

SEPTEMBER

1 September On behalf of the federal government Hazel Hawke proclaimed the *Acacia pycnantha* (golden wattle) Australia's official floral emblem at a tree planting ceremony in Canberra.

1 September Fourteen allegedly illegal immigrants, passengers on an Indonesian fishing vessel, were taken into custody after landing on Cockatoo Island, north of Derby, Western Australia. The men, who came from Bangladesh, India and Lebanon, appeared in court on 3 September and were subsequently deported.

1 September The federal government obtained a High Court order preventing Sydney journalist Brian Toohey from publishing, communicating or destroying 10 000 sheets of confidential Foreign Affairs Department documents, dubbed the 'Hayden papers'. On 2 September Toohey informed the court he had already destroyed the papers. On 6 September the court prevented Toohey from publishing four articles based on the papers. The High Court referred the matter to the Federal Court in Sydney. On 8 September the federal government dropped its legal challenge and the articles were subsequently published in the *Age* on 9 and 10 September. Toohey gave an undertaking not to publish any further material.

1-17 September The third annual Spoleto Melbourne Festival of the Arts was held. Entertainment included opera, dance, drama and music performed by more than 600 artists from 25 countries. At the conclusion of the festival Melbourne-born John Truscott was appointed to succeed the founding artistic director Gian Carlo Menotti.

2 September Chief Justice of the High Court Sir Anthony Mason rejected a challenge against the validity of the fourth referendum question brought by a Qld electrical contractor, Vennard Boland. Boland claimed that the question breached Section 128 of the constitution because it involved more than one alteration to the constitution.



Australia's official floral emblem, the *Acacia pycnantha* (golden wattle). Photograph by R. Hotchkiss.
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

2 September The Australian Bureau of Statistics released figures which revealed that in 1987 Australia's birth rate was 11 per cent below zero population growth. During that year 244 000 babies were born; 28.3 was the median age of mothers.

2 September Federal Director of Public Prosecutions Ian Temby QC resigned five months before the end of his five-year term. During his term he prosecuted the late Justice Lionel Murphy of the High Court and former NSW premier Neville Wran.

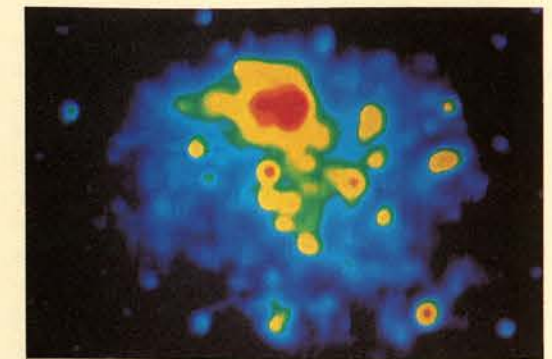
2 September The new Hawke ministry announced by the prime minister on 22 August was sworn in by Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen.

THE AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE

2 September Prime Minister Bob Hawke officially opened the Australia Telescope at the Paul Wild Observatory, Culgoora, in northwestern New South Wales. Built by the federal government at a cost of \$50 million, the telescopes are a major scientific achievement, and the most expensive scientific instruments to be built in Australia.

The Australia Telescope consists of eight separate radio telescope dishes, which are linked by fibre-optic cables to form one of the most sophisticated telescopes in the world and the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Six of the 22-metre dishes are located at Culgoora, five of which are situated on a three-kilometre rail track so that they can be moved along the tracks to any one of thirty-five observation stations, giving greater flexibility and precision in astronomy. The sixth is located three kilometres to the west. The seventh 22-metre dish is fixed in place on Siding Spring Mountain, near Coonabarabran. The Australia Telescope also incorporates the upgraded Parkes Radio Telescope, a 64-metre dish built in 1961. Together they form an effective dish size of 320 kilometres.

The Australia Telescope was designed by scientists at the CSIRO's Division of Radiophysics, with 80 per cent of its parts manufactured in Australia by more than twenty Australian companies. It will allow astronomers to study southern skies in great detail, including the centre of the Milky Way and the Magellanic Clouds.



2 September Dorothy Crawford, co-founder of the production company Crawford Australia, died aged 77 in Melbourne.

3 September A scientific expedition organised by the Australian and New Zealand Scientific Exploration Society and partly funded by the Australian Bicentennial Authority left Melbourne to travel to the Simpson Desert. The purpose of the expedition was to collect evidence to test whether the Simpson was a true desert, that is, whether it received less than 100 millimetres of rain a year. The women travelled 5000 kilometres in 18 days and studied areas east of Coober Pedy to Broken Hill. The data collected would be analysed by the CSIRO.

3 September An outdoor concert 'Opera in the outback' was held at Yalkarinh Gorge, Beltana, in the northern Flinders Ranges, South Australia. The soprano Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra entertained the audience of 8000 people. Beltana's usual population is seven people. Proceeds from the concert went to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.



The large audience at 'Opera in the outback', Beltana, SA. Photograph by Bob Le Dan, Age, 5 September 1988.

Brian Porter, of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, rehearses among the Flinders Ranges for 'Opera in the outback'. Photograph by Bryan Charlton, Age, 27 July 1988.

5 September 1788 'About half after six in the evening, we saw an *aurora australis*, a phaenomenon uncommon in the southern hemisphere.'

SURGEON GENERAL JOHN WHITE

'This evening the element was very red, more so than ever I saw in my life, which lasted about an hour.'

MARINE JOHN EASTY

3 September Fugitive Colin Room was arrested in the US and extradited to Tas to face 266 charges relating to alleged misappropriation, deception and false pretences of sums totalling \$2.2 million.

4 September The Australian physicist, Sir Leonard Huxley, died aged 86 in London.

4 September Marconi defeated Sydney Croatia 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out in the grand final of the men's National Soccer League at Parramatta Stadium, Sydney.

Above left. Two of the telescopes at Culgoora, NSW, part of the Australia Telescope. Photograph by John Masterton, Division of Radiophysics. CSIRO

Top. The Large Magellanic Cloud, 170 000 light years away, photographed through an optic telescope at Siding Spring by David Malin. CSIRO

Above. A radio telescope image of the Large Magellanic Cloud. Photograph by R.F. Haynes. CSIRO

5 September Australia and Indonesia reached an interim agreement on tax-sharing arrangements and joint administration of the potentially oil-rich Timor Gap situated between Timor and northwest Australia. The Portuguese administrators in the former colony of East Timor had refused to agree on the sea border with Australia, a situation the Indonesians inherited when they annexed East Timor in 1975. Negotiations would continue for a further twelve months.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUMS

On 3 September 1988 a substantial majority of electors voted against four proposed alterations to the Australian Constitution. A majority of voters in each of the six states and (on all but one question) in each of the territories voted against the proposal.

The percentages of 'yes' vote were among the lowest recorded in the history of constitutional referendums in Australia. To date, 34 of the 42 proposed alterations to the Constitution have been rejected at referendums.

The four proposed alterations were partly derived from recommendations made by the Constitutional Commission, which was established late in 1985 by the Attorney-General Lionel Bowen. The commission, chaired by Sir Maurice Byers QC, was to make a comprehensive inquiry into, and to report on the revision of, the Australian Constitution by 30 June 1988. It was assisted by five advisory committees, which reported to it in mid-1987 on the Australian judicial system, the distribution of powers between the different levels of government, the executive government of the Commonwealth, individual and democratic rights under the Constitution, and trade and national economic management. At the Attorney-General's request, the Commission provided its first report in late April 1988.

To alter the Constitution, a proposed law must be passed by a majority of each House of the federal parliament. It must then be submitted to the electors in each state and territory. If in a majority (four of the six) states a majority of electors vote to approve the proposed law, and if a majority of *all* the electors voting also approve the proposed law, it is presented to the Governor-General for the Queen's assent.

On 10 May 1988 the Attorney-General introduced into federal parliament four bills to alter the Constitution.

Parliamentary terms: The first proposed that, among other things, the maximum term of the House of Representatives be extended from three to four years and that a full Senate election be held simultaneously with each election for the House of Representatives.

Those in favour of this proposal argued that the average term of federal parliaments would be longer than at present (approximately two

years), creating an environment for more responsible long-term government planning, which would assist both the private and public sectors. All Australian states except Queensland have four year terms for their parliaments. Those opposed to the proposal argued that, although the maximum term of the House of Representatives would be four years, there was no guarantee that parliament would average longer terms than in the past. The prime minister would still have the power to call early elections and could also make the Senate subject to this decision, thereby reducing the powers and independence of the Senate.

Fair elections: The second proposal was to alter the Constitution to provide for electorates of more or less equal size in elections for the House of Representatives, state parliaments and mainland territory Legislative Assemblies. It would also ensure that all adult Australians (unless legally disqualified in accordance with the Constitution) would have the right to one vote and all votes would be of equal value. Periodic redistributions of electorates would ensure that the 'one vote: one value' principle was retained.

