

Appendix

CHRONOLOGY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS, 1985

January

- 1 657 persons were killed on Victoria's roads in 1984, 7 fewer than in 1983.
- 11 Victoria's dairyfarmers ended their two day blockade of country centres after the police intervened. The dairyfarmers were protesting over the price of milk and the general state of the dairy industry in Victoria.
- 15 Fires killed five people, destroyed livestock, 140 homes, and thousands of hectares of land throughout Victoria.
- 16 The Premier announced a \$400m building project called 'Victoria' to be built above Museum Station by 1990.
- 17 The Minister for Community Welfare Services announced plans to build a \$25m prison at Castlemaine. His Excellency Mr Y. Nakasone, Prime Minister of Japan, arrived in Melbourne for a two day visit.
- 22 The Premier announced a \$150m development project to be built on the south bank of the Yarra River. The Riverside Quay project as it will be known, will cover a 2.7 hectare site and will be co-ordinated with the Southgate project announced in November 1984.
- 24 The Victorian Government announced plans for a \$23m bridge to be built over the Barwon River at Geelong by 1988.
- 26 The Inaugural Australia Games commenced in Melbourne and ran for three days.

February

- 7 The Minister for Transport announced a \$100m contract to supply the Metropolitan Transit Authority with 130 new, light-rail vehicles during 1986.
- 13 The Minister for Education announced plans for a \$50m tertiary institution to be built in the western suburbs by 1987. The institution, to be called the Western Melbourne Institute of Post Secondary Education, will cater for 8,000 students.
- 17 The first night cricket match was played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground before a crowd of 80,000 people.
- 25 The Premiers of Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia signed a \$155m power grid agreement to link power supplies to the three States by 1990.
- Further milk blockades by Victorian dairyfarmers were lifted following a new agreement made between dairyfarmers and the Victorian Government.

March

- 2 The Australian Labor Party led by the Hon. John Cain retained office in the Victorian State election with a majority of six seats.
- 11 An outbreak of the disease anthrax was detected in cattle on farms in South Gippsland.
- 28 Unleaded petrol was sold to Victorian motorists for the first time.
- 29 The \$20m Wodonga bypass on the Hume Highway was officially opened by the Commonwealth Minister for Transport.

April

- 1 The \$160m Australian Animal Health Laboratory was opened in Geelong by the Governor-General of Australia.
- 13 An explosion in a Footscray chemical storage plant caused one of the biggest fires in Melbourne for five years.
- 26 The Archbishop of Canterbury arrived in Melbourne for a three day visit.
- 30 The Premier declared a State of Emergency to deal with Victoria's protracted dispute involving milk blockades by Victorian dairyfarmers.

May

- 2 Legislation was introduced in the Victorian Parliament to allow for Totalizator Agency Board betting in selected hotels and licensed clubs.
- The Victorian Government endorsed large sections of the Ministerial Review of Postcompulsory Schooling (the Blackburn report), which included the abolition of the Higher School Certificate in favour of a two year certificate, and a broader curriculum.

- 27 The final station in the Melbourne underground rail system, Flagstaff, was opened.
 31 His Excellency Dr Patrick Hillery, President of Ireland, arrived in Melbourne for a three day visit.

June

- 1 Melbourne had its warmest autumn since 1938 with a mean maximum temperature of 22.1°C.
 Eight central Victorian poultry farms were quarantined by the Department of Agriculture following an outbreak of fowl plague.
 24 Thousands of Victorian farmers marched through Melbourne streets to Parliament House to protest against Commonwealth and Victorian Government rural policies.

July

- 1 The ferry *Abel Tasman*, the replacement for the *Empress of Tasmania*, began operating between Melbourne and Devonport, Tasmania. The ferry can carry 828 passengers and 440 vehicles.
 5 A new \$1m craft *Spirit of Victoria* embarked on its maiden voyage off Station Pier. The craft seats 217 people and will be used as a ferry on Port Phillip Bay.
 8 A judge of the Court of Disputed Returns declared void the poll of the Legislative Council seat of Nunawading Province in the Victorian State election held on 2 March, which ended in a tie. A new election was ordered for 17 August.
 10 G.J. Coles and Coy Ltd launched a \$980m takeover bid for the Myer Emporium.
 12 The Royal Australian Navy began construction of the first of two \$430m frigates at Williamstown dockyard, the first warships to be built there for 20 years.
 22 The Victorian Government introduced petrol rationing following bans by technicians who test oil products.
 25 Petrol rationing was lifted as the oil industry dispute, which restricted petrol supplies, came to an end.

August

- 6 The retailer G.J. Coles and Coy Ltd gained control of the Myer Emporium after a \$1,100m offer was accepted by Myer shareholders.
 The Victorian Government abolished the Health Commission.
 14 The Premier launched a \$75m redevelopment project for the bank of the Maribymong River at Footscray.
 15 The Victorian Government approved plans for the first two stages of the \$2,000m Loy Yang B development in the La Trobe Valley.
 17 The Liberal Party won the by-election for the Legislative Council seat of Nunawading Province, after the original poll on 2 March was declared void by the Court of Disputed Returns.

September

- 9 Victoria's first woman stipendiary magistrate was sworn in at the Supreme Court.
 10 The Melbourne-based challenger *Victoria 150* won the International Catamaran Challenge Trophy, commonly known as the Little America's Cup.
 24 The Treasurer brought down the Victorian budget. Estimated expenditure for 1984-85 was \$9,713m.
 25 The Victorian Government introduced legislation to remove immunity against convictions for rape when a married couple are living together.
 26 Melbourne's sheep and cattle saleyards at Newmarket closed to make way for a major parkland and housing development.
 28 Essendon - 26.14 defeated Hawthorn - 14.8 to win the 1985 Victorian Football League Grand Final.

October

- 3 A Sydney-based doctor became the first person to individually own a Victorian Football League club at a cost of \$6.4m.
 4 The Victorian Governor, Sir Brian Murray, resigned, ending a vice-regal crisis over his acceptance of free airline tickets from a private company.
 13 H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh arrived in Melbourne for a three day visit to attend the Commonwealth Agricultural Societies Conference as President.
 22 A five day old nurses' strike ended after the Royal Australian Nursing Federation accepted a \$30m pay offer from the Victorian Government. The strike, the first of its kind in Victoria, involved up to 20,000 nurses in 165 public hospitals and many private institutions.
 27 T.R.H. The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived in Melbourne for a 10 day visit as part of Victoria's 150th Anniversary celebrations.

November

- 5 The Melbourne Cup was won by What A Nuisance.
 8 The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments announced plans to open Point Nepean to the public.
 19 Victoria's sesquicentenary celebrations officially ended with a fireworks display near Albert Park Lake.
 The Minister for Police and Emergency Services announced that Victoria would be divided into five fire ban districts, to allow replacing of previous total State bans.
 21 The Minister for Transport announced a \$23.5m programme to replace trains on the St Kilda and Port Melbourne lines with light-rail vehicles.
 26 A 25 day transport dispute, including a 6 day rail strike, ended after the Victorian Government, transport unions, and the Trades Hall Council reached agreement over economy measures for the transport system.
 29 The West Gate Bridge became toll-free.

December

2 The Victorian Government announced plans for an inner-city housing development on a 23 hectare site at Flemington.

6 The National Gallery of Victoria purchased a 1937 Picasso entitled *Weeping Woman* at a cost of \$1.6m.

10 The Victorian Government announced plans for a \$110m convention centre and a 400 room hotel adjoining the World Trade Centre.

23 The appointment of Dr Davis McCaughey, a university theologian, as Governor of Victoria was announced by the Premier.