Africa, which had given 'hope and encouragement to the non-whites' in South Africa. Delegates included US Secretary of State George Shultz, Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister

Sousuke Uno and West German Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. While in Bangkok Hayden held talks with Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas on Indonesian fishing boats in Australian waters. Under a 1974 agreement traditional Indonesian fishermen who use *sailing* boats may fish in certain areas of Australian waters but during 1988 a number of *motorised* Indonesian fishing boats had been apprehended and their crew members repatriated at Australian government expense.

**7 July** Federal cabinet approved a proposal to introduce legislation giving the ACT self-government. Voting for the 17-member Legislative Assembly would be on the basis of proportional representation. The new body would be given powers similar to the NT legislature and the same powers as the states to raise taxes and charges. The federal government would retain control of the police and courts. Under the proposal, Canberra's planning body, the National Capital Development Commission, would be disbanded and a National Capital Planning Authority established to protect the Parliamentary triangle and surrounds. The new

administration would have responsibility for local planning matters. The Senate passed the legislation on 25 November. Elections for the ACT Assembly were held on 4 March 1989.

**8 July** At a meeting in Brisbane, the Australian Council of Conservation Ministers approved the sale of Australian crocodile products from designated crocodile farms, ending a fifteen-year ban.

**8 July** The federal government released a discussion paper *Science for everybody*, which aimed to focus debate on science education among the community and in schools. The paper states:

At school we used to learn that Australia rode on the sheep's back. Now economists are predicting a very bumpy ride into the twenty-first century unless we change vehicles. Escape from banana republic status lies with science and technology.

**8 July** The Australian Electoral Commission announced that, after a recount of votes, Nuclear Disarmament Party candidate Irina Dunn had won the vacant twelfth seat in the NSW Senate over her nearest contender Elaine Nile of the Call to Australia Party. The seat was left vacant in May when the High Court ruled that former NDP Senator Robert Wood, a British immigrant, was not qualified to stand for federal parliament because he was not an Australian citizen at the time of election.

**8 July** The ACTU called off a threatened national strike for 15 July after meeting with Industrial Relations Minister Ralph Willis. The government agreed that workers would be able to pursue second-tier claims as well as a new wage increase that maintained existing living standards. The concessions were aimed at lower paid workers with outstanding second-tier claims who would have had to wait up to nine months for a pay rise under the government's initial submission to the national wage case.

**8 July** An anonymous donor paid \$60 000 in court fines for the federal secretary of the deregistered Builders' Labourers Federation, Norm Gallagher. The fines were imposed on 5 September 1985 when he was found guilty on

fifteen counts of receiving secret commissions. Gallagher, claiming he was innocent, had refused to pay. As he left the Melbourne County Court, Gallagher was served a summons alleging that he owed almost \$200 000 in unpaid taxes and penalties.

**8 July** Limited rail and tram services resumed in Melbourne after maintenance workers from the Electrical Trades Union voted to go back to work after an eight-day strike. The Victorian state government refused demands for an immediate 6 per cent wage rise.

**8 July** Australia and NZ abolished the Australia Games as the event was not financially viable. Originally intended to be held every two years, the inaugural Australia Games was held in Melbourne from 26 January to 3 February 1985.

**8 July** Aborigines in NSW celebrated National Aborigines Day, which aims to create awareness of Aboriginal culture. The day, marking the culmination of National Aboriginal Week, is not officially recognised by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs — in 1984 the department decided that 9 September would be National Aborigines Day. Despite lack of federal funding, Aborigines celebrated with open days, marches, film screenings, dances and concerts.

**8 July** The Australian Writers Guild held its twenty-first annual Awgie Awards. Anthony Wheeler won the best script and best original work for television for *Olive*, a film based on the story of his wife, actress Olive Bodill, who died of cancer in Sydney in 1984. The film was screened on ABC television. The award for best screenplay was shared by John Duigan, *The year my voice broke*, and Paul Cockburn, *Afraid to dance*. David Williamson's *Emerald city* won best stage play.

**8–21 July** Two hundred and sixty-eight contestants competed in the Twenty-ninth International Mathematical Olympiad held in Canberra. Australia came seventeenth with one gold, won by twelve-year-old Terence Tao of Adelaide, and one bronze, won by Geoffrey Bailey of Sydney. The USSR team came first with four gold and two silver medals.

**9 July** Great Britain defeated Australia 26–12 in the third rugby league test at the Sydney Football Stadium.

**PHILLIP'S SECOND REPORT HOME**

**10 July 1788** '... I have the Honor of informing your Lordship that the Natives have ever been treated with the greatest Humanity and Attention, and every Precaution that was possible, has been taken to prevent their receiving any Insults and when I shall have time [I plan] to reconcile them to live amongst us and to teach them the Advantages they will reap from cultivating the Land which will enable them to support themselves . . .

[With] respect to the Soil, I have had the Honor of informing your Lordship, that near the Head of the Harbour, there is a Tract of Country, running to the Westward for many Miles which appears to be in general, rich, good Land, the Breadth of this Tract of Country I have not yet been able to examine, but believe to be considerable. These Lands . . . may be settled and the Ground cleared of Timber, without . . . great Labour we experience . . .'

**11 July** Chief Justice of the High Court Sir Anthony Mason presented the keynote address to the Australian Bar Association Conference in Townsville, Qld, in which he paved the way for the reopening of debate on the need for an Australian Bill of Rights. Previously, Sir Anthony had been opposed to the bill but now, while not 'enthusiastically' embracing a Bill of Rights, he recognised that it had 'much more virtue than I perceived initially'.

**11 July** The leader of the federal National Party, Ian Sinclair, sparked a public outcry when he criticised Bill Hayden and his wife Dallas after speculation that Hayden would be offered the position of Governor-General. Sinclair stated that the position was a 'dual job' that required an 'effective team' with both hus-



*Nicholson's jibe at the leadership aspirations of Treasurer Paul Keating as Prime Minister Bob Hawke considers candidates for the position of governor-general. Age, 11 July 1988.*

band and wife working 'independently and together' in the job. Pressed on what he was referring to, Sinclair said 'If you don't know the how and the why I suggest that 90 per cent of other Australians would know exactly what I'm talking about.' Allegations of shoplifting against Dallas Hayden were dropped in 1987 after NSW Police Commissioner John Avery reviewed a medical report.

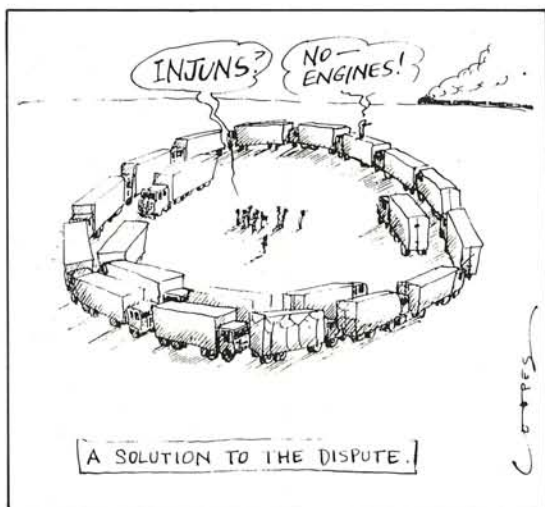
**11 July** A six-million litre petrol storage tank ruptured at the Ampol-owned Circle Petroleum depot in the inner Brisbane suburb of Eagle Farm. A state of emergency was declared and nearby suburbs were evacuated as petrol fumes enveloped the area.

