

NOVEMBER

1 November The Australian Medical Association's new fee schedule, based on the type of consultation rather than time, came into effect, although many doctors chose not to implement it. Federal Health Minister Neal Blewett offered to negotiate a fee restructuring with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) which represents about half the practising GPs in Australia. It agreed to establish a working party and defer introduction of the AMA's fee structure until 1 March 1989.

1 November The SA minister for development and technology, Lynn Arnold, announced the development of Science Park, Adelaide, a joint venture between the Technology Park Adelaide Corporation and Flinders University. The university will contribute 19.5 hectares of land adjacent to the university for the 30-hectare site.

1 November Former NSW treasurer Ken Booth died in Sydney, aged 62. He held the seat of Wallsend in the Newcastle electorate for the ALP and was the longest serving member of the NSW parliament.

1 November Sir Laurence Street retired as Chief Justice of New South Wales.

1 November Julian Boyd and crewmate John Cadwallader were rescued by a National Safety Council helicopter from their trimaran *St Terese*, which capsized on 30 September in the Southern Ocean off the Tasmanian coast during the Round Australia Yacht Race.

1 November Following publication of the Cass Report, Prime Minister Bob Hawke established an eleven-member task force on the aged to consult with the elderly and formulate measures to help the aged. The eleven members were Jeannette McHugh, Leo McLeay and Michael Lee (NSW), Senator John Coates (Tas), Allen Blanchard (WA), John Brumby, Tony Lamb and John Mildren (Vic), Con Sciacca and Gary Johns (Qld) and Elizabeth Harvey (SA).

1 November Following the visit of Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans to Indonesia, the federal government announced in parliament that Indonesia would provide a team of officials to warn fishing crews from operating illegally in Australian waters. This would be supported by a publicity campaign by the Australian Embassy in Jakarta warning of the penalties for breaching Australian fisheries and quarantine laws.

1 November Joe Meissner, former secretary of the Enmore branch of the ALP in Sydney, received a summons on charges of attempting to pervert the course of justice between May 1985 and July 1988. In May 1985 the Sydney *Sunday Telegraph* published claims by Meissner's former de facto wife Virginia Perger that she had had sex with a number of politicians and others on a boat, the *Kanzen*, owned by Meissner, and that photographs had been taken. On 12 September 1985 Perger was charged with wilfully and corruptly making false statements. She changed her not-guilty plea and on 15 May 1986 was put on a \$2000 two-year good behaviour bond. In May 1988 the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that \$15 000 had been paid to Perger on 28 February 1986, three days before it was announced that she would plead guilty. Following the article, Perger recanted her guilty plea and claimed that her allegations were true.

1 November Twenty-year-old Anthony Farrell of Albert Park, Melbourne, was charged with the murder of Constable Steven Tynan and Trainee Constable Damien Eyre in Walsh Street, Melbourne, on 12 October. Seventeen-year-old Jason Ryan was later also charged and placed under police protection.

1 November From April 1989 the NSW state government will increase rents for public housing tenants to market rates and terminate new tenancies if tenants have improved their financial circumstances. Tenants on low incomes would continue to qualify for a rent reduction. The NSW Department of Housing

anticipated that increases of between 20 per cent and 50 per cent would apply to about twenty per cent (22 000) of public tenants.

1 November A joint meeting of the federal Liberal and National parties agreed to support a tax file numbering system following Cabinet acceptance of opposition amendments to the Taxation Laws Amendment (Tax File Numbers) Bill aimed at strengthening privacy provisions. Under the amendments, taxpayers retain the option of choosing not to quote their tax file number. In such cases tax would be deducted at the top marginal rate of 49 cents in the dollar, with any excess tax refunded at the end of the financial year. The bill received royal assent on 25 November.

1 November James Finch denied having confessed to the Brisbane newspaper the *Sun* on 31 October to his role in the 1973 Whisky Au Go Go firebombing, claiming 'I just don't know any more.' After his alleged confession, Finch learned that the Qld state government was considering his extradition to face fourteen additional murder charges in connection with the firebombing and that the Qld Parole Board had the power to overturn his parole. Acting Qld Police Commissioner Ron Redmond established a task force to re-examine the case following Finch's alleged confession.

1 November Twenty-one-year-old New Zealander Tony Allan won the Melbourne Cup at Flemington race course on Empire Rose.

2 November Egg farmer Paul Galea was arrested at his farm at Prestons in Sydney's far southwest when police evicted him and his family for failure to pay court fines. The NSW Supreme Court had ruled that Galea, who farmed eggs without a licence, selling them through retail outlets instead of through the NSW Egg Corporation, was in breach of the law. The court ordered the sale of his property and other assets to pay court fines totalling approximately \$100 000. It also awarded damages of more than \$1 million against Galea.

2 November The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) launched a credit card,

the ACTU Privilege Card, which could be used as a debit card or Visa credit card. It will be piloted in Victoria and will offer users a range of benefits including preferential rates on housing loans. The scheme, set up through the ACTU Financial Services Trust, a company comprising the ACTU, twelve affiliate unions and the superannuation group Jacque Martin, will be the ACTU's first significant business venture since the 1970s.

2 November At the biannual CSIRO national consultative council meeting in Canberra, staff and management passed a motion calling on the federal government to establish a science and technology committee of senior cabinet ministers to be chaired by the prime minister. It also urged the government to 'urgently and radically review' its attitudes and policies towards scientific and technological research and development. In the 1988 federal budget, CSIRO's direct funding was cut by about 5 per cent in real terms.

2 November The National Health and Medical Research Council approved a trial of prescription heroin in single-use syringes for a selected number of intravenous drug users as part of a number of measures to prevent AIDS spreading into the general community. The proposals require final approval by state health and corrective services ministers when they meet in March 1989. If approved, it would be the first time heroin had been made legally available in Australia.

2 November An independent committee of inquiry, headed by former Chief Justice of Australia Sir Harry Gibbs, found that Dr William McBride was guilty of scientific fraud in his campaign against the anti-morning sickness drug Debendox, which has been linked to birth deformities. Dr McBride resigned from Foundation 41, the Sydney birth research centre he founded in 1972, but refuted the inquiry's findings, claiming he had been denied natural justice.

2-4 November A Qld limestone mining company, Central Queensland Cement, blasted the Speaking Tube cave and Elephant Hole cave

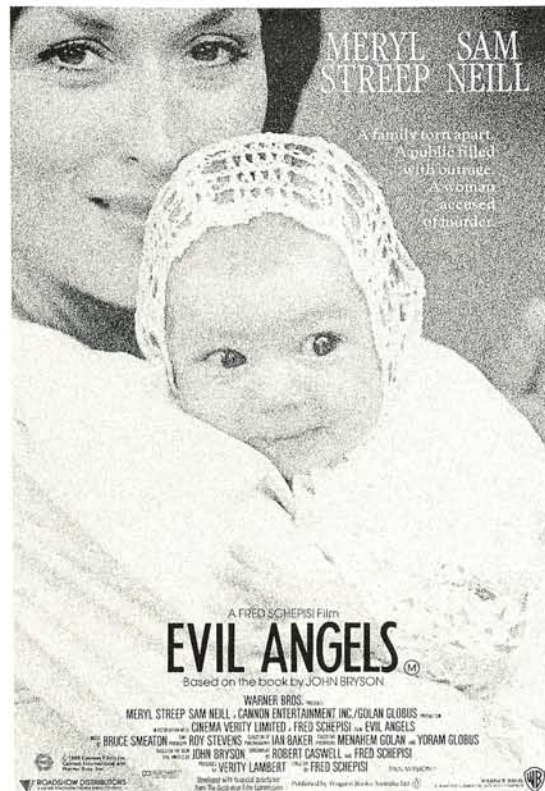
on Mt Etna, near Rockhampton, Qld, considered by environmentalists to be vital breeding grounds for the ghost bat, a species of large carnivorous bat, in danger of extinction. On 23 November, the company admitted that it had not received a report from its environmental consultants before blasting began.

3 November The merchant bank, Rothwells Ltd, with trading losses of about \$100 million and bad debts of about \$500 million, filed for provisional liquidation. Its collapse put at risk the WA state government's investments in the bank. In October 1987 it gave a \$150 million guarantee as part of a \$384 million rescue following the stock market crash and further investments were made by state instrumentalities including the WA State Government Insurance Commission (\$88.8 million) and the Rural and Industries Bank (\$17.5 million). Bond Brewing Investments Pty Ltd was the largest shareholder in Rothwells with 11.6 per cent of the capital.

