

JUNE

1 June Ricky May, New Zealand born jazz singer and charity performer, died aged 44 in Sydney.

1 June Immigration Minister Clyde Holding announced Australia's migration program for 1988/89. Australia would accept more than 140 000 migrants, an increase of 8000 people. The government changed the points selection scheme to encourage skilled, entrepreneurial and younger migrants. Under the old scheme applicants needed a minimum of 70 points to qualify as migrants. The points were awarded on the basis of employability, skills, education, age and sponsorship. The new scheme raised the minimum to 80 points, with all applicants needing to score the maximum 20 points for employability.

1 June One-hundred and thirty-seven Australians were named on the United Nations blacklist of sportspeople who had played in South Africa. Under the Gleneagles Declaration, the Hawke government officially opposed sporting contacts with South Africa.

1 June Australia defeated Brazil 1-0 in the international women's soccer championships in China.

2 June The British government lost its appeal against publication in Australia of Peter Wright's *Spycatcher*. In a unanimous decision the High Court dismissed the appeal against a NSW Court of Appeal decision that had paved the way for the publication of the book in Australia. Wright, a Tasmanian resident, was a former assistant director of Britain's counter intelligence agency MI5. The ruling ended three years of litigation in Australia.

2 June After six years of negotiation the 33 Antarctic Treaty nations (including Australia) adopted a convention governing the mineral exploitation of Antarctica. Australia was a claimant to 42 per cent of Antarctic Territory. Scientists drilling the Antarctic seabed in March had discovered evidence of coal, sediments rich in magnetite and iron, as well as the probability

of oil and gas deposits offshore from Australia's Davis and Mawson bases.

2 June NSW Premier Nick Greiner handed down a mini-budget. It contained large rises in charges for education, hospitals, motoring, public transport and electricity. The increases were designed to reduce the state's \$26 billion public debt.

2 June Irina Dunn, the number two senate candidate on the 1987 Nuclear Disarmament Party ticket, stated that she would not resign in favour of Robert Wood. The High Court had ruled in May that as Wood was not an Australian citizen at the time of his election, he was ineligible to sit as a senator.



Irina Dunn was sworn in as Independent senator on 22 August after quitting the NDP. Photograph by Stuart Davidson.

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2 June The Qld Court of Criminal Appeal quashed the conviction of a twenty-year-old Gladstone woman, Colleen Schafer, gaoled for the axe murder of her fiancé in 1987.

3 June Immigration Minister Clyde Holding tabled the report of the Committee to Advise on Australia's Immigration Policies entitled *Immigration — a commitment to Australia* in parliament. Headed by Australia's former ambassador to China, Stephen FitzGerald, the committee recommended a higher migrant intake.

It argued for a stronger economic focus in the selection of migrants, with an increased emphasis on employment prospects, knowledge of English and business and entrepreneurial skills, at the expense of family reunion criteria.

3 June At 25 minutes past midnight and 4.43 pm respectively, the Senate and the House of Representatives adjourned, ending 61 years of sittings in the provisional Parliament House.

4 June Australia's oldest winery Wyndham Estate Wines announced that it had won 26 medals at the Intervin International Wine Show in Toronto. It was the first Australian winery to dominate the medal count in an international competition.

4 June The Australian Opera and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra performed Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* in Darwin's Botanical Garden Amphitheatre.

4 June Australia drew the first netball test 43-all against Trinidad-Tobago in Brisbane.

SIR DOUGLAS NICHOLLS

4 June The former South Australian governor and Aboriginal advocate Pastor Sir Douglas Ralph Nicholls died in Victoria aged eighty-one. Nicholls was born in the Aboriginal settlement of Cumeroounga, NSW, in 1906. Leaving school early, he excelled at Australian Rules football (although only 155 centimetres tall) playing for the Melbourne club Fitzroy and in 1935 he became the first Aborigine to represent Victoria. He was also a successful professional sprinter and at one time toured country towns as a boxer with Jimmy Sharman's boxing troupe. At the age of 26 he became a pastor of the Church of Christ and devoted himself to welfare work through the Aborigines' Advancement League. The first Aborigine to be knighted, in 1972, he worked as an adviser to the Vic department of Aboriginal affairs before being appointed governor of SA in 1976, resigning five months later because of poor health.



Sailor Kay Cottee on the final leg of her record solo voyage. Age, 26 May 1988.

Right. Cottee acknowledges the enormous crowd assembled to greet her.
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5 June The Australian sailor Kay Cottee became the first woman to complete a non-stop solo circumnavigation of the world when she sailed her 12-metre yacht *Blackmore's First Lady* into Sydney Harbour. More than 100 000 spectators greeted Cottee after her 189-day, 24 000-nautical-mile voyage.

5 June After an investigation by the National Companies and Securities Commission, Bond Corporation Holdings Ltd, owned by Alan Bond, made a takeover bid for Bell Group Ltd at the full market price. The investigation followed a joint takeover bid for Bell Group Ltd by Bond and the WA State Government Insurance Commission in April.

5 June In a ceremony in Bangkok to mark World Environment Day Queenslander Dr Aila Keto received one of the United Nations Environment Program Global 500 Awards for her work in protecting north Qld rainforests.

6-9 June The Australian Labor Party held its thirty-eighth biennial conference in Hobart's Wrest Point Convention Centre. Faction leaders resolved major issues prior to the conference. Debate focused on the end of free ter-



tiary education, partial privatisation of Qantas and Australian Airlines, changes to the maximum of three uranium mines policy and the economy. Young Labor staged a walk-out during Bob Hawke's keynote address. Among the thousands of protestors who converged on Hobart for the conference were timber workers, conservation groups and students.

7 June A Shepparton magistrate set a legal precedent when he ordered a convicted drunk driver to fix a sign to his vehicle for 12 months stating 'On bond for exceeding .05'.

7 June The Soviet rocket *Soyuz TM-5* carried flu enzyme crystals as part of an experiment designed by an Australian organic chemist Dr Graeme Laver to find a cure for influenza. The crystals were transferred to the Soviet MIR space station for three months.

7 June Police and customs officers seized three tonnes of cannabis worth approximately \$30 million in a narcotics raid on vessels off the NSW central coast. Nine people were arrested.

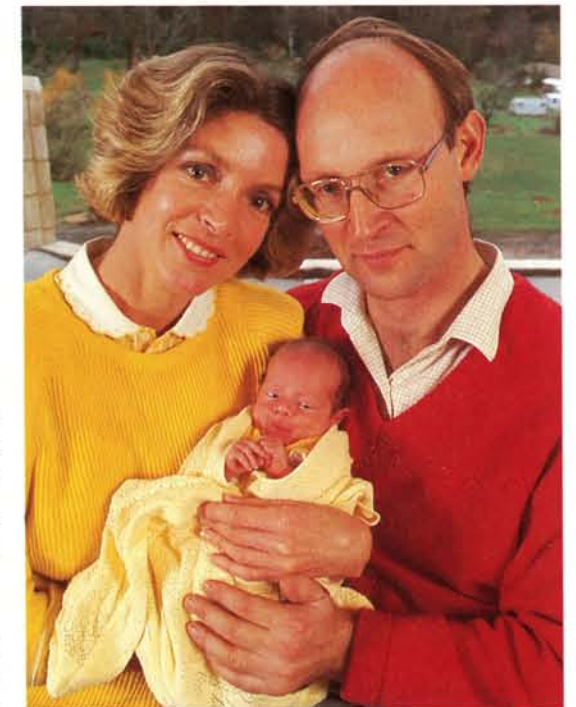
7 June Australia drew the second netball test 52-all against Trinidad-Tobago in Sydney.