Those in favour of the proposal argued that the democratic rights of Australians would be constitutionally guaranteed. Those opposed to the proposal argued that the alterations would not stop gerrymanders (as electoral boundaries could still be rigged) and that state parliaments would be deprived of the right to tailor their electoral laws to their own needs. Further, they argued that the proposal was an attempt by the federal government to control state elections and that, because of its complexity, the proposal would create legal battles.

Local government: The third proposal provided for constitutional recognition of local government as the third sphere of government in Australia.

Those in favour of this proposal argued that only recognition in the Australian Constitution would guarantee local government's role and ensure that local government could not be permanently replaced by state appointed administrators. Those opposed to the proposal argued that it was uncertain and vague, a legal minefield that was open to countless interpretations. They believed and that it would not prevent arbitrary dismissals or amalgamations of local government bodies and could result in local governments being replaced by larger regional

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF VOTING AT CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUMS ON 3 SEPTEMBER 1988

| Questions | Percentage of formal votes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | NSW | | VIC | | QLD | | WA | | SA | | TAS | | ACT | | NT | | AUST | |
| | YES | NO | YES | NO | YES | NO | YES | NO | YES | NO | YES | NO | YES | NO | YES | NO | YES | NO |
| <i>Parliamentary terms</i> | 31.66 | 68.34 | 36.20 | 63.80 | 35.16 | 68.84 | 30.67 | 69.33 | 26.76 | 73.24 | 25.34 | 74.66 | 43.62 | 56.38 | 38.13 | 61.87 | 32.92 | 67.08 |
| <i>Fair elections</i> | 35.57 | 64.43 | 40.12 | 59.88 | 44.83 | 55.17 | 32.02 | 67.98 | 30.61 | 69.39 | 28.89 | 71.11 | 51.99 | 48.01 | 42.99 | 57.01 | 37.60 | 62.40 |
| <i>Local government</i> | 31.70 | 68.30 | 36.06 | 63.94 | 38.31 | 61.69 | 29.76 | 70.24 | 29.85 | 70.15 | 27.50 | 72.50 | 39.78 | 60.22 | 38.80 | 61.20 | 33.62 | 66.38 |
| <i>Rights and freedoms</i> | 29.65 | 70.35 | 33.42 | 66.58 | 32.90 | 67.10 | 28.14 | 71.86 | 26.01 | 73.99 | 25.49 | 74.51 | 40.71 | 59.29 | 37.14 | 62.86 | 30.79 | 69.21 |

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

governments ultimately controlled from Canberra.

Rights and freedoms: The fourth proposal was to extend the three limited guarantees of individual rights and freedoms that already exist in the Australian Constitution. The first was to extend the provision for trial by jury, which has been interpreted narrowly by the High Court, to ensure trial by jury for any person liable to imprisonment for more than two years or to any form of corporal punishment (including the death penalty). The second was to extend the guarantee of freedom of religion (currently limited to the Commonwealth) to the states and territories. The third was to grant people the right to compensation for the acquisition of their property by state and territory governments. The Constitution currently guarantees the provision of 'just terms' only where property is acquired by the Commonwealth. Most of the opposition to this proposal centred on the freedom of religion component which, some claimed, would threaten the future of state aid to independent schools and government funding for the welfare work of religious bodies, including hospitals. Opposition to any one of the three components effectively meant having to vote 'no' to all three changes.

The referendum campaign was marked by vigorous debate and concerted opposition to the proposals by the Liberal and National parties and a number of other groups. Much of the rhetoric was misleading, simplistic and appealed to the fears and uncertainties of voters. It was argued that the common theme to the referendum was more power to the central government in Canberra. It was asserted that the federal government was trying to undermine the independence of the Senate, to gain power to order the states in the conduct of their own elections, and to tamper with the rights of Aus-

tralian, which were already entrenched in the Constitution.

The federal government was not nearly as vigorous in its advocacy of the proposed alterations. That approach, it seems, was intentionally adopted because the Attorney-General believed that this was not an occasion for partisan political argument but for informed community debate, particularly in light of the first report by the Constitutional Commission.

The federal government was also subject to the provisions of the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* (Cth), which prohibits the expenditure of money by the Commonwealth in respect of the presentation of the arguments for or against the proposed alterations except, in effect, to publish the formal 'yes' and 'no' cases and the text of the proposed alterations. That document was authorised by the Australian Electoral Commission. On the basis of the Referendum Act, a successful High Court challenge was mounted by the Shadow Attorney-General Peter Reith, regarding the expenditure of moneys by the Commonwealth on two television advertisements that referred, in general terms, to the forthcoming referendums and appeared to favour altering the constitution.

The magnitude of the defeat of the four proposals has caused some to speculate that constitutional reform has been set back for some decades. The results appear to support views expressed after previous referendums that unless the major political parties both state and federal levels support a proposal it is unlikely that the Constitution will be altered.

For many Australians the Constitution is a remote and incomprehensible document. Few it seems are aware of the significant impact it has on day-to-day life in Australia. A survey conducted in April 1987 showed that only 54 per cent of adult Australians knew that Australia

has a written Constitution and in the 18-24 year age group, this figure fell to only 31 per cent.

As the text of the Constitution can not be altered without the approval of the electors of Australia, some have suggested that voting on constitutional referendums should not be compulsory.

The *Final Report of the Constitutional Commission* (dated 30 June 1988) was tabled in the House of Representatives on 20 October 1988. It covers a wide range of constitutional issues and makes numerous recommendations for change, including the addition of a substantial list of individual rights and freedoms. Whether some or all of those recommendations will be adopted by politicians and the people of Australia remains to be seen.

GRAEME NEATE

5 September More than 10 000 waterside workers declared an indefinite national strike over proposed changes in the stevedoring industry's superannuation scheme. The strike closed all capital city ports. They returned to work on 7 September after a meeting with the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in Sydney.

5 September The seventy-third national congress of the Returned Services League (RSL) was held in Canberra. Retiring national RSL president Sir William Keys praised Australia's immigration program since World War II and called for moderation in the debate over Asian immigration. 'We need Asia far more than Asia needs us,' he said.

5 September More than 100 tonnes of unexploded ammunition was discovered on the John Brewer Reef, 75 kilometres from Townsville and 2 kilometres from the Four Seasons floating hotel. Navy sources believed the ammunition was dumped there by the US in 1941.

6 September Sanctuary Cove developer Michael Gore stood trial in Brisbane District Court on 32 charges of fraud and imposition against the commonwealth in relation to the non-payment of almost \$300 000 in sales tax on 33 imported luxury yachts. He was acquitted on 23 September.

6 September The High Court rejected an application on behalf of Ernest Knibb to overturn his conviction for the 1985 murder of Sydney scriptwriter Miranda Downes on Buchan's Beach, north Queensland. Knibb claimed that the television program *60 minutes* had prejudiced his 1987 trial.

6 September Twenty-five pupils and five staff at St Clare's College, Canberra, were taken to hospital after a gas leak in one of the school's science laboratories.

6 September The federal government's Cabinet Expenditure Review Committee temporarily shelved plans for the use of the provisional Parliament House building, Canberra, following the discovery of asbestos in the building's insulation.

6 September Brigadier Alf Garland was elected national president of the Returned Services League (RSL). He is the first Vietnam veteran to head the RSL. In his inaugural



Complete with bowler hat, sunglasses and cane, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga arrives at RAAF Fairbairn, Canberra, for his brief visit to Australia.

CANBERRA TIMES

speech Garland strongly criticised the policy of multiculturalism, saying 'We want to retain Australia for Australians. We want to retain what is our predominant characteristic — European.'

7 September John Elliott, federal president of the Liberal Party, criticised the Aboriginal ownership of Uluru (Ayers Rock) during a visit to the Northern Territory.

7 September Returning from a 13-day trip to Libya, Aboriginal activist Darlene Mansell stated that the Libyan government would establish an Aboriginal office in Tripoli in October and help organise study tours to Libya for Aborigines.

7 September King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga arrived in Canberra on a four-day visit to Australia to celebrate the Bicentenary and attend Tonga National Day at Expo '88 on 10 September.

7 September The WA government's Environmental Protection Authority ruled that a plan by the French owned Rhone Poulenc to build a \$150 million rare earth treatment plant at Pinjarra, 88 kilometres south of Perth, would create unacceptable waste problems.

7 September Resources Minister Peter Cook announced that Australia's crude oil reserves had been boosted by 75 million barrels, worth \$21 billion, to 1333 million barrels as a result of a revision conducted by the Australian Bureau of Mineral Resources. The increase was attributable to a revision of reserves in Bass Strait and the upgraded commercial value of discoveries in the Carnarvon Basin of Western Australia.