3 November The Australian premiere of *Evil angels*, produced by Verity Lambert and directed by Fred Schepisi, was held in Sydney. The film, featuring Meryl Streep and Sam Neill as Lindy and Michael Chamberlain, is based on John Bryson's book *Evil angels* (published by Penguin in 1985), which explores the Chamberlain's fight to prove their innocence over the disappearance of their daughter Azaria at Ayers Rock, NT, in August 1980.

3 November In the SA Supreme Court Justice Leslie Olsson held that Stirling Council in the Adelaide Hills and the now bankrupt operator of a council-licensed rubbish dump, F.S. Evans and Sons, were responsible for a bushfire on Ash Wednesday 20 February 1980, which caused damage to seventeen properties.

4 November The BHP-owned iron ore company Mount Newman Mining issued an ultimatum to workers on strike at its two sites, Mount Whaleback mine at Mount Newman and the off-loading port at Port Hedland, Western Australia. It gave workers until 10 November to return to work or the company would consider they had abandoned their jobs.



Poster, *Evil angels*.
VILLAGE ROADSHOW CORPORATION

The strike began on 2 November following disputes and rolling stoppages over the company's intention to change work practices and industrial relations procedures. On 22 November workers at the Mount Newman mine voted to return to work.

4 November The state executive of the NSW Liberal party voted unanimously to accept the resignation of the party's state director Dr Graeme Starr who had resigned on 19 October following a report that four of Premier Nick Greiner's advisers had been provided with free cars after the March state election. Premier Greiner and Opposition Leader John Howard stated that Dr Starr was a man of complete honesty and integrity: 'there are no grounds for holding Dr Starr responsible for recent speculation in the media relating to party and administrative matters.' The state executive also discussed Community Polling's fund-raising activities and financial statements. The company, established in 1985 by NSW Education Minister Terry Metherell, was employed by

Premier Greiner's staff during the election campaign as a fund raiser and publicist. Dr Starr had opposed the car arrangement and Community Polling. On 27 November the NSW branch of the Liberal party unanimously supported a resolution, which stated that all fund-raising and spending bodies had to be authorised by the state executive.

4 November The federal government dismissed Charles Perkins as Secretary of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, following allegations of nepotism, waste and mismanagement of Aboriginal funding. Perkins announced his resignation from the public service saying that 'the Minister [for Aboriginal Affairs, Gerry Hand] and I . . . we can no longer have any confidence in each other, and I think it's an appropriate way to go.' Perkins was replaced by Bill Gay, former head of the government task force to develop the proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

4 November Justice Anthony Healy in the Qld District Court found that Aboriginal

plaintiff, Trevor Henry, had been subjected to a brutal attack by three Qld police officers at Normanton, near the Gulf of Carpentaria in northern Qld, on 20 August 1982. He ordered Detective Senior Constable Gordon Thompson, Sergeant Graham Smith and Sergeant George Doolan to pay Henry's costs and \$25 000 with 6 per cent interest from the date of issue of the complaint for compensatory, exemplary and aggravated damages.

5 November Two state by-elections were held in the NSW seats of North Shore and Port Stephens. Independent candidate Robyn Read won the seat of North Shore, following the retirement of former Independent member and Lord Mayor of North Sydney, Ted Mack. In Port Stephens, Bob Martin held the seat for the ALP after the Court of Disputed Returns ordered a new election, after it found Martin guilty of breaching sections of the Electoral Act by handing out government cheques to community groups in the previous election campaign.

5 November *Sound cloud*, Japan's Bicentennial gift to Australia, was performed at Farm Cove, Sydney. Its theme 'Hymn to mankind' is based on an Aboriginal lesson explaining how fire was introduced to humankind from two distant stars. Composer, director and performer Isao Tomita controlled the performance, which involved lasers, synthesised music and fireworks, from a perspex pyramid suspended by a crane over Farm Cove. The performance included traditional Kodo drummers, an American-Japanese violinist, a Kabuki artist, a 200-voice choir from Sydney University, folk singer Andrew de Teliga and the Aboriginal-based sounds of the band Gondwanaland. It was the fourth world performance of *Sound cloud*. The spectacle caused damage to the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Maritime Services Board set up a task force to investigate alleged incidents involving collisions between spectator craft and Urban Transport Authority ferries.



Sydney harbour illuminated during the performance of Sound cloud.

ALLIGATOR PHOTOGRAPHY/HOWARD WRIGHT

5 November England defeated Australia 28-19 in a rugby union test match at Twickenham, England.

6 November Adventurer Dick Smith and his co-pilot Giles Kershaw landed their de Havilland Twin Otter aircraft on a packed-ice landing strip six kilometres east of Casey Station in Antarctica after the 1850 nautical mile trip from Hobart. It is the first landing in Antarctica of an aircraft flown from Australia.

6 November NSW Premier Nick Greiner admitted the financial activities of Community Polling had involved breaches of the 'conventions of the party' but that the party would 'make sure that [the central campaigning] doesn't need to happen again.'

7 November The federal government released a report *Income support policies, taxation and incentives*, prepared by the Economic Planning Advisory Council. The report noted that, although the trend may have been arrested, the number of children living in poverty had risen

from nearly 8 per cent in 1973 to 20.7 per cent in 1985/86. It found that many social welfare recipients were caught in 'poverty traps' by marginal income tax rates and the means test, and were often financially worse off if they tried to supplement their pension.

7 November Coalminers began a 48-hour national strike at midnight in support of nine men sacked for misconduct on 17 October at the Mount Thorley coal loader in the Hunter Valley, NSW. The dispute centred on different pay rates for workers employed by Mount Thorley Coal Loader Ltd under a seven-day roster. After a meeting in Sydney on 9 November, the Coal Industry Tribunal ordered the reinstatement of the sacked miners and a return to work.

7 November Following the collapse of the merchant bank Rothwells Ltd, WA Premier Peter Dowding announced the establishment of a five-member Commission of Accountability under former Chief Justice Sir Francis Burt, to



Labor Premier Peter Dowding attempts to sway public opinion by establishing a commission to ensure accountable government. Cartoon by Alston, West Australian, 8 November 1988.

investigate and establish guidelines for the government's investment practices. Although the commission would not examine past investments, increasing political pressure forced the premier to agree on 21 November to an investigation into Rothwells, depending on the outcome of the inquiry by the provisional liquidators.

7 November South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo met Prime Minister Bob Hawke in Canberra at the start of his Australian tour. The leaders agreed to set up a joint cultural commission to broaden relations between Korea and Australia.

7 November The federal government broadened the scope of its Inquiry into Allegations as to the Administration of Aboriginal Affairs to include allegations made by Gary Foley, adviser to the Muirhead Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, that former Aboriginal Affairs Minister Clyde Holding ignored allegations of corruption within the Aboriginal Arts Board. The Aboriginal Development Commission and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs will be investigated by the Commonwealth Auditor-General, the Public Service Commission and the Finance Department.

8 November The federal government blocked an attempt by the opposition to introduce a private member's bill—the X-rated Videos (Prohibition) Bill 1988—banning the sale of X-rated videos in the ACT, following a decision by the ALP Caucus to set up a working party to examine violence in X- and R-rated videos. A three-year inquiry by an all-party parliamentary committee had recommended the retention of X-rated material under a new classification, Non-Violent Erotica. The ACT has become the national mail-order distribution centre for X-rated material, following bans by the states.

8 November In the High Court, Justice Sir William Deane granted the Commonwealth an interim injunction restraining investigative journalist Brian Toohey, publisher of *The eye*, from publishing any information he might have about the Australian Secret Intelligence Service.

During proceedings Dr Gary Rumble, an officer of the Attorney-General's Department, took the names of people sitting in the public gallery. On 22 November the federal government apologised to the High Court for this action.

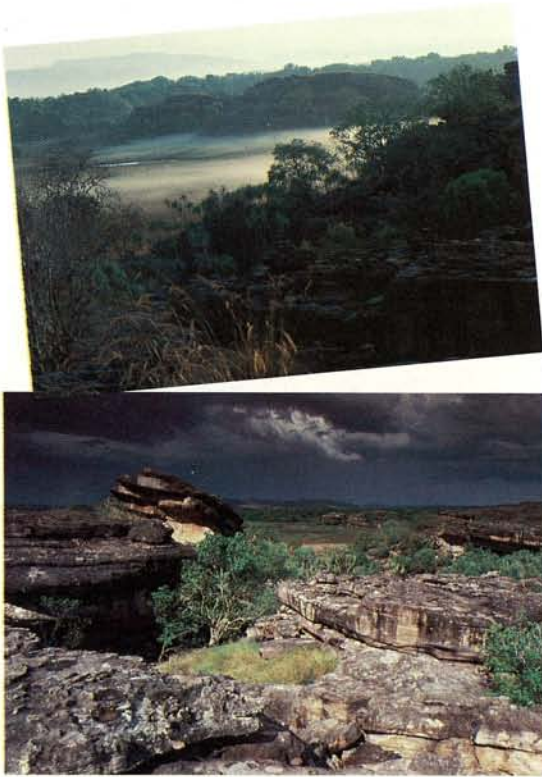
9 November Prime Minister Bob Hawke offered his 'warm congratulations' to Republican George Bush for his 'great election victory' in the US presidential campaign. 'I am confident that my Government and I shall enjoy the same friendly co-operation and warmth in our relationship with you as we have with President Reagan and his Administration.' Hawke invited the President-elect to visit Australia.