**11 July** The Brisbane *Courier-Mail*, owned by Queensland Newspapers Ltd, published an article by Melbourne journalist Sarah Henderson, which claimed that protection procedures for witnesses giving evidence in the Fitzgerald Commission of Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld prevented police from executing a warrant on a former prostitute allegedly wanted in relation to an armed hold-up of a Brisbane hotel in March 1988. The woman, who gave evidence under the pseudonym Katherine James, told the commission that corrupt payments protected brothel operations and she named police who she claimed took free sexual favours at massage parlours. However, Commissioner Fitzgerald had previously indicated that the commission would be willing to reveal the location of the witness to police if and when the

police decided to proceed against her. Fitzgerald added that he would consider recommending, in his final report, greater restrictions on publication of proceedings of similar inquiries in the future.

**11 July** The NSW government ban on the catching of gemfish, which is in danger of extinction, came into operation. The ban was imposed because the total allowable catch had been reached.

**11-15 July** Truck owner-drivers blockaded highways throughout Australia, including the Mt Barker freeway, SA; the Hume Highway at Yass, NSW; the Goulburn Valley Highway on the outskirts of Goulburn, NSW; the Cunningham Highway at Aratula, between Ipswich and Warwick, Qld; and the Great Eastern Highway at suburban Greenmount about 20 kilometres northeast of Perth. The drivers were protesting against increases to registration fees for interstate trucks and the demerit points system for drivers caught speeding. The blockades ended when drivers decided to accept a peace package offered by Transport Minister Senator Gareth Evans on 14 July. The package included freezing federal registration charges until July 1990; allowing drivers to pay the charges by instalment; and promising to address drivers' concerns at a special meeting of federal and state transport ministers in September.



*Truck drivers smoke the peace pipe. Cartoon by Jenny Coopes, Age, 16 July 1988.*

## ENVIRONMENT

The environmental movement entered the bicentennial year with growing support in middle-class circles, and an improving record in legal disputations embracing a wide range of national and local issues involving the 'built' and 'natural' environments — freeways, historic buildings and precincts, city parks, wild rivers and scenic wilderness tracts under threat from miners, the timber and woodchip industries and exporters. The movement had already attracted support in trades union circles, but harder economic times had created other priorities for Australian workers, and conservation enthusiasts were beginning to find that their most bitter opposition came from surprising coalitions of unionists and employers. Nonetheless the movement had reaped the benefits of its own increasingly sophisticated management approaches and research, as well as intense media coverage of crucial issues demonstrating the costs of environmental damage to the health and fundamental security of all human beings. The host of conservationist bodies commanded a very large collective membership and astute vote-catchers in the federal Labor party had persuaded their colleagues to show greater sensitivity towards environmental matters; in turn, the conservationists had decided to practise their lobbying skills. In the process, bitter confrontations had broken out between Commonwealth and state governments, since the latter retained important constitutional rights over land and other basic resources. For the most part, events in 1988 intensified earlier trends, but the Bicentennial celebrations gave them a special urgency.

The grand opening of the new Parliament House was one of the most historic events of the year, and it was suitably invested with symbolism. The architects, Mitchell/Giurgola and Thorp, combined with the landscape architecture firm of P.G. Rolland and Associates to deliver a product that would respect the spirit infusing Walter Burley Griffin's Canberra plan — a plan depending on precise order and geometric form, which also balanced the need for hard formality and the demand for flexible 'livable' spaces. The design picked up and reinforced Canberra's axial framework and the immense structure is surmounted by a towering national flag, easily recognisable from various quarters of the capital, even where the building



*Louisa Anne Meredith, A cool debate (c1891), pencil, watercolour and gum.*

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA, TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY HOBART

itself is obscured. A slice of twenty metres was removed from the top of Capital Hill and the new building was used to fill the space. So the people's symbol — the flag — ruled over the accommodation provided for the people's servants, and the structure was made to blend into the terrain, and into the existing urban fabric — a welcome departure in a society that has shown an overly aggressive approach to the landscape. History will evaluate its acceptability; like any other great edifice, it will accrue social significance over time and may even become the subject of earnest debate on historical preservation. It was, at any rate, a useful reminder that most of the built environment in Australia is very young by world standards, and that the most active local conservationists have been primarily concerned with protecting Australia's distinctive natural or near-natural environments.

That is not to say that the fates of historic buildings and streetscapes, and even some historic rural landscapes, have not engaged the attention of many committed preservationists — far from it. The *Australian Heritage Commis-*

*sion Act of 1975* established a body with that name to advise on the definition and protection of a 'National Estate' that encompassed 'natural' and 'cultural' environments. Before the end of 1987 more than 8500 places had been formally registered or inserted in an interim list, with at least another 3000 nominations still under consideration. At that time about 75 per cent of all nominations received were for historic places, partly in reaction to the frenzied redevelopment of central city and inner-suburban districts in the state capitals and reflecting the community's greater ease in identifying with specific structures. New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania were particularly well represented in the national list, and Aboriginal sites provided only 7 per cent of the whole. With occasional exceptions, however, the preservation of the built environment did not attract wide community attention during the late 1980s, and in 1988 comparatively more interest was shown in the reports of the staggering losses of productive land by accelerated erosion and salinisation, and in the monumental



efforts of groups and individuals to save what remained of our diminishing legacy in the natural environment category.

The daunting environmental problems under the gloomy heading of 'land degradation' — of which the multi-million dollar crisis of soil salinisation is possibly the most graphic — continued to remind Australians of the existence of a brooding desert heart. Descriptions of harrowing 'desertification' over large areas of the Outback had emerged during the 1970s, and various degrading processes were identified for much productive farming land in each state. Eventually it was generally admitted that despoilation from salting was very severe in some prime dry farming regions, but the sorry condition of certain irrigation districts — which had held out such extravagant promises to earlier generations — caught more of the public imagination. By 1988 it was becoming clear that the problem could be explained by a composite of natural and society-made factors: particularly the presence of highly saline underground water trapped in ancient marine sediments, together with overwatering and wanton overclearing for more than a century. Most of the worst damage has been recorded in the Murray-Darling Basin, which stretches from Queensland to South Australia, with the most

ominous concentrations in Victoria's irrigation areas; on the other hand, some places in Western Australia have suffered equally serious effects. The 1970s and 1980s had brought a proud resurrection of Victoria's old title, the 'Garden State'. The irony was not lost on an anxious community, and research, education and rehabilitation measures drew incessant interest throughout the later 1980s.

