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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,  
CANBERRA.

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OFFICIAL

# YEAR BOOK

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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No. 37.—1946 and 1947.

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Prepared under Instructions from  
The Right Honorable the Treasurer,

BY

ROLAND WILSON, C.B.E., B. Com., D. Phil., Ph. D.,  
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.



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## PREFACE.

By the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Parliament of the Commonwealth is empowered "to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to Census and Statistics." In the exercise of the power so conferred, a "Census and Statistics Act" was passed in 1905, and in the year following the "Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics" was created. The first Official Year Book was published early in 1908. The publication here presented is the thirty-seventh Official Year Book issued under the authority of the Commonwealth Government.

The synopsis on pp. ix to xxvi immediately following shows the general arrangement of the work. The special index (following the usual general index) provided at the end of the volume, together with certain references given in the various Chapters, will assist in tracing in previous issues special articles and other more or less important miscellaneous matter which, owing to limitations of space, have been omitted or are not printed fully in the present volume.

Economic and financial conditions during recent years have caused a demand for new information, or information expressed in new terms, concerning many matters of finance, trade, prices, production and population, and some progress has been made in the later volumes towards bringing closer to present day requirements the Chapters dealing with these branches of statistics, while a diary of the principal financial and economic events of the years 1945 to 1948 is inserted after the last chapter.

It is not proposed to refer here to the whole of the new matter or to the new treatment of existing matter incorporated in the present volume, but attention may be drawn to the following :—

- Chapter II. Physiography.—New map on Evaporation (pp. 41-2).
- Chapter III. General Government.—Schemes for Pensions, Retiring Allowances, etc., for Members of Parliament (Commonwealth p. 1247, New South Wales, p. 66, Victoria, p. 68, Queensland, p. 1248, South Australia, p. 1248, and Western Australia, pp. 70 and 1249); Commonwealth Government Departments—Matters dealt with and Acts administered (pp. 76-86).
- Chapter IV. Land Tenure and Settlement.—Settlement of Returned Service Personnel: 1939-45 War (pp. 113-9).
- Chapter V. Transport and Communication.—Post-war Control of Shipping (pp. 142-4); Maps showing Railway Systems (pp. 155-6) and Air Routes (pp. 191-2); Aviation Development in Australia and Overseas (pp. 181-94); Overseas Telecommunications Commission (pp. 220-4).
- Chapter VI. Education.—The Australian National University (pp. 241-2); The Commonwealth Office of Education (pp. 243-4); Libraries, Museums and Art Galleries (pp. 254-65).
- Chapter VIII. Public Benevolence, etc.—Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits (pp. 304-8).
- Chapter X. The Territories of Australia.—Northern Territory—Legislative Council (p. 328), System of Land Tenure (pp. 331-3), Education Facilities (p. 335); Australian Capital Territory—Progress of work since 1930 (pp. 337-8); Trusteeship Agreements (New Guinea) (pp. 354-5) and Nauru (pp. 366-7).
- Chapter XI. Trade.—Reciprocal Tariffs, Trade Agreements, International Trade Discussions and Tariff Negotiations (pp. 377-82); Export Control (pp. 383-4); Trade Commissioner Service (pp. 395-6).
- Chapter XII. Labour, Wages and Prices.—Commonwealth Employment Service (p. 496).
- Chapter XIII. Local Government.—Roads—Summary according to Composition (pp. 536-7), Summary of Expenditure by Central Road Authorities (pp. 537-8).
- Chapter XIV. Private Finance.—Banking Act 1947 (pp. 566-7); Additional and Reconstructed Tables on Business of Cheque-paying Banks (pp. 573-82).

- Chapter XV. Public Finance.—New Tables on Loan Raisings in Australia and Overseas (pp. 642-4); Taxes on Income—Income Year 1947-48 (pp. 690-5) and Income Year 1948-49 (pp. 1277-80).
- Chapter XVI. Population.—Preliminary Results of 1947 Census for Population and Dwellings, and Revised Population Estimates for the Intercensal Period 1933-1947 (pp. 699 *et seq.*, and 1281).
- Chapter XVII. Vital Statistics.—Marriages, Births and Deaths—For Earlier Periods statistics for single years replaced by annual averages for five-yearly or ten-yearly periods (pp. 742 *et seq.*).
- Chapter XVIII. Mineral Industry.—Government Aid to Mining (pp. 849-52).
- Chapter XIX. Pastoral Production.—Classification of Sheep according to Age, Sex and Breed (p. 867); Average Weight of Sheep and Lamb Fleeces Shorn (p. 873); World Production of Wool by Type of Wool and Country (pp. 873-4).
- Chapter XX. Agricultural Production.—F.A.Q. Standard of Wheat (pp. 902-3); Sorghum for Grain (pp. 925-6); Wheat Industry Legislation (p. 1295).
- Chapter XXI. Farmyard, Dairy and Bee Products.—Commonwealth Subsidies on Butter, Cheese, Processed Milk Products, and Whole Milk (pp. 977-9); Whole Milk Production and Utilization (p. 980); Poultry Farming (pp. 993-1000).
- Chapter XXII. Forestry.—Earlier Sections (pp. 1007-13) rewritten.
- Chapter XXV. Water Conservation and Irrigation.—Special Article "The Conservation and Use of Water in Australia" (pp. 1096-1141) prepared by Mr. Ulrich Ellis.
- Chapter XXVI. Defence.—Department of Defence (pp. 1142-4); Naval and Air Defence (pp. 1150-5); Casualties: Australian Services 1939-45 War (pp. 1156-60).
- Chapter XXVII. Repatriation.—General Benefits (pp. 1178-80).

The material in the Year Book has been carefully checked throughout, but I shall be grateful to those who will be kind enough to point out defects or make suggestions.

Printing difficulties are still being experienced and the delay in publication of this volume, while regrettable, has been unavoidable. Compared with the previous volume, however, the figures have been advanced by two years.

Later information which has been compiled since the various Chapters were sent to press has been incorporated in the Appendix (p. 1246) which is much more comprehensive even than in the previous issue. Opportunity has been taken therein to advance as far as possible, in summarized form, the more important statistics of the foregoing chapters. In many cases information has been extended to 1948.

My thanks are tendered to the State Statisticians, who have collected and compiled the data on which a great part of the information given in the Official Year Book is based. Thanks are also tendered to the responsible officers of the various Commonwealth and State Departments, and to others who have kindly, and often at considerable trouble, supplied information; special mention should be made of the services of the Chief Draftsman of the Property and Survey Branch, Department of the Interior, who was responsible for the drawing of the graphs throughout this volume, and of those of Mr. Ulrich Ellis, who prepared the special article entitled "The Conservation and Use of Water in Australia" appearing in Chapter XXV.

An expression of keen appreciation is due in respect of the valuable work performed by Mr. S. H. Begley, Editor of Publications, Mr. J. M. Jones, B.A., Assistant Editor, and the other officers of the Publications Division, and of the services rendered by the officers in charge of the several sections of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, upon whom has devolved the duty of revising the Chapters relative to their respective sections.