9 November The Affirmative Action Agency's *Annual report* was tabled in federal parliament. Three companies out of 233 private sector employers with more than 1000 employees were named as having failed to implement affirmative action programs.

9 November The exhibition *David Moore: 50 years of photographs* opened at the Art Gallery of NSW. It would also tour Australian regional galleries after 11 December.

10 November In the Vic Supreme Court, twenty-year-old Julian Knight was found guilty of seven murder and forty-six attempted murder charges during the shooting in Hoddle Street, Clifton Hill, Melbourne, on 9 August 1987. The judge, Justice George Hampel, sentenced Knight to life imprisonment for each of the murder charges and 10 years for each of the attempted murder charges. He ruled that Knight must serve a minimum of 27 years in jail. The seven who died were: Vesna Markovska, 24; Robert Mitchell, 27; Georgina Papaioannou, 21; John Muscat, 26; Dusan Flajnik, 53; Tracey Skinner, 23 and Kenneth Stanton, 21.

10 November The Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts tabled a report entitled *The potential of the Kakadu National Park region* in federal parliament. The inquiry's terms of reference were to examine the potential of the Kakadu National Park region with particular reference to the nature of the resources available for exploitation



Kakadu National Park, named after the Gagudju Aborigines, is rich in plant and animal life and features one of the world's greatest collections of cave paintings. Photographs by Leo Meier (top) and Reg Morrison (bottom).

WELDON TRANNIES

and the impact of these resources, particularly mining and tourism. It recommended that mining should not be permitted if it caused environmental damage and that exploration or mining leases only be considered if Aborigines' views had been taken into account and compensation negotiated.

10 November The Ozone Protection Bill was introduced in federal parliament. The legislation aims to reduce Australian production of chemicals that damage the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere, including aerosol sprays containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) from 31 December 1989; do-it-yourself auto air conditioning recharge kits from 31 January 1989; disposal containers of CFCs with a net weight of 5 kilograms or less from 1 July 1989; extruded polystyrene packaging made from CFCs from 31 December 1989 and dry-cleaning machinery designed to use CFCs.

10 November Federal cabinet rejected the recommendation of the Industries Assistance Commission on coastal shipping that cabotage—in which coastal shipping is reserved for Australian vessels only—be replaced with tariff protection for Australian shipping.

10 November Blind demonstrator Martin Stewart, aged 25, and his wife Helen, aged 30, were each fined \$200 for offensive behaviour at the Castlereagh Street Local Magistrate's Court, Sydney. On 18 September, the couple had simulated sexual intercourse under a blanket on Sydney's Bondi Beach to publicise the cause of sexual equality for the disabled.

10 November Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced a memorial to Australian forces who served in Vietnam to be constructed in Anzac Parade, Canberra, where the Australian War Memorial is located.

11 November The federal government appointed an eleven-member task force to consider the recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission's report on coastal shipping. The joint industry-union task force includes Ivan Deveson (chair) managing director of the car company Nissan; the ACTU president, Simon Crean; shipping operator W. Bolitho; and Graham Evans, secretary of the Department of Transport and Communications.

11 November Sir Arvi Parbo, former chairperson of the Western Mining Corporation, was appointed non-executive chairperson of BHP Ltd, effective from 2 May 1989 on the retirement of Sir James Balderstone, group chairperson since 1984.

11 November The Senate Inquiry into Drugs in Sport opened with evidence from former head coach of the Australian Institute of Sport Kelvin Giles, who estimated that a quarter of the Australian Olympic track and field team in Seoul used performance enhancing drugs during training and 70 per cent of international track and field athletes used drugs, mostly steroids.

11 November The Tasmanian state government committed \$3 million to develop a \$13

million International Antarctic Centre in Hobart.

11 November The NSW State Coroner Kevin Waller returned a finding of accidental death by drowning at the end of an eight-day inquest into the deaths of 24-year-old Able Seaman Hugh Markcrow of Adelaide and 20-year-old Seaman Damian Humphreys of Brisbane. The two died off Sydney Heads on 3 August 1987 when their submarine HMAS *Otama* dived while they were still working outside the hull. Their bodies were never recovered. The coroner, while criticising various actions and omissions by some of the crew, said 'There was no cavalier disregard of any recognised safety procedures by any officer or hand. Rather, there was a series of minor and moderately-serious omissions which amounted in the end to one great misfortune.'

11 November Former Qld Transport Minister Don Lane gave the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld a detailed breakdown of ministers' expenses between 1978/79 and 1985/86, claiming widespread abuse of taxpayers' money. On 15 November he named fifteen either serving or former ministers, including himself, involved in the alleged misuse of ministerial expenses. They were Fred Campbell, Bill Gunn, John Herbert, Russ Hinze, Bob Katter (jnr), Sir William Knox, Vince Lester, Norm Lee, Peter McKechnie, Geoff Muntz, Martin Tenni, Neil Turner, Claude Wharton, Terry White.

11 November Remembrance Day services were held throughout Australia as a tribute to those who died in war. In Canberra the first Victoria Cross awarded to an Australian in World War I was officially handed over to the Australian War Memorial's collection.

12 November The 66-year-old Irish-born poet of outback and Aboriginal Australia, Roland Robinson, won the \$25 000 Patrick White Literary Award. The annual award seeks to reward older Australian writers who, in the award committee's views, have not received the recognition they deserve. Members of the committee were Patrick White, Joy Hooton, Rodney Wetherell and Michael Costigan.

12-13 November The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame Endurance Ride, first held in 1980, was cancelled because it had achieved its original aim—to promote the Stockman's Hall of Fame. The hall was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 29 April.

12-30 November The Australian men's and women's chess teams competed in the 28th Chess Olympiad in Thessaloniki, Greece.

13 November Alain Prost of France won the 1988 Formula One Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide with fellow McLaren-Honda driver, Ayrton Senna of Brazil, finishing second. Senna is the 1988 world champion Formula One racing driver.

14 November Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced that he would stay in office for a full term if he won the 1989 election.

14 November The Trade Practices Commission announced changes under which SA newsagents would lose their monopoly on the sale of newspapers and magazines. They would retain exclusive rights on home deliveries and designated deliveries to small retail outlets. The decision is expected to flow on to other states.

Altjeringa

Nude, smooth, and giant-huge,
the torsos of the gums
hold up the vast dark cave
as the great moon comes.

Shock-headed black-boy stands,
with rigid, thrusting spear,
defiant and grotesque
against that glistening sphere.

In clenched, contorted birth
black banksias agonise;
out of the ferns and earth,
half-formed, beast-boulders rise;

because The Bush goes back,
back to a time unknown:
chaos that had not word,
nor image carved on stone.

ROLAND ROBINSON

14 November The Housing Industry Association released a copy of its submission to the federal government, which proposes the sale of surplus Commonwealth land in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth for residential development. A further submission will examine surplus Commonwealth land in Adelaide and Brisbane.

14 November Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gerry Hand agreed that parts of the Katherine Gorge National Park, NT, would be granted to the land's traditional Aboriginal owners, the Jawoyn people. The minister recommended that the park, to be renamed Nitmiluk National Park, be managed by the 320 traditional owners and the Northern Territory Conservation Commission.

14 November Minister for the Environment Senator Graham Richardson announced a review of scientific information on the Crown of Thorns starfish following allegations that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's annual report, which states that only about one-third of the reef is threatened, is an understatement. Dr Roger Bradbury of the Australian Institute of Marine Science claims that the whole reef is infested.

14 November Qld Premier Mike Ahern appointed Erik Finger as director-general of the Premier's Department with responsibility for reviewing alleged abuses of ministerial expenses and the system of accounting for parliamentary travelling allowances. On 2 November state cabinet approved recommendations that ministerial expenses be tabled in parliament and that an all-party public works committee be established to investigate the public tendering process.

14 November SA Attorney-General Chris Sumner was admitted to Adelaide's Hillcrest Hospital reportedly suffering from acute stress and exhaustion after he named himself as the 'senior MP' highlighted in an 18-month opposition campaign of allegations and rumours attempting to associate him with organised crime and corruption in South Australia.