The bicentennial year also saw a further maturing of the environmental movement. In the later 1980s, people commonly used 'environmentalism' and 'conservationism' to mean the same thing: in fact the two terms are not easily separated and no attempt is made to do so here. For convenience, direct action is considered characteristic of both, though this is often more evident in voting predilections, financial commitments, and reading and recreational preferences than in forceful demonstrations. Australia saw a definite growth in this type of community involvement throughout the 1980s; in 1987–88 an interventionist or conservationist front consolidated some early gains and achieved a number of spectacular results against considerable odds, notably in the reservation of huge new national parks in every state and in the Northern Territory. But at the end of 1988 many protesters remained pessimistic about the condition of an environment — varied, often hostile and just as often misinterpreted — which had been further abused in the midst of the heady rounds of celebrations. During the year, large global dilemmas touched Australia, and other problems were more firmly anchored in the local scene; both required intense dialogue at several levels.

At the end of 1987 anxious bureaucrats, scientists and politicians were conceding that the much-publicised warnings about the Greenhouse Effect belonged in the real world, and not in science fiction: indeed, many admitted that the issue was as urgent as nuclear warfare in its capacity to threaten the future of life on the planet. The process involves human-induced climatic changes on a global scale, especially by means of a widespread warming associated with deforestation, the burning of fossil fuels and the consequent build-up of carbon dioxide, methane and other gases in the atmosphere. No country is immune. Sea-level rises of 300–1400 mm following polar ice melts were confidently projected for the next 50 or 100 years, with huge impacts on coastal towns and cities, fisheries



*The effects of salinisation caused by excessive land cultivation and tree felling, Quairading, W.A. Photograph by Kevin Diletti.*

and estuarine ecosystems. Environmental scientists warned that, over that short time span, there might be large migrations in the world's weather patterns. There would be compensatory shifts in the great farming belts, including those of Australia, and the massive repercussions on international trade seemed bound to produce economic and strategic instabilities.

Australia's envied beaches and snowfields were under notice; high-rolling investors in luxurious canal estates on Queensland's Gold Coast were judged hopelessly imprudent; predicted flood hazards in central-city and inner suburban locations took on alarming proportions. Although the response to the early interpretations sometimes bordered on hysteria, the predominating threat cannot be denied. There was an overdue diffusion of information about the Greenhouse Effect in 1987 and 1988. A favoured topic in geography and environmental science classes at secondary and tertiary levels throughout the 1980s, it had gained credence and notoriety in the wider community after the Russian and American space programs provided surprising images of a rare and fragile earth, and after the Mt St Helens eruption and the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power station demonstrated the awesome potential for catastrophe in a shrinking, interdependent world. Community attitudes remained dangerously parochial, but the stock market crash of 19 October 1987 contributed something to a change in our thinking.

The promised extraordinary rates of environmental change will disrupt vital natural systems to the extent that the capacity for adaptation will be tried to the limit. Reduced emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas, and tougher policies on energy conservation, will buy precious time, but the emergence of alternative lower-risk energy technologies is fraught with any number of social, political and economic traumas. What do we do with Australia's huge coal reserves, and are we to abandon earlier policies by increasing our dependency on nuclear fuel, merely because Australia is so well endowed with uranium ore? The North-West Shelf natural gas project, which moved quietly into its final development stages in 1988, is expected to reach a daily production target of about 228 million cubic metres of liquified gas in 1995 — more than 20 per cent greater than the current energy consumption of Melburnians on a cool winter's day. Remote-

ness has guarded it from public assessment, but it is probably the world's largest processing and construction venture, on the same scale as the much-vaunted England-France Channel tunnel, and approximately three times more expensive than the giant Snowy Mountains scheme. Its total cost has been set at \$1400 million, and it is destined to supply one-fifth of Japan's liquified natural gas imports, half of Western Australia's non-transport fuel and much of the industrial and domestic energy requirements of the rest of Australia. In 1988, environmentalists were challenging the very existence of the mammoth project by citing another value — plain survival.

Community anxieties over the Greenhouse Effect were repeatedly linked (and sometimes confused) with another disruption of atmospheric processes caused by human agency — the depletion of the ozone layer, especially by chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs. As it happens, these gases do add to the Greenhouse Effect, but the predicted outcomes are somewhat different. Ozone provides a type of natural sunscreen, a protection from harmful ultra-violet radiation. Direct effects of the depletion include increases in human skin cancers and other profound consequences for the immune system; the depletion can also reduce or pollute the minute plankton in the oceans, which could transform the entire food chain. The campaign for the banning of CFCs in spray cans and refrigeration equipment was stepped up in the later 1980s, and by 1988 minor successes had been recorded in a few States, notably in Tasmania, where the government proceeded to implement the bans.

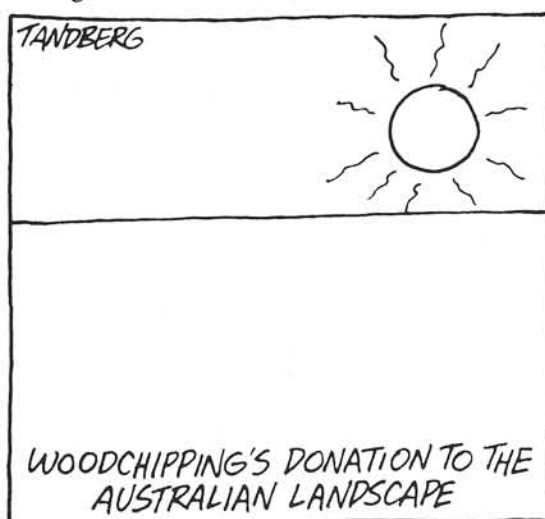
Australia's popular communications media offered a useful forum for the debate on these harrowing issues, and the latest scientific expertise was regularly paraded. In 1988, press commentaries suggested a global warming of between 1.5 and 4 degrees Celsius over the next 40 years. We were cautioned that the increasing load of Greenhouse gases would bring about a change in energy retentiveness and hence important alterations in wind patterns, possibly an increasing frequency of cyclones and tornadoes, dust storms and wind erosion, and further desertification in the arid regions of the world: not only the devastated areas of Africa, but also the marginal sections of the Australian outback. Virtually all of our conservation organisations were attuned to such concerns. Conservationists saw the large-scale, long-range

changes in remote parts of the globe as no less tangible and demanding than their local involvement in high-profile rescue operations, which had been used to establish ambiguous reputations for conservationists in the simplified imagery promoted by developers — and by development-orientated politicians who seemed incapable of moving beyond short-term strategies. In October 1988 the Australian Conservation Foundation, the leading environmental lobbyist, devoted much of its annual conference to global themes and the associated role and capacity of the Australian contribution. 'Australia's place in the wider world' took on a greater significance than the organisers of our seemingly interminable Bicentennial celebrations had ever bargained on. Similarly, in November the government-sponsored Commission for the Future arranged a 'Pan-Australian' conference on the Greenhouse Effect, using modern satellite facilities to link 10 major cities across the country.

With those exceptions, conservationists were principally occupied with their normal business of saving and improving Australia's natural and built environments. The efforts of earlier years had provided much of the framework for action, but as a prominent social movement environmentalism was obliged to respond to community aspirations. Innovative legislation had been introduced in the 1970s and 1980s to ensure that environmental impact statements would accompany every development proposal, and the 'Heritage' Acts were available to protect valued sites and regions. The conservationists' multi-faceted task was complicated by the pressing need to research the economic and social contexts of every issue on which they proposed to make a stand. They tried to bring conservationist philosophies and the techniques of environmental science into the forefront of economic and social policy-making, while encouraging debate on the vexed questions of the ultimate ownership of and responsibility for valued scientific resources. In 1988 this widened function was well illustrated in the continuing saga of rainforest protection and divisiveness over the fate of the Great Barrier Reef.