8 June The birth on 23 May of Australia's first surrogate in-vitro fertilisation baby, Alice Deakin Kirkman, was announced. Born by caesarean section at Masada Private Hospital, Melbourne, the baby had grown from an embryo created from an ovum of Maggie Kirkman and fertilised by sperm from a donor. The embryo was implanted in the uterus of Kirkman's sister Linda. Kirkman and her husband Severn Clarke would have to adopt the baby as the Vic Status of Children (Amendment) Act 1984 deemed Linda to be the mother and Linda's husband the father.

8 June Australia was eliminated from the international women's soccer tournament after a 7-0 loss to China in the quarter-finals.

8 June The exhibition *A changing relationship, Aboriginal themes in Australian art 1938-1988* opened at the S.H. Ervin Art Gallery in Sydney.

9 June Elders IXL Wine and Spirits cancelled an advertising campaign that featured a spirit-based drink 'Kix Mix Drinx' and withdrew the



Australia's first surrogate in-vitro fertilisation baby Alice Kirkman with Maggie Kirkman and Severn Clarke. Photograph by Tony Feder, Time Australia, 20 June 1988.

IMPRESSIONS

product from sale following claims it was aimed at teenage drinkers.

9 June A research team at Adelaide's Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science announced the discovery of the monoclonal antibody, Mel 3, which stops malignant melanoma cells from spreading through the body.

9 June A Brisbane magistrate placed two male homosexuals on 12-month and \$200 good behaviour bonds. Queensland police had charged the men with gross indecency and sodomy. The offences occurred in private between consenting male adults. Under Qld laws the men could have faced 14-year sentences.

9 June An exhibition of political posters dealing with the relationship between Aboriginal and white Australia called *Right here, right now — Australia 1988* opened at the Tin Sheds Gallery, Sydney.

9 June Australia won the third netball test 44–37 against Trinidad-Tobago in Melbourne.

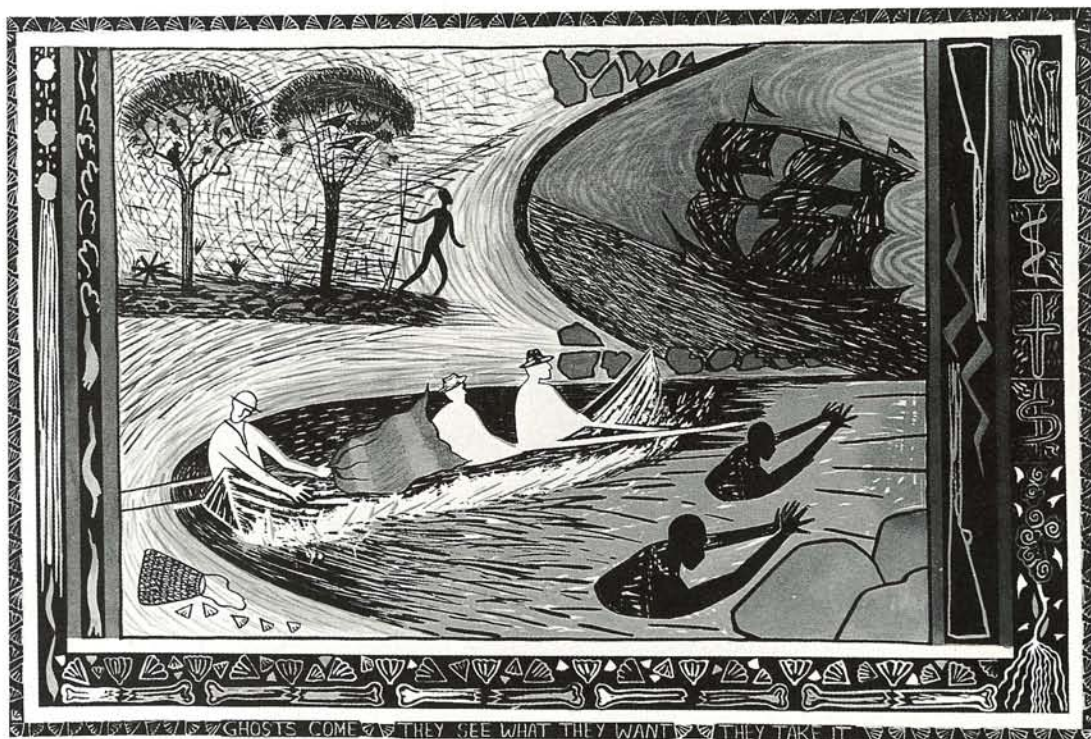
9 June Australian around-the-world flyer Peter Norvill landed at Brisbane airport ending his 33-day journey on the sixtieth anniversary of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's epic flight across the Pacific.

10 June The Qld hearings of the Muirhead Royal Commission opened in Brisbane.

10 June The two-week thirty-fifth Sydney Film Festival opened at the State Theatre. It screened 168 films from 27 countries.

11 June In the Queen's Birthday honours list two Queenslanders, John Nosworthy and Clement Renouf, and one Tasmanian, Eardley Bingham, were knighted. Queensland and Tasmania were the only two states to recommend and accept imperial honours.

11 June Prime Minister Bob Hawke opened the Curtin Royal Australian Air Force Base near Derby, Western Australia. The \$65 million base was the first Australian military airfield built in Australia since World War II. Designed to fill the strategic gap between the airforce bases at Learmonth and Darwin, it was



Poster from the *Right here, right now — Australia 1988* exhibition.

Photograph by Mark Baker, 9 June 1988.

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part of a shift of military forces from the south-east corner of Australia.

11 June Australia won the Centenary Rugby League Test against Great Britain 17–6 at the Sydney Football Stadium.

11 June Australia won the fourth and final netball test 56–37 against Trinidad-Tobago in Adelaide.

12 June Prime Minister Bob Hawke pledged that a treaty between Aboriginal and white Australians would be signed by 1990 and outlined the terms on which the treaty should be negotiated. He made the pledge at the conclusion of the three-day Barunga Culture and Sports Festival organised by the Northern Land Council and the central district Pitjantjatjara Land Council and attended by more than 6000 Aborigines. Galarrwuy Yunupingu of the Northern Land Council presented Hawke with a declaration of Aboriginal claims, titled the *Barunga Statement*.

12 June The Anglican Dean of Sydney, the Very Reverend Lance Shilton, called for national legislation against in-vitro fertilisation surrogacies. He described the procedure as 'adultery by remote control'.

12 June Victorian Environment Minister Tom Roper announced that his government would protect Deer Park, a 20-hectare ancient Aboriginal site uncovered during earthworks for housing development. The site in Melbourne's outer-west contained Aboriginal artefacts between 2000 and 5000 years old.

12 June A joint survey by the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee and the Australian Committee of Directors and Principals in Advanced Education revealed that in 1988 up to 20 000 students were unable to gain entry to a university or college owing to a shortage of places.

12 June Australia won the second rugby union test against Great Britain 28–8 at Concord Oval, Sydney.

13 June King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain arrived in Brisbane at the start of a nine-day tour of Australia and New Zealand.

TRICK OR TREATY FOR ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS?



Graphic from part of the 'draft treaty' prepared by Aboriginal poet and writer Kevin Gilbert.