ROLAND WILSON,  
Commonwealth Statistician.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

*Canberra, A.C.T., June, 1949.*

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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Heading.		Years.								
		1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1931.	1941.	1946.	
Population(a)	Males	1,247,059	1,736,617	2,004,836	2,382,232	2,799,462	3,332,577	3,598,767	3,768,251	
	Females	1,059,677	1,504,368	1,820,077	2,191,554	2,711,532	3,220,029	3,544,768	3,750,991	
	Persons	2,306,736	3,240,985	3,824,913	4,573,786	5,510,994	6,552,606	7,143,535	7,519,246	
Births	No.	80,004	110,187	102,945	122,193	136,198	118,509	134,525	176,379	
	Rate	35.26	34.47	27.16	27.21	24.95	18.16	18.92	23.62	
Deaths	No.	33,327	47,430	46,330	47,869	54,076	56,560	71,476	74,661	
	Rate	14.69	14.84	12.22	10.66	9.91	8.67	10.01	10.00	
Marriages	No.	17,244	23,862	27,753	39,482	46,869	38,882	75,148	79,496	
	Rate	7.60	7.47	7.32	8.79	8.59	5.96	10.57	10.64	
		1881-82.	1891-92.	1901-02.	1911-12.	1921-22.	1931-32.	1941-42.	1946-47.	
Agriculture—										
Wheat	Area '000 acs.	2,996	3,335	5,116	7,428	9,719	14,741	12,003	13,186	
	Yld. '000 bus.	21,444	25,675	38,562	71,636	129,089	190,612	166,713	117,262	
	Av. Yld. bus.	7.16	7.70	7.54	9.64	13.28	12.93	13.89	8.9c	
Oats	Area '000 acs.	195	246	461	617	733	1,085	1,460	1,728	
	Yld. '000 bus.	4,796	5,726	9,790	9,562	12,147	15,195	22,302	15,566	
	Av. Yld. bus.	24.62	23.27	21.22	15.50	16.56	14.00	15.27	9.0c	
Barley	Area '000 acs.	75,864	68,068	74,511	116,466	298,910	342,396	784,253	747,966	
	Yld. '000 bus.	1,353	1,179	1,520	2,057	6,086	6,291	18,004	11,597	
	Av. Yld. bus.	17.84	17.31	20.40	17.66	20.36	18.37	22.96	15.51	
Maize	Area '000 acs.	165,777	284,428	294,849	340,065	305,186	269,448	301,360	259,738	
	Yld. '000 bus.	5,726	9,262	7,035	8,940	7,840	7,062	7,436	5,808	
	Av. Yld. bus.	34.54	32.56	23.86	26.29	25.69	26.21	24.67	22.36	
Hay	Area '000 acs.	768	942	1,688	2,518	2,995	2,635	2,758	2,006	
	Yld. '000 tons	767	1,067	2,025	2,868	3,902	3,167	3,575	2,357	
	Av. Yld. tons	1.00	1.13	1.20	1.14	1.30	1.20	1.30	1.18	
Potatoes	Area acs.	(b) 76,265	112,884	109,685	130,463	149,140	145,111	99,324	144,729	
	Yld. tons	(b) 243,216	380,477	322,524	301,489	388,091	397,102	332,727	544,077	
	Av. Yld. tons	(b) 3.19	3.37	2.94	2.31	2.60	2.74	3.35	3.76	
sugar-cane(c)	Area '000 acs.	19,708	45,444	86,950	101,010	128,350	241,576	254,564	226,957	
	Yld. '000 tons	350	738	1,368	1,682	2,437	4,213	5,154	4,027	
	Av. Yld. tons	17.74	16.23	15.73	16.65	18.99	17.44	20.25	17.74	
Vineyards	Area acs.	14,560	48,882	63,677	60,602	92,414	112,961	129,739	130,312	
	Wine '000 gal.	1,438	3,438	5,262	4,975	8,543	14,191	16,045	33,196	
Total net value of all agricultural production..		£'000	(d) 15,519	(d) 16,988	(d) 23,835	(d) 23,774	(d) 81,890	49,714	62,412	(h) 97,831
Pastoral, dairying, etc.—										
Live-stock	Horses '000	1,088	1,585	1,620	2,278	2,438	1,776	1,611	1,195	
	Cattle ..	8,011	11,112	8,491	11,829	14,441	12,261	13,561	13,427	
	Sheep ..	65,093	106,421	72,040	96,886	86,119	110,619	125,189	95,723	
	Pigs ..	703	846	931	1,111	960	1,168	1,477	1,723	
Wool production(e)	'000 lb.	319,649	634,046	539,395	798,391	723,059	1,007,456	1,167,158	976,778	
Butter ..	"	(f)	(g) 42,315	(g) 103,747	(g) 212,074	(g) 267,071	391,249	375,494	321,016	
Cheese ..	"	(f)	(g) 10,131	(g) 11,845	(g) 15,887	(g) 32,653	31,423	67,520	94,865	
Meat(i)—										
Beef and Veal ..	tons	(f)	(f)	(f)	(f)	{ 339,495	349,835	533,502	487,761	
Mutton and Lamb ..	"	(f)	(f)	(f)	(f)	{ 218,381	307,277	371,726	302,586	
Pork ..	"	(f)	(f)	(f)	(f)	{ 11,060	22,746	58,086	30,026	
Bacon and Ham ..	"	(f)	(g) 7,487	(g) 15,188	(g) 23,810	(g) 26,173	31,751	42,404	47,668	
Total ..	"	(f)	(f)	(f)	(f)	{ 608,196	727,484	1,027,010	885,201	
Total net value of—										
Pastoral production	£'000	(d) 29,538	(d) 39,256	(d) 36,890	(d) 72,883	(d) 119,399	{ 43,025	85,358	(h) 130,207	
Dairying ..	"	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	{ 24,564	34,344	(h) 49,858	
		1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1931.	1941.	1946.	
Mineral production—										
Gold ..	£'000	5,194	5,282	14,018	10,552	4,019	3,564	15,991	8,873	
Silver and lead ..	"	46	3,736	2,249	3,022	1,540	1,444	6,256	8,411	
Copper ..	"	714	367	2,215	2,564	804	568	1,505	1,715	
Tin ..	"	1,146	561	448	1,210	418	216	1,001	743	
Zinc ..	"	638	1,912	2,603	3,927	11,015	6,194	11,064	14,242	
Coal (Black and Brown)	"	638	1,912	2,603	3,927	11,015	6,194	11,064	14,242	
Total value of all mineral production ..		£'000	7,820	12,074	21,817	23,303	19,997	13,191	41,690	40,554
Forestry production—										
Quantity of local timber sawn or hewn ..	'000 sup. ft.	(f)	(f)	452,181	604,794	590,495	236,707	913,675	1,050,137	

(a) At 31st December. (b) Partly estimated. (c) Productive cane. (d) Gross value. (e) In terms of greasy. (f) Not available. (g) Years ended December. (h) Subject to revision. (i) Bone-weight in terms of fresh meat; cured weight bacon and ham.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA—continued.