8 September The Australian Bureau of Statistics released figures that showed that the national unemployment rate had risen to 7 per cent in August.

8 September Social Security Minister Brian Howe announced the removal of the retrospective application of the income test on pensioners, which had been introduced in the federal budget.

8 September In a 4-3 majority the High Court overturned a fundamental rule in the law of contract by deciding that a third party mentioned in a contract could sue for benefits.

8 September A book on Aboriginal medicine entitled *Traditional bush medicines, an Aboriginal pharmacopoeia* published by Greenhouse Publications was launched in Sydney. The book was compiled by a team of researchers who had travelled to remote areas of the Northern Territory to learn medicine from Aboriginal elders.

8 September Queensland Premier and Treasurer Mike Ahern handed down his state's budget including a 30 per cent tobacco tax effective from 1 January 1989. The budget surplus for 1988/89 was estimated to be \$362 000.

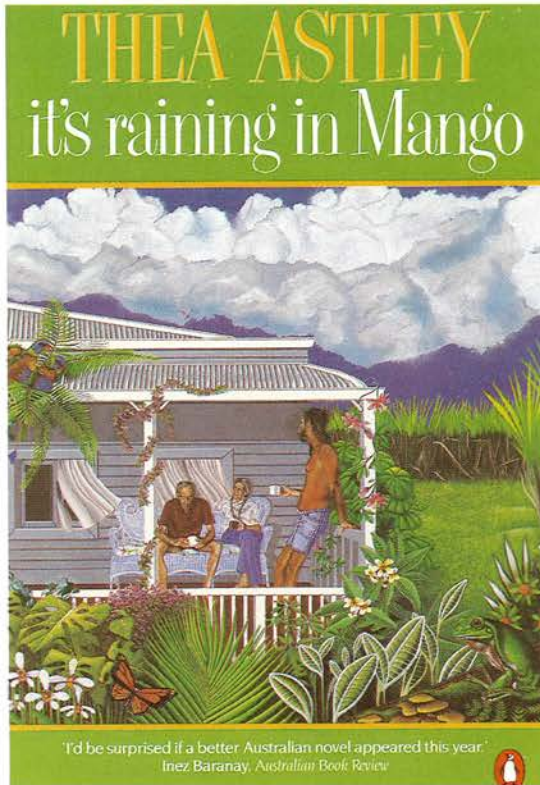
8 September The US announced a cut in the quota of beef imported from Australia by 17 000 tonnes for 1988. The cut represented a loss of \$50 million for the Australian beef industry.

8 September National President of the RSL Alf Garland stated that the federal government should introduce blood tests to check the racial mix of Aborigines receiving social security payments. The RSL national congress unanimously passed a resolution 'That the Government amend the definition of Aborigines to eliminate the part-whites who are making a racket out of being so-called Aborigines at an enormous cost to the taxpayer'.

8 September The Coal Industry Tribunal introduced new directives for work practices in coal mines. The decision included the introduction of a six-day week and increases in shift hours. On 9 September coal miners at two NSW south coast collieries staged wildcat strikes in response to the changes.

8 September The Italian navy cruiser *Caio Duilio* arrived in Darwin at the start of a visit to Australia for the Bicentennial Naval Salute.

9 September Defence Minister Kim Beazley met with Indonesia's Defence Minister General Benny Murdani in Jakarta to discuss regional security and bilateral defence projects.



Front cover of Thea Astley's award winning novel set in Cooktown, Qld. Cover illustration by Lisa Herriman.
PENGUIN BOOKS

9 September Thea Astley won the inaugural \$10 000 Steele Rudd Literary Award for her novel *It's raining in Mango*. The award was presented as part of the week-long Warana Writers Festival in Brisbane. The City of Brisbane Short Story prize went to Michael Richards, 'How my old man's madness was cured by the rain' and the Premier's Poetry Award went to Henry Jewell, 'Brisbane poems'.

9 September As part of National Aboriginal Day, Aborigines, including Aboriginal war veterans, held protests throughout Australia against a resolution passed the previous day by the RSL national congress calling on the government to amend the definition of Aborigine.

9 September Police confiscated official records and documents at eight Qld gaols to enable the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld to investigate allegations of corruption involving the Qld prisons system.

9 September The former NSW corrective services minister, Rex Jackson, lost a High

Court appeal against a decision by the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal to extend his prison sentence.

9-16 September The Spoleto Melbourne Writers Festival was held with more than 120 local and international writers participating, including South African novelist and Booker Prize winner Nadine Gordimer, Irish novelist Jennifer Johnston, and Australian poet Kate Jennings. On 16 September the Victorian Premiers Literary Awards were presented. The \$15 000 Vance Palmer Fiction Prize went to Murray Bail, *Holden's performance*; the \$15 000 Nettie Palmer Non-Fiction Prize went to Brian Matthews, *Louisa*; the \$7500 C.J. Dennis Poetry Prize went to Judith Beveridge, *The domesticity of giraffes*; the \$7500 Louis Esson Drama Prize went to Alma de Groen, *The rivers of China*; the \$7500 A.A. Phillips Prize for Australian Studies went to Paul Carter, *The road to Botany Bay*; the \$7500 ANZ New Writing Prize went to Laurie Duggan, *The ash range*; and the \$7500 Alan Marshall Prize for Children's Literature went to John Marsden, *So much to tell you*.

10 September An Australian judge, Tos Barnett, was severely wounded in a knife attack in Port Moresby. Barnett was in Papua New Guinea to conduct an inquiry into allegations of corruption in the PNG forestry industry.

10 September The Science and Technology Committee of the US Congress began an investigation into the proposed launch by China of two US-made satellites for Australia. The two satellites are the Aussat B-series due to replace the original Aussat A-series in 1992 and 1993. The launch by the Chinese Long March Rockets would involve significant cost savings to Australia.

10 September A controversial plaque affixed to a Japanese midget submarine at Garden Island in Sydney was officially unveiled. It read 'To the memory of the crews of three submarines who lost their lives in the attack on Sydney Harbour on the night of May 31-1 June 1942.'

10 September Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans left Australia for a two-week South Pacific tour.

10 September National Party candidate Enzo Floreani won the territory by-election for the seat of Flynn in the Northern Territory. The by-election was caused by the resignation of the Country Liberal Party member and former NT deputy chief minister Ray Hanrahan.

11 September Members of the Tasmanian amateur Riverside drama group re-enacted the landing of Tasmania's first European settlers at Risdon Cove in 1803 amid protests by Aborigines who threw flour-bombs and eggs at the actors. Two protestors were arrested.

11 September Canterbury-Bankstown defeated Balmain 24-12 to win the grand final of the NSW Rugby League Winfield Cup at the Sydney Football Stadium.

11-18 September The sixth Biennial Women Writers Conference was held in Brisbane.

12 September The Environment Minister Graham Richardson rejected a Qld government compromise on the World Heritage nomination of north Qld rainforests, which sought to remove 50 per cent of the rainforest area from the nomination so that logging could proceed.

The federal government was due to submit revised boundary areas to the World Heritage Bureau in Paris by 1 October.

12 September The Royal Australian Navy stated that by January 1989 six of its thirteen patrol craft would be operating in Australia's northern waters in response to the growing number of Indonesian boats fishing illegally.

12 September The Environment Minister Graham Richardson announced the extension of the 1980 Whale Protection Act. Under the new guidelines people may not fly an aircraft within 300 metres of a whale, swim or dive within 30 metres of a whale or take a boat closer than 100 metres to a whale. The move followed complaints that a whale sighted off Sydney had been besieged by onlookers.

12 September Transport workers in Melbourne and Sydney picketed wharf container establishments in protests over pay rates. It was the third waterfront disruption within a month.



Top. Members of the Tas amateur Riverside drama group re-enact the arrival of Tasmania's first settlers at Risdon Cove in 1803.

Above right. Police step in to separate actors and protestors. Such re-enactments were not officially encouraged during the bicentenary as they were offensive to Aborigines.
HOBART MERCURY

12 September The NSW premier, Nick Greiner, presented the NSW Literary Awards (formerly the NSW Premier's Literary Awards) in Sydney. John Sligo, *Final things*, won the \$10 000 fiction prize and Brian Matthews, *Louisa*, won the \$10 000 non-fiction prize. Judith Beveridge, *The domesticity of giraffes*, won the poetry award; the children's book award went to Gillian Rubinstein, *Answers to Brut*; Lorna Hewson, *Stroke: a family affair*, won the Disability Services Award. The \$10 000 Writer's Fellowship was awarded to Richard Barrett, and Patricia Wrightson was presented with a special award for her contribution to Australian writing.