Although Aboriginal people of this land were unaware at the time, Captain James Cook, in 1770, hoisted an English flag on a stick on an island, now called Possession Island, north of the mainland in the Torres Strait. Cook's journey had only taken him along the east coast of the country, but he claimed the whole continent in the name of the King of England. This action set in motion one of the largest and most successful land thefts in the history of the world.

Eighteen years later, in 1788, the First Fleet sailed into Botany Bay. This armada of boat people, mainly convicts and their keepers, have the dubious distinction of being the first non-Aboriginal people to land here without any intention of returning to their own country — they had come to colonise. Expeditions from Macassar and Europe for example had previously arrived from over the seas, but they had come to look, to trade, and returned to their homes.

Boatloads of non-Aboriginal people continue to arrive. Now, with modern technology, they also come by plane. Initially they subjected the indigenous people to genocidal atrocities in order to seize authority and the land. In Tasmania, their effort was almost wholly successful — only a handful of people survived. They parcelled out Aboriginal land among themselves, giving large tracts to squatters and others who successfully 'removed' Aboriginal people by driving them off or murdering them. The invaders set up a government, the legality of which was highly questionable in view of their forceful occupation of the country. This government continued the practice of handing out free land to a range of individuals and institutions such as churches and sporting groups.

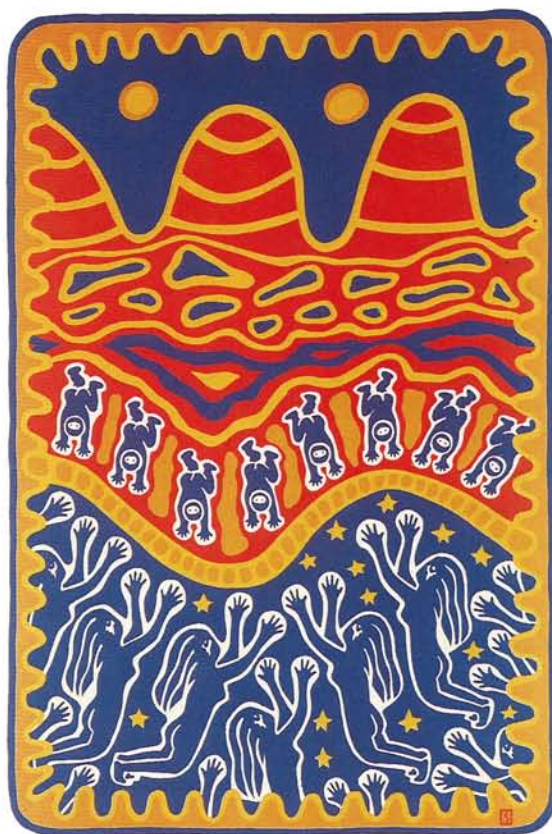
The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people have therefore had, for two hundred years, a very basic disagreement with non-Aboriginal people in Australia over the ownership of the land. By what right — ask the Aboriginal people — did these first white people assume the property and heritage of the Aboriginal people?

Under Aboriginal law, they had no right. Contemporary historians researching the question from the perspective of English law, such as Professor Henry Reynolds, ironically at James Cook University in Townsville, have established that the occupation of Australia was illegal and unauthorised under British law. King George III instructed Captain Cook, as he set out on his journey of discovery, to find 'convenient situations' of land for settlement and to proceed only 'with the consent of the native' peoples. This consent was not obtained.

The history of contact between black and white in Australia has the expropriation of the land at its centre. The atrocities that whites committed against the Aboriginal people — poisoning the waterholes and provisions, and massacres of whole tribes, including women and children, such as that which occurred at Myall Creek in 1838 and at Coniston as recently as 1928 — were carried out to gain possession of the country. Blacks retaliated to protect and defend their right to the country which had historically belonged to them. As a final indignity, severed Aboriginal heads, bones and body parts were taken to Europe where they were displayed in museums and other public places.

Following the establishment of a system of national administration, federal and state governments employed various means to maintain their illegal control of the land and prevent Aboriginal people from having any say in the process. Federal government, for example, through the constitution denied Blacks citizenship, participation in the electoral process and excluded them from being counted in the census. States had authority over the Aborigines within their state borders, and set up reserves and missions on which to segregate Blacks from the wider population. However, when white townships or businesses later wanted the land on which reserves or missions existed, the black residents were forcibly removed, their homes bulldozed, and whole families taken away in trucks with only the clothes they stood up in.

Change came slowly. In 1967, the Australian constitution was altered by referendum, allow-



Sally Morgan, Taken Away, 1987. In the 1930s 'half-caste' children were taken away from their natural mothers and placed in government settlements. Administrators attempted to obliterate any trace of Aboriginal culture.
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL GALLERY

ing Blacks to be included in the census and to exercise rights as citizens. In 1972, Blacks set up a protest centre in front of Parliament House, Canberra, called the Aboriginal Embassy to highlight their feeling of being treated as foreigners in their own land and lacking representation. The intention of the Embassy was to unite Blacks nationally in order to project a case for Aboriginal land rights and land rights compensation.

Governments have largely preferred not to discuss the fundamental questions surrounding land rights and land rights compensation. These questions concern ownership of this entire continent and how that ownership is alleged to have passed out of Black hands. Instead, the policy of successive governments has been to administer to Aborigines, addressing Black poverty and needs as though they were 'the good guys' helping Blacks to overcome inequalities of the past, without acknowledging that they have created the poverty by the expropriation of

Aboriginal land and maintained inequality to consolidate the land theft. The various 'assistance' schemes, ranging from educational assistance to housing subsidies, are examples of the type of charitable approach that would be unnecessary if the question of justice for Aborigines was addressed.

Blacks reject this charity, but at the same time they are forced by the circumstances of their poverty to accept what monies governments see fit to allocate. These allocations are made on the basis of political expediency, the amounts being determined in a climate of opposing pressures, balancing justice and Aboriginal need against the possibility of white electoral backlash.

Land rights and land rights compensation remain central to Black demands for justice. The Labor government recognised this fact when, in 1983, it campaigned on a promise of a national land rights bill. It was therefore demoralising to the Blacks when the same government reversed their policy in 1986.

International critics of the situation of Aborigines in Australia who have made their views known through public pronouncements include such widely disparate people as Prince Philip and Pope John Paul II. The anti-apartheid stance adopted by Australia towards South Africa has, in light of the situation of Australian Aborigines, been held up to ridicule in some countries, including France, as well as, of course, in South Africa. The issue has been discussed numerous times at the United Nations. In October 1988, Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans told the United Nations 'Our [white Australians] duty today is to acknowledge the truth of our history and to redress it.' The minister further informed his audience that Australia was 'seeking to complete a pact or agreement with our Aboriginal people and Islanders acknowledging their rightful place, not only in the past of our ancient continent, but in its present and future'.

Many white Australians are also highly critical, not only of the government's reversal on a national land rights program but of the on-again/off-again approach to resolution of the conflict between black and white which has ensured virtually no progress. The year which held so much promise of hope for a reconciliation between white and black Australians and for a treaty to safeguard that reconciliation into the future, has run out of time.

Dissent regarding a treaty has stemmed from

a very vocal and sophisticated group of whites, among them mining magnates and investors, and rogue academics. The vested interest of the former are obvious, although they are persuasive with their 'give Aborigines land rights and everyone will lose their jobs!' approach. These are the same people who alarmed white Australia with their dire predictions that the country would go to rack and ruin if Uluru (Ayer's Rock) was returned to the traditional owners. Since the hand-over, more tourists than ever have visited and enjoyed Uluru, under the watchful and protective eyes of the local elders. Aboriginal control of the area will ensure its maintenance for perhaps another 40 000 years, a benefit for 'all' Australians, particularly as western systems and culture seem destined to destroy much of the planet during the same time.