Heading.	Years.							
	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921-22.	1931-32.	1941-42.	1946-47.
<b>Factories—</b>								
No. of factories .. .. .				14,455	18,023	21,657	26,971	34,768
Hands employed .. .. .				311,710	378,540	336,658	725,342	804,929
Wages paid .. .. . £'000				27,528	68,051	55,932	180,052	237,174
Value of production .. .. .				51,259	121,674	110,982	316,439	410,862
Total value of output .. .. .				133,022	320,332	281,046	773,059	1,011,026
<b>Shipping—</b>								
Oversea vessels entered and cleared .. .. .	No. 3,284	No. 3,778	No. 4,028	4,174	3,111	3,057	2,544	2,489
.. .. . '000 tons	2,549	4,726	6,542	9,985	9,081	11,396	10,768	10,406
<b>Commerce—</b>								
Imports, oversea .. .. . £'000 f.o.b.	26,480	34,355	38,657	61,008	93,893	51,789	173,424	209,485
.. .. . per head .. .. . £	11/13/5	10/15/0	10/4/0	13/11/7	17/0/9	7/18/1	24/5/6	27/17/2
Exports, oversea .. .. . £'000 f.o.b.	27,528	36,043	49,696	79,482	127,847	108,404	168,977	309,004
.. .. . per head .. .. . £	12/2/7	11/5/6	13/2/2	17/13/11	23/4/0	16/10/11	23/13/1	41/1/10
Total oversea trade .. .. . £'000 f.o.b.	54,008	70,398	88,353	140,490	221,740	160,193	342,401	518,489
.. .. . per head .. .. . £	23/16/0	22/0/6	23/6/2	31/5/6	40/4/9	24/9/0	47/18/7	68/19/0
Net Customs and Excise duties .. .. . £'000	4,809	7,441	8,657	13,515	27,565	28,525	55,551	101,616
.. .. . per head .. .. . £	2/2/5	2/6/7	2/5/8	2/19/2	5/0/1	4/7/1	7/15/6	13/10/3
<b>Principal Oversea Exports(b)—</b>								
Wool .. .. . '000 lb.(c)	328,360	619,260	518,018	720,365	927,834	893,644	937,376	1,432,905
.. .. . £'000 f.o.b.	13,173	19,940	15,237	26,071	47,977	32,102	58,041	126,104
Wheat .. .. . '000 bus.	5,365	9,795	20,260	55,148	99,947	127,401	22,313	12,176
.. .. . £'000 f.o.b.	1,590	1,939	2,775	9,642	28,644	19,220	4,645	6,338
Flour .. .. . '000 short tons	50	33	97	176	360	611	414	765
.. .. . £'000 f.o.b.	520	328	590	1,392	5,520	3,833	4,191	22,535
Butter .. .. . '000 lb.	1,299	4,240	34,607	101,722	127,347	201,629	130,347	133,642
.. .. . £'000 f.o.b.	39	207	1,451	4,637	7,968	10,250	8,125	12,570
Hides and skins .. .. .	317	874	1,251	3,227	3,137	2,316	5,982	15,423
Tallow (inedible) .. .. .	644	571	678	1,936	1,442	831	842	317
Meats .. .. .	393	461	2,611	4,393	5,542	6,370	14,094	21,130
Timber (undressed) .. .. .	118	38	731	1,024	1,158	433	320	891
Gold .. .. .	6,445	5,704	14,316	12,046	3,483	11,893	9,188	1
Silver and lead .. .. .	58	1,932	2,250	3,213	2,697	2,902	7,434	10,982
Copper .. .. .	677	418	1,619	2,346	705	472	18	543
Coal .. .. .	361	646	987	901	1,100	342	259	55
<b>Government Railways—</b>								
Length of line open .. .. . miles	3,832	9,541	12,579	16,078	23,502	26,959	27,241	27,179
Capital cost .. .. . £'000	42,741	99,764	123,224	152,195	244,353	321,972	322,152	333,993
Gross revenue .. .. .	3,910	8,654	11,038	17,848	38,195	37,580	66,482	66,394
Working expenses .. .. .	2,142	5,630	7,134	10,946	29,818	28,142	51,043	60,939
Per cent. of working expenses on gross revenue .. .. . %	54.77	65.06	64.63	61.33	78.07	74.88	76.78	91.78
<b>Postal—</b>								
Letters and postcards dealt with .. .. . '000	67,640	157,297	220,853	453,063	561,973	731,135	921,901	990,067
.. .. . per head .. .. . No.	29.61	49.07	58.26	100.90	102.01	111.62	129.17	123.60
Newspapers dealt with .. .. . '000	38,063	85,280	102,727	141,638	140,477	139,502	177,974	210,343
.. .. . per head .. .. . No.	16.66	26.61	27.10	31.54	25.50	21.30	24.94	27.70
<b>Cheque-paying Banks (e)—</b>								
Note circulation .. .. . £'000	3,979	4,417	3,399	3,718	(f) 214	197	167	158
Coin and bullion held .. .. .	9,108	16,713	19,781	33,471	21,627	1,949	1,533	2,544
Advances .. .. .	57,733	129,742	86,353	108,579	193,436	227,139	269,944	284,123
Deposits .. .. .	53,849	98,345	91,487	143,447	(g) 273,867	276,114	386,502	654,139
<b>Savings Banks(h)—</b>								
Total deposits .. .. . £'000	7,854	15,537	30,883	59,394	154,396	197,966	274,275	660,015
Av. per head of population .. .. . £	3/10/5	4/18/7	8/3/0	13/8/5	28/0/4	30/1/11	38/3/11	87/1/3
					1921.	1931.	1941.	1946.
<b>State Schools—</b>								
Schools .. .. . No.	4,494	6,231	7,012	8,060	9,445	10,097	9,535	8,271
Teachers .. .. .	9,028	12,564	14,500	16,971	16,120	33,762	32,066	32,753
Enrolment .. .. .	432,320	561,153	638,478	638,850	819,042	936,901	886,655	886,811
Average attendance .. .. .	255,143	350,773	450,246	463,799	666,498	817,262	732,116	731,058

(a) Owing to variation in classification effective comparison is impossible. (b) Australian produce, except gold which includes re-exports. Australian currency values. (c) In terms of greasy. (d) Includes copper base alloys. (e) Figures for first three years are averages for the December quarter; the remainder for the June quarter. All cheque-paying banks prior to 1931-32, nine trading banks only thereafter. (f) Decrease due to prohibition of re-issue. (g) Includes Commonwealth Savings Bank deposits. (h) First three years at 31st December; remainder 30th June.

## CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE.

### CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF CHIEF EVENTS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

NOTE.—The Government was centralized in Sydney, New South Wales, up to 1825, when Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land) was made a separate colony. In the Table, the names now borne by the States serve to indicate the localities.

Year.

- 1788 N.S.W.—Arrival of "First Fleet" at Botany Bay. Land in vicinity being found unsuitable for settlement, the expedition moved to Sydney Cove. Formal proclamation of colony on 7th February. Branch Settlement established at Norfolk Island. French navigator Lapérouse visited Botany Bay. First cultivation of wheat and barley. First grape vines planted.
- 1789 N.S.W.—First wheat harvest at Parramatta, near Sydney. Discovery of Hawkesbury River.
- 1790 N.S.W.—Scarcity of provisions. "Second Fleet" reached Port Jackson. Landing of the New South Wales Corps.
- 1791 N.S.W.—Arrival of "Third Fleet". Territorial seal brought by Governor King.
- 1792 N.S.W.—Visit of *Philadelphia*, first foreign trading vessel.
- 1793 N.S.W.—First free immigrants arrived in the *Bellona*. First Australian church opened at Sydney. Tas.—D'Entrecasteaux discovered the Derwent River.
- 1794 N.S.W.—Establishment of settlement at Hawkesbury River.
- 1795 N.S.W.—Erection of the first printing press at Sydney. Descendants of strayed cattle discovered at Cowpastures, Nepean River.
- 1796 N.S.W.—First Australian theatre opened at Sydney. Coal discovered by fishermen at Newcastle.
- 1797 N.S.W.—Introduction of merino sheep from Cape of Good Hope.
- 1798 Tas.—Insularity of Tasmania proved by voyage of Bass and Flinders.
- 1800 N.S.W.—Hunter River coal-mines worked. First Customs House in Australia established at Sydney. Flinders' charts published.
- 1801 N.S.W.—First colonial manufacture of blankets and linen.
- 1802 Vic.—Discovery of Port Phillip by Lieut. Murray. Q'land.—Discovery of Port Curtis and Port Bowen by Flinders. S.A.—Discovery of Spencer's and St. Vincent Gulfs by Flinders.
- 1803 N.S.W.—First Australian wool taken to England by Capt. Macarthur. Issue of "The Sydney Gazette", first Australian newspaper. Vic.—Attempted settlement at Port Phillip by Collins. Discovery of Yarra by Grimes. Tas.—First settlement formed at Risdon by Lieut. Bowen.
- 1804 N.S.W.—Insurrection of convicts at Castle Hill. Vic.—Abandonment of settlement at Port Phillip. Tas.—Foundation of settlement at Hobart by Collins, and at Yorktown by Colonel Paterson.
- 1805 N.S.W.—First extensive sheep farm established at Camden by Capt. Macarthur. Portion of settlers from Norfolk Island transferred to Tasmania.
- 1806 N.S.W.—"The great flood" on the Hawkesbury. Shortage of provisions. Tas.—Settlement at Launceston.
- 1807 N.S.W.—Final transfer of convicts from Norfolk Island. First shipment of merchantable wool (245 lb.) to England.
- 1808 N.S.W.—Deposition of Governor Bligh.
- 1809 N.S.W.—Free school established.
- 1810 N.S.W.—Post Office officially established at Sydney. Isaac Nichols first postmaster. First race meeting in Australia at Hyde Park, Sydney. Tas.—First Tasmanian newspaper printed.
- 1813 N.S.W.—Passage across Blue Mountains discovered by Wentworth, Lawson and Blaxland. Macquarie River discovered by Evans.
- 1814 N.S.W.—Flinders suggested the name "Australia", instead of "New Holland". Creation of Civil Courts.
- 1815 N.S.W.—First steam engine in Australia erected at Sydney. Lachlan River discovered by Evans. Tas.—Arrival of first immigrant ship with free settlers. First export of wheat to Sydney.