13 September Former federal director of public prosecutions, Ian Temby, was appointed as the first head of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption. His five-year term would begin in January 1989.

13 September The trial of two former members of the SA vice squad charged with the manslaughter of George Duncan began in the Adelaide Supreme Court. The body of Duncan,

a lecturer in law at Adelaide University, was found in the River Torrens near a homosexual meeting place on 10 May 1972. The two men were acquitted on 30 September.

13 September The Archbishop of Perth, the Most Reverend Peter Carnley, was appointed to a six-nation team of Anglican bishops to draw up guidelines for the consecration of women to the bishopric.

13 September In a 6-1 majority the High Court ruled that under Australian law a British citizen resident in Australia who had not taken out Australian citizenship was an alien.



Without the 'restrictions' of the front bench, sacked shadow minister John Stone draws even more media attention. Cartoon by Ron Tandberg, Age, 15 September 1988.

13 September Liberal Party leader John Howard and National Party leader Ian Sinclair removed outspoken Qld National Party Senator John Stone from the Coalition front bench after Stone refused to give a written commitment to restrict his public comments to his portfolio (finance) and to support agreed Coalition policies. Stone had called for a reduction in Asian immigration in August.

13 September Liberal politician Leon Watt presented a petition to the Western Australian parliament calling for 'second offender vandals [to] be confined to the stocks and paraded for

specific periods near their homes or supermarkets in the vicinity of their crimes'.

13 September The inquest into the death of nine people in Melbourne's 'Queen Street massacre' began in the Victorian Coroner's Court. On 8 December 1987 Frank Vitkovic allegedly shot dead eight people in the Australia Post building in Queen Street before he fell to his death from the eleventh floor.

14 September Prime Minister Bob Hawke launched *The Australian people — an encyclopedia of the nation, its people and their origin* at Parliament House, Canberra. The book, published by Angus & Robertson and funded by the Australian Bicentennial Authority, documents the history and backgrounds of more than 100 different nationalities that make up contemporary Australia.

14 September A Sydney magistrate ordered two Sydney women aged 17 and 19, suffering from anorexia nervosa, to remain against their wills in Macquarie Hospital, North Ryde, for treatment under the Mental Health Act.

14 September South Australian budget estimates revealed that former SA premier, Don Dunstan, had received \$25 000 from the SA government for 33 days consultancy work on legislation to increase Aboriginal self-determination.

14 September FINA (Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur) declared the Australian Neoprene-Lycra swimming suits illegal buoyancy devices and prohibited the Australian team from wearing them at the Seoul Olympics.

15 September The NT Supreme Court of Criminal Appeal unanimously quashed the convictions of Lindy Chamberlain for the murder of her daughter Azaria and of Michael Chamberlain as an accessory after the fact. Azaria disappeared from a tent at Ayers Rock on 17 August 1980. Lindy Chamberlain was convicted of her murder on 29 October 1982. The Chamberlains were pardoned by the NT government on 2 June 1987. In a television interview on 16 September the Chamberlains announced they would seek a minimum of \$1

million compensation from the NT government.

15 September *The Australian national dictionary* was published by Oxford University Press, Australia. The dictionary took ten years to compile and consists of approximately 10 000 entries tracing the origin of Australian English usage.

15 September The head of the Australia Council, Donald Horne, criticised the role of John Stone and Geoffrey Blainey in the Asian immigration debate at a forum 'That was 88' in Brisbane.

15 September The moth *Dialectica scalariella*, used to control the weed Paterson's curse, was introduced into South Australia.

15 September Modern pentathlete Andrew Keily lost his appeal to the Union of Modern Pentathlon and Biathlon against a two-and-a-half-year ban for illegal drug use.

15-20 September The Australian men's cricket team lost the first test match against Pakistan in Karachi by an innings and 188 runs.

16 September In a cabinet reshuffle, the opposition leader, John Howard, sacked five shadow ministers from his front bench. Those sacked were Jim Carlton, James Porter, Warwick Smith, Amanda Vanstone and Jim Short. Those elevated were Neil Brown, John Hewson, Alexander Downer, Jocelyn Newman, Robert Hill and Ronald Boswell.

16 September The Commonwealth Film Censorship Board cleared the controversial Martin Scorsese film *The last temptation of Christ* and gave it an 'R' classification restricting viewing to people aged 18 and over. The clearance of the film, which contained a scene showing Jesus fantasising about sex with Mary Magdalene, was opposed by the Festival of Light and the Australian Council of Churches, both of whom claimed it was blasphemous. The convenor of the Festival of Light, the Reverend Fred Nile, said that although he had not seen the film he had been given a description of it 'scene by scene, blow by blow, sex act by sex act'. On 21 September the Qld Films Review Board banned the film from the state's cinemas. It is the only state censorship board with the power to override the commonwealth censor.



OPEN LETTER TO THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF AUSTRALIA

Eminences, My Lords,
 Since the Council you make much of the pastoral role you play in the church. Permit us to remind you that a shepherd or pastor of a flock has several duties amongst which is that of protecting the sheep. Our Lord Himself spoke of this duty in the Gospel, when he spoke of the shepherd jealously guarding the sheep confided to him, protecting and warding off any attack or danger lest any one sheep be lost or destroyed.
THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST whether you like it or not has received and still receives great publicity. Yet we hear no Shepherds voices raised, warning the flock against this film because of its attacks on our holy Religion.
 Is it not worth defending Christ's Divinity?
 Is it not worth defending the truth of the Gospels?
 Is it not worth defending the virtues of purity and self-denial?
 Is the Holy Sacrament of the Altar not worth defending?
 Are you afraid to denounce adultery?
 What of the adorable person of Christ, is it proper to leave him to be derided and mocked again?
 Is the passion of Christ, whereby our sins are forgiven, not worthy of defence?
 Permit us to remind you of the words of St. Thomas Aquinas (II-II, Q4, a2) "It is not necessary for salvation to confess one's faith at all times and in all places, but in certain places and at certain times, when, namely, by omitting to do so, we would deprive God of due honour, or our neighbour of a service that we ought to render him.... for in such cases as these, confession of faith is necessary for salvation." (i.e. we are bound under pain of mortal sin to do so.)
 Pope Leo XIII puts it more precisely in his letter 'Christian Wisdom' of the 10th January, 1890 in which he writes "To recoil before an enemy, or to keep silent when from all sides clamours are raised against the Truth, is the part of a man who is either devoid of character or who entertains doubts regarding the Truth of what he professes to believe. In both cases such a mode of behaving is BASE and is INSULTING TO GOD, and both are incompatible to the salvation of mankind."
 Let us remind Your Eminences that you wear red, the color of blood, as a reminder that you should ever be ready to give your own blood for the defence of the Faith and the Church. Surely to raise your voices against what is undoubtedly blasphemous is the least Catholics can expect of you. It is our prayer that all of you will gather up a little intestinal fortitude against what is without doubt an attack upon the Faith, or otherwise we would not like to be in your shoes when you come before the Judge of us all, Who as St Paul tells us is not mocked.
 Rev. Fr. Gerard Francis HOGAN,
 District Superior for Australia & New Zealand,
 Society of Saint Pius X,
 280 West Botany Street, Rockdale, N.S.W.
 (02) 599 - 1876
 Rev. Fr. William WELSH
 Rector
 Holy Cross Seminary
 Goulbourn, N.S.W.

Letter reproduced in the Sydney Morning Herald, 12 October 1988.

The controversial Martin Scorsese film *The last temptation of Christ* drew criticism from members of the church in Australia. The Commonwealth Film Censorship Board later reduced it to an 'M' classification, suitable for those 15 years and over.
 UNITED INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

16 September In response to the much publicised Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld a Brisbane-based humour magazine *Cane Toad Times* released 'Corruption! The board game'. Other Fitzgerald memorabilia produced includes t-shirts, stickers and badges saying 'I was named in the Fitzgerald Inquiry' and 'My other job is a Bagman'; Fitzgerald earrings with a police officer on one side and a prostitute on the other; the Tony Fitzgerald Fan Club and parties with the theme 'Come as your favourite inquiry figure'.

16 September The price of Australian wheat reached \$209 a tonne, a record level.

16 September The Child Support Agency, administered by the Australian Taxation Office, began deducting unpaid child maintenance from the tax refunds of non-custodial parents. The agency was set up in June.

17 September Tenor Michael Martin won the Sydney Morning Herald Operatic Aria Competition at the conclusion of the City of Sydney Eisteddfod.