There is a small but committed group who publicly support a treaty, nurtured particularly by Judith Wright and Dr H. C. Coombs. Their publication *We call for a treaty* stemmed from the work of the all-white Aboriginal Treaty Committee, established in 1979 to provide advocacy for the demands of Blacks.

The largest white group consists of those who stand on the middleground struggling with the questions, holding no firm opinion either way. Successive governments have failed to provide this group with sufficient information to solve their dilemma.

Many of those on the middleground worry that government recognition of prior Aboriginal ownership would force them to return home. They see their own position as invidious because many have been here for generations and have such diverse ancestry that they really have no 'home' apart from their security here. For them, this makes recognition of the rights of Aborigines untenable. This large group of people usually do not know any Aborigines personally. If concern for their own welfare were alleviated, they would be free to weigh up the moral question of justice for Aborigines.

Aboriginal people have been moving towards a treaty since 1972. There have been several meetings held throughout the country to discuss the issues, and a series of 'draft' treaties have been drawn up by Kevin Gilbert at the request of the Aboriginal National Coalition. Groups, including traditional leaders, have also been meeting to consider what elements they would like to see in a treaty. Black legal professionals have been carrying out research glo-

bally in an effort to bring to the negotiations the most thorough information. There has been a feeling of urgency in the Black community that we need to be ready to move instantly — the moment government demonstrates sincerity — in case they change their minds!

The drafts assert the Aboriginal preference for a treaty rather than a 'social compact', 'agreement', 'pact' or 'Makarratta', all of which have been mooted by government. Only a treaty is legally binding at the international level. The drafts also maintain that

Aboriginal sovereignty has never been extinguished by invasion or by time. Aboriginal sovereignty continues to this day. We call for proper recognition of our status.

The questions of an Aboriginal treaty and sovereignty have vexed some sections of government and the white community who claim they would be supportive if Aborigines would settle for less. It was this attitude that caused Prime Minister Bob Hawke to move away from his original call for a treaty. The Labor government now prefers loose terms, such as pact, compact or agreement. A treaty is an agreement between two sovereign nations, and therefore recognition of the sovereign rights of Aboriginal people would be inherent in its signing.

But what is sovereignty, and why shouldn't Aborigines have theirs acknowledged? The Liberal party claims ceding Black sovereignty and a treaty would split the nation — yet many Native American tribal groups have treaties with the United States government, through which their sovereignty is acknowledged, with no deleterious effect on that country. Maoris and pakehas of New Zealand share the Treaty of Waitangi. There has been recent conflict between these two groups, but over the dishonouring of the treaty rather than the treaty itself.

Aboriginal people see the proposed Aboriginal treaty as a negotiated peace between themselves and those who invaded their lands. The terms of the treaty, they feel, should be negotiated not dictated. The exercise of Aboriginal and white sovereignty should also be negotiated.

It has been suggested that Aboriginal sovereignty might lead to a separate state or the establishment of a complete Aboriginal Parliament. Claims of this nature are ridiculous. These are white ways of seeing and doing things, and those projecting these ideas as being

Aboriginal ideas are merely hoping to stir up alarm and controversy.

Negotiation of land rights, land rights compensation and sovereignty are integral to the proposed treaty, and the key to these Aboriginal demands is contained in the word 'negotiated'. Aborigines want negotiated rights nationally. They do not want arbitrary arrangements made by government with themselves as beneficiaries.

Land rights opponents claim that land rights and land rights compensation would be discriminatory. The historic allocation of land packages on which the wealth of many of Australia's 'pioneer' families and companies is based was free. Some were on the basis of squatter's rights. Even under British law, the Aboriginal 40 000 years of occupation of this country would have to be acknowledged as a very long squat!

Some interesting philosophical questions have been posed by Blacks about the existing, though limited, system under which Aboriginal land claims are made. Many feel that the process should be reversed. They feel that the onus of proving rights to claims should not be on the Aborigines — it should be on government. Professor Henry Reynolds in *The law of the land* has challenged 'the legal and moral assumptions underlying the European occupation of Aboriginal Australia', and contends that the Australian government would not be able to prove their ownership of any of the lands in Australia.

The compensatory aspect of the proposed treaty has also been denounced as discriminatory. The principle of compensation — for crime, car and industrial accidents, for example — is to assist victims to replace lost goods and try to recover their former lifestyles. It was not established to attend to the needs of Blacks, but in recognition of the right of all people to go about their lives unmolested.

Australia currently anticipates growing interest and increased tourism from overseas. It is then of national embarrassment that when Blacks are pointed out as the original inhabitants of this ancient country, visitors are directed to look towards dumped car bodies and humpies to find them.

The circumstances under which Blacks live (poor housing and environmental conditions, high unemployment and low educational attainment, poor health) are evidence of the on-going effect of colonisation. The land was expropriated and handed down generation after



Robert Campbell, *Hands of time*, 1987 (*Assimilation and integration*), acrylic on canvas, 130 × 232.5 cm. Roslyn Oxley Gallery, Sydney.

generation among whites, enriching their standards of living, while Blacks have only the experience of poverty and despair to hand down to their successive generations.

Land rights and land rights compensation would return to Aboriginal people the foundation of their culture as well as the resources with which to take up their rightful place in this society.

Other points raised in the draft treaties for discussion and negotiation include:

- the protection of sacred sites;
- the freedom to practise Aboriginal religion and culture, including hunter-gatherer rights;
- the protection of indigenous animals, especially those which are food sources for Aboriginal people, but also those which maintain the environmental balance;
- the restriction of introduced animals, such as dogs and cats, which upset the ecological balance and have no natural predators in this country.

The loot from earlier cultural raids should be returned to the care of Aboriginal people. This includes traditional and religious items and artefacts, such as ceremonial bark paintings and tjchuringas.

The demand for the return of Aboriginal remains now held in museums, galleries and pri-

vate collections is of great significance to Black communities, many of whom have requested for over a hundred years the right to bury their dead so that their souls may be released to the Dreamtime. As well as bones and skeletal remains, the demands include:

- pickled heads
- human gloves
- scrotum tobacco pouches
- dried scalps
- pickled foetus
- cicatured skins
- complete stuffed (mummified) children's bodies and women with child

The return of these items will not economically disadvantage whites, and, as well as being an important gesture by which they could establish their bona fides, many would feel relieved to be no longer associated with souvenirs of such carnage.

The need for reconciliation, a negotiated peace between black and white in Australia, is glaringly obvious. An informed public would be more likely to support a treaty, not for altruistic notions, but because it serves their own self-interest. Acknowledgment and restoration of Aboriginal rights would enable white society to work towards their own sense of dignity and identity with the land.

ROBERTA B. SYKES



13 June In the Australian Queen's Birthday honours list 89 women and 321 men were honoured. New Companions in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AC) were David Block, Brian Burke, Sir Francis Burt, Malcolm Fraser, Sir John Gorton, Sir John Holland, Sir Brian Inglis, Sir William Keys, Jim Kirk, Sir Sidney Nolan and Dr Nanette Waddy.

13 June The opposition leader, John Howard, stated that a future Coalition government would not recognise any treaty made between Aboriginal and white Australians.

13 June A leading Japanese newspaper the *Yomiuri Shimbun* warned its readers against the growing incidence of theft and assault involving Japanese tourists in Australia.