- Year.
- 1816 N.S.W.—Sydney Hospital opened.
- 1817 N.S.W.—Oxley's first exploration inland. Discovery of Lakes George and Bathurst and the Goulburn Plains by Meehan and Hume. First bank in Australia—Bank of New South Wales—opened at Sydney.
- 1818 N.S.W.—Liverpool Plains, and the Peel, Hastings and Manning Rivers discovered by Oxley, and Port Essington by Captain King.
- 1819 N.S.W.—First Savings Bank in Australia opened at Sydney.
- 1820 Tas.—First importation of pure merino sheep from Camden Park (N.S.W.) flocks.
- 1821 Tas.—Establishment of penal settlement at Macquarie Harbour.
- 1823 N.S.W.—New South Wales Judicature Act passed. Discovery of gold at Fish River by Assistant-Surveyor McBrien. Qld.—Brisbane River discovered by Oxley.
- 1824 N.S.W.—Constituted a Crown Colony. Executive Council formed. Establishment of Supreme Court at Sydney, and introduction of trial by jury. First Australian Enactment (Currency Bill) passed by the Legislative Council. Proclamation of freedom of the press. First manufacture of sugar. Vic.—Hume and Howell, journeying overland from Sydney, arrived at Corio Bay. Qld.—Penal settlement founded at Moreton Bay (Brisbane). Fort Dundas Settlement formed at Melville Island, N. Terr.
- 1825 N.S.W.—Extension of western boundary to 129th meridian. Tas.—Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) proclaimed a separate colony. Qld.—Major Lockyer explored Brisbane River to its source and discovered coal.
- 1826 N.S.W.—Settlement in Illawarra District. Vic.—Settlement at Corinella, Western Port, formed by Captain Wright.
- 1827 N.S.W.—Colony became self-supporting. Qld.—Darling Downs and the Condamine River discovered by Allan Cunningham. W.A.—Military Settlement founded at King George's Sound by Major Lockyer. First official claim of British Sovereignty over all Australia.
- 1828 N.S.W.—Second constitution. First Census. Sturt's expedition down Darling River. Gas first used at Sydney. Richmond and Clarence Rivers discovered by Captain Rous. Vic.—Abandonment of settlement at Western Port. Qld.—Cunningham discovered a route from Brisbane to the Darling Downs, and explored Brisbane River.
- 1829 N.S.W.—Sturt's expedition down Murrumbidgee River. W.A.—Foundation of settlement at Swan River. Foundation of Perth.
- 1830 N.S.W.—Insurrection of convicts at Bathurst. Sturt, voyaging down Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers, arrived at Lake Alexandrina. Tas.—Trouble with natives. Black line organized to force aborigines into Tasman's Peninsula, but failed. Between 1830 and 1835, however, George Robinson, by friendly suasion, succeeded in gathering the small remnant of aborigines (203) into settlement on Flinders Island.
- 1831 N.S.W.—Crown lands first disposed of at auction. Mitchell's explorations north of Liverpool Plains. Arrival at Sydney of first steamer, *Sophia Jane*, from England. SS. *Surprise*, first steamship built in Australia, launched at Sydney. First coal shipped from Australian Agricultural Company's workings at Newcastle, N.S.W. First assisted immigration to N.S.W. S.A.—Wakefield's first colonization committee. W.A.—Appointment of Executive and Legislative Councils.
- 1832 N.S.W.—State Savings Bank established.
- 1833 N.S.W.—First School of Arts established at Sydney.
- 1834 N.S.W.—First settlement at Twofold Bay. Vic.—Settlement formed at Portland Bay by Henty Bros. S.A.—Formation of the South Australian Association. W.A.—Severe reprisals against Murray River natives at Pinjarrah for continued attacks on settlers.
- 1835 Vic.—John Batman arrived at Port Phillip; made treaty with the natives for 600,000 acres of land; claim afterwards disallowed by Imperial Government. Foundation of Melbourne.
- 1836 N.S.W.—Mitchell's overland journey from Sydney to Cape Northumberland. Vic.—Proclamation of Port Phillip district as open for settlement. S.A.—Settlement founded at Adelaide under Governor Hindmarsh.

Year.

- 1837 N.S.W.—Appointment in London of Select Committee on Transportation. Vic.—Melbourne named by Governor Bourke. First overlanders from Sydney arrived at Port Phillip.
- 1838 N.S.W.—Discontinuance of assignment of convicts. Qld.—Settlement of German missionaries at Brisbane—first free colonists. S.A.—“Overlanding” of cattle from Sydney to Adelaide along the Murray route by Hawden and Bonney. Settlement at Port Essington, Northern Territory, formed by Captain Bremer.
- 1839 N.S.W.—Gold found at Vale of Clwydd by Count Strzelecki. S.A.—Lake Torrens discovered by Eyre. Port Darwin discovered by Captain Stokes. W.A.—Murchison River discovered by Captain Grey.
- 1840 N.S.W.—Abolition of transportation to New South Wales. Land regulations—proceeds of sales to be applied to payments for public works and expenditure on immigration. Vic.—Determination of northern boundary. Qld.—Penal settlement broken up and Moreton Bay district thrown open. S.A.—Eyre began his overland journey from Adelaide to King George’s Sound.
- 1841 N.S.W.—Gold found near Hartley by Rev. W. B. Clarke. W.A.—Completion of Eyre’s overland journey from Adelaide to King George’s Sound. Tas.—Renewal of transportation. New Zealand proclaimed a separate colony.
- 1842 N.S.W.—Incorporation of Sydney. Vic.—Incorporation of Melbourne. S.A.—Discovery of copper at Kapunda.
- 1843 N.S.W.—First Representative Constitution (under Act of 1842). Qld.—Moreton Bay granted legislative representation as a distinct electoral division.
- 1844 Qld.—Leichhardt’s expedition to Port Essington. S.A.—Sturt’s last expedition inland.
- 1845 N.S.W.—Mitchell’s explorations on the Barcoo. Qld.—Explorations by Mitchell and Kennedy. S.A.—Discovery of the Burra copper deposits. Sturt discovered Cooper’s Creek.
- 1846 N.S.W.—Initiation of meat-preserving. Qld.—Foundation of settlement at Port Curtis. S.A.—Proclamation of North Australia. W.A.—Foundation of New Norcia (Benedictine) Mission.
- 1847 N.S.W.—Iron-smelting commenced near Berrima. Overland mail established between Sydney and Adelaide. Qld.—Explorations by Leichhardt, Burnett and Kennedy.
- 1848 N.S.W.—National and Denominational School Boards established. Qld.—Leichhardt’s last journey. Kennedy speared by the blacks at York Peninsula. Chinese brought in as shepherds.
- 1849 N.S.W.—Indignation of colonists at arrival of convict ship *Hashemy*. Exodus of population to gold-fields of California. Vic.—*Randolph* prevented from landing convicts. Qld.—Assignment of convicts per *Hashemy* to squatters on Darling Downs. W.A.—Commencement of transportation to Western Australia.
- 1850 N.S.W.—Final abolition of transportation. First sod of first Australian railway turned at Sydney. Sydney University founded. Vic.—Gold discovered at Clunes by Hon. W. Campbell. Representative government granted. S.A.—Representative government granted. W.A.—Pearl oysters found by Lieut. Helpman at Saturday Island Shoal. Tas.—Representative government granted.
- 1851 N.S.W.—Payable gold discovered by Hargraves at Lewis Ponds and Summerhill Creek. Vic.—Port Phillip created an independent colony under the name of Victoria. Discovery of gold in various localities. “Black Thursday,” 6th Feb., a day of intense heat. W.A.—Proclamation of Legislative Council Act.
- 1852 N.S.W.—Arrival of the *Chusan*, first P. and O. mail steamer from England. S.A.—First steamer ascended the Murray River to the junction with the Darling. Tas.—Meeting of first elective Council protested against transportation. Payable gold discovered at The Nook, near Fingal, and at Nine Mile Springs.
- 1853 Tas.—Abolition of transportation. Vic.—Melbourne University founded.