Tasmania's governments have been remarkably adept at sacrificing environment for development, and in the twentieth century hydro-electricity and timber production have made the greatest inroads. Lake Pedder was drowned in 1973 despite a vigorous national campaign to

save it, and the Lagoon of Islands suffered a similar fate. Over the past 25 years the state's wilderness area has been halved; the change has been particularly noticeable in the east and northwest, and conservationists of all persuasions have been angered by relentless land clearance and the destruction of historic buildings. The furore over Lake Pedder and the conservationists' landmark victory in the Franklin River dispute demonstrated that the state's wilderness devotees commanded national and international support and, notwithstanding angry confrontations with local unions and state governments, the rate of wilderness loss has been slowed over the past decade. The conservation cause has been promoted by the federally administered Heritage Act, and in recent years the work of the national Heritage Commission has been augmented by Australia's participation in UNESCO's program of World Heritage listings. Much disagreement has resulted from the latter negotiations, and heated opposition to timbergetting and woodchipping in Tasmania's temperate rainforests remained prominent throughout 1988.



*Detail from a cartoon by Ron Tandberg, Age, 27 December 1988.*

Proclaimed World Heritage Areas are protected by the Commonwealth government. The Commonwealth has the power — successfully tested in the High Court — to prevent development in actual or potential areas, and it can enforce compliance by, for example, withdrawing export licences from transgressing companies. But the Tasmanian timber industry is a large traditional employer, well ensconced on the island. Workers challenged the 'greenies',



Above. *The Lemonthyme and Southern Forests contain some of the most rugged country in Australia, as well as buttongrass plains, alpine meadows and commercially useless snowgums. Photograph by Bob Burton.*

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Right. *Picton Valley, Tas. Without reforestation, logging can cause severe soil degradation and erosion. Photograph by Dave Heatley, April 1986.*

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY



and when the conservation vote was spurned by the state's main parties it was snapped up by a range of independents. Occasionally the federal Labor party chose to court the environmentalists and found itself on a collision course with Tasmania's governments.

In December 1982 an area of 700 000 hectares — the Western Tasmania Wilderness National Parks — was added to the World Heritage list. Despite the publicity received at the time, vigilant conservationists knew that the land set aside was too limited to guarantee ecological integrities, especially as it incorporated numerous narrow tongues and small outliers. That view was well understood and respected by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, which carries out the evaluations of World Heritage nominations. When commercial foresters made claims on the adjacent unclassified Lemonthyme and Southern Forest regions, another battle ensued. Instead of taking up the obvious option and proceeding with a fresh nomination for an expanded area, the national government was persuaded by the uncertainties surrounding an impending federal election, and

by the vigorous demands of the industrialists and state parliamentarians, to introduce the Lemonthyme and Southern Forests Commission of Inquiry. Following its first meeting in May 1987 it became known as the Helsham Inquiry, after the name of the presiding judge. A ban on logging was imposed for the first year of deliberations.

The combined area under investigation comprised approximately 280 000 hectares, 65 per cent of which was described as rugged country with alpine meadows, buttongrass plains and commercially useless snowgums. Some of the flora had been shown to be ancient, scientists agreed that the wildlife was highly significant, and examples of 400-year-old tall trees were enthusiastically noted. The conservationist argument underlined the fact that Australia possessed only five sites of very tall virgin eucalypt forest in continuous areas of more than 3000 hectares; all of those sites were located in western Tasmania, four in the designated Southern Forests region. The 'natural property' of that region appeared to satisfy all four criteria required for World Heritage classification — it contained very significant and representative

examples of the earth's evolutionary history; important illustrations of continuing geological and biological processes; exceptional natural beauty; and the habitats of rare and threatened species. Most successful overseas nominations complied with only one or two of those standards. Even so, in December 1987 the Helsham Inquiry's interim report permitted small extensions for logging, pleasing nobody. Its final report, presented to federal Cabinet in May 1988, produced further confusion as its majority (2:1) decision recommended that only 10 per cent of the study area was worthy of inclusion in the World Heritage register.

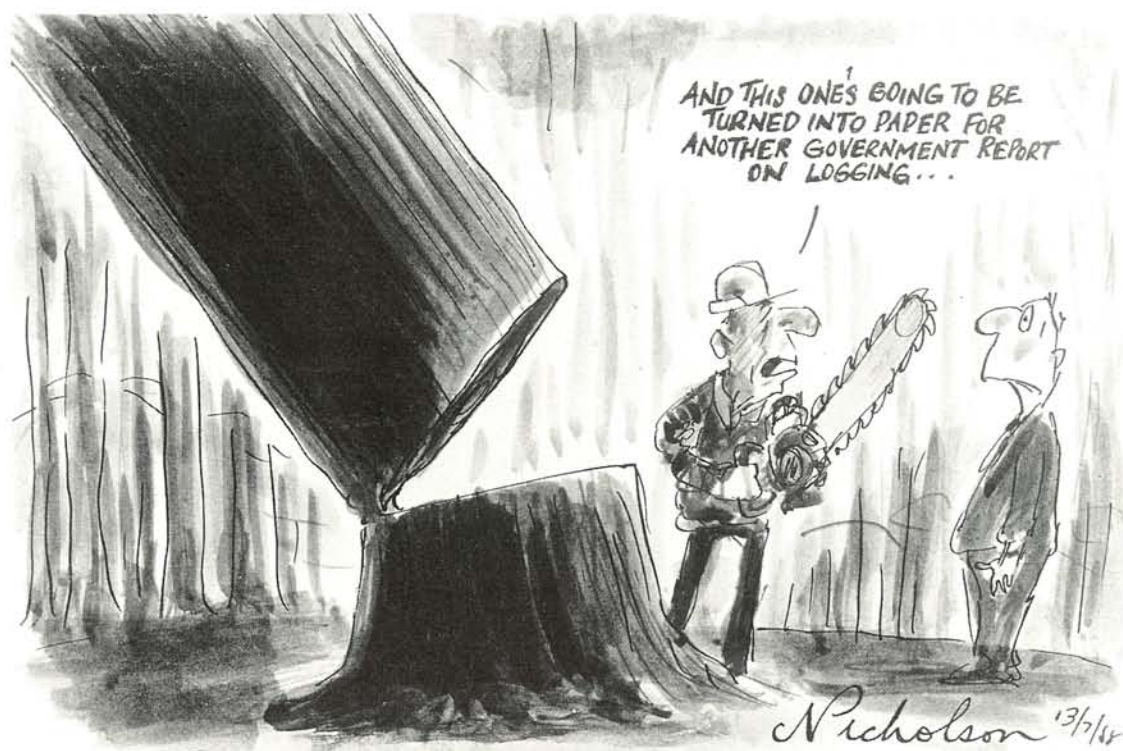
The timber industry took heart from this but complained that excellent sawlog resources were to be locked away. The conservationists rejected the main recommendations and nine of the eleven senior scientific witnesses publicly distanced themselves from the official findings. The Australian Labor Party's national conference was to be held in June 1988 and three forceful lobbyists for the environmental line — the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and the Wilderness Society — timed their legal challenge to coincide with the conference. Not to be outdone, Tasmania's Liberal government advised that a sizable compensation claim would be lodged with its tormentors in Canberra, and insisted that producers of minerals, timber and hydro-electricity had been disadvantaged by the inquiry. Federal Cabinet was deeply divided. Conservationists demanded that Environment Minister Senator Richardson should work for an adoption of the minority view that favoured a comprehensive listing. Resources Minister Senator Cook was pressed by the Tasmanian government and by the timber industry to back the case for development. An advertising war broke out in the press and on national television, there were lively demonstrations in Hobart and the Prime Minister received about 20 000 letters from wilderness supporters.