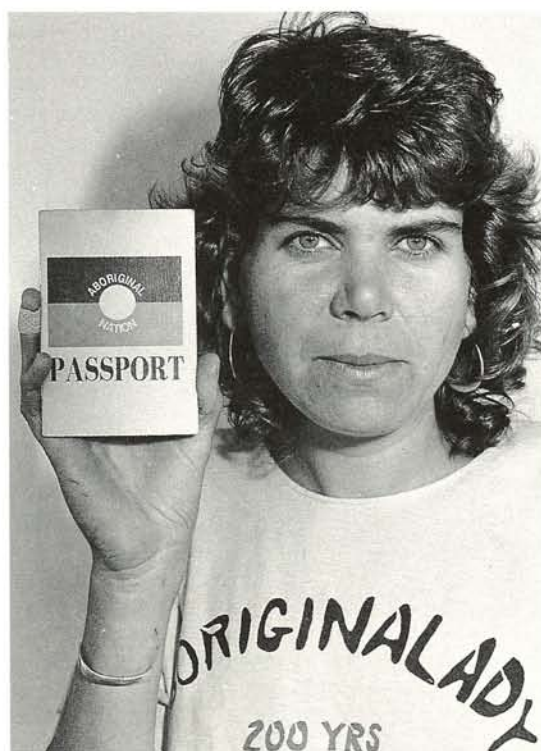
14 June Telecom handed back 4 hectares of land at the Barrow Creek telegraph station 250 kilometres north of Alice Springs to the Kaytej Aborigines. In 1874 Aborigines attacked the station killing two white men. More than 100 Aborigines were shot in retaliation.

14 June The Australian Electoral Commission confirmed that, based on population figures, Vic would lose one of its 39 House of Representatives electorates and WA would gain an electorate.

14 June Defence Minister Kim Beazley announced an increase in annual defence exports from \$200 million in 1988 to \$500 million within five years.

14 June The Australian Kidney Foundation and Health Minister Neal Blewett launched a national campaign 'Donate a life' to encourage, in the event of death, the donation of vital organs for transplant.

14 June A 14-member Aboriginal delegation led by Aboriginal activist Michael Mansell left Sydney for Libya. The group held talks with Libyan government officials on trade sanctions by Arab countries against Australia and funding for Aboriginal causes. The delegation travelled with Aboriginal passports, which were accepted as valid travel documents in Libya. Australian immigration officials did not accept the dele-



Darlene Mansell displays the passport used when she visited Libya as part of an Aboriginal delegation. Age, 8 April 1988.

gates' passports on their return to Australia on 29 June.

14 June Don Dunstan, former SA premier, was appointed adviser to the SA government on legislation to increase Aboriginal self-determination.

15 June Employer groups from NSW, Vic, SA and the ACT merged to form the National Employers' Federation of Australia, affiliated to the Confederation of Australian Industry.

15 June The World Heritage Bureau in Paris decided in principle to recommend north Qld rainforests for World Heritage listing in December after a boundary review of the nominated area. The Qld government delegation was opposed to the listing and claimed victory in delaying the process. On 19 June Environment Minister Senator Graham Richardson reported that the Bureau had unconditionally affirmed its recommendation.

15 June The President of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Com-

mission, Justice Marcus Einfeld, released a report criticising federal and state government and local council management of the Toomelah Aboriginal mission. The report followed an inquiry by the commission into the race riot in the neighbouring Qld border town of Goondiwindi in 1987. The commission found that the 500 residents of Toomelah were without basic housing, water, sewerage, employment, health and education facilities.

15 June The WA government launched a \$2 million 'Quit Campaign' featuring Dr Fiona Stanley, deputy director of the National Health and Medical Research Council's epidemiology and preventative medicine unit. It was the first



Cartoon by Moir, Sydney Morning Herald, 16 June 1988.

anti-smoking campaign to be directed specifically at women.

15 June More than 8000 Qld coal miners launched a two-week strike following confrontation over employers' plans to change the mining award.

15 June Western Australian Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ernie Bridge opened a new police lock-up at Warburton Range in the Western Desert. About one-third of the deaths in custody investigated by the Muirhead Royal Commission occurred in Western Australia.

15 June Sydney woman Nola Blake was sentenced to death by machine gun fire after a Bangkok court found her guilty of possessing 5.5 kilograms of heroin intended for sale in Australia. She is the first Westerner to be sentenced to execution in Thailand for drug charges. A death sentence earlier imposed on Blake's defacto husband Paul Hudson was commuted to life imprisonment. Blake and Hudson were arrested by narcotics police on 22 January in central Bangkok while pushing a stroller that carried their 14-month-old son and the concealed heroin.

16 June Anti-nuclear campaigners Helen Caldicott, Bill Caldicott and Gordon McQuilten launched a new lobby group within the ALP called 'Green Labor' in an attempt to strengthen the party's commitment to 'responsible anti-nuclear and environmental policies'.



Independent member of Parliament Bob Brown visits the Daintree rainforest in northeast Queensland proposed for World Heritage Listing.
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

16 June Former Australian cricket captain Greg Chappell announced his resignation from the Australian Cricket Board, the Qld Cricket Association and as a test selector. Chappell said 'I've discovered it is not possible to change the system from within . . . perhaps by me stepping back some people will be able to see the extent of the problems.'

16 June Federal cabinet approved two new 50-watt communications satellites to be built by the US company Hughes Communications International. The two satellites to be launched in 1992 would allow direct pay television services to be broadcast to metropolitan areas.

16 June The 1988 four-week national wage case hearing commenced in the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in Melbourne headed by the president of the commission Mr Justice Maddern. The formal vehicle for the case was a claim lodged by the Clothing and Allied Trades Union for two across-the-board pay rises of 3 per cent to take effect from 1 July and 1 December. The commission adjourned after demonstrators entered the court room, demanding an immediate 6 per cent pay rise.

16 June Federal cabinet agreed to negotiate with the Soviet Union regarding port access to Soviet fishing trawlers and Aeroflot landing rights for crew changeovers.

16 June The Quilt Australia '88 Exhibition opened in Sydney. It featured both contemporary and historic Australian quilts.

16 June The 10-day thirty-seventh Melbourne Film Festival, featuring more than 200 films, opened at various Melbourne theatres.

16-18 June The Australian women's hockey team played a series of tests against Great Britain, Canada and West Germany in England as part of their Olympic preparation. They defeated Great Britain 2-0, Canada 2-1, and lost to West Germany 1-0.

17 June Glenys Davis gave birth to the world's second quads born from the GIFT (gamete intra-fallopian transfer) variation of the in-vitro fertilisation technique in Queen Victoria Hospital, Adelaide. The first GIFT quads were born in Sydney in November 1987.

17 June The opposition leader, John Howard, claimed Aborigines wanted 40 per cent of

SPORT AUSTRALIA HALL OF FAME

17 June The supreme Australian sporting performances by a male athlete, by a female athlete and by a team were announced at the Wang Bicentennial Sport Australia Hall of Fame Awards. The award celebration dinners, held jointly in Sydney and Melbourne, were linked by television.

The winners were Sir Donald Bradman, for his 309 runs in one day of the third cricket test against England in 1930; Dawn Fraser, for her three consecutive Olympic swimming gold medals in the 100 metres freestyle; and the 1983 *Australia II* yachting team for winning the America's Cup. To decide the winners, all surviving members of the Sport Australia Hall of Fame had been asked to choose by postal vote from a final field of eight in each category.