14 November China's Premier Li Peng, accompanied by five ministers including Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Labour Minister Luo

15 November 1788 'Happy would I be were I to live upon Bread & water [and to suffer the most] severe hardship, did I but see some of those poor souls begin to think about their latter end . . . They neither see nor will be persuaded to seek the Lord of Mercy and Compassion of God. They prefer their Lust before their Souls' — yea, most of them will sell their souls for a Glass of Grogg, so blind, so foolish, so hardened are they.

' . . . I am yet obliged to be a field Preacher. — No Church is yet begun of, & I am afraid scarcely thought of. Other things seem to be of greater Notice & Concern & most wd rather see a Tavern, a Play House, a Brothel—anything, sooner than a place for publick worship.'

REVEREND RICHARD JOHNSON.

Gan, began a six-day visit to Australia. The party visited Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Mt Channar in the Pilbara, where China has a 40 per cent equity in an iron ore project.

15 November In a landmark decision, Family Court Judge Justice Adrian Cook, sitting in Sydney, ruled that the parents of a fourteen-year-old mentally retarded girl had the right to decide whether she should have a hysterectomy. The case was brought by the Intellectual Disability Rights Service.

16 November The Attorneys-General of NSW, Qld, Tas, Vic, WA, SA, NT and the Commonwealth approved a special investigation into Ariadne Australia Ltd, following charges of various offences including falsifying accounts against two former directors, George Cobham and Graham Cubbin on 14 November. The company, founded by Bruce Judge, sustained losses of \$640 million in 1987/88. The National Companies and Securities Commission will have overall responsibility for the investigation and the Qld Commissioner for Corporate Affairs will assume responsibility for the day-to-day management. The investigative team will have wide-ranging powers to summon

witnesses, examine witnesses under oath, gather evidence from overseas and compel a witness to give evidence. It will examine the company's affairs from 1 January 1987 to 31 March 1988 and is expected to complete its investigation within six months.

16 November Professor Murray Wells, head of Sydney University's Graduate School of Management announced that the university would establish Australia's first overseas campus on the island of Penang, Malaysia. Initially, the campus would offer its first intake of students in 1990 a Master of Business Administration degree, with courses identical to the program at Sydney University.

16 November Former Qld minister Russ Hinze began his evidence at the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld with the claim that Sir Edward Lyons, former head of the Qld TAB, invested TAB money in the merchant bank Rothwells Ltd of which Lyons was Qld chairman.

16 November NSW Education Minister Terry Metherell introduced legislation in state parliament to establish the first private university in NSW, the Australian William E. Simon University College, a joint venture with the University of Rochester, New York State.

THE EMPIRE OF THE EAST

16 November 1788 'From our Governor's manner of expressing himself . . . he has, I dare say, described this country as capable of being made the Empire of the East. But notwithstanding all he may from interested motives say — and as this letter is only for your own private perusal — I do not scruple to pronounce that in the whole world there is not a worse country than what we have yet seen of this.'

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR MAJOR
ROBERT ROSS, COMMANDING OFFICER
OF THE MARINES.

16 November Qantas chief executive John Menadue presented Terence Measham, director of the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, with a full-size replica of its first aircraft, a wooden-framed single-engined Avro 504K biplane. The gift marked the sixty-eighth anniversary of the Foundation of Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services, the world's second-oldest airline.

16 November The Australian Bureau of Statistics released a paper, based on 1986 Census data, which showed that Aboriginal child mortality rates are more than twice that for all Australian infants.

17 November In the election for twenty positions on the 22-member Vic council of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation, Isabell Collins' centre-left council of Independent Nurses won all vacancies. Irene Bolger, who led the 50-day strike of Vic nurses in 1986, retained her position as Union Secretary.

17 November The Vic Supreme Court ruled that the *Voyager*, which collided with *HMAS Melbourne* off Jervis Bay, NSW, in February 1964, was not involved in a military manoeuvre and therefore the Commonwealth could not use a defence of wartime exemption from common law. It also ruled that the federal government was not entitled to rely on the statute of limitations after previously promising, orally and in writing, to waive that defence. The case was brought by *Voyager* survivor Bernard Verwayen who is claiming negligence and damages against the Commonwealth.

17 November Jedd Houghton, suspected of involvement in the shooting of two policemen in Walsh Street, Melbourne, on 12 October was shot dead by a member of the police Special Operation Group in the Ascot Lodge caravan park in White Hills, Bendigo.

17 November Sixteen-year-old Andrew Good of Toorak Gardens, SA, won the principal award in the AMP 'Beyond 2000' Awards in Science and Technology for young Australians. Good developed a method of extracting a diamond glaze from methane gas using a plasma torch.

18 November WA Minister for Water Resources Ernest Bridge met his SA counterpart Susan Lenehan to discuss a \$10 billion pipeline to carry water from northern WA to supply Perth and Adelaide. Potential sources were Lake Argyle on the Ord River and the Fitzroy River, south of the Ord.

18 November At an accounting conference in Canberra, Taxation Commissioner Trevor Boucher said 'I put it to you that the functioning of a democratic society such as ours would be severely impaired if those who should be paying their fair share of tax are not doing so . . . It is damaging to the system if the other fellow is seen to be getting away with it, particularly if he or she (or it) has a large capacity to pay.' Boucher's comments followed the annual general meeting of Elders IXL in Adelaide on 14 November at which John Elliott said that the Australian Taxation Office was 'a threat to our democratic system of government' and had 'been engaged in a trial by press release, accusing companies and individuals of tax avoidance who have in fact been acting in accordance with the law.'

18 November Sir Ronald Wilson announced his resignation as a High Court judge, effective 13 February 1989.

18 November Minister for Transport and Communications Ralph Willis released a federal-state task force report entitled *Airport needs of the Sydney basin*. The report noted that a third runway would increase Sydney airport's capacity by 40 per cent but would take six years to construct at a cost of up to \$300 million and have 'adverse environmental implications'. It argued that a second airport at Badgerys Creek, 60 kilometres west of Sydney, could be developed within three years at a cost of \$15 million to accommodate commuter aircraft. It would relieve congestion at Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport and would be more environmentally acceptable. It was suggested that some regional airline operations move to Bankstown Airport, 25 kilometres west of the city. Australian Airlines and the Regional Airlines Association of Australia criticised the report.

18 November Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced the establishment of an independent

Resource Assessment Commission to hold public inquiries into the physical, biological and economic effects of proposed developments of natural resources. Like its counterpart, the Australian Heritage Commission, it will have no right of veto on any proposal but will be expected to provide a full cost/benefit analysis of the proposal.

18 November The federal government granted residency on humanitarian grounds to Burmese diplomats Myint Soe, Maung Maung Nyo and Htoo Myint. The diplomats feared retribution from the military-controlled government in Burma if they returned.

18-21 November The Australian men's cricket team lost to the West Indies by nine wickets in the first test match at the Gabba, Brisbane.

19 November *The secret*, a dramatised documentary on child abuse, won a silver medal at the International Film and Television Festival in New York. The film was produced by Milton Ingerson and directed by Donald Crombie for the SA Film Corporation.

19 November Australia defeated Scotland 32-13 in a rugby union test match at Murrayfield, Scotland.

21 November The Qld cabinet approved a \$500 million hydro-electric scheme, consisting of a 600-megawatt power station, three dams, two weirs, a pump station and a series of connecting tunnels. The scheme would flood about 100 hectares of land between Townsville and Cairns in an area that has been proposed for World Heritage listing.

21 November Dr Dieter Plate, assistant chief of the CSIRO division of Wool Technology won the 1988 Sir Ian McLennan Award given annually for CSIRO scientific achievements. Dr Plate was head of the team that developed the process Sirospun in the late 1970s. Sirospun eliminates the costly second stage of conventional wool milling in which two single yarns are spun separately and then twisted together on another machine. It made possible the manufacture of the Cool Wool fabric, an extra lightweight fabric developed by CSIRO, Repco Ltd

and the International Wool Secretariat in a joint venture.

21 November The *Bicentennial celebration of Australian literature*, a series of weekly readings by Australian authors, began at the Poetry Centre, New York, with Robert Hughes, author of *The fatal shore*, reading from the works of poets Kenneth Slessor and R. D. Fitzgerald. The Poetry Centre was celebrating its fiftieth anniversary of readings by noted literary figures. Other Australian authors, selected by the organisers and the Australian Literature Board, included Peter Carey, Rodney Hall and Elizabeth Jolley.

22 November Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans announced that Fiji would receive \$4.84 million of its \$10 million special aid program. It follows Fiji's decision to lift its Internal Security Decree.