The fate of Tasmania's forests had caused the Cabinet more strife than any other single issue. Canberra's 'final' resolution was made in August 1988 in the shape of a cobbled compromise proposal. Some 80 per cent of the study area would be protected from logging and other developments, but this was not to be nominated for World Heritage listing, and \$40 million would be paid to the Tasmanian government as direct compensation for losses — providing

good assurances were given that appropriately managed protection policies would be carried out. The dispute raged on, and Canberra's standing was not improved in the last quarter of 1988 when federal backing was given to a \$1 billion wood pulp mill in the north of Tasmania: conservationists predicted massive impacts on unprotected forests, and vowed to fight the development.

If conservationism has its roots in urbane and middle-class Australia, the development-orientated states of Tasmania, Western Australia and Queensland and the remote 'frontier' communities of the Northern Territory have been less comfortable with the ideals of modern environmentalism. Environmental philosophy is nothing if not commodious; the relationship with the peace movement, and especially with nuclear disarmament, is very close, and there are strong affinities with the Aboriginal land rights movement. In 1988, these links were extended — in protests against the visits of nuclear-armed foreign vessels, the retention of American communication bases on Australian soil and the proposed mining of uranium in Kakadu National Park, and in the broad support given to the notion of a national 'treaty' with the Aboriginal people that admitted their prior ownership and dispossession. The interest in the land rights movement recognises the indigenous stewardship ethic and the high value it places on a spiritual bond with nature; that same belief, aligned with equally deep humanitarian goals, explains the other preoccupations. A widespread querying of Bicentennial excesses encouraged renewed discussion about the environmental limitations on population growth in Australia, and environmentalists added their own sober analyses to a media-fed debate that often took on alarmingly racist tones — essentially, the strongest environmentalist view emphasised that Australia had already reached the limits of its safe capacity, regardless of racial considerations. None of that was calculated to win over the nation's periphery, where environmentalism was frequently equated with 'rat-bag radicalism'. An uproar over Queensland's rainforests regularly captured national headlines in 1987–88; it portrayed the unfortunate atomisation of a young society that has still to come to terms with a vast and sometimes inscrutable land.

In December 1987 the federal government nominated the 'Wet Tropical Rainforests of



Cartoon by Nicholson, Sydney Morning Herald, 13 July 1988.

North-east Australia' for World Heritage listing. The omission of 'Queensland' in the title was portentous. The region cited extends for about 450 kilometres between Cooktown and Townsville; approximately 68 per cent was managed by the Queensland government as state parks and state timber reserves, and there were 41 so-called National Parks also managed by state authorities, together with some privately owned virgin rainforest. The region contained the Daintree wilderness, one of Australia's largest tracts of pristine tropical forest, and had been the focus of much dispute for more than a decade. For example, in 1980 the Daintree had been incorporated into the Cape Tribulation National Park by the Queensland government, and yet only two years later the same authorities gave money to the Douglas Shire Council to construct a 50-kilometre road through the forest — to stimulate tourist traffic and real estate development and, so it was said, to assist in the campaign against drug traffickers. Conservationists soon raised blockades and organised publicity stunts reminiscent of the successful campaign to save the Franklin; they also suggested World Heritage nomination, but the road was officially opened in October 1984. The poor response from

Canberra was noted and conservation activities became increasingly politicised in every state.

Faced with intransigent opposition from Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's crudely populist administration, Queensland's embattled environmentalists were determined to win federal intervention. The Queensland Rainforest Conservation Society reported to the Australian Heritage Commission on the outstanding significance of the region, thereby pointing to the Commonwealth government's obligation to protect it. Initially, the Heritage Commission could not persuade Environment Minister Barry Cohen to ignore the loud statements of Bjelke-Petersen and his colleagues. Eventually, Canberra conceded that Queensland would not fully participate in a national rainforest conservation program. Unilateral action was therefore required if Australia was to honour its responsibilities under the World Heritage Convention; hence the decision reached in December 1987.

The accompanying justification for the nomination established that the forests contained one of the most complete living records of the main stages in the evolution of land plants, which also offered an excellent account of the natural history of songbirds and marsupials. Its pro-

portions of endemic species and levels of species diversity were unusually high, reflecting the long isolation that has characterised Australia's wet tropics. In addition, the landscapes were aesthetically outstanding; the coastal scenery with its fringing reefs quite magnificent. The region provided the only known habitats for many rare animals and plants. In short, it fulfilled all four criteria set down by the international adjudicators. The nomination was favourably received, with some reservations about the need to clarify boundaries, ownership details and management guarantees. The Queensland government was less impressed by the challenge to State sovereignty and by what it saw as self-congratulatory claims that it could be shown that some of the world's oldest flowering plants had evolved in the rainforests under its care. Australia's international reputation was not enhanced by the spectacle of State ministers openly lobbying against the official nomination in Costa Rica and Paris, and the World Heritage Bureau made no secret of its distaste for the incessant wrangling. In October a visiting UNESCO assessor assured local conservationists that the nomination would be firmly ratified at the Bureau's Brazil meeting in December 1988, regardless of Queensland's disapproval.

To some extent, this discussion encroaches on the long-running dispute over the management of the Great Barrier Reef, situated off the northern coast of Queensland. Recent trends in the distribution of the State's population favour the tropical coast, especially around Cairns. It is a disturbing development, for in that vicinity the outer reefs are located within 20 kilometres of the mainland. Expansions in mining and agriculture have brought peculiar problems to the coastal wet tropics. The area under crops has increased by more than 150 per cent since the early 1950s, and pressures on the environment have been intensified by wholesale clearing operations and a prodigal employment of pesticides and artificial fertilisers. Mining and refining industries have transformed a number of coastal sites, while fostering a rapid increase in coastal shipping through the reef waters, thereby aggravating the hazards of oil spillage and shipwreck that interfere with coral growth.