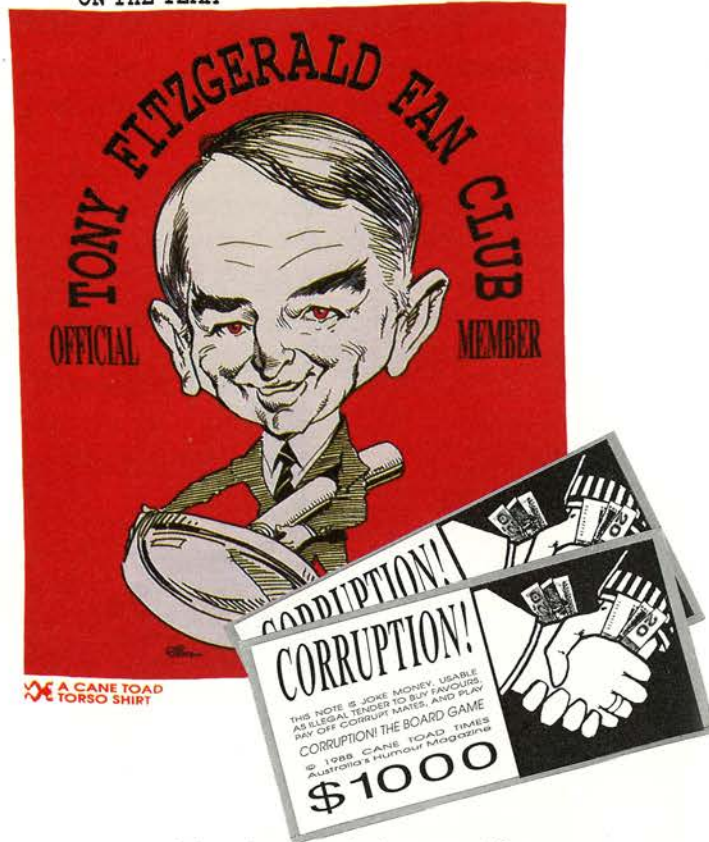
17 September The twenty-fourth Olympic Games opened in Seoul, Korea. Hockey player Ric Charlesworth carried the Australian flag, leading the 267 Australian competitors dressed in golden Drizabone coats and brown Akubra hats. Dawn Fraser, former Olympic gold medalist and Independent Member for Balmain in the NSW Legislative Assembly, was Australia's Bicentennial Ambassador to the Olympic Games.

17 September Devonport defeated Glenorchy 97-54 in the grand final of the Tasmanian Football League.

17 September Subiaco defeated Claremont 122-60 in the grand final of the WA Football League.

17 September-9 October Floriade '88 was held in Canberra featuring nearly one million spring blooms on the lakeshore of Commonwealth Park and an arts festival with performances by the English Shakespeare Company and the West Australian Ballet Company.

"ON THE TEAM"



'Corruption! The board game' and other memorabilia inspired by the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld. The rules concerning 'what you need to play' list protection markers, cash, favour counters, one die and no integrity.
CANE TOAD TIMES

18 September Industry, Technology and Commerce Minister John Button left Australia for three days of meetings with Japanese government ministers and business leaders. Topics of discussion included the Multifunction Polis and the Cape York space project.

18 September The Vic Liberal party leader Jeff Kennett launched his party's campaign for the 1 October state election at the Moorabbin Town Hall.

18 September Helen and Martin Stewart were arrested and charged with offensive behaviour after they had simulated sexual intercourse on Bondi Beach as a protest designed to promote sexual equality for disabled people. Martin Stewart is blind.

AUSTRALIAN MEDALS — OLYMPIC GAMES

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|--|--------|
| 19 September | Duncan Armstrong | swimming — 200 metres freestyle | gold |
| 20 September | Martin Vinnicombe | cycling — 1000 metres time trial | silver |
| 22 September | Dean Woods | cycling — 4000 metres individual pursuit | silver |
| 23 September | Lisa Martin | marathon | silver |
| 23 September | Duncan Armstrong | swimming — 400 metres freestyle | silver |
| 24 September | Gary Neiwand | cycling — 1000 metres sprint | bronze |
| 24 September | Men's cycling team | 4000 metres pursuit | bronze |
| 24 September | Julie McDonald | swimming — 800 metres freestyle | bronze |
| 28 September | Debbie Flintoff-King | athletics — 400 metres hurdles | gold |
| 28 September | Wendy Turnbull & Liz Smylie | tennis — doubles | bronze |
| 30 September | Women's hockey team | | gold |
| 1 October | Grant Davies | canoeing — K1 1000 metres | silver |
| 1 October | Peter Foster & Kelvin Graham | canoeing — K2 1000 metres | bronze |
| 2 October | Grahame Cheney | boxing | silver |



Above. Two members of the Australian women's hockey team celebrate their Olympic gold medal as the final whistle sounds at Songnam stadium, Korea.

MIRROR AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH PUBLICATIONS

Right. Duncan Armstrong salutes the crowd after winning the 200 metres men's freestyle. Armstrong's race strategy attracted criticism as it appeared he had 'surfed' home on the wave created by a fellow swimmer. Photograph, Sydney Morning Herald, 20 September 1988. Cartoon by Ron Tandberg.



THE SPORTING 'NORM'

Days after the resounding defeat of the NSW Labor government in the state elections of 19 March political analysts within the ALP were carefully examining the loss. The sporting image of the prime minister and the amount of time he was seen to have spent on the golf course were cited as contributing factors, of enough significance to put Bob Hawke on the back foot. Speaking to Michelle Grattan of the *Age* on 29 March, Hawke attacked the rumblings:

Always in my life sport has been important. I try and keep fit. I would think I'm probably the fittest prime minister that has been around for some time. Having relaxation, having some exercise is an important part of it. I just regard that observation about playing golf, having to stop playing golf, as among the most pathetic observations I've seen.



Prime Minister Bob Hawke takes a lesson from former golfing champion Jack Newton. Photograph by Stuart Davidson, Good Weekend, 5 November 1988.

Since Labor's election in 1983 Hawke had judged it politically advantageous to associate himself with successful sports people. In one weekend he appeared at the grand finals of both the VFL and the NSW Rugby League. He provided television commentary for the final race in

the 1983 America's Cup and was conspicuous at many sporting events from race meetings to tennis championships. His improved golf swing and his use of 'golf course diplomacy' with many official visitors have been widely televised. In a country as sports obsessed as Australia the only criticism of such indulgent behaviour came from the federal opposition clutching at straws and fighting the prime minister's seemingly unassailable popularity rating. Why then did his own party use his penchant for golf as an election-loss scapegoat?

Australian prime ministers have a long tradition of sporting contacts in a country where allegiance to culture or the arts is seen by some as politically disadvantageous. Sir Robert Menzies played tennis and Australian Rules football and regularly timed his overseas visits to coincide with the cricket tests at Lord's. Harold Holt and John Gorton were keen swimmers, Gorton being the first leader to attend a surf-lifesaving carnival. Sir William McMahon was a keen squash player. Malcolm Fraser, the number one ticket holder of the Carlton VFL club, as was Menzies, often stopped off during an overseas trip to indulge a passion for trout fishing.

Many aspiring politicians have sought association with sporting teams in an effort to win electoral support. Nick Greiner in a lead up to the NSW elections posed for the cameras in a Sydney Swans VFL jumper, wearing it over his suit. Several sports people have exploited their own success to enter politics, including footballer Mike Cleary and hockey player Ric Charlesworth. Ironically, the same NSW election loss that led to the criticism of Hawke saw the election of arguably Australia's greatest sporting achiever, Olympic gold medallist Dawn Fraser, to the NSW Legislative Assembly as an Independent Member for Balmain, despite the absence of any discernable political policy.

If Bob Hawke was increasingly opting for his seven iron during 1988, so was the rest of Australia. In 1988 there were 6.5 million registered sporting participants across Australia. The Bicentennial year saw a substantial expansion in the nature of Australian sport. Along with the popular mass spectator sports — the various world cups, world series and international tests — were events that involved large numbers of people in some form of physical activity. Not all were necessarily included in the 6.5 million par-



Sport for all. Members of the Frankston Fabulous 50s Club raised \$2200 to help send athletes to the Paralympics in Korea in October during a swimathon at Jubilee Park pool, Frankston, Victoria. Photograph by John Lamb, Age, 6 August 1988.