- Year.
- 1854 Vic.—Opening of first Victorian railway—Flinders-street to Port Melbourne. Riots on Ballarat gold-fields. Storming of the Eureka Stockade, 3rd Dec. Telegraph first used.
- 1855 N.S.W.—Opening of railway—Sydney to Parramatta. Mint opened.
- 1856 N.S.W.—Pitcairn Islanders placed on Norfolk Island. W.A.—A. C. Gregory's expedition in search of Leichhardt.  
Responsible Governments in N.S.W., Vic., S.A. and Tas. (Act of 1855).
- 1857 N.S.W.—Select Committee on Federation. Vic.—Manhood suffrage and vote by ballot. S.A.—Passage of Torrens' Real Property Act.
- 1858 N.S.W.—Establishment of manhood suffrage and vote by ballot. Telegraphic communication between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. Qld.—Canoona gold rush.
- 1859 Qld.—Proclamation of Queensland as separate colony. Tas.—First submarine cable, via Circular Head and King Island to Cape Otway.
- 1860 Vic.—Burke and Wills left Melbourne and crossed to Gulf of Carpentaria. S.A.—Copper discoveries at Wallaroo and Moonta. McDouall Stuart reached centre of continent and named "Central Mount Stuart".
- 1861 N.S.W.—Anti-Chinese riots at Lambing Flat and Burrangong gold-fields. Opening of first tramway in Sydney. Regulation of Chinese immigration. Vic.—Burke and Wills perished at Cooper's Creek, near Innamincka, S.A.
- 1862 N.S.W.—Abolition of State aid to religion. Real Property (Torrens) Act passed. S.A.—Stuart crossed the Continent from south to north. W.A.—First export of pearl-shell.
- 1863 Vic.—Intercolonial Conference at Melbourne. S.A.—Northern Territory taken over. W.A.—Initiation of settlement in the north-west district. Henry Maxwell Lefroy discovered and traversed area now comprised in the Coolgardie-Kalgoorlie gold-field.
- 1864 Qld.—First railway begun and opened. First sugar made from Queensland cane. Tas.—First successful shipment of English salmon ova.
- 1866 N.S.W.—Passage of Public Schools Act of (Sir) Henry Parkes. S.A.—Introduction of camels for exploration, etc.
- 1867 Vic.—Imposition of protective tariff. Qld.—Discovery of gold at Gympie.
- 1868 W.A.—Arrival of the *Hougomont*, last convict ship. Tas.—First sod of first railway (Launceston and Western) turned by Duke of Edinburgh.
- 1869 Vic.—Record gold nugget "Welcome Stranger" 2,284 oz. found near Dunolly. W.A.—First telegraph line opened from Perth to Fremantle.
- 1870 N.S.W.—Intercolonial Exhibition opened at Sydney. Imperial troops withdrawn. Vic.—Intercolonial Congress at Melbourne. S.A.—Commencement of trans-continental telegraph.
- 1871 N.S.W.—Permanent military force raised. W.A.—Forrest's explorations. Tas.—Discovery of tin at Mount Bischoff. Launceston-Western Railway opened for traffic.
- 1872 Vic.—Mint opened. S.A.—Cable from Java to Port Darwin. Completion of transcontinental telegraph line.
- 1873 N.S.W.—Intercolonial Conference at Sydney. First volunteer encampment. Inauguration of mail service with San Francisco.
- 1874 N.S.W.—Triennial Parliaments Act passed. Intercolonial Conference. W.A.—John and Alexander Forrest arrived at Overland Telegraph from Murchison. S.A.—University of Adelaide founded.
- 1875 Qld.—Transfer of Port Albany Settlement to Thursday Island.
- 1876 N.S.W.—Completion of cable—Sydney (La Perouse) to Wellington (Wakapuaka). W.A.—Giles crossed colony from east to west. Tas.—Death of Truganini, last representative of Tasmanian aborigines.
- 1877 W.A.—Opening of telegraphic communication with South Australia.
- 1878 Qld.—Restriction of Chinese immigration.  
Introduction of telephone into Australia.
- 1879 N.S.W.—First artesian bore at Killara. First steam tramway. W.A.—A. Forrest's explorations in the Kimberley district, and discovery of the Fitzroy pastoral country.

- Year.
- 1880 N.S.W.—Public Instruction Act passed. Vic.—First Australian Telephone Exchange opened in Melbourne.  
Federal Conference at Melbourne and Sydney.
- 1881 N.S.W.—Further restrictions on Chinese immigration.  
Visit to Australia of T.R.H. Prince Albert Victor and Prince George.  
First Australia-wide censuses taken on same date.
- 1882 W.A.—Nugget of gold found between Roebourne and Cossack.
- 1883 N.S.W.—Discovery of silver at Broken Hill. Completion of railway between New South Wales and Victoria. Qld.—Annexation of New Guinea—repudiated by Imperial authorities.  
Federal Conference held at Sydney. Federal Council created.
- 1884 Federation Bill passed in Victoria and rejected in New South Wales. British protectorate declared over New Guinea.
- 1885 N.S.W.—Military contingent sent to the Sudan. Opening of the Broken Hill Proprietary Silver Mines. W.A.—Gold found by prospectors on the Margaret and Ord Rivers in the Kimberley district. Tas.—Silver-lead discovered at Mount Zeehan.
- 1886 Tas.—Discovery of gold and copper at Mount Lyell.  
First session of Federal Council met at Hobart on 26th January.
- 1887 W.A.—Cyclone destroyed nearly the whole pearling fleet off the Ninety-Mile Beach, 200 lives lost. Gold discovered at Southern Cross. First "Colonial" Conference in London. Australasian Naval Defence Force Act passed.
- 1888 N.S.W.—Restrictive legislation against Chinese, imposing poll-tax of £100. Qld.—Railway communication opened between Sydney and Brisbane.  
Conference of Australian Ministers at Sydney to consider question of Chinese immigration. First meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science held in Sydney.
- 1889 Qld.—Direct railway communication established between Brisbane and Adelaide. W.A.—Framing of new Constitution. Tas.—University of Tasmania founded.
- 1890 W.A.—Responsible Government granted.  
Meeting at Melbourne of Australasian Federation Conference.
- 1891 N.S.W.—Election to Legislative Assembly of 35 Labour members. Arrival of Australian Auxiliary Squadron. Cessation of assisted immigration. W.A.—Discovery of gold on the Murchison.  
First Federal Convention in Sydney, draft bill framed and adopted.
- 1892 W.A.—Discovery of gold by Messrs. Bayley and Ford at Coolgardie.
- 1893 N.S.W.—Departure by the *Royal Tar* of colonists for "New Australia".  
Financial crisis, chiefly affecting the eastern States.
- 1895 N.S.W.—Free-trade tariff. Land and income taxes introduced.  
Conference of Premiers on Federation at Hobart.
- 1896 N.S.W.—People's Federal Convention at Bathurst. Vic.—Wages Board system established by Act of Parliament.
- 1897-8 Sessions of Federal Convention at Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne.
- 1898 N.S.W.—First time production of wheat exceeded consumption.  
Draft Federal Constitution Bill submitted to electors in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania. Requisite statutory number of votes not obtained in New South Wales.
- 1899 First contingent of Australian troops sent to South Africa. Conference of Premiers in Melbourne to consider amendments to Federal Constitution Bill. Referendum—Bill accepted by New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. First Labour Government (Queensland).
- 1900 N.S.W.—Old-age pensions instituted.  
Contingents of naval troops sent to China. Commonwealth Constitution Act received Royal Assent, 9th July. Proclamation of Commonwealth signed, 17th September. Mr. (afterwards Sir) Edmund Barton formed first Federal Ministry.
- 1901 Proclamation of the Commonwealth at Sydney. First Federal Parliament opened at Melbourne by the Duke of Cornwall and York. Interstate free-trade established. Old-age pensions instituted in Victoria.