The establishment of the Hall of Fame was originally suggested to the Confederation of Australian Sport by its executive director Garry Daly in 1985. It was modelled on the American Sports Hall of Fame. In 1985 the Confederation formed the Hall of Fame Selection Committee under the patronage of the then sports minister, John Brown. National sporting associations were invited to submit nominations for the original 120 members. The inaugural induction ceremony was held in December 1985 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground's Long Room. Subsequently, a further 80 names were added to the Hall of Fame members.

BICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY BEACONS

4 June 1788 'About 5 o'clock we broke up, and walked out to visit the Bonfires, The Fuel of One of Which, a number of Convicts had been 2 Days collecting, and to one who had never seen any bigger than Tower Hill Bonfire on these Occasions, it was really a noble Sight, it was piled up for several Yards high round a large Tree; Here, the Convicts assembled, singing and huzzing; on the Governor's Approach, they all drew up on the Opposite Side, and gave 3 Huzza's, after this Salutation A Party of them joined in singing *God Save the King*.'

GEORGE WORGAN



Bicentennial beacon alight in the Brisbane seaside suburb of Shorncliffe. Photograph by Peter O'Halloran.

CALL THE SHOTS

18-19 June 1988 The lighting of 556 birthday beacons was the idea of two Melburnians, Ann Blainey and Claudio Veliz, as a way of uniting small and diverse communities around Australia in a Bicentennial event. It commemorated the importance of fire, and its beneficial and tragic effects on the lives of Aboriginal and white Australians. Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen lit the first beacon at sunset on Saturday 18 June on the southern shore of Botany Bay. The 15 000-kilometre chain of beacons was then lit at intervals in a clockwise direction; the light from the previous beacon (and sometimes radio contact) was the signal for the chain to continue. Twenty-nine beacons were constructed across the Nullarbor Plain with wood brought in by four-wheel-drive vehicles. The last beacon was lit at sunrise on Sunday 19 June on the northern shore of Botany Bay where the First Fleet had landed in 1788. At each beacon site a tree was later symbolically planted in the ashes.

Australian land and \$1 billion compensation as part of the proposed Aboriginal Treaty.

17 June Forty delegates from 21 nations signed a resolution at the International Rivers Network conference in San Francisco, which called on the Aust and Tas governments to preserve the Lemnathyme and Southern forests.

17 June Botanists from the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra announced the successful propagation of Australia's rarest gum *Eucalyptus recurva*.

18 June Prime Minister Bob Hawke opened Australia's National Day at the Australian pavilion in World Expo '88.

18 June The 89-member Australian Ballet Company left for a two-month tour of Leningrad, Moscow, Odessa, London and Athens.

The first of its 37 performances was *Romeo and Juliet* on 22 June in Leningrad.

18 June The innovative theatre director John Tasker died aged 55 in Sydney.

19 June Prime Minister Bob Hawke left Australia for a nine-day visit to the United States.

20 June Brisbane CSIRO scientist Dr Peter Willadsen announced the development of a cattle-tick vaccine. The vaccine, which removes the need for cattle dipping, was expected to be available commercially within two years.

20 June Justice Muirhead claimed in an address to the Second International Criminal Law Congress in Surfers Paradise that on a comparative population basis the number of Aborigines who had died in custody since 1980 was the equivalent of 7400 whites.

20 June Australian immigration officials backed the Hong Kong government's efforts to



The small size of the \$2 coin prompted Age cartoonist Peter Nicholson to predict an even smaller coin for the future. Age, 29 June 1988.



NEW COIN AND NOTE ISSUE

20 June The Australian Mint released into circulation the \$2 coin designed by Horst Hahne. It showed the head and shoulders of a traditional Aboriginal man against the background of the Southern Cross and Australian fauna. The coin replaced the \$2 note, with the portraits of William Farrer and John Macarthur, first released in 1966. New designs for the 50 cent and \$1 coins struck to mark the Bicentenary were also released.

persuade Vietnam to take back refugees who had left for economic rather than political reasons.

20 June Radio-astronomers and physicists from the CSIRO, the University of Sydney and the University of Tasmania announced the joint

discovery of two pulsars. The first, designated PSR 0021-72A, was a tiny super-dense neutron star spinning on its own axis at 15 000 revolutions per minute. Its companion, a dense white dwarf star, orbited it. Using the Parkes radio telescope, the pulsars were discovered in a cluster of about a million stars called 47

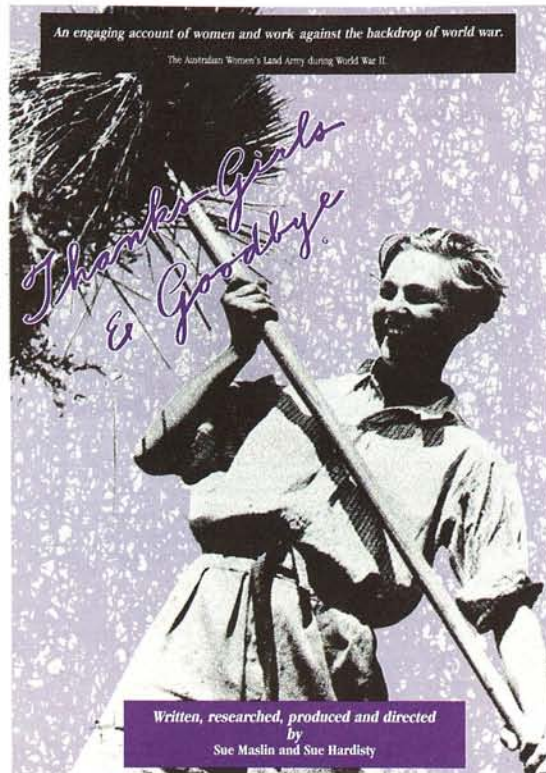
Tucanae in the southern sky, 15 000 light years away.

20 June Ministers from Australian and New Zealand governments signed an agreement in Christchurch that brought forward the date for full free trade between the two countries from 1995 to 1 July 1990.

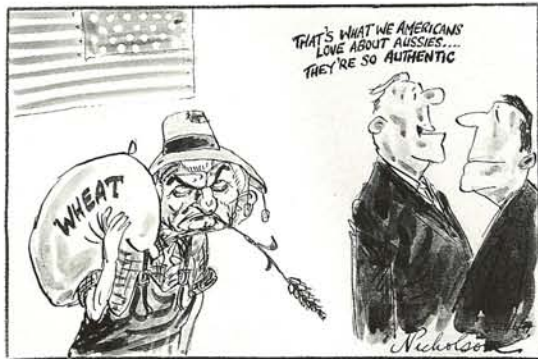
20 June Prime Minister Bob Hawke criticised a US government proposal to subsidise a multimillion dollar wheat deal with Indonesia in an address to the Chicago Economic Club. The deal threatened to jeopardise Australia's \$104 million wheat market with Indonesia. On 25 June Hawke announced from Texas that the wheat deal had been cancelled.

20 June The Australian women's basketball team qualified for the Seoul Olympics in a tournament in Malaysia.

20-23 June An official delegation of six Bikini Islanders discussed atomic decontamination and compensation claims with Maralinga Aborigines in South Australia. The Maralinga Aboriginal lands were damaged by British nuclear tests from 1952 to 1963. Bikini Atoll in



Released in 1988 this documentary film traced the story of the Australian Women's Land Army.
NEWGROUND PRODUCTIONS



Peter Nicholson, Age, 21 June 1988.

the central Pacific Ocean was the site for US tests of atomic and hydrogen bombs from 1946 to 1958.