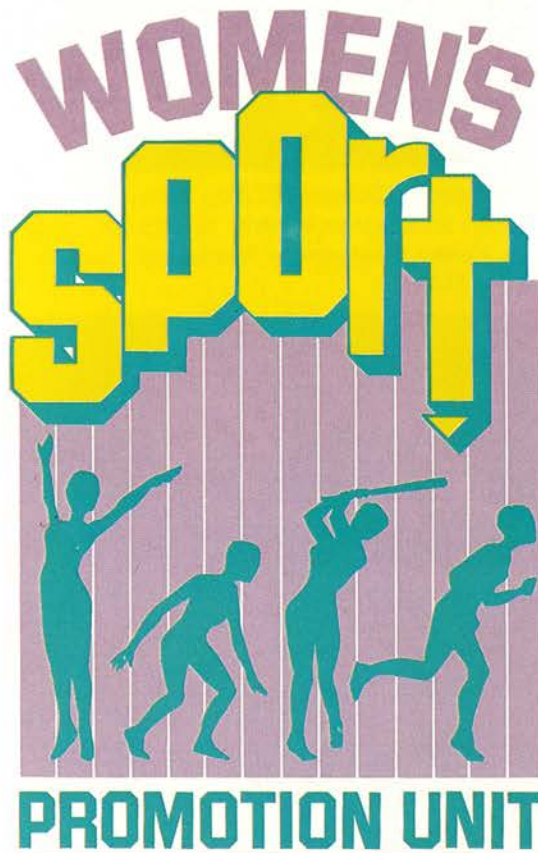
ticipant figure. In the Australian Bicentennial Authority publication *Sport 88* nearly 500 separate events were scheduled throughout Australia. These ranged from traditional sports such as cricket and golf to ballooning, air races and camel races, coal shovelling championships and blind bowls. Rarely a day passed in 1988 that did not host a Bicentennial sporting event. Many events were not commercial and required participants to be dedicated enough to finance their own participation, although prize money and financial assistance were offered by the ABA for some events.

During 1988 large sums of money changed hands for the services of professional sports people. The Brisbane Bears Australian Rules Club signed former Sydney Swans player Warwick Capper for a record figure in excess of \$400 000. As professionalism increases in a handful of sports some elite sports people are now able to earn a comfortable living in their sport, often thanks to sponsorship by tobacco and alcohol companies, companies whose products are the antithesis of good health and fitness. Along with increased payments to professionals comes public recognition of players, usually male players, through media exposure and the subsequent promotion of their sport through advertising and television coverage.

Corporate advertisers still shy away from investment in women's sport and using women to promote products. Exceptions in 1988 were the Johnson & Johnson Aust Pty Ltd sponsorship of netball and the McDonalds' July advertisement featuring the Australian women's hockey captain Debbie Bowman. The sellout four test-match women's netball series played between Australia and Trinidad-Tobago was tough and exciting but remained untelevised even though netball boasts one of the highest sport participation rates in Australia. In 1984 a survey of Australian newsmidia revealed that women's sport was allocated 1.3 per cent of available space! Adrienne Blue in her challenging book published in 1987 *Grace under pressure, the emergence of women in sport*, stated:

Women are everywhere in sport — at sea, on the mountains, in the air, in the triathlon and in the body-building arena. Indeed, the only places women are missing in fair numbers are the sports pages and the television screens . . . the most important sports story of our era has been the emergence of women in sport.

Some male sports writers remained more comfortable enforcing the status quo; Jeff Wells in a review of Blue in the *Australian* wrote 'The noise you hear is *Grace under pressure* reverberat-



Top. Parenthood no longer means the end of women's sporting careers. Athlete Sue Butler resumed competition running soon after the birth of her child. Inadequate child care still remains an issue, however. Photograph by Guy Wilmott, Sydney Morning Herald, 12 July 1988.

Above. The Women's Sport Promotion Unit was set up in 1987 to implement the Australian Sports Commission's National Policy and Plan for Women in Sport. According to Commissioner Libby Darlison it was 'a crucial step in reducing many of the historical inequities and discrimination women have experienced in sport.'

WOMEN'S SPORT PROMOTION UNIT

ing around a waste bin labelled Stop Wasting My Time.'

At the end of 1987 the Women's Sport Promotion Unit was set up after recommendations from the final report of the federal government's Working Group on Women in Sport, *Women, sport and the media*. The unit was established by the Australian Sports Commission to promote women in sport and promote sport to women. Their promotional video was released in August 1988 and featured women of all ages and abilities in a variety of sports. Hazel Hawke's golf swing was seen to be the equal of her husband's.

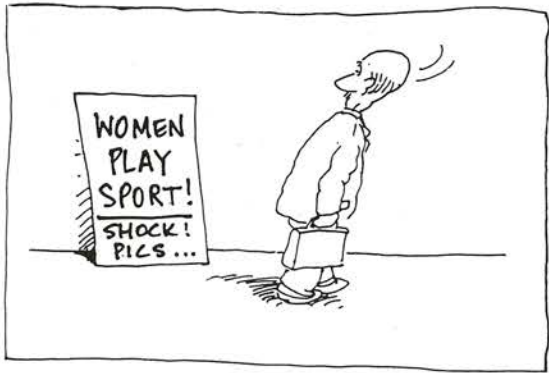
Despite such efforts; opportunities for sport participation remain unequal in Australia. Controversy raged in April over the failure of the Australian Rowing Council's selection committee to name any women in the train-on squad for the Seoul Olympics. A strict criteria was seen to be in place where all competitors were required to be of sufficient standing to reach the Olympic final. With the extra burden of faulty timing equipment, no women were considered by the selectors to justify selection. In fact this decision had been made on 21 November 1987 when, as the minutes of the national meeting of the Australian Rowing Council reveal, no Olympic coaches for women's crews were appointed. There is an argument in sport (as in the workplace) to spend some years promoting women, providing them with expert training and most of all overseas competition, to enable them to reach world standard. As the editor, John Alexander, of the *Sydney Morning Herald* observed on 15 April, 'young Australian women will not take up rowing if they believe their efforts will not be rewarded by the selectors.' Of the men's rowing crews sent to the Seoul Olympics, none reached the finals.

In 1988 the Hawke government continued to endorse the international Gleneagles Declaration opposing official sporting contacts with South Africa. All government sporting grants were conditional on players not breaching the official boycott. In June, however, the United Nations listed 137 Australian sports people who had had contact with South Africa, including tennis player Pat Cash and squash player Vicki Cardwell. In January David Howes, the president of the Australian Anti-Apartheid Movement and Brian Tobin the president of Tennis Australia signed an agreement allowing protestors to assemble at the Australian Open at

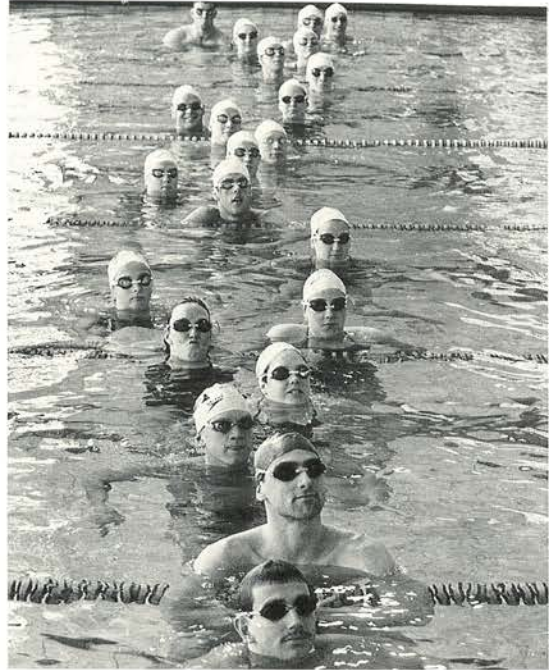
Melbourne's Flinders Park to demonstrate against Pat Cash. This extraordinary compromise by the normally conservative tennis administration was prompted by the Victorian branch of the Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees Association (which covers the stadium workers) threatening to picket if protestors were not admitted to the stadium. During Cash's match on centre court protestors dropped about twenty black-painted tennis balls on to the court in the sanctioned demonstration. Several attempts to organise lucrative rebel rugby union tours to South Africa fell through in 1988 as a result of government pressure and the fact that Australia lost its pre-eminence in world rugby to New Zealand in July.

In September the largest sporting team to leave Australia departed for the Seoul Olympics in Korea. The team comprised 87 women and 180 men. Of the 237 events, 72 were for women, 151 for men and 14 were mixed events. Of the 14 medals won, 5 were won by women. The final medal tally was 3 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronze, placing Australia fifteenth in world ranking. Expectations of Olympic success for Australian athletes are often unrealistic, as illustrated by the comments of gold medal swimmer Duncan Armstrong's coach Laurie Lawrence who stated 'we're not here for silver'. Standing ungraciously on the Olympic dais during the presentation ceremony silver medal cyclist Martin Vinnicombe was clearly not in Seoul for the silver either. Australia's history of Olympic successes date from the 1950s when the rest of the world, and Europe in particular, was still recovering from the debilitating effects of the Depression and World War II. Combined with the home territory advantage in Melbourne in 1956, Australia won a total of 32 medals, including 13 gold. Once Europe recovered from the effects of undernourishment and dislocation Australia slipped back to its rightful place in world standing, but our expectations of our athletes have never adjusted accordingly.