- Year.
- 1902 Opening of pumping station at Northam (W.A.) in connexion with Gold-fields water supply. Completion of Pacific Cable (all-British). First Federal Tariff.
- 1903 Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie Water Supply Scheme completed. Inauguration of the Federal High Court.
- 1904 Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act.
- 1905 Re-introduction of assisted immigration in New South Wales.
- 1906 Wireless telegraphy installed between Queenscliff, Vic., and Devonport, Tas. Papua taken over by Commonwealth. Excise Tariff Act imposed duties on agricultural machinery except when manufactured "under conditions as to the remuneration of labour which are declared . . . . . to be fair and reasonable . . . . ."
- 1907 First telephone trunk line service between Capital Cities, i.e., Sydney and Melbourne. Imperial Conference in London. Declaration of first basic wage in "Harvester Judgment".
- 1908 Canberra chosen as site of Australian Capital.
- 1909 Imperial Defence Conference in London—Commonwealth ordered two destroyers and one first-class cruiser for fleet unit. Visit of Lord Kitchener to report and advise on Australian military defence. Queensland University founded.
- 1910 Penny Postage. Arrival of *Yarra* and *Parramatta*, first vessels built for the Royal Australian Navy. Australian Notes Act passed and first Commonwealth notes issued. Admiral Sir R. Henderson visited Australia to advise on naval defence.
- 1911 First Federal Census. Transfer of Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory to Commonwealth. Introduction of compulsory military training. Establishment of penny postage to all parts of British Empire. University of Western Australia founded.
- 1912 Opening of Commonwealth Bank. First payments of Maternity Bonus. First sod turned at Port Augusta of Trans-Australian Railway (Port Augusta to Kalgoorlie).
- 1913 Australian Capital named Canberra and foundation stone laid. Appointment of Interstate Commission.
- 1914 Visit of General Sir Ian Hamilton to report on military defence scheme. Double dissolution of Federal Parliament. Visit of British Association for the Advancement of Science. Transfer of Norfolk Island to Commonwealth.  
European War declared 4th August. Australian Navy transferred to British Navy. Australian offer to equip and furnish 20,000 troops accepted. German possessions in South-West Pacific seized by Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force. German cruiser *Emden* destroyed by H.M.A.S. *Sydney* at Cocos Islands, 9th November. First contingent landed in Egypt. Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (A.N.Z.A.C.) formed under Sir William Birdwood.
- 1915 Opening of Broken Hill Proprietary's Ironworks at Newcastle, N.S.W. Navy Department created. Defeat of Third Fisher Government. Hughes Ministry formed.  
Australian and New Zealand troops landed at Gallipoli, 25th April. Evacuation, 18th–20th December. Australian warships with Grand Fleet, in Atlantic, Malaysia and elsewhere overseas during remainder of war.
- 1916 Purchase of steamships by the Commonwealth.  
Australian and New Zealand mounted troops organized in mounted divisions and camel corps, operating thereafter in Egypt, Palestine and Syria. Other troops transferred to France. First proposal for compulsory military service defeated by referendum.
- 1917 National Ministry formed under Rt. Hon. W. M. Hughes. Kalgoorlie-Port Augusta railway completed.  
Australian Flying Corps operating with R.F.C. in Palestine and France. Second proposal for compulsory military service defeated by referendum.



- Year.
- 1918 Population of Australia reached 5,000,000. Australia House (Strand, London) opened by the King.  
Five Australian divisions in France formed into army corps, 1st January. Armistice with Germany, 11th November. Repatriation Commission created.
- 1919 Messrs. Hughes and Cook represented Australia at Peace Conference. Return of Australian troops. Flight England to Australia by Capt. Sir Ross Smith and Lieut. Sir Keith Smith. Peace Treaty signed at Versailles, 28th June.
- 1920 Visit to Australia of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.
- 1921, Second Commonwealth Census. Mandate given to Australia over Territory of New Guinea. First direct wireless press message, England to Australia.
- 1922 First lock on River Murray opened at Blanchetown, South Australia. Queensland Legislative Council abolished.
- 1923 First sod turned on the site of Federal Parliament House at Canberra.
- 1924 Directorate of Commonwealth Bank appointed. Australian Loan Council formed.
- 1925 Solar Observatory established at Canberra. Brisbane—Grafton railway joining Sydney and Brisbane by uniform gauge was commenced. Sydney Harbour Bridge commenced.
- 1926 Population of Australia reached 6,000,000. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research established. Imperial Conference. Dominion Status defined.
- 1927 Transfer of Seat of Commonwealth Government from Melbourne to Canberra. New Parliament House opened by H.R.H. the Duke of York. Beam wireless established.
- 1928 Visit of British Economic Mission to report on the development of Australian resources. Financial agreement of Commonwealth and States: referendum carried.
- 1929 Commonwealth Bank empowered to mobilize gold reserve. Substantial export of gold reserves towards end of year.
- 1930 Wireless phone service with other countries inaugurated. Export prices fell to half 1928 level. Cessation of oversea loans. Tariff embargoes and rationing of imports. Visit of Sir Otto Niemeyer, of Bank of England, to discuss financial questions. Heavy export on gold reserves. Exchange Pool formed. Gold bonus granted. First Australian—Right Hon. Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, G.C.M.G., Chief Justice of the High Court—appointed Governor-General of Australia. Telephone trunk line service established between Adelaide and Perth linking up the whole of the mainland States by telephone.
- 1931 Depression continues. Exchange rate at 130 in January; 10 per cent. cut in Federal basic wage. First experimental air mail England to Australia and return. Initiation of Premiers' Conference plan to meet the financial situation. Commonwealth Bank Act amended to provide for temporary lower reserve against notes; substantial export of gold reserves. England departed from gold standard in September; depreciation of Australian £1 on Sterling continued. Wheat bounty granted. Commonwealth Bank assumed control of exchange rate and lowered it to 125.
- 1932 Sydney Harbour Bridge opened. Australian Broadcasting Commission established. Lang Ministry dismissed in New South Wales. Emergency restrictions on imports relaxed. Legislation passed enabling note reserve to be held in sterling securities; subsequently gold was shipped to the United Kingdom. Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa, with consequential tariff agreements.
- 1933 Third Commonwealth Census. World Economic Conference in London. Australia elected as a non-permanent member of Council of League of Nations. Secession Referendum carried (Western Australia). Referendum carried for reduction and limitation of number of members of Legislative Council (New South Wales). Antarctica and Ashmore and Cartier Islands taken over by the Commonwealth.