Commercial fishing, chiefly for prawns, and the planned expansion of coastal mariculture may be releasing sufficient nutrient-rich water to affect reef development. Soil erosion resulting from

rainforest clearing and road construction smothers adjacent reefs and may seriously modify coral growth by reducing light penetration — the Cape Tribulation road in the Daintree is often cited. The rapacious Crown of Thorns starfish has been found in enormous numbers from time to time, but the extent of its depredations is still to be established. In another sense, the Great Barrier Reef is threatened by the very attractiveness of its natural wonders. From bases on the higher islands or nearby coastal resorts, hundreds of thousands of domestic and overseas tourists visit the reef each year. In February 1988 a five-storey floating hotel with accommodation for 356 guests was opened at John Brewer Reef, 70 kilometres northeast of Townsville. Local and regional ecological damage were declared inevitable by the furious opposition, who brushed aside ultra-modern technological safeguards for sewerage and other waste disposal. Inescapable shading effects and effluent from the hotel's salination plant seemed bound to disrupt the reef systems to some degree. At the end of the year the hi-tech project was declared a commercial flop, but conservationists remained vigilant (with some of them declaring, in addition, that a similar fate awaits the much-vaunted 'Very Fast Train' between Melbourne and Sydney).

A few of the northern developments were predicted 20 and even 50 years ago. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act was passed in 1974, and over the next 14 years complex management plans were drawn up between the state and Commonwealth governments. These plans drew upon increasingly sophisticated research on reef-making processes, coupled with an improving appreciation of the implications of regional economic growth. The bullheadedness of earlier Queensland governments has slowly given way to a more enlightened attitude towards the stunning display of natural attributes on and off the coast, but environmentalists still harbour anxieties about decisions for what remains a partially unknown milieu.

By 1988 it had become clear that the future of the Great Barrier Reef, like that of so many of our threatened regions, depends on the fragile partnership between Canberra and the state authorities. Environmentalists have contributed to the refining of that partnership, and they seem determined to make it work towards a sustainable future for all Australians.

J. M. POWELL

**12 July** In the Qld Supreme Court Justice P. de Jersey ruled that an application by Mainsel Investments to build a 107-storey tower block was invalid and construction could not proceed because it required the council's consent to construct a building higher than 64 storeys. The Brisbane City Council under Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson was opposed to the project.

**12 July** Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey presented to Prime Minister Bob Hawke Ireland's Bicentennial gift to Australia at the National Library in Canberra. The gift is a catalogue and computerised index of the 39 000 Irish convicts who were transported to Australia between 1788 and 1868. Haughey said the catalogue, held on 105 rolls of microfilm, formed 'an incomparable record of so many Irish who played a vital part in the settlement of this great land, who made a contribution to so much of Australian life, which I believe is unequalled.' Haughey is the first Irish Prime Minister to make an official visit to Australia. His ten-day tour of Australia and New Zealand began in Perth on 11 July.

**12 July** Steve Hatton resigned as chief minister of the Northern Territory. He had come under increasing attack for his handling of fiscal problems and he had lost the support of his Country-Liberal party colleagues. Hatton was elected in 1984 to represent the suburban Darwin seat of Nightcliff and replaced Ian Tuxworth as chief minister in 1986. He was succeeded by Minister for Industries and Development Marshall Perron.

**12 July** Justice Muirhead, head of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, commented in Perth that he doubted 'the benefits of sitting for year after year in formal and unending proceedings, watching lawyers going about their business, sensing the dismay and the cynicism of some Aborigines and others.'

**12 July** Brisbane cyclist Liz Hepple won the Queen of the Mountain jersey during the first stage of the Tour de France Feminin. At the conclusion of the race on 24 July she was placed third overall. The Australian team also finished third, behind France and Italy.



*Vic Premier John Cain and Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey (left) practise at the Melbourne Cricket Ground before the VFL match between Melbourne and Collingwood. Photograph by Neil Newitt, Age, 16 July 1988.*

**13 July** The federal government announced the appointment of Professor Robert Smith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of WA, as the first permanent head of the thirteen-member National Board of Employment, Education and Training (NBEET). The board, which replaces the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission, is to provide independent advice on policy and allocation of resources to the Employment, Education and Training Minister John Dawkins. Four councils report to the board: the Schools Council, the Higher Education Council, the Employment and Skills Formation Council and the Australian Research Council.

**13 July** Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey announced the establishment of a joint body aimed at improving the economic relationship between Australia and Ireland. The bilateral trade relationship currently favours Ireland, which has exports to Australia valued at \$184 million and imports of \$5.9 million.



**13 July** In the Vic Supreme Court, the trial of four men facing charges over the car-bomb explosion outside the Russell Street police headquarters, Melbourne, on 27 March 1986, ended. The jury convicted Stanley Taylor, aged 50, and Craig Minogue, aged 25, for the murder of Constable Angela Taylor and intentionally causing serious injury to magistrate Iain West and Constable Carl Donadio who were injured in the blast. Both pleaded not guilty and were sentenced to life imprisonment. Taylor was also convicted of burglary of a Blackwood mine in October 1985 and of stealing gelnite and detonators used in the bombing. Rodney Minogue, aged 22, was convicted of being an accessory after the fact and was sentenced to eight years imprisonment. Peter Reed, aged 30, who claimed that he had been framed by police, was cleared of charges relating to the bombing but convicted of charges relating to his arrest, including attempting to murder a police officer, recklessly shooting another police officer and using a firearm to resist arrest. He was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment.



Cartoon by Bruce Petty, Age, 16 July 1988.

**14 July** In a landmark decision, the Victorian parliamentary Committee on Infertility, headed by Professor Louis Waller, announced its decision to approve an infertility technique designed to help infertile men with sperm defects that requires embryos to be destroyed. A single sperm is injected under the outer shell of the human egg to achieve fertilisation. Scien-

tists claim that before transferring micro-injected embryos (which are produced in a laboratory) into the womb, they need to test whether the embryos are genetically normal. Under the Infertility (Medical Procedures) Act, scientists in Vic will be able legally to create and later to destroy embryos in the laboratory to test the safety of the micro-injection technique.

**14 July** The Westpac Banking Corporation was fined \$1200 for three breaches of the Bank Officials (Federal) Award in the Queensland Federal Court. The action was brought by the Australian Bank Employees Union following the dismissal of bank employee Gordon Nuttall on 6 October 1986 for allegedly frustrating a major bank inquiry and 'making unauthorised inquiries of the affairs of certain customers'. Justice Keeley accepted Nuttall's evidence that he had inquired about a payment of \$400 000 by Alan Bond to Qld Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen in settlement of a defamation action but that he had not revealed to anyone outside the bank the outcome of his inquiry.

**15 July** Justice Wilcox in the Qld Federal Court ruled that the takeover of the Qld meat group Thomas Borthwick and Sons by Australian Meat Holding (AMH) contravened Section 50 of the Trade Practices Act and was likely to place AMH in a position to dominate the north Qld fat cattle market.

**15 July** Magistrate David Hyde dismissed charges against Sydney businessman Abe Saffron and former NSW Deputy Police Commissioner Bill Allen in the Local Magistrate's Court, Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Saffron and Allen were charged with conspiring in 1981 to bribe Sergeant Warren Molloy, then head of the Licensing Squad, and conspiring to obstruct the course of justice. In dismissing the charges Hyde said that the credibility of a key prosecution witness, James Anderson, had been 'destroyed'. Anderson, a former employee of Saffron, had given evidence that during a conversation Saffron had allegedly shown knowledge of Molloy's receipt of a bribe from Allen.