Although the result was not outstanding, many performances at Seoul were memorable. The remarkable finish by 400-metre hurdler Debbie Flintoff-King to pass the Russian Tatiana Ledovskaia on the line stands out as the highlight of the games, if not the whole sporting year. Many personal bests were recorded; Lisa Martin won Australia's first ever medal in a marathon event and the Australian women's



WOMEN'S SPORT PROMOTION UNIT



The Australian Olympic swimming team at the Australian Institute of Sport. Sydney Morning Herald, 3 September 1988.

basketball team become the first team to defeat any Soviet Union team at basketball. Duncan Armstrong beat the world record and defeated the favourites, American Matt Biondi and West German Michael Gross, in the final of the men's 200 metre freestyle and the men's soccer team reached the final eight after beating Yugoslavia and Nigeria. Not all victories, however, were greeted with universal pride. Loretta Dorman, a member of the gold medal winning women's hockey team, told an audience at a seminar in Canberra on 'Women's experience at Seoul' that after the men's hockey team had lost to Great Britain in their semi-final some of the men hoped the women, or the 'maggots' as

they referred to them, would also lose so they could save face.

Television coverage of the Olympics was an endurance event in itself. The Australian Broadcasting Tribunal received more than forty complaints — the majority concerning sexist, racist and parochial coverage of events; questions were asked in parliament and newspapers printed dozens of letters critical of the television commentary. On 27 September South Australian Senator Chris Schacht asked the minister:

In view of the many complaints by the public and many media commentators regarding the quality and content of the television coverage in Australia of the Olympic Games by the Ten network and, in particular, the incessant number of advertisements that are endlessly repeated; the amount of time wasted with unnecessary comment by the studio commentators; and the fact that many of the events being televised are delayed, not live, can the Minister arrange for the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal to conduct an inquiry.

He called for guidelines to ensure that future telecasts were 'in accordance with the spirit of the Olympic Games and not unbridled commercialism.' Members of the public were equally critical. One wrote to the *Age* 'So far, I have endured a commentator not only incapable of pronouncing weightlifters' names (an insult to those competing) but apparently quite happy in his ignorance . . . I write having witnessed 37 minutes continuous coverage of Australia's first gold medal victory including interviews with everyone who has ever met the deserving victor'; another wrote to the *Sydney Morning Herald* 'women continue to be seen as sex objects first and skilled people second.'

On the sixth day of the Olympics, Australian modern pentathlete Alex Watson was found to have unacceptable levels of the prohibited drug caffeine in his urine after random testing. He was disqualified and sent home by the Australian Olympic Federation. In November a Senate select committee began examining allegations and rumours of widespread drug use at the Australian Institute of Sport. In November 1987 the Australian Olympic Federation in partnership with the Australian Sports Commission had introduced automatic life bans for any athlete caught using drugs. For the first

time in 1988 the federal government grants to sports people were conditional on athletes agreeing to random drug tests.

The Australian Institute of Sport, set up in 1981 after the poor performance of Australian athletes in the 1976 Olympics, continued to play a significant part in the success of Australian sports people. In 1988 it operated on a budget of \$15.5 million — \$13.5 million in government funds, \$1 million from sponsorships and \$1 million raised from the use of its facilities. Marathon runner Lisa Martin (although based overseas) and the women's hockey team directly attributed their medal performances to the facilities provided by the institute. Countries such as East Germany are believed to spend upwards of \$350 million per year on their Olympic teams. The federal government did not escape criticism. Controversial Brisbane swimming coach Laurie Lawrence abused Sports Minister Graham Richardson for his ministerial predecessor reneging on an undertaking to set up Lawrence and his Chandler Pool in Brisbane as a satellite AIS centre. 'Politicians are bludgers, you make 'promises you don't keep' Lawrence said as Richardson tried to shake his hand in Seoul.

The Bicentennial year was a year of mixed successes for Australian sports women and men. In 1988 Australia probably held its rightful ranking among sporting nations in major sports events. In cricket the women's team convincingly beat England to win the World Cup in December. The men's team won only one of its eight test matches played in 1988 and lost their 1987 World Series Cup title to the West Indies. In tennis the men were eliminated by France in the semi-finals of the Davis Cup in April; the women lost to West Germany in the quarter-finals of the Federation Cup in December.

It is perhaps a sign of national maturity and a welcome erosion of our so-called ocker sporting image that we now expect our prime minister to be more serious about political and economic matters than about sport. Clearly this is now a view he also shares. On 28 September in federal parliament Bob Hawke recorded his congratulations to hurdler Debbie Flintoff-King and best wishes to fellow parliamentarian and hockey player Ric Charlesworth in Seoul. The deputy opposition leader Ian Sinclair jibed 'It's a wonder you weren't there.' Hawke replied 'I would love to have been there, but I had my priorities right. I was there in spirit.'

MARION K. STELL



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Cartoon by Bruce Petty, Age, 24 September 1988.

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20 September Elizabeth Reid, a federal Health Department consultant on AIDS, warned that heterosexual women are increasingly at risk from the transmission of AIDS. Twenty-four of the five-hundred Australian deaths from AIDS have been women.

20 September John Fairfax Ltd ended speculation by announcing it would refinance rather than sell the Melbourne *Age* and the *Australian Financial Review*.

20 September Sydney writer Tom Flood won the annual *Australian/Vogel* Literary Award for his novel *Oceania fine*. The \$10 000 prize is awarded for the best fiction or non-fiction writing by an author aged 35 and under.

20-21 September Prime Minister Bob Hawke attended the nineteenth South Pacific Forum in Tonga.

21 September Six Australian embassy staff in Rangoon, Burma, were evacuated following a military coup on 18 September.

21 September Sydney's Central Criminal Court sentenced David Kelleher, described in court as a 'Mr Big' of the drug trade, to life imprisonment for drug trafficking. He was the third person in Australian criminal history to receive life imprisonment on drug-related matters.

21 September Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building was lit from dusk to midnight

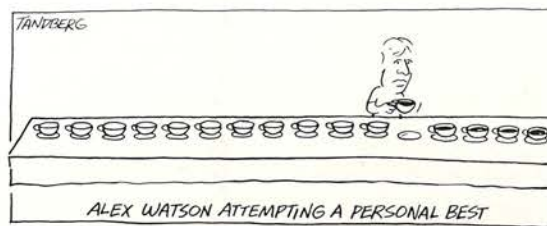
in a re-enactment of its original illumination on 9 May 1901.

21 September The AIDS research unit of the National Health and Medical Research Council recorded Australia's thousandth case of AIDS.

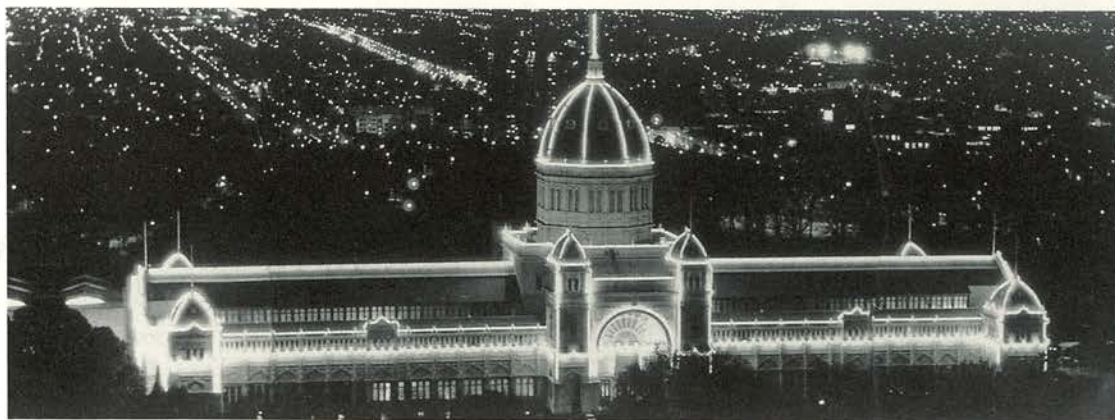
21 September The inquest into the death of a woman in April after an in-vitro fertilisation procedure commenced in the Perth Coroner's Court.

21 September Tasmanian Premier and Treasurer Robin Gray handed down his state's budget providing for a \$6.4 million deficit. He foreshadowed the sale of surplus state-owned land.

22 September Modern pentathlete Alex Watson was expelled from the Olympic Games after results from a random drug test by the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission showed that his urine contained



Alex Watson maintained that his unacceptably high caffeine reading at the Olympic Games was due to coffee and soft drink. Cartoonist Ron Tandberg adds another event to the modern pentathlon, *Age*, 23 September 1988.



The Melbourne City Council and GEC/Osram sponsored the re-enactment of the illumination of the Royal Exhibition Building in 1901, the site of Australia's first parliament. Photograph by Helga Salwe, *Age*, 22 September 1988.