22 November The 1987/88 annual report of Australia Post was tabled in federal parliament. It showed an operating profit of \$55 million, the same as the previous financial year. While welcoming the government's strategy to streamline management practices, chairperson Bob Lansdown said in the report that 'The Commission is concerned, however, that the Government's "take", in the form of an annual dividend, needs to be kept within reasonable bounds. Otherwise Australia Post will become a tax collector, a role that is incompatible with the demands of the marketplace.'

22 November The NSW cabinet approved a return to a common law-based scheme of com-

pensation for transport accident victims instead of the third-party insurance scheme, Transcover. Under the new scheme, retrospective to July 1987, the maximum general damages claim will be \$180 000 and any judgments of less than \$40 000 for pain and suffering would be automatically reduced by \$15 000.

22 November Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans tabled in parliament the *Convention on the regulation of Antarctic mineral resource activities* for public debate. The draft was approved on 2 June in Wellington, NZ, by sixteen countries including Australia and is open for ratification from November 1989. In 1977 signatories to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty imposed a moratorium on mining activity. The draft sets up the legal framework to protect the environment should mining go ahead. On 25 November nine countries—the Soviet Union, New Zealand, Norway, Finland, Brazil, South Korea, South Africa, Sweden and Uruguay—signed the convention.

22 November Agricultural scientists warned that a rabbit plague, extending from the northern Flinders Ranges, SA, to Innamincka near the Qld border and northwest to the NT border, had devastated vast tracts of Australia's arid zone and was threatening its ecology.

22 November Prime Minister Bob Hawke outlined details of an agreement with the US on the operation of the joint facilities at Pine Gap and Nurrungar. Australians would be deputy managers at both installations and ten years' notice would be required if either party wanted



to close the bases. Previously one year's notice was required. The prime minister stated that Pine Gap was used to collect 'intelligence data' from satellites and that Nurrungar was a ground station used to control satellites for the US Defence Support Program, which provided information on launches of ballistic missiles, surveillance and detonation of nuclear weapons.

22 November The federal government policy discussion paper, *AIDS: A time to care, a time to act: towards a strategy for all Australians*, was tabled in parliament by Health Minister Neal Blewett. The paper outlines options for consideration including AIDS tests for all the population, quarantine for AIDS victims and providing counselling to encourage behavioural change.

23 November Suspended Qld police officer Senior Constable Brian Rodney Martin, aged 34, was committed for trial in Mackay Circuit Court in 1989. He is the first police officer to be charged as a direct result of evidence given at the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld. Martin is charged with having received money corruptly. He pleaded not guilty at the Macleay Magistrate's Court.

23 November The federal government introduced legislation to enable the appointment of another member of the National Crime Authority to investigate allegations of criminal activity in SA, particularly in the SA police force. The investigator would have the power to tap telephones, gain access to bank accounts and require witnesses to respond to questions.

23 November Federal Court judge Justice William Gummow granted the government's application for a subpoena for the television station Channel 10 to produce the manuscript of a book, entitled *Oyster*, allegedly co-authored by journalists Brian Toohey and William Pinwill. The book allegedly details the 36-year history of ASIS, the overseas espionage and intelligence gathering agency responsible for the bungled 1983 raid at the Melbourne Sheraton Hotel. The federal government claimed publication would endanger the lives of Australian overseas intelligence agents and their contacts.

23 November More than 200 CSR Yarraville refinery workers walked off the job in Melbourne after the company rejected a log of claims, including a \$40-per-week pay rise. On 8 December the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission directed striking CSR workers to return to work, and on 22 December CSR obtained a Vic Supreme Court injunction against specific workers picketing the sugar refinery.

24 November The president of Greece Christos Sartzentakis opened the *Ancient Macedonia* exhibition at the Museum of Victoria, Melbourne. It is the largest exhibition of antiquities to leave Greece and includes a golden wreath discovered in the tomb of

This series of cartoons by Moir appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on 22, 23, 24 and 25 November 1988. Hinze resigned from the National Party on 25 November following the conclusion of his evidence to the Fitzgerald Inquiry.





Alexander the Great's mother. The exhibition will travel to Brisbane and Sydney in 1989.

24 November The Remuneration Tribunal's report on the pay structure of politicians, federal judges and senior public servants was tabled in federal parliament. It recommended a 36 per cent salary increase in three instalments to 1991. On 29 November the matter was referred to the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission following heated debate among parliamentarians and the ACTU.

24 November The annual report of the Vic Ombudsman was tabled in state parliament. Ombudsman Norman Geschke stated: 'I do not wish to get into an argument as to the merits of institutions or family upbringing, but I believe that some consideration could be given to family-planning counselling and even perhaps, in special cases, the sterilisation of fathers and mothers who had clearly demonstrated a continuing inability to adequately care for their frequent children without involving danger to them.'

24 November The High Court ruled that the \$5 immigration clearance fee that operated from 1 January until it was repealed on 1 July, was constitutionally invalid. The seven judges unanimously upheld a challenge to the fee by 30 international airlines, including Qantas.

25 November The ACT secured limited self-government when the senate passed fair enabling bills. The 17-member Legislative Assembly will be elected in 1989.

25 November Former Qld minister Russ Hinze resigned from the National Party following the conclusion of his evidence-in-chief to the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld. The inquiry heard that Hinze family companies allegedly accepted loans, advances and payments from various sources including a number of development companies.

25 November Co-authors Brian Toohey and William Pinwill surrendered draft copies of the manuscript of *Oyster*. A copy, shown on the television station Channel 10, was destroyed.

25 November The National Party accepted an application by former Qld transport minister Don Lane to be suspended from the party pending the final report of the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Police Corruption in Qld.

25 November A report by the federal government's Asian Studies Council, headed by Dr Stephen FitzGerald, recommended a major increase in the study of Asian languages, customs and culture among school and tertiary students and in Australian companies and government agencies.

25 November John 'Jack' Little, former Vic ALP president, died aged 74 in Melbourne. Little entered federal parliament as a Democratic Labor Party senator in 1967, holding his seat until the double dissolution in 1974.

27 November The Call to Australia Party endorsed the Reverend Fred Nile as its leader and national president and called on his challenger, Marie Bignold, to resign her seat in the NSW Legislative Council.

Arthur Boyd Shoalhaven quartet, 1988 Lithographs, 90 x 65 cm each on hand drawn zinc plates. Boyd was born in Melbourne on 24 July 1920 and in 1937 held his first exhibition. Lithography by Andrew Purches.

FINE ARTS INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD

27 November American golfer Mark Calcavecchia won the Australian Men's Golf Open at Royal Sydney golf course.

27 November Zoran Matijas, a security guard from the Yugoslav Consulate-General in Sydney, shot sixteen-year-old Josef Tokic in the throat during a peaceful demonstration by members of the Croatian community protesting outside the consulate against the Yugoslavian Day of Republic (28 Nov). The federal government closed down the consulate on 2 December following Yugoslavia's continued refusal to hand the guard over to police. The staff and their families were given until 5 December to leave Australia. Yugoslavia maintains consulates in Melbourne and Perth and an embassy in Canberra.



Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans threatens retaliatory action against the Yugoslav Consulate. Cartoon by Moir, Sydney Morning Herald, 30 November 1988.

28 November Australian artist Arthur Boyd was awarded the Bird and Bell Award by the Australian Ireland Fund for an outstanding Irish-Australian in 1988.

28 November The Muirhead Royal Commission began hearings in Vic under Commissioner Hal Wootten QC.

29 November The federal and Tas governments finalised a negotiated settlement over the state's forests. Under its terms, Tas agreed not to oppose World Heritage nomination of 80 per cent of the Lemnathyme and Southern forests, the Walls of Jerusalem National Park and the Central Plateau conservation area. The 130 000 hectare Denison Spires or 'Hole in the Doughnut', would be excluded from nomination and become a national park although the government would retain access to its hydro-electric and mining potential. The compensation agreement included a 350 000 tonnes per annum woodchip-export licence for the proposed Huon Forest Products woodchip mill at Whale Point, south of Hobart, an increase of 790 000 tonnes per annum in total woodchip exports and a \$50 million industry package. The federal government relinquished its right to hold another inquiry into the state's forest or declare any further world heritage areas in Tasmania. Conservationists bitterly opposed the agreement.

30 November *Australians: A Historical Library* and the ABC television series *Nature of Australia* were joint winners of the Australian Bicentennial Heritage Award.

30 November On St Andrew's Day, His Grace the Duke of Argyle, Ian Campbell, head of the Clan Campbell, dedicated a cairn of stones, a bicentennial gift from the people of Scotland, at Rawson Park, in the Sydney suburb of Mosman. A stone was collected in each of 1745 parishes in Scotland.

30 November Boxer Jeff Fenech successfully defended his WBC world featherweight boxing title against American George Navarro at the National Tennis Centre, Melbourne.