21 June The national wage case was adjourned during a 24-hour strike by 8000 members of the Waterside Workers Federation.

21 June In New York at a dinner hosted by the Asia Society and the American-Australian Association, Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced that the Australian government

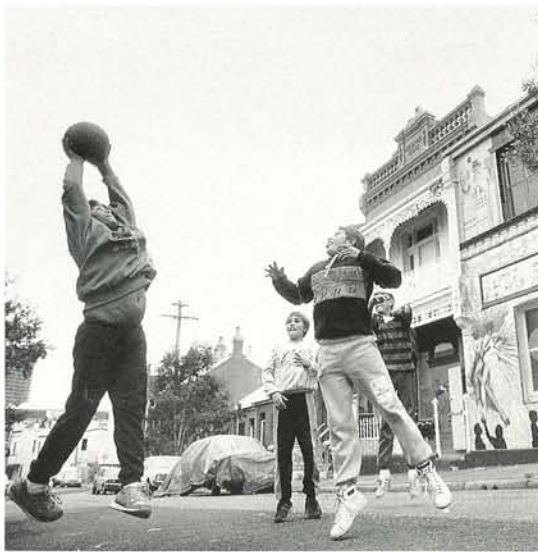
would launch a regional initiative aimed at banning chemical weapons in the Asian and Pacific regions.

21 June John Chessells resigned as deputy director of the Museum of Victoria in protest against the lack of support by the Victorian Arts Ministry.

21 June Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced that the Australian government would contribute \$20 million over three years to a United Nations fund for humanitarian and economic assistance to war-torn Afghanistan.

21 June A documentary on the 7000 members of the World War II Australian Women's Land Army, entitled *Thanks girls & goodbye*, premiered at the Adelaide Media Resources Centre's 1988 Winter Season of Films.

21 June Two Year 12 Aboriginal students were expelled from Cleveland Street High School, Sydney, for their involvement in a



All Aboriginal students at Cleveland Street High School, Sydney, went on strike following the suspension of two young women. Photograph by Bruce Miller, Sydney Morning Herald, 23 May 1988.

scuffle following a women's touch football game.

21 June Industrial Relations Minister Ralph Willis opened the \$1.2 million Australian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. The permanent pavilion was shipped to Italy from Australia as prefabricated modules. The inaugural exhibition was the work of Australian artist Arthur Boyd, *Paintings 1973-1988*.

22 June The federal opposition leaked a draft government discussion paper that advocated full-scale advertising to fund SBS television.

22 June Royal Mail in Britain and Australia Post jointly released a set of four stamps commissioned to mark the Bicentenary.

22-26 June New South Wales coal miners joined Qld coal miners in a national coal strike. The 25 000 miners protested against moves by employers to abolish union bans on weekend work.

23 June Clinton Condon of the Australian Wheat Board pressed Egyptian officials in Cairo to increase payment of Egypt's \$1 billion debt to the Board. In 1985, Egypt purchased 10 million tonnes of wheat under a five-year agreement.

23 June The NSW Court of Criminal Appeal upheld an appeal by the Crown against the seven-and-a-half-year sentence of former NSW corrective services minister Rex Jackson. Jackson had been convicted in 1987 for conspiracy over the prisoner early-release scheme. The Court re-sentenced Jackson to ten years gaol.

23 June Archaeologists commenced a three-month dig at Cadman Cottage. The cottage, built in 1816, is Sydney's oldest house.

23 June The Australian Boating Industry Association named the *Eureka 30*, a 9.4-metre fibreglass sloop designed by Ben Lexcen, Australian Boat of the Year.

24 June A ceremony for the signing of an agreement between Aborigines and Queensland Mines Ltd took place at Nabarlek in Arnhem Land. The agreement permitted uranium exploration of a 560-square-kilometre area surrounding the QML's Nabarlek uranium mine and milling plant.

24 June The Chinese giant pandas Fei Fei and Xiao Xiao were transferred from Melbourne Zoo to Taronga Park Zoo in Sydney.

24 June Primary Industries Minister John Kerin and Japanese Agriculture Minister Takashi Sato signed a beef deal worth \$A1 billion. Under the agreement Japan would increase Australian beef quotas to 394 000 tonnes by 1990 and replace the quota system with tariffs in 1991. Beef prices for Australian consumers were expected to rise.

24 June Prime Minister Bob Hawke became the first Australian leader to address a joint sitting of both Houses of the US Congress in Washington. He criticised the impact of US and European trade protectionism on Australia. Telecast live to Australia, the speech was not reported widely in the United States.

24 June Treasurer Paul Keating announced a budget surplus of \$2 billion for the financial year.

24 June Multiplex Constructions, a WA company, awarded building workers a 3 per cent pay rise from 1 June. This decision pre-



Approximately 28 Aborigines were murdered by white men during the Myall Creek Massacre in 1838. Illustrations by Michael Fitzjames, Sydney Morning Herald, 30 May 1988.

empted the outcome of the national wage case due to be handed down in July.

24 June A single-page letter, describing the Myall Creek massacre of Aborigines in 1838, was found among the records of the Muswellbrook Historical Society. Written by an overseer, William Hobbs, and dated 9 July 1838, the letter has been handed over to the NSW State Archives for preservation.

25 June The Australian Ballet Company gave its first performance of *The sentimental bloke* in Leningrad. Choreographer Robert Ray adapted the ballet from the verse *The sentimental bloke* by C. J. Dennis.

25 June Northern Territory police stated that they had been asked to investigate a report that a group of white men had dressed in Ku Klux Klan robes at a bicentennial bonfire lighting in Arnhem Land on 18 June.

26 June More than 4000 NSW students from 120 schools marched in Sydney to protest against state government changes to education. The NSW minister for education, Terry Methrell, had earlier proposed widespread changes to the Higher School Certificate system including making maths, science and a major language compulsory.

26 June More than 700 women encircled Fairlea Women's Prison in Melbourne in a demonstration called 'Wring out Fairlea' to protest against higher imprisonment rates for women and the poor condition of Vic prisons. A report released by the Fitzroy Legal Service showed that the number of women imprisoned in Vic had risen by 450 per cent in ten years compared to 12 per cent for men over the same period.

26 June The Vic government allocated \$500 000 from the Drug Research and Rehabilitation Fund to community groups. Set up in 1986, the fund is made up of proceeds from fines and penalties from people convicted of drug trafficking.

26 June A complete set of the 337 Australian plant prints from Sir Joseph Banks' *Florilegium* was auctioned in Sydney. The prints were taken from the original 743 copperplate engravings of plants from seven countries collected by Banks and drawn by Sydney Parkinson on James Cook's 1768-71 voyage.

27 June Prime Minister Bob Hawke returned from his nine-day visit to the United States.

27 June Education Minister John Dawkins announced the establishment of the Australian

Contemporary Music Company. The government-funded company will promote industry training, international marketing and music education.

27 June The Washington-based Independent Population Crisis Committee placed Australia eighth in a world survey of 100 countries on the status of women, entitled *Poor, powerless and pregnant*. Surveyed according to health, social equality, education and employment, Sweden headed the list followed by Finland, US, East Germany, Norway, Canada and Denmark. Bangladesh was last on the list.

27 June Perth inventor of the orbital engine Ralph Sarich signed a licensing agreement with the US Ford Motor Company.

27 June Industry Minister Senator John But-ton launched the Australian Trade Commission and Confederation of Australian Industry Bicentennial Export Awards in Melbourne.