- Year.
- 1934 Visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester to open Victorian Centenary Celebrations. Goodwill Mission to the East—Leader Rt. Hon. J. G. Latham. Record flight from England to Australia by Messrs. Scott and Black (Centenary Air Race) in 71 hours. Inauguration of England—Australia Air Mail Service.
- 1935 Empire Statistical Conference at Ottawa. Japanese Goodwill Mission to Australia.
- 1936 Trade dispute with Japan. Joint Commonwealth and State Marketing Schemes invalidated by decision of the Privy Council in the James case. Tasmania linked with mainland by submarine telephone cable.
- 1937 Imperial Conference in London. Commonwealth basic wage "Prosperity" loading of 5s. per week. Report of the Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems in Australia.
- 1938 Australian Trade Delegation to review Ottawa Agreement. New Defence Programme involving expenditure of £63,000,000 over three years; militia forces to be raised to 70,000. New Trade Treaty with Japan.
- 1939 Death of the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, Prime Minister. National Register and Wealth Census. War declared on Germany, 3rd September, by Britain and France after invasion of Poland. Prime Minister declared Australia at war on same date. Royal Australian Navy placed at disposal of Great Britain, 2nd September.  
*Middle East Campaign.* Advance party of Australians embarked for Middle East, 15th December.
- 1940 Exchange of Ministers between Australia and United States of America. Appointment of Australian Minister to Japan. Exchange of High Commissioners between Australia and Canada. Population of Australia reached 7,000,000. Naval Dock commenced at Sydney. Petrol rationing introduced.  
Cruiser *Sydney* crippled Italian cruiser *Bartolomeo Colleoni*.  
*Middle East Campaign.* First Australian convoy (6th Australian Division) sailed for Middle East, 11th January.
- 1941 Appointment of Japanese Minister to Australia. Prime Minister's visit to London. Establishment of Commonwealth Child Endowment Scheme. Cessation of commercial relations between Australia and Japan. Exchange of Ministers between Australia and China. United States Congress passed Lend-Lease Bill. Atlantic Charter signed by Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill. Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. Australia declared war on Japan, 9th December.  
Australian destroyers in "Tobruk Ferry Run". *Sydney* lost after fight with *Steiermark*. R.A.A.F. in defence of Britain, in Middle East and at Singapore.  
*Middle East Campaign.* Bardia, Tobruk, Derna, Benghazi, Giarabub (North Africa) captured, 5th January—21st March. British and Australians commenced withdrawal from area of El Agheila, 24th March. First engagement of Australian and German forces on Greek front, 10th April. Evacuation of Greece and Crete (April—May). Syrian Campaign, 8th June—12th July.  
*Malayan Campaign.* Arrival of units of Eighth Australian Division in Malaya, 18th February.
- 1942 Darwin bombed. United States armed forces land in Australia. General Douglas MacArthur Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in South-west Pacific. Federal uniform taxation adopted. Commonwealth widows' pensions introduced. Japanese submarines sunk in Sydney Harbour. Rationing of commodities. Exchange of Ministers between Netherlands, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Australia. Constitutional Convention held in Canberra—Bill approved for reference to Commonwealth by States of powers to make laws in relation to post-war reconstruction.  
*Middle East Campaign.* Ninth Australian Division launched first attack in British thrust at El Alamein (North Africa), 23rd October.  
*Malayan Campaign.* First contact of Australian troops with Japanese, 14th January. Fall of Singapore, 15th February. R.A.N. suffered severely under almost constant Japanese air, submarine and surface attacks, while engaged in minesweeping, anti-submarine protection, patrolling and convoy escort work in Malayan waters.

Year.

- 1942—  
contd. *South-west Pacific Campaign.* Japanese landed at Rabaul, 23rd January; Java, 27th February; Lae, Salamaua, Finschhafen (New Guinea), 7th–10th March. R.A.A.F. at Port Moresby and Milne Bay. Australian cruisers in Coral Sea Battle. (May). First contact between Australian and Japanese ground troops at Awala, 23rd July. Australians withdrew from Kokoda, 10th August. Australian cruisers lead attack on Solomon Islands (August). Japanese forced to withdraw from Milne Bay, 5th September. Australians recaptured Kokoda and Gorari, and captured Oivi, Wairopi, Gona, 2nd November–9th December.
- 1943 National Register of Civilians. High Commissioners appointed to India and New Zealand. Price Stabilization Scheme. Mortgage Bank Department of Commonwealth Bank opened. National Works Council formed.  
*South-west Pacific Campaign.* Australians and Americans took Buna, 2nd January; Sanananda, 22nd January. Australians counter-attacked at Wau and began drive to Salamaua, 3rd February. Australian and American paratroops, Australian artillery, engineers and pioneers took Nadzab, 5th September. Aerial movement of Australian troops into Markham Valley began 7th September. Australians captured Salamaua, Lae, Finschhafen, Dumpu, Sateberg Heights, Waréo, 11th September–8th December. Commencement in December of long series of amphibious operations in which R.A.N. ships of all types took part.  
R.A.A.F. from 1943 till end of war operated on all fronts.
- 1944 Mutual Co-operation Agreement between Australia and New Zealand. Mutual Aid Agreement between Canada and Australia. Invasion of France by sea and air on 6th June. Pay-as-you-earn taxation operated from 1st July. Referendum on Constitution Amendment to give Commonwealth Government increased powers in post-war period defeated. First High Commissioner for India arrived in Australia.  
*South-West Pacific Campaign.* Australians took Bogadjim, Madang, Alexishafen, 13–26th April. Australians landed on New Britain, 11th October. Australians took over from Americans in Bougainville, Solomon Islands, 23rd November, and at Aitape, New Guinea, 1st December. Danmap River, New Guinea, crossed, 17th December. Pearl Ridge, Bougainville, occupied, 30th December.
- 1945 H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester sworn in as Governor-General. Captain Cook Dock opened. Cessation of hostilities in Europe, 8th May. Delegates of 50 countries sign United Nations' Charter at San Francisco. Occupation Survey taken of all civilian males aged 14 years and over. Re-establishment and Employment Act 1945 assented to 28th June. Death of Rt. Hon. John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia. Hon. J. B. Chifley appointed Prime Minister. Cessation of hostilities against Japan, 15th August. Australian National Airlines Act 1945 assented to (16th August). Decision to standardize Australian railway gauges. Termination of Lend-Lease. General demobilization of Armed Forces commenced.  
*South-west Pacific Campaign.* Australians occupied But airfield, near Wewak, New Guinea, 17th March. Landing on Soraken Peninsula, Bougainville, 20th March. Battle of Puriata River, Bougainville, won 30th March. Wewak, New Guinea, captured in combined amphibious landing and land assault, 11th May. Australians landed on Bonis Peninsula, northern Bougainville, 8th June. Yamil, in Torricelli Mountains, New Guinea, occupied, 11th June.  
*Borneo Campaign.* Australians landed at Tarakan Island, north-east Borneo, 1st May. Tarakan and oilfields and airstrip captured 6th–11th May. Landing at Brunei Bay, north-west Borneo, 10th June. Brunei town captured, 13th June. Landing at Lutong, Sarawak, north Borneo, 20th June. Oilfields at Brunei and Sarawak taken, 22nd–23rd June. Landing at Balikpapan, south-east Borneo, 1st July.

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1946 Provision for establishment of Australian Shipping Board. First meeting of General Assembly of United Nations in London—Australian delegation led by Mr. N. J. O. Makin, Minister for Navy. Last meeting of War Cabinet; Council of Defence reconstituted. Arrangements between United Kingdom and Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa to operate air trunk routes in various parts of world. Commonwealth Government's intervention in Printing Industry Employees' Union claim for 40-hour week. Cabinet decision to reconstitute Military Board and reinstitute system of pre-war military commands. An Australian observer sent to first meeting to establish International Monetary Fund and Bank. Government plans for increased immigration intake. Cessation of man-power controls over employment of male labour. Free passages to be granted to British Service personnel and dependants and assisted passages to British civilians and dependants who wish to emigrate to Australia. Rejection by Tasmanian Legislative Council of bill to grant price control to Commonwealth for three years. A.C.T.U. lodged applications with Arbitration Court on behalf of 47 unions for right to intervene in 40-hour week claim. Commonwealth Solicitor-General (Sir George Knowles) selected as first Australian High Commissioner to South Africa; Mr. W. J. Dignam first Australian Minister to Eire. Arrival of British Rocket Research Mission in Australia. Chief Justice of Queensland (Sir William Webb) appointed to seventh place on Federal High Court Bench. Australia and New Zealand agree to act as joint trustees for empire security in Pacific. Minister for Navy (Mr. N. J. O. Makin) appointed Ambassador to United States of America. Act continuing uniform taxation assented to. Prime Minister attended conference with United Kingdom and Dominion Prime Ministers in London. Commonwealth Government accepted responsibility for supply and maintenance of BCOF in Japan. Inauguration of Commonwealth Employment Service. Commonwealth proposals for free complete medical service brought before conference of State Ministers. Hearing of 40-hour week case commenced. Final settlement of United States of America—Australia lend-lease and reciprocal aid. Appointment of Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner. Commonwealth Archives Committee set up in place of War Archives Committee. War-time restriction on issue of passports lifted. United Kingdom and Dominion Wool Disposals Ltd. (Joint Organization) commenced operations. Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act assented to. Mr. Robert Butler appointed first United States of America Ambassador to Australia. Dr. H. V. Evatt (Minister for External Affairs) led Australian Delegation at Conference of Paris to consider draft treaties of peace with Italy, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland. Act to establish National University at Canberra assented to; also Wheat Industry Stabilization Act, Oversea Telecommunications Act and Coal Industry Act. Railway Standardization Agreement ratified by Commonwealth. Premiers' Conference decided to continue price control and control of land sales after end of National Security Regulations in December. First meeting since 1939 of Australian and New Zealand Association for Advancement of Science. Commonwealth and State agreement on housing programme to provide employment for 130,000 men over ten years. Announced that Manus Island to be available for collective defence of Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand. Construction approved of 50 Vampire jet fighters and engines. Commonwealth Trans-Australia Airlines began operations. R.A.A.F. commenced in Queensland photographic survey to cover whole of Australia in next six years. Sydney-Vancouver fortnightly air service commenced. Constitution Alteration Referendum results granted powers in regard to social services to Commonwealth—powers for marketing and employment refused. New South Wales Government approval of £33,000,000 15-year water storage project. Double taxation relief agreement between Australia and Britain signed. Basic wage enquiry, adjourned in 1940, re-opened. Interstate executive of A.C.T.U.