Huon pine table by Samuel Smith, cabinet maker, Australia, active 1854–1899, painted with oils by Ms H. Bell, Australia, active 1880s (74 × 60 cm diameter, brass and ceramic castors).

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL GALLERY



SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION

In secondary education in 1988 there were approximately 1.3 million students, most in the earlier compulsory years. The retention rate of 95.2 per cent in year 10 contrasts with the 53.1 per cent retention rate in year 12 (an improvement on the 1985 year 12 retention rate of 46.4 per cent). The 1988 year 12 retention rate for Aborigines was 19 per cent, for females was 57 per cent, and for non-government school students was 70.4 per cent. Of the total secondary school enrolment approximately 900 000 students were in government schools, and 390 000 in non-government schools, a large but declining majority of these in Catholic schools.

In 1988, 420 811 Australians enrolled in higher education, 30 000 more than in 1987. More than half enrolled as full-time students in bachelor degree courses. Of the total higher education enrolment, 180 803 students enrolled in universities and 212 931 in the institutions of advanced education. Females outnumbered males for the second successive year, comprising more than half of the advanced education but less than half of the university enrolment.

In terms of numbers, both secondary and higher education were dominated by the eastern states. New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland accounted for more than one million of the total secondary enrolment and for nearly 80 000 of the 100 000 or so secondary school teachers. These three states had approximately three-quarters of the higher education enrolment, as well as a large proportion of the approximately 58 000 academic, technical and general staff.

In 1988, about 37 per cent of the commonwealth government's \$5.5 billion outlaid on education was for primary and secondary education. About 50 per cent, or \$2.6742 billion, was spent on higher education (compared with \$2.3331 billion spent in 1987). The states and the Northern Territory together outlaid just over \$2 billion on higher education and \$7 billion in primary and secondary education. In New South Wales, state and local government funding was approximately \$1 billion for secondary and \$650 million for higher education.

It is important to note that expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP continued to decline and that, overwhelmingly, secondary and higher education were funded by govern-

ments. In the non-government school sector a minority of parents paid very high fees. But non-government schools were heavily subsidised by public funds and, like government schools, received from the commonwealth government general recurrent grants on a per student basis. They could also apply to the non-government Block Grant Authorities in each state and territory for commonwealth government funded capital grants. Catholic schools received 75 per cent of their income from the government.

In the late 1980s, Australia's economic difficulties prompted governments to attempt to reduce the level of public sector debt and education became a focus for public sector expenditure restraint. At the same time, however, people expected secondary and higher education to achieve more, and to do so for little, if any, additional expenditure. In 1988, this generated some major responses.

Restructuring of systems In July 1988, Minister for Employment, Education and Training John Dawkins, with agreement in principle from the states, began to alter the structure of higher education in Australia. The white paper, *Higher education: a policy statement* set out the new structure. This had two interrelated thrusts, both aimed at resource concentration and co-ordination.

First, the overall structure was changed. A unified national system replaced the binary system with its separate university and advanced education sectors and their inequalities of funding, research activity, course accreditation procedures, nomenclature and impediments to the easy transfer of students. The minister invited higher education institutions to join the new system by September, later extending this to 31 October. From 1989 only institutions within the system would receive commonwealth government funding.

Secondly, the number of institutions was to be reduced in keeping with Dawkins' belief that fewer and larger institutions were necessary to achieve financial efficiency and educational effectiveness. The minimum size for institutional membership was set at 2000 equivalent full-time student units (EFTSU). Only institutions with 8000 or more EFTSU were thought capable of supporting a comprehensive range of teaching and research activity. For the 21 institutions with fewer than 2000 EFTSU, structural change appeared an immediate necessity. The 24

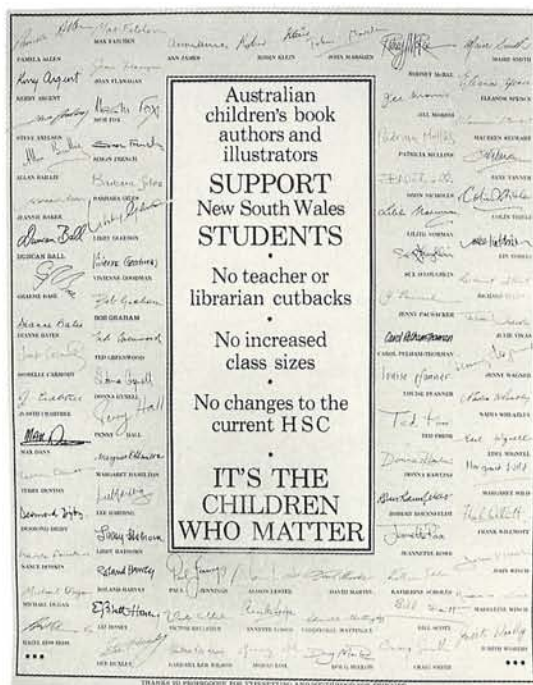
institutions in the 2000-5000 range had a strong inducement to seek amalgamations, and the 12 or so institutions in the 5000-8000 bracket had good reason to review their continued existence as separate entities. Even some of the 13 institutions with 8000 or more EFTSU were caught up in the merger discussions and manoeuvres that dominated higher education in all states and territories for much of 1988.

Redeployment of resources During the year, a number of the states and territories announced cuts to the size of the secondary teaching force. They were justified on the grounds of the funds freed for alternative uses. In South Australia, for example, the government announced that savings made in this way would help fund the retraining of English, science and mathematics teachers. In New South Wales the new coalition government's proposed reduction of the secondary teaching force by 900 positions (2000 overall), and its intention to increase teaching loads, were central to the funding of what Education and Youth Affairs Minister Terry Methereil called 'some desperately needed initiatives.' These included the creation of leading teachers positions, the establishment of a selective high school in Sydney's western suburbs and a doubling of the textbook allowance.

The non-government school sector also experienced the effects of resource redeployment. In May, the commonwealth government announced that it would provide guaranteed real increases in general recurrent funding for non-government schools for the 1989-1992 funding period. At the same time, it made eligibility for funding dependent upon a minimum of 25 students per grade for junior secondary and 20 per grade for senior secondary, and limited funding under the Establishment Grants Scheme to eligible schools started prior to 1 January 1989.

In higher education, redeployment of resources was also important. It underlay the changes announced to AUSTUDY, the government-funded student assistance scheme. From 1989, students from families with assets of \$300 000 or more, or with individual assets in excess of \$82 250, would no longer be eligible for assistance, a move that was estimated would save \$45 million over 3 years and provide an extra 7000 AUSTUDY grants.

As the commonwealth government made clear in the white paper on higher education, its



Poster published in the Good Weekend, 21 August 1988.

strategy for equalising the base operating grants of universities and institutions of advanced education was to adjust the grants of institutions designated over- or under-funded rather than to increase the funding of higher education. It sought to fund other changes in comparable ways. It set up a reserve fund for specific initiatives such as institutional management reviews and amalgamations by syphoning 1 per cent from the operating grants of all higher education institutions. It redirected \$5 million to the new Australian Research Council from 1988 general recurrent teaching and research grants for universities, and proposed to increase the reallocation to \$20 million in 1989, rising to \$65 million in 1991—approximately 5 per cent of the universities' current operating grants.

Central to this reallocation was the government's goal of a more efficient use of scarce resources and its assumption that competitive bidding for these resources would produce better results than those obtained by funding all university academics for research as well as teaching.

Application of the user pays principle There was a wider application of the user pays principle to the provision of education services in 1988. This

included new developments as well as substantial growth in those already in existence.

The *Report of the committee on higher education funding* was presented to Dawkins in April. He had appointed the committee in December 1987 to develop schemes to raise revenue for higher education from its users: students, their parents and employers. The commonwealth government intended to use the revenue to provide increased access to higher education and to encourage the development of programs intended to lift graduation rates.

The committee recommended a higher education contribution scheme intended to minimise financial barriers to access at the point of entry, and to take full account of a student's capacity to pay.

The bill for a higher education contribution scheme passed through both Houses of parliament in December. From 1 January 1989 students would be required to pay \$1800 for each year of full-time study. The repayment could be made 'upfront', for a 15 per cent discount, thus gaining immediate additional revenue for higher education. Conversely, the repayment could be made after graduation, but only when the graduate had a taxable annual income of at least \$22 000. Rates of payment would vary. Those earning \$22 000 to \$24 999 per annum, would pay at the rate of 0.5 per cent of annual income, rising to 1 per cent for incomes of \$25 000 to \$34 999. Those on incomes of \$35 000 and above would pay 1.5 per cent, and, in all cases, payment would cease when the debt was cleared. Some students, including a percentage of postgraduates, would be exempt from the tax. For 1989, there would be 19 000 postgraduate exemptions.