27 June Competitors in the final leg of the Great Bicentennial Camel Race left Roma, Qld, amid allegations of assault and sabotage between competitors.

27-28 June About 150 anti-nuclear protestors gathered at Exmouth, WA, to mark the expiration of the 25-year-lease agreement between the US and Australia for the Harold E. Holt Naval Communication Station at North-West Cape. From 27 June either country can close the base after giving 180 days' notice. The protestors presented a US guard with an eviction notice and a peppercorn. The peppercorn was a symbolic repayment of the only rent paid to Australia for the use of North-West Cape.

28 June In a ceremony in Rome Pope John Paul installed Australia's fifth cardinal, the Archbishop of Sydney, Edward Bede Clancy. The first cardinal in Australia was Irish-born Cardinal Patrick Moran, Archbishop of Sydney at the turn of the century. The first Australian-born cardinal was Norman Gilroy of Sydney, elevated to the position in 1946.

28 June The WA hearings of the Muirhead Royal Commission opened in Perth. The Vic hearings opened in Melbourne the following day.

28 June The NSW Supreme Court sentenced Mario Postiglione to life imprisonment for importing five kilograms of heroin concealed in soccer balls. It was the most severe penalty imposed for drug importation in New South Wales.

28 June A SA government taskforce set up in October 1987 released a report calling for 'relevant personal information' to be provided to prospective Filipino brides on the character of the Australian man they intended to marry. The report stated that Filipino women were subjected to more domestic violence than other women in South Australia.

28 June An eight-hour mini-series *True believers* premiered on ABC television. The series examined Australia's postwar history 1945-55. It focused on Ben Chifley, Robert Menzies and H.V. Evatt.

28 June Australia won the second rugby league test against Great Britain 34-14 at Lang Park, Brisbane.

28-29 June Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden and Defence Minister Kim Beazley attended the annual US-Australian ministerial talks in Washington. The talks replaced the former ANZUS meetings.

29 June Bond Media Ltd announced that it would take legal action to recover a \$100 million debt allegedly owed by Warwick Fairfax's Tryart Pty Ltd. The debt was originally owed to Laurie Connell, chief executive of Rothwells Ltd, for his role in Tryart's \$2.55 billion privatisation of John Fairfax Ltd. Connell passed the fee to Bond Media when it rescued Rothwells after the stockmarket crash of October 1987.

29 June The president of the NSW Returned Services League Sir Colin Hines condemned a plan to unveil a plaque at Garden Island commemorating the crews of Japanese midget submarines killed during an attack on Sydney Harbour in 1942. The plaque also commemorated the 21 Australians they killed.

29 June The federal opposition announced its industrial relations policy, which aimed to curb union powers and reduce the role of the Con-



The first women to graduate as pilots in the RAAF, Robyn Williams (left) and Deborah Hicks. Photograph by Ernie McLintock, Australian, 29 June 1988.

ciliation and Arbitration Commission in wage-fixing.

29-30 June A strike by Vic transport maintenance unions in support of the 6 per cent national wage claim affected Melbourne train and tram services.

30 June Flight Lieutenant Robyn Williams and Officer Cadet Deborah Hicks became the first women to graduate as pilots in the Royal Australian Air Force when they received their wings at a ceremony at Pearce Air Base, Western Australia.

30 June State and federal attorneys-general endorsed an agreement to allow New Zealand to use evidence from Australian courts in all criminal proceedings. Previously, New Zealand citizens who had committed crimes in Australia while at the same time being sought for offences in New Zealand had to face state courts and then extradition proceedings. The evidence used in state courts could not then be used in

New Zealand. The decision effectively made New Zealand a seventh state of Australia on matters involving criminal proceedings.

30 June The ACTU threatened a general strike over the national wage case.

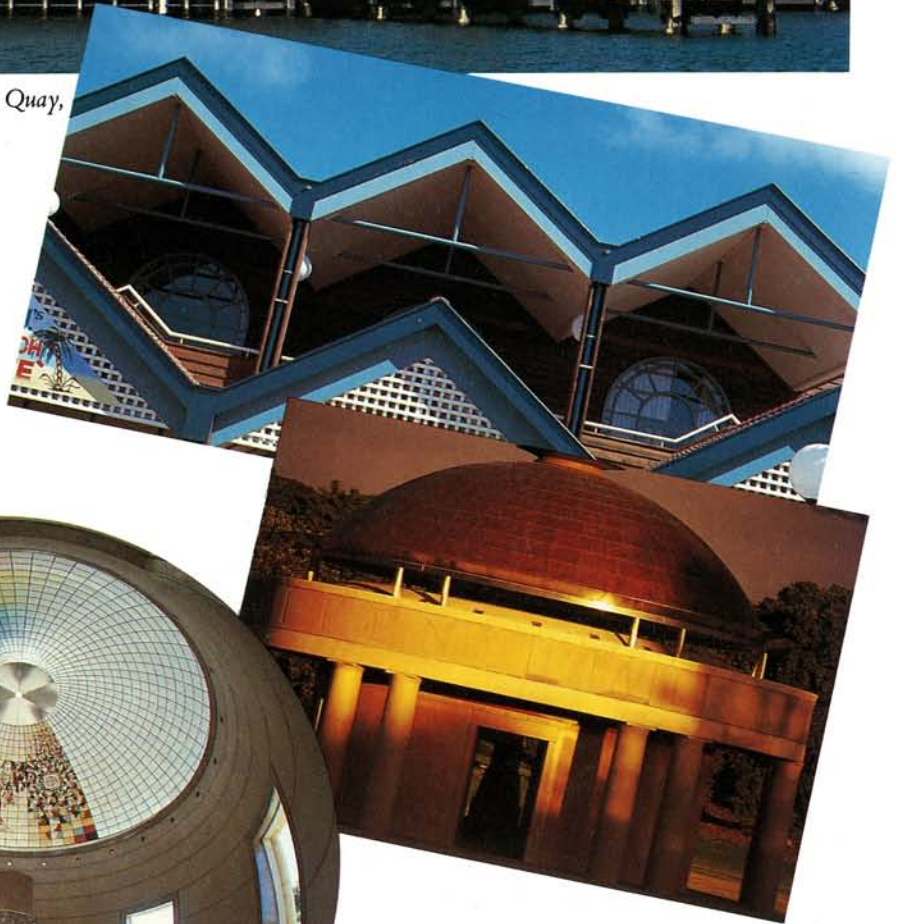
30 June The Commonwealth-State Joint Task Force on Drug Trafficking was disbanded after nine years in operation.

30 June The Anglican Church dismissed Penny Mosquera as headmistress of Glennie Memorial School, Toowoomba, for the second time. Mosquera was sacked in December 1987 after the school's council claimed she had failed to dismiss the school's activities director, with whom she was allegedly having an affair. She had been reinstated after an appeal to the Qld Industrial Court.

30 June For the first time the Australian Taxation Office required taxpayers to disclose all bank account numbers in their annual returns.



Above and right. Sorrento Quay,
Perth. Photographs by
Kevin Diletti.



The Federation Pavilion, Centennial Park, Sydney.
Photograph by David Young, Good Weekend,
2 July 1988.



The stained glass ceiling of the Federation Pavilion
designed by Imants Tillers.
LEWIN TZANNES

June Chapters of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects presented their 1988 state architecture awards. Winners included the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney and Sorrento Quay in Perth.