**16 July** The Great Australian Camel Race ended on the Gold Coast. Of the 68 camels and riders who left Ayers Rock on 29 April, 28

completed the race. The winner was Gordon O'Connell, from central Queensland.

**16 July** New Zealand and Australia drew 19-all in the second rugby union test at Ballymore Oval, Brisbane.

**17 July** Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen opened the Eighteenth International Society for Music Conference at the Canberra School of Music. Its theme was *A world view of music education*. Delegates from 50 countries met and performances included a Zulu choir, the Swedish Royal Music Academy's chamber choir and Finland's Tapiola choir. Works by Australian composers and a session on Aboriginal music by ethnomusicologist Professor Catherine Ellis featured at the conference.

**17 July** Missing two-year-old Eric Taylor was found unharmed at Mount Leswell, 1500 metres from his home in Adams Gully, north Queensland. He had disappeared four days earlier wearing only a nappy and a singlet and is believed to have survived on insects and by sucking wet foliage or drinking rainwater.

**17 July** Stephen Lock, an unemployed factory worker, arrived in Sydney following his release from a Fijian military prison. Lock was arrested on 8 July, accused of illegally photographing an army base although a formal charge was not made. He claimed that he had been beaten by Fijian military guards.

**17 July** Brazil defeated Australia 2-0 to win the final of the men's \$128 000 Bicentennial Soccer Gold Cup at the Sydney Football Stadium. To reach the final Australia had lost to Brazil 1-0, and defeated Saudi Arabia 3-0 and Argentina 4-1.

**18 July** The Vic government introduced petrol restrictions when a dispute involving the Shell refinery forced the closure of all major oil refineries and terminals throughout the state and three SA refineries. The dispute arose when members of the Federated Storemen and Packers Union refused to fill Shell vehicles that had attempted to obtain petrol supplies from other oil company terminals. The main union involved, the Australian Workers' Union, opposed company proposals to remove demar-



Above. Winner of the Great Australian Camel Race, Gordon O'Connell, with his camel Capricorn. Right. Race participant Drew Kettle. Photographs by Peter O'Halloran.

CALL THE SHOTS

cation barriers as part of a 4 per cent second-tier pay rise.

**18 July** The Qld government decided to continue to pay the salary of suspended Qld Police Commissioner Sir Terence Lewis who was appearing before the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Queensland.

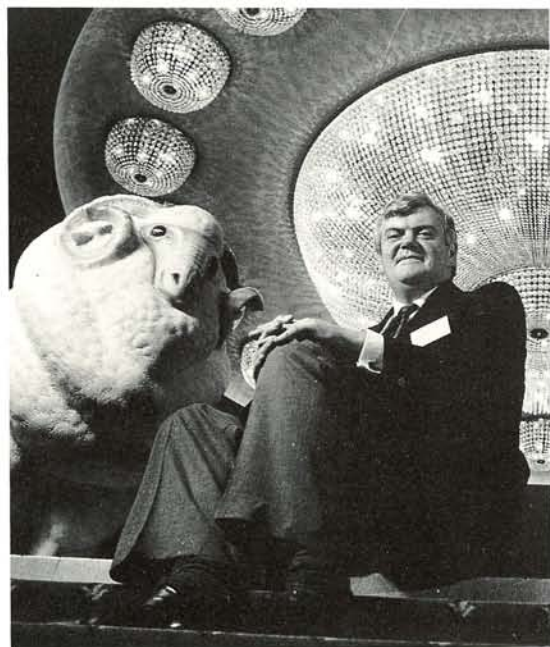
**18 July** Dr John May, senior lecturer in microbiology at La Trobe University, Melbourne, published details of his research into a virus HTLV-1 in volume 149 of the *Medical Journal of Australia*. The fatal virus previously unreported in Australia has been found in blood samples taken from Aborigines living at Fitzroy Crossing, WA, and central Australia. The virus is associated with adult T-cell leukaemia.

**18-22 July** The annual mock air battle 'Exercise pitch black' took place over Darwin between the Royal Australian Air Force and the US Air Force. The exercise tests strategy, tactical-weapons capabilities, fighter control, aircraft and pilot skills.

**19 July** Moira Kelly won the Australian Bicentennial Young Women's Community Service Award. She worked with Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa in India and in Ireland among intellectually handicapped children.

**20 July** Darwin ABC radio journalist Ilana Eldridge, presenter of the morning current affairs program *Territory extra*, was sacked after admitting in an ABC radio interview that anti-Indonesian slogans painted on her house were intended to provoke the Suharto regime. The slogans called on the Indonesian Army to leave the former Portuguese colony of East Timor and included 'Indonesian Army getting away with murder' and 'Indonesian Spy Base' which pointed towards the house next door where the Indonesian Consul in Darwin, Dr Joseph Halim, lives.

**20 July** The Bicentennial Wool Conference was held in Sydney. During the conference, Primary Industries and Energy Minister John Kerin reopened the debate over the export of merino genetic material with his comments in favour of the export of male merino embryos and semen.



*Hugh Beggs, chair of the Australian Wool Corporation, and friends at the Bicentennial Wool Conference. Photograph by Craig Golding, Sydney Morning Herald, 21 July 1988.*

**20 July** Liberal party frontbencher Julian Beale was detained by commonwealth authorities at Brisbane airport after he failed to serve out a six day quarantine period for endemic yellow fever, following a trip to Venezuela. Beale, who was not vaccinated, contacted Chief Commonwealth Medical Officer Dr David de Souza who allowed him to board the connecting flight to north Qld on the grounds that the quarantine period would have ended by the time Beale alighted from the sprayed aircraft. On 3 August the Federal Director of Public Prosecutions, Ian Temby QC, decided not to prosecute Beale after he found that the sections of the Quarantine Act dealing with the obligations of a person under quarantine surveillance did not deal specifically with yellow fever.

**20 July** In the Local Magistrate's Court, Glebe, Sydney, former detective Sergeant Roger Rogerson was committed to stand trial on a charge of having conspired with Christopher Dale Flannery and Alan Williams to murder Michael Drury, a former detective. Drury was shot at his home in the Sydney Suburb of Chatswood on 6 June 1984.

**20 July** A two-day conference 'Aboriginal culture and tourism' opened at Halls Gap in the Grampians, Vic. Responding to a keynote address given by the former premier of SA, Don Dunstan, John Lovett, an elder of the Kerrup-Jmara Aborigines and ranger at Lake Condah, said 'tourism offers Aboriginal people the chance to break down the stereotyping by education about our cultural traditions. It's better that we tell our history the way we know it, and the way our elders told it to us, rather than have it interpreted by someone else.' Among the issues raised was the authenticity and preservation of significant Aboriginal sites.

**20 July** Australia defeated Papua New Guinea 70-8 in a rugby league test match at Wagga, New South Wales.

**21 July** At a meeting of the Australian Forestry Council in Fremantle, WA, state and territory governments approved a proposal by Resources Minister Senator Cook to negotiate an agreement between the timber industry and conservationists, which would focus on

recognising the importance of conservation values.