The promotion of Australian secondary and higher education courses to overseas students able to come on a full fee-paying basis intensified in 1988. Education fairs, held in such countries as Taiwan and Thailand, were used to advertise institutions and courses. Queensland, which already had Bond University, Australia's first private university (with hopes of substantial overseas enrolments), promoted a secondary school for Japanese students. In Darwin, government and private interests attempted to establish an international grammar school for boarders and day pupils. There were nearly 3000 overseas full fee paying students in higher education in 1988, a fourfold increase on 1987. There were about 2500 in secondary education.

To some institutions overseas fee-paying

students represented revenue for new facilities. To Minister for Employment, Education and Training Dawkins, they represented a welcome boost to foreign exchange earnings. The Employment, Education and Training bill he introduced in April, stipulated that the Schools and Higher Education Councils were to provide information and advice on the marketing overseas of secondary and higher education programs developed in Australia.

A greater stress on accountability Concern that the education dollar should be responsibly and effectively deployed increased in 1988. In NSW, Metherell announced standardised testing of English and mathematics in selected school years, including year 10 of secondary school. Ken Boston, South Australia's Director-General of Education, revealed plans to audit literacy standards in that state by sampling class work and assignments of students in years 6 to 10. He also announced the establishment of an Education Review Unit to inspect and monitor performances in the entire system, a scheme not unlike that of the Regional Education Officers launched by the Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority in the second half of the year.

State and territory directors-general explored the efficacy of performance indicators in a Commonwealth/State Project of National Significance and at their conference in Sydney in September. The state ministers of education tackled the same subject in working parties of the Australian Education Council. In addition, they gave priority to the development during the year of outcome indicators to bring the concept of equal education for females into mainstream educational provision.

The commonwealth government proffered to the directors-general examples of performance indicators of interest to it—those which provided information on trends in such things as participation, retention and student achievement, especially in relation to disadvantaged groups; teaching strategies to promote equity; and initiatives to improve general competence of students. Dawkins' main interest, however, was in gaining the acceptance of the states (and the interest of the non-government sector) in the production of an annual national report on schooling. To this end he tied their participation in such a project to the commonwealth/state resource agreements negotiated for 1989.

Several reports on higher education signalled the arrival in that sector, too, of increased

accountability. *Higher education: a policy statement* stressed the centrality of the education profile, which all institutions had to negotiate with the government in order to obtain funding for 1989–1991. Each institution was required to define in its profile, its goal and indicate there, too, the measures it intended to take to promote greater equity and improved efficiency and effectiveness.

The committee appointed to review the discipline of engineering drew attention to its use of performance indicators. Its report *Review of the discipline of engineering* (May 1988) provided information on student satisfaction and completion rates, and on the variation between institutions in staff levels, research publication and consultancy rates.

The government made it clear that reviews of major discipline areas, such as those completed on law and engineering, would continue. In June, Dawkins appointed a committee to review mathematics and science teacher education. The committee was required to determine whether teaching and research were carried out at a suitable standard; to identify areas where waste of resources or unnecessary duplication of effort could be avoided; and to propose ways in which quality and efficiency might be increased.

Shifts in location and control of policy formulation

First, events at both state and commonwealth level drew attention to the higher profile adopted by politicians towards the formulation of education policy and their increasing intervention in matters customarily and predominantly the concern of departmental bureaucracies and/or statutory and advisory bodies.

In NSW, the recently appointed Director-General of Education was dismissed by the newly elected government. Within weeks of taking up his portfolio, Metherell overruled the next Director-General and the Board of Secondary Education, an advisory body representative of almost every educational interest group in the state. Against advice, the minister introduced changes to the scoring of the Higher School Certificate for 1988 students. Later in the year he again went against the Board of Secondary Education to announce the reintroduction of a merit list for the HSC and the publication of the names, scores and schools of the top 500 students.

In Canberra Dawkins, with the Employment, Education and Training Act, abolished

the Schools and Tertiary Education Commissions which, as statutory bodies, had been major contributors to the formulation of policy and responsible for the administration of commonwealth funding for education.

The Act established a new advisory structure within the Ministry of Employment, Education and Training. This comprised a National Board of Employment, Education and Training and four councils, including the Higher Education and Schools Councils. The functions of the board and councils, were mainly responsive ones: the provision of information and advice on matters referred to them by the minister. They could initiate advice, but not at the expense of the performance of their main role.

Secondly, the commonwealth government's requirement that higher education institutions review, with the intention of changing, their institutional management practices, highlighted the shift to stronger managerial modes of operation in educational institutions and systems generally and pointed to the growing role of managers in educational policy formulation.

In *Higher education: a policy statement* the government specified particular practices for review. It recommended that institutions streamline their decision-making processes to ensure a minimal time lag between the making and implementation of decisions. It specified an optimum size for governing bodies of between 10 to 15 members instead of the more usual 30 to 50.

Thirdly, the attempts made in 1988 to give both secondary and higher education a national, as opposed to an individual state or territory focus, while undoubtedly owing something to the Bicentenary, highlighted a shift that had been taking place over several years.

Dawkins established joint commonwealth/state planning committees as part of his restructuring of higher education. In secondary education, commonwealth and state/territory ministers, their chief curriculum officers, and representatives from the National Catholic Education Commission of Independent Schools continued to investigate ways to eliminate unnecessary differences in curriculum between states and avoid duplication of scarce resources in curriculum development.

Launching *Strengthening Australian schools* in May, Dawkins stressed that 'Australia could no

School students demonstrating against changes to the NSW education system. Sydney Morning Herald, 28 July 1988.



longer afford fragmentation of effort.' He called for a national, collaborative effort to formulate national goals for schooling, including a common core curriculum and assessment system.

In the second half of the year, this national effort assumed priority in the discussions of the Australian Education Council which in November, released a draft statement of broad national goals. Endorsement was expected in April 1989 following Dawkins' consultations with representatives from the non-government school sector.

* * *

Secondary education The content and purpose of secondary school curricula had been under scrutiny in all states/territories for several years. This scrutiny renewed interest in old questions such as what is the most worthwhile knowledge? should there be a common curriculum? what is the appropriate relationship between secondary schooling and the 'world of work'? It brought, too, a spate of reports and a flurry of change.

1988 was the first year of operation of Western Australia's new junior and senior secondary curricula and the last year of the Tasmanian School and Higher School Certificate. In September, Kevin Gilding's *Report of the enquiry into immediate post compulsory education* was released, and its recommendations for curriculum change accepted in principle by the South Australian government.

In NSW, the secondary school curriculum was the focus of a great deal of attention. A *Discussion Paper on the curriculum in New South Wales schools* was released in November.

Its main thrust was towards a compulsory core curriculum. A major concern was that the curriculum's content and purpose reflect, in part at least, Australia's urgent task of 'restructuring its economy and greatly increasing its productivity and competitiveness.' This task would require a flexible and multiskilled workforce. The secondary school curriculum should focus, therefore, on developing general skills through the provision of eight key learning areas: English, mathematics, science, human society and its environment, modern and classical languages, creative arts, personal development, health and fitness, and technological and applied studies. The curriculum was to incorporate vocational and technical courses, of a high standard, and in ways that ensured a more adequate representation of 'economically and

technologically relevant areas.'

In papers delivered in a variety of forums around the country during the year, Dawkins argued the case for ensuring a fundamental, if indirect, relationship between secondary education and the government's economic strategy. Schools, he stressed at one conference in Melbourne, must help 'create the cultural preconditions favourable to economic and technological development.'

Strengthening Australian schools, the minister's major statement on schooling in 1988, introduced the need for curriculum change at all levels within the context of the structural change underway in the Australian economy. During the year Dawkins committed \$1 million to improve the participation of females in senior secondary school science and mathematics. He stressed the importance of Asian studies and languages, especially those likely to advance trade and tourism. By the end of the year he had under consideration the Asian Studies Council's report and its recommendations that schools adopt Asian languages and studies as part of their common curriculum.

Higher Education In the brief given to the National Board of Employment, Education and Training and in *Higher Education: a policy statement*, there is evidence of concern for preservation of balance in the value given to the social sciences and humanities on the one hand, and to the sciences, technologies and business/management courses on the other. There is evidence of concern, too, for equal value to be placed on fundamental 'pure' research and goal-driven strategic and applied research. However, intellectual inquiry, personal development of students, and enhancement of the nation's cultural endeavours were not emphasised. Instead, the year was marked by the government's efforts to link higher education teaching and research to its goals of industrial development and economic restructuring.