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applied to Arbitration Court for increase of £1 in basic wage. Announcement that experimental rocket range to be established. Reciprocal air transport agreement between Australia and United States of America signed. Construction commenced on new Burrendong Dam on Macquarie River (N.S.W.). South Australia ratified Railway Standardization Agreement. Bill to abolish Legislative Council of New South Wales rejected on casting vote of President of Council. Interim basic wage rise of 7s. in all capital cities (except Hobart, 6s.). Relaxation of wage pegging regulations. Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act extending for twelve months certain National Security regulations assented to. Expiry of National Security Act.

1947 Arrival of first Danish Minister to Australia. Stock exchange business conducted on free market again. Appointment of first Australian Commissioner to Ceylon. Mr. W. J. McKell, Premier of New South Wales, appointed Governor-General of Australia. Aviation experts from twelve nations at conference of Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization in Melbourne. Constitution of South Pacific Commission as permanent body to assist in advancing economic and social welfare of native people in South Pacific. End of demobilization of Australian fighting forces. Approval of £9,600,000 Eildon Weir enlargement project. Industrial Arbitration (Forty Hours Week) Amendment Act assented to in New South Wales. International Monetary Agreement Act assented to. Sixteen persons killed and 35 injured in Australia's worst train accident for 21 years (Camp Mountain, Queensland). Arrival of Norway's first Minister to Australia. Validity of Banking Act 1945 challenged by Melbourne City Council. Commencement of work on £11,000,000 programme at Kingsford Smith aerodrome, Sydney. Expenditure of £250,000,000 on defence in next five years approved. Talks in Canberra between Australian and United States Governments on Pacific strategy and future defence planning. Grant of £A.25,000,000 to United Kingdom. Northern Territory Administration Act provided for establishment of a Legislative Council. Parliamentary Allowances Act increased salaries of Federal Members from £1,000 to £1,500. Additional immigration offices to be opened overseas. Census of Australia—first since 1933. Arrival of Viscount Montgomery, Chief of Imperial General Staff, to discuss aspects of defence. Sugar rationing abolished. Purchase by Commonwealth Government of remaining shares in Qantas Empire Airways Ltd. Australia to take 4,000 displaced persons as migrants this year, and 12,000 each following year if shipping supplied. Issue of new silver coins with reduced silver content (50 per cent.). Approval for £4,000,000 scheme in Western Australia for supply of water to Great Southern and North-Eastern Wheat Belts. Full High Court declared invalid Section 48 of Banking Act 1945, requiring the municipal councils to transfer their accounts from private banks to the Commonwealth Bank. Resumption of private trading with Japan authorized. Announcement of heavy reduction of all imports from dollar areas and severe restrictions on dollar advances to travellers. Empire conference on Japanese peace settlement at Canberra. Arbitration Court judgment on 40-hour week case reduced standard weekly hours of work in industry from 44 to 40 from 1st January, 1948. Air Arm of R.A.N. to be established. Commonwealth wage-pegging ceased; authority to adjust wages restored to industrial authorities. Australia to be asked to launch great food-growing scheme to help Britain, providing for long-term contracts for the supply of certain food-stuffs. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade reached at Geneva tabled in Parliament. Draft charter for proposed International Trade Organization submitted to World Trade Conference at Havana. Banking Act to nationalize trading banks assented to—States of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia and trading banks apply to High Court to prevent Federal Government acquiring monopoly of banking business. First party of Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition left for Heard Island to establish scientific research station. Constitution Alteration (Rents and Prices) Bill

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contd. passed. First "displaced persons"—839 Baltic migrants—reached Australia. Agreement signed to develop Blair Athol (Qld.) coal-fields through expenditure of £18,000,000 British capital. Act approving Australia becoming member of World Health Organization assented to; also Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act continuing major economic controls.
- 1948 Forty-hour week effective throughout Australia. BCOF to be controlled and administered by Commonwealth Government. Tram and tramway bus strike in Melbourne. Victorian Essential Services Act to protect community against interruption or dislocation of essential services. Nineteen thousand railwaymen involved in strike in Queensland. Death of Sir Isaac Isaacs, former Chief Justice of High Court and first Australian-born Governor-General of Australia. Status of Australian representatives in France, U.S.S.R. and China to be raised from Minister to Ambassador. Commencement of major water conservation works in Victoria—part of £25,000,000 plan for "drought-proofing" Victoria. R.A.A.F. Reserve, composed of a Permanent and Citizen Air Force Reserve, to be established. State of emergency declared in connexion with Queensland rail strike; Industrial Law Amendment Act granted police extraordinary powers in regard to "picketing"—subsequently repealed. Professor D. B. Copland appointed Vice-Chancellor of Australian National University. Second party of Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition left Hobart for Macquarie Island. Commonwealth Government £40,000,000 plan to eradicate tuberculosis announced. Appointments of first Soviet Ambassador to Australia and first Australian Ambassador to Russia. Scheme for £8,000,000 housing project to meet industrial expansion in Wollongong-Port Kembla district. Appointment of first Chinese Ambassador to Australia. Representation Act increasing membership of Commonwealth Parliament from 36 to 60 in Senate and 74 to 121 in Representatives assented to. First meeting of South Pacific Commission. Constitution Alteration (Rents and Prices) Referendum resulted in majorities in all States against proposal to transfer control to Commonwealth. Commonwealth pharmaceutical benefits scheme commenced. Australian Iron and Steel Ltd. ten-year plan to spend £20,000,000 on new tinplate mill and blast furnaces and other extensions at Port Kembla works. Cessation of meat and clothes rationing. Prime Minister left for London to discuss Empire trade and other problems. Bank nationalization case resulted, in judgment declaring invalid certain vital sections of Banking Act 1947. Control of rents and prices passed from Commonwealth to States. Federal Cabinet approval to spend £5,179,000 for modernization of Australian airways system. Dr. H. V. Evatt elected General President of United Nations General Assembly. Federal control over shipping freights and passenger fares relinquished. Professor Marcus L. Oliphant, F.R.S. accepted appointment as Director of Post-Graduate Research School of Physical Science at Australian National University. Commonwealth Government granted leave to appeal to Privy Council against judgment of High Court in Banking Case. Essential Services Act proclaimed in Victoria (*see* above). Proposed visit of Their Majesties The King and Queen and The Princess Margaret early in 1949 indefinitely postponed owing to illness of King. Tuberculosis Act assented to. Opening session of Economic Commission for Asia and Far East at Lapstone (N.S.W.). First display of new Australian-made car, the "Holden". Australian Capital Territory Representation Act assented to. Australian Broadcasting Act to establish commission of three to control broadcasting in Australia assented to. Bill to establish an Australian Shipping Board introduced in Senate. New Federal electoral boundaries approved by Parliament. International Trade Organization Act assented to. Nationality and Citizenship Act to confer on Australians the status of Australian citizens in addition to that of British subjects assented to. Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act, Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Act (to provide for pension of £8 per week), and National Health Service Act assented to.