**21 July** Sydney's controversial monorail was officially opened by TNT chairperson Frank Millar more than six months after it was due to begin operation. The monorail, operated by TNT-Harborlink, has been attacked for its appearance, its route through the CBD, and its potential hazard to firefighters seeking access to first floor buildings. Among the critics were Liberal Premier Nick Greiner, when in opposition, and the Sydney Citizens Against the Monorail (SCAM).



'It's not so much passive smoking as inert living.' Cartoon by Tanner. Age, 3 January 1988.



The monorail weaves its way around city buildings despite controversy surrounding its route through the city centre and its appearance. Photograph by Kevin Diletti.

**21 July** In an out-of-court settlement Melbourne bus driver Sean Carroll, employed for 36 years by the Melbourne Metropolitan Transit Authority, was paid \$65 000 after he claimed that his lung cancer was caused by exposure to passive smoking.

**21 July** The Six Years Old Company launched its first show *Hair-cut* at the Wharf Theatre, Sydney. The company, jointly funded by the Australian Bicentennial Authority and the Sydney Theatre Company, aims to produce innovative works and attract new young audiences to the theatre. *Hair-cut* is a group-devised piece which uses the musical *Hair* as a starting point to examine issues of 1988.

**22 July** Escaped prisoners Russell Cox and Michael Denning were recaptured in Doncaster, Melbourne. On 3 November 1977 Cox escaped from Sydney's maximum security prison Katingal where he was serving a life sentence for armed robbery, malicious wounding, kidnap and escape. He faces charges including the murder of Ian Carroll at Mount Martha, Vic, on 3 January 1983. Denning escaped from Goulburn gaol on 14 July. He was serving a life sentence for armed holdup, malicious wounding and escape from Grafton prison in April 1980.

**23 July** Five radio telescopes were synchronised to focus on Centaurus A, a galaxy of stars bigger than Earth's galaxy, the Milky Way, in order to collect data and images on a 'black hole', which seemed to be devouring Centaurus A. The telescopes involved were the European Space Agency's telescope at Gngangara, WA; the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) telescope at Tidbinbilla, NSW; the US Landsat dish at Alice Springs, NT; the CSIRO's dish at Parkes, NSW; and the University of Tasmania's radio telescope in Hobart.

**23 July** At the Victorian by-election for the seat of Ballarat North, Stephen Elder retained the seat for the Liberal party after National Party preferences had been distributed. The by-election was due to the retirement of sitting member Tom Evans who had held the seat since 1960.

**23–31 July** Melbourne hosted the Australian Bicentennial International Trade Fair '88 at the Royal Exhibition Building. Exhibits from Australia and more than thirty overseas countries included displays of the latest technology in a diverse range of goods. One hundred years earlier visitors to Melbourne's Centennial International Exhibition had marvelled at the latest nineteenth-century technology, including the Singer sewing machine and Edison's phonograph.

**23–31 July** The inaugural Australian Contemporary Art Fair was held in conjunction with the international trade fair. The exhibition aimed to create a visual record of contemporary Australian art in 1988. It included paintings, sculpture, photography, videos and prints from more than 150 Australian artists. The exhibition was organised by the Australian Commercial Galleries Association.

**24–31 July** Sydney's Monique Allen won the women's championships at the Australian National Gymnastics Titles held at the State Sports Centre, Sydney.

**25 July** The WA government's Equal Opportunities Commission released a report entitled *Discrimination in government policies and practices section 82(b) report no 2: public sector blue collar employment* which showed that three of its largest government bodies, the Main Roads Department, Westrail and the Fremantle Port Authority, discriminated against women, migrants and Aborigines in blue collar jobs.

**25 July** In Geraldton, WA, Aborigines rioted following the funeral of Edward Cameron, aged 23, who died on 8 July while in police custody. Seven people were arrested. Premier Peter Dowding blamed the incident on Aboriginal 'stirrers' but Aboriginal leaders claimed the riot was a spontaneous reaction to the state govern-

ment's rejection of proposals to halt Aboriginal deaths in custody.

**26 July** The South Australian ALP caucus elected backbenchers Susan Lenehan and John Klunder to the Bannon ministry following the retirement of Mines and Energy Minister Ronald Payne and Marine, Lands, Forests and Repatriation Minister Roy Abbott, effective 29 July.

**26 July** An international gold bank, Gold Corporation, was launched in Perth. The new bank is primarily an amalgamation of the government-owned Perth Mint and Gold Cup, which launched the Australian 'Nugget' series of bullion coins. It will operate with the same financial guarantees that state governments provide for their local state-owned banks.

**26 July** The federal government released its White Paper on higher education, entitled *Higher education, a policy statement*, which advocated the amalgamation of institutions with fewer than 2000 full-time students.

**26 July** BHP Pty Ltd and its minority partners gave their approval for the \$1.1 billion Escondida copper project in Chile after arranging loan finance for the project. Escondida is the largest undeveloped copper deposit in the world.

**26 July** The exhibition *Terra Australis — the furthest shore* opened at the Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney. It traced the search for Australia, from the late fifteenth century to Matthew Flinders' circumnavigation and mapping of the Australian continent in 1803.

**27 July** In an effort to prevent the depletion of schools of southern bluefin tuna, Primary Industries and Energy Minister John Kerin announced new measures to ban fishermen from the incidental taking of tuna unless they already held a quota under the SBT (southern bluefin tuna) Fishery Management Plan. The plan has ensured that the Australian SBT catch has fallen from a peak of 21 700 tonnes in 1981/82 to 11 300 tonnes in 1987/88.

**27 July** Queen Elizabeth II attended the gala opening of the Australian Ballet's performance of *Sleeping beauty* produced by Maina Gielgud,



A native wounded whilst asleep *by the Port Jackson Painter.*

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London.

**27 July** Australia defeated the Rest of the World team 22–10 in a rugby league test match at the Sydney Football Stadium.

**28 July** Alan Wrigley completed his three-year term as director-general of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO). He will take up an appointment as a special adviser to the government on the Polis project, a high technology Australian–Japanese ‘international city’ to be built in Australia.

**28 July** Premier Peter Dowding announced that the WA government would invest up to \$150 million through equity and funding in a petrochemical plant to enable it to continue. Bond Corporation Holdings would take over project management while the original partners, WA businessmen Laurie Connell and Dallas Dempster, would sell their shares. The deal allowed the state government to retire early its \$150 million guarantee to Connell’s bank Rothwells Ltd after the October 1987 stockmarket crash.

**28 July** Federal Cabinet’s Expenditure Review Committee approved proposals by Employment, Education and Training Minister John Dawkins, whereby students paying for the cost of higher education at the start of studies or at the beginning of the year, rather than through the planned tertiary education tax, will receive a 15 per cent discount.

**29 July** Scientists returned from a four-month expedition in the King Leopold and Napier ranges of the Kimberleys, WA, with an unnamed plant found by Melbourne botanist Dr George Scott. The plant may prove to be a link between two of the world’s more primitive plant species, moss and liverwort. Expedition leader Professor Andrew Goudie said ‘For scientists this is like finding a gallery of pictures, like finding a Picasso.’

**30 July** The Bicentennial National Stamp Exhibition opened at the Royal Agricultural Showground, Sydney.

**30 July** New Zealand defeated Australia 30–9 in the third rugby union test at Concord Oval, Sydney.