14.24 milligrams per litre of the stimulant caffeine. The permitted maximum is 12 milligrams. He was automatically banned for life from Olympic competition by the Australian Olympic Federation.

22 September The Duchess of York arrived in Sydney prior to the start of an Australian tour on 28 September. She was joined by the Duke of York on 25 September. The royal party visited Canberra, Sydney, Townsville, Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Brisbane. On 1 October the Duke of York took the salute at the International Naval Review on Sydney Harbour.

22 September Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced that suspected war criminals living in Australia would face prosecution under the War Crimes Amendment Bill to be introduced into parliament.

22 September Flowering cherry trees given to Australia by Japan as a Bicentennial gift were found to be infected with the bacterial disease crown gall. A number of the trees had already been planted at Parliament House, Canberra.

22 September Aborigines claimed that the head of the Northern Land Council, Galarrwuy Yunupingu, had breached traditional Aboriginal law by giving Prime Minister Bob Hawke a secret and sacred bark painting at the Barunga

Festival in June. The painting is an image on board used to frame the Barunga Statement — the basis of negotiation for a treaty between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians. On 28 September meetings of Aboriginal elders in Arnhem Land cleared Yunupingu of any breach of traditional law.

23 September The \$200 Bicentennial gold coin was released by the Royal Australian Mint. Made from 22-carat gold the coin featured Governor Arthur Phillip and was the last of the commemorative bicentennial coin designs to be issued.

23 September Five prisoners escaped from Brisbane prison. On 25 September Qld Prisons Minister Russell Cooper ordered an investigation into allegations that corrupt prison officers had assisted in the breakout.

23 September The owners of Australian Movietone News (Twentieth Century Fox) and Cinesound Review (Greater Union Group) donated their entire newsreel stocks consisting of 4000 newsreels to the National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra, together with \$4 million. The money would fund 'Operation newsreel' — the Archive's five-year project to restore, copy and catalogue the newsreels, half of which are on deteriorating nitrate stock. The



The Barunga festival in June. Photograph by Bryan Charlton.



Australian Treasurer Paul Keating as Gulliver in the land of economic giants. Cartoon by Alan Moir, Sydney Morning Herald, 26 September 1988.

newsreels dated from 1910 to 1975 and included the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 and the World War II documentary *Kokoda front line*.

23-28 September The Australian men's cricket team drew the second test match against Pakistan in Faisalabad.

24 September Treasurer Paul Keating attacked the economic policies of the US and West Germany in an address to the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund in Berlin.

24 September The Australian Opera performed Wagner's *The mastersingers of Nuremberg*, sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany as their Bicentennial gift to Australia. The production cost almost \$2 million and involved 225 performers.

24 September The ten-day Bicentennial Festival of Music, Newcastle, NSW, was launched with an opening night concert of choral, brass band and orchestral music.

24 September Hawthorn defeated Melbourne 152-56 in the grand final of the Victorian Football League.

25 September Newly appointed Immigration Minister Robert Ray stated that he supported the recommendations of the FitzGerald report on Australia's immigration policies,

Immigration — a commitment to Australia, released in June, that placed a greater emphasis on skills criteria at the expense of the family reunion program.

25 September Members of the truck drivers group the Teamsters' Federation of Australia began a national truck blockade of main highways in a co-ordinated protest against transport taxes, charges and regulations. The blockades were abandoned on 26 September.

25 September Fifteen-hundred singers, accompanied by the 92-piece Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the Third Military District Band performed the Bicentennial concert 'Australia! Australia!' in the Great Hall of the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne.

26 September Federal Cabinet approved the appointment of a privacy commissioner to work within the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. The commissioner would investigate alleged misuses of the proposed tax-file number by government agencies and private-sector bodies.

26 September The Australian National Council on AIDS recommended widespread anonymous testing for AIDS. It estimated that the infection rate of the general community was 0.01 per cent.

26 September At the World Women Parliamentarians for Peace Conference in Canberra, Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans announced that he had overturned the decision of his predecessor to downgrade the position of Ambassador for Disarmament in Geneva. In 1987 Bill Hayden had proposed the merger of the position with the work of the Ambassador to the United Nations.

26 September The Australian Education Bicentennial Conference was held in Sydney. Chief Education Officer of the NSW Education Department Susan Holland presented a paper on the National Data Base Study on Girls' Education.

26 September A former member of the RAAF, Rick Johnstone, began proceedings in the NSW Supreme Court for unspecified damages against the Commonwealth, claiming it

26 September The nine-day Bicentennial Naval Salute began in Sydney as the Australian and main international fleets sailed through the Heads and berthed at Garden Island and Woolloomooloo. Sixty-one naval ships from sixteen countries, carrying 17 000 naval personnel, participated in the event. The countries represented were Australia, France, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia,

The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vanuatu. Members of the Sydney Peace Squadron met the fleet at Garden Island and Mrs Macquarie's Chair in a flotilla of craft including kayaks, surfboards, and chartered ferries. The protestors claimed that several naval ships carried nuclear weapons.

Right. *Visiting naval ships assemble in Sydney Harbour for the Bicentennial Naval Salute. Photograph by Brendan Read.*

WELDON TRANNIES

Below. *Sailors stand on deck as HMAS Canberra passes the Sydney Opera House. Inset. Members of the Sydney Peace Squadron are taken into police custody. Photographs by Craig Golding, Sydney Morning Herald, 3 October 1988.*



was negligent in exposing him to radiation during the Maralinga bomb tests in 1956. He was the first person to sue the Commonwealth over the tests.

26 September The President of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, Carmel Niland, resigned over state budget cuts to the board.

26 September Perth author Sally Morgan's book *My place* won the 1988 Braille Book of the Year Award.

26 September Canberra lyric-soprano Maria-Brigid Ryan won the Qantas National Aria Competition in Canberra.

26 September The Qld government refused an appeal for pardon from Kelvin Condren. In 1983 Condren had allegedly signed confessions over the death of Aboriginal Patricia Carlton in Mt Isa, Queensland. He continued to maintain his innocence.

26 September The Australian Institute of

Sport announced that controversial coach Laurie Lawrence would replace Bill Sweetenham as Australia's national swimming coach and as head coach of the Olympic swimming team.

27 September Five bodies were discovered at Malgawa, an Aboriginal outstation southeast of Oenpelli in western Arnhem Land. The five dead were from the one family and each had been killed by shotgun. NT police investigating the killings discovered a sixth body on 28 September. The deceased included artist Dick Nguleingulei Murrumurru, whose bark paintings are represented in many collections including the Australian National Gallery, his wife Dolly Murrumurru, their daughter and two grandchildren, and a male relative.

27 September Ten companies were reported to the federal government by the Affirmative Action Agency for failing to prove that they had provided equal opportunities for women employees. Under the Affirmative Action (Equal Opportunity for Women) Act all companies with more than 1000 workers were required to submit a yearly report.

27 September CSR Ltd announced it had set aside \$20 million to settle claims against the company by former Wittenoom asbestos mine workers.

27 September Archaeologist Richard Leakey opened the exhibition *Tracks through time* at the Australian Museum, Sydney.

27 September In a 4-1 majority decision the High Court ruled that juries do not have to be warned about the credibility of police verbals used in evidence.

27 September In a test case, a Vic farmer, Arnold Exton, issued a writ claiming unspecified damages from the Vic government for contamination of his property with the fertiliser Dieldrin, recommended by the Vic Department of Agriculture.

27 September Speaking in parliament, Labor Senator Chris Schacht criticised the number of advertisements screened during the Ten Network's television coverage of the Olympic Games.

28 September Australia Post released a new stamp designed by cartoonist John Spooner as part of the 'Living together' series. The base postage rate increased from 37 cents to 39 cents.

28 September The Central Criminal Court, Sydney, found Tom Domican guilty of shooting hitman Christopher Dale Flannery on 27 January 1985. He was remanded in custody until 6 October for sentence.

28 September Former Labor minister Susan Ryan resigned as publishing director of Penguin Books, a position she had held since December 1987.

29 September Governor-General designate Bill Hayden left Australia on a 39-day overseas tour of 7 countries. The federal opposition attacked the trip as a 'junket'.

29 September The Qld and Tas governments banned the AIDS education booklet *Safe*. The booklet, published by the Victorian AIDS Council, promoted safe methods of sex for homosexuals.



Minke whales beach themselves near Augusta, WA.
BELL PUBLISHING GROUP PTY LTD.

29 September Volunteers attempted to save 60 whales stranded on a beach near Augusta, Western Australia.

30 September CSR Ltd agreed to pay four compensation payouts totalling \$1.34 million to workers who had contracted cancer after working at the Wittenoom asbestos mine owned by Midalco Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of CSR Ltd.