First, *Higher education: a policy statement* stipulated that all institutions in the unified national system were to give priority to teaching disciplines 'relevant to national social, economic and industrial needs.' A commitment to do so was to be given in the education profile of each institution. Funding for additional student places was also tied to growth in the discipline areas the government designated priority ones for 1989-91, namely engineering, computer science and information technology, mathematics and

statistics, business and management studies, and Asian studies.

Second, this policy paper emphasised the importance of stronger links between higher education and industry in course planning and implementation. It encouraged institutions to adopt a more entrepreneurial stance, not only towards the marketing of their programs, but also toward collaboration with industry in research and development. In Victoria, Monash University established a science and technology park for joint research and development projects, aiming to increase over five years a private annual income of approximately \$3 million to \$10 million. Melbourne University's Graduate School of Management planned a \$12 million share issue involving the sale of half the school to business.

Third, the government began the program intended to ensure that a large part of higher education research funding would be in strategic and applied research. In May, the government established 15 key centres of research, selected on the basis of their work in, primarily, mining, agriculture, manufacturing and trade. The centres received \$3 million between them for 1988 and the possibility of funding for up to six years. The minister said a special feature of the key centres program was its capacity to 'strengthen and broaden links and co-operation between higher education and industry.' In December, the government allocated \$3.6 million (over 3 years) to 13 former advanced education institutions selected for their capacity 'for quality research in areas of strategic importance in Australia.'

* * *

Educational arrangements derive from and are maintained, or changed by, the need for policymakers to confront, and perhaps accommodate, conflicting views and interests in the world of practical politics.

Secondary education In NSW, Metherell's policies provoked widespread, broadly-based opposition. His plans to cut the size of the government schools' teaching force, increase teaching loads, reduce curricular options and reintroduce an aggregate score for the Higher School Certificate were strongly contested by teachers, parents and students.

In late July, and the first weeks of August, protest rallies were held from Murwillumbah on the far north coast to Bega on the south

coast, as well as inland at Armidale and Forbes. Up to 50 000 people attended the public meeting in Sydney's Domain on 17 August, many of them brought from the country in the 6 trains and 100 buses organised for the occasion. The presidents of the NSW Teachers' Federation, the NSW Federation of Parents and Citizens, and the Federation of School Community Organisations addressed the meeting. Earlier, on 28 July, between six and seven thousand secondary school students met in Sydney's Belmore Park and marched to the Domain for a protest meeting.

The Teachers' Federation took their campaign against the changes to their working conditions to the State Industrial Commission. The Commission's ruling in November was largely in their favour and as such reduced the minister's hopes to fund new initiatives through a redeployment of resources. The year ended with little reduction in the heat of the state's education debate.

The commonwealth government encountered opposition to its school policies and, more particularly to its funding policies. The National Catholic Education Commission, for example, contested the government's decision to abolish the Establishment Grant for new non-government schools. The commission lobbied the Minister for Employment, Education and Training and the federal opposition. In the federal parliament the issue was taken up first in the Senate, where the opposition amended the State Grants (Schools Assistance) Bill 1988. Then, at a special sitting of the House of Representatives on 21 December, the minister agreed to an amendment that left to his discretion the payment of establishment grants to schools already granted provisional approval to begin in 1989.

The Senate also amended the State Grants (Schools Assistance) Bill in an attempt to enhance the role of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training's Schools Council in relation to the negotiation and monitoring of the implementation of resource agreements made between the Commonwealth and the states or the commonwealth and the non-government school authorities. At the same special sitting of the House of Representatives Dawkins successfully countered with his own amendment, but it was one which gave a monitoring role to the Schools Council.

Metherell opposed the Commonwealth's requirement that, in return for general recur-



Tertiary students take to the streets of Melbourne to protest against the tertiary 'administration' fee of \$250. Photograph by John Lamb, Age, 25 September 1988.

rent grants, the states would participate in the proposed co-operative annual national report on schooling. The NSW minister perceived this as a threat to states' rights since the new arrangements seemed to ensure that no state could contribute to the report without accounting for the expenditure of state as well as commonwealth funds. The year ended with no resolution of the conflict in sight.

The National Catholic Education Commission's concerns extended beyond the question of funding. It queried the philosophy underlying much of the commonwealth government's education initiatives and, with other Catholic education bodies, contested the emphasis given to the instrumental and vocational purposes of schooling. In January, the commission drafted a curriculum policy for Australian Catholic schools that emphasised religious and holistic curriculum purposes. During the year it sought feedback from the various State/Territory Catholic Education commissions and offices with the intention of formulating, in the near future, a policy acceptable to them all.

The commission's response to the commonwealth government's call for a collaborative effort to develop national goals for Australian schools was willingness to co-operate (if invited

to do so) but determination to contest any attempt to diminish what it considered the healthy diversity of non-government schooling or to reduce the control of Catholic School Authorities over the curriculum in Catholic schools.

Higher education The Higher Education Contribution Scheme aroused widespread and much publicised opposition. It was contested within the Australian Labor party, the South Australian branch condemning it at its conference in August, and joining the ACTU in the demand that only high income earners and companies should pay the tax.

Many students (and their parents) were angry and felt betrayed by Labor's application of the user pays principle to education. Dawkins encountered fiery demonstrations at campuses around the country. Postgraduate student associations came out against the scheme, that of Melbourne University warning of a 'brain drain' as a result of its introduction. By the end of the year the National Union of Students was considering a challenge through the High Court.

The Australian Democrats claimed that the tax violated the International Covenant on

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and voted against the bill in the Senate. The Liberal/National parties did not vote against the bill in parliament, but promised to scrap the scheme if elected despite their continued support for some application of the user pays principle to higher education. It seemed probable that the 'graduate tax' would be an issue at the next federal election.

The restructuring of the higher education system aroused widespread interest, not least because each state and territory was affected. Resistance to the merging of institutions and/or conflict over the details took different forms.

The commonwealth/state consultative process was not always a smooth one. Metherell, for example, resisted for some time Dawkins' preference for a multicampus institution in Sydney's western suburbs under the sponsorship, initially, of Sydney University. Metherell favoured the formation of a much larger institution of which Sydney University would be part.

Many higher education institutions resisted the plans made for them whether by commonwealth or state governments. They enlisted the

support of different groups and/or political parties. In South Australia, for example, there was effective resistance to the consolidation planned there by which the states' five higher education institutions were to become two large conglomerates. In the ACT, the commonwealth government's intention to establish a new Australian National University by amalgamating the Canberra College of Advanced Education, the Canberra Institute of the Arts, and the Australian National University was contested. In December, when Dawkins introduced the requisite bill, it seemed probable that the new year would see the legislation opposed, if not defeated, in both Houses of parliament.

Other changes outlined in *Higher education: a policy statement* were also contested. Both the federal parliamentary opposition and the Federation of Australian University Staff Associations (FAUSA), criticised the commonwealth government for centralising power in its own hands through the imposition of greater government regulation. FAUSA warned, too, that attempts to impose 'a set of market criteria on a public, socially governed sector, like higher education' would be fraught with difficulty.



Approximately one-hundred tertiary students invaded the Melbourne stock exchange floor to make their point about the introduction of tertiary fees.

Photograph by Mark Wilson, 9 August 1988.

DAVID SYME & CO

Academics, concerned for the funding and status of the humanities and social sciences, as well as many scientists, resisted the government's emphasis on the need in higher education to pursue immediately useful or practical knowledge. Some countered with the argument that such a pursuit was shortsighted and would hinder the achievement of the objectives sought by the government.

Research funding was one of the most strongly contested issues. The Australian Vice Chancellor's Committee (AVCC), questioned the government's intervention in university research effort. The AVCC opposed the redeployment of some of the general recurrent grants to the Australian Research Council, and attacked the government's intention to distinguish between researchers and scholar/teachers, rather than, as before, between universities, which were funded for teaching and research, and institutions of advanced education, which were funded only for teaching. It criticised the Australian Research Council, and in particular its chairperson, political scientist Professor Don Aitken, for bringing in 'people from other areas, such as Colleges of Advanced

Education, who may not have the right scientific background; people who don't have an international reputation in research.'

The AVCC is a powerful lobby group. In September, Dawkins agreed to a higher profile for it in the higher education consultative/advisory process. He also set up a committee, headed by Professor Bob Smith, chairperson of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training, to review higher education research policy. The committee's terms of reference emphasised the need for higher education research to achieve closer alignment with broad national objectives. But they also allowed for the development of new approaches to the provision of research funding and to the role to be taken in its allocation by the Australian Research and Higher Education Councils. At stake for the government was its preference for research that would 'be pivotal in lifting Australia out of its present balance of payments crisis.' Central to the AVCC's concern was a defence of research, the aim of which was scholarly achievement and international reputation.

J. ANN HONE

