

AUSTRALIA – A TIMELINE

50,000 years ago - Mungo Man and Mungo Lady
31,000 years ago – Aborigines living at Keilor, VIC
23,000 BCE – sea recedes and people reach Tasmania on foot
20, 000 BCE – 10% of Tasmania covered by glacial ice, Kutakina Cave occupied
by Tasmanian Aborigines
11,000 BCE – sea rises, separating Tasmania from mainland
6,000 BCE – rise in sea levels separates New Guinea from Cape York ,
2000 BCE - arrival of dingo

1300 – Marco Polo discusses great unexplored south land
1451 - Macassans trading for trepang with northern Aboriginal groups, continues
‘til early 1900s
1405 – 1433 approx – Chinese general and explorer Zheng Ho believed to have
sailed as far south as north of Australia

More than 250 Aboriginal language groups
Islanders trade with Papua.

1522 – Mendoza (Spain) charts section of east coast

1606 –Willem Jansz in *Duyfken* (Dutch) reaches Gulf of Carpentaria, QLD
1606 – Luis Vaes de Torres (Spain) passes through Torres Strait, shooting some
islanders and abducting 20 others to the Spanish colony of the Phillipines ,
QLD

1616 – Dirk Hartog’s pewter plate (Dutch), WA

1622 – Wreck of *The Trial*, WA

1623 – Jan Carstensz (*Arnhem, Pera*) (Dutch) sails around Gulf of Carpenteria,
landing in 20 places and trading with indigenous people, QLD

1629 – Wreck of the *Batavia*, Houtman Alhabros Islands, WA

1642 - Abel Tasman (*Heemskirk, Zeehan*) (Dutch) finds Trouwerner and names
Van Dieman’s Land for Dutch, VDL

1688 – Privateer William Dampier (*Cygnets*) (English) lands in NW of New Holland,
WA

1756 - Gonzal’s expedition kidnaps two Aborigines, takes back to Batavia

1770 - James Cook maps NSW coast and claims for England

1772 – Marion Dufresne’s (French) expedition meets resistance, first shooting of
Tasmanian Aborigine VDL

- 1784 – Transportation and Penitentiaries Act authorised transportation to a British colony yet to be selected, UK
- 1788 - The First Fleet of soldiers & convicts arrives at Sydney Cove, NSW
 1788 – Eucalyptus oil distilled by Denis Conisden, NSW
 1788 – Brick kilns conflict, NSW
 1788 – Arabanoo captured, dies from smallpox, NSW
 1788 – First bridge of logs built by Europeans over Tank Stream, Sydney, NSW
 1788 – French explorer, La Perouse in Botany Bay, NSW
 1788 – First apple trees planted by William Bligh in VDL
- 1789 – Convicts perform first play, Farquhar’s *The Recruiting Officer*, NSW
 1789 - First police force, named Nightwatch, is established in NSW
- 1790 – Governor Phillip speared by Aborigines at Manly Cove, NSW
 1790 – Arrival of Second Fleet, NSW
 1790 – First official punitive expedition against Aborigines, NSW
- 1791 – Ex-convict James Ruse given first freehold land grant (12 hectares at Parramatta), NSW
 1791 – Coal discovered at mouth of Hunter River
- 1792 – Governor Phillip takes Bennelong to England
 1792 – French explorer Bruni d’Entrecasteaux’s expedition rests at Recherche Bay, plants kitchen and herb garden, VDL
 1792 – Mary Haydock (later Mrs Reibey) transported to NSW for horse stealing.
- 1795-6 – Bass and Flinders make voyages along east coast in *Tom Thumb*, NSW
- 1797 – Merino sheep introduced from South Africa, NSW
 1797 – Platypus discovered, NSW
 1797 – Sarah Bird, our first female publican, NSW
 1797 - Beaching of Robert Campbell’s ship on Preservation Island leads to sealing industry, VDL
- 1800 – Death of Pemulway NSW
- 1801 – 4 – Matthew Flinders’ voyage circumnavigates New Holland
 1801 – 3 – Frenchman Nicolas Baudin leads expedition to survey coast of Australia
- 1802 – New South Wales General Standing orders is the first book printed in Australia , NSW
- 1803 – David Collins sent to settle Port Phillip instead settles Hobart, VDL
- 1804 – The coin tossing game, two-up, is referred to in the Sydney Gazette, NSW
 1804 – Irish convicts mutiny at Castle Hill, near Sydney, NSW
 1804 – Killing of Moomairemener people at Risdon Cove, Hobart VDL

- 1805 – Hops introduced into Tamar River settlement, VDL
- 1806 – Launceston settlement established, VDL
- 1808 – Rum Rebellion, NSW
- 1808 – Government begins buying fresh beef and mutton from local farmers, NSW
- 1810 – First recorded horse race, Parramatta, NSW
- 1810 – Caterpillar plagues destroys crops in Hawksebury River area, NSW
- 1813 – Blaxland, Lawson, Wentworth and Aboriginal guide cross
Blue Mountains, NSW
- 1813 – Governor Macquarie issues the ‘holey dollar’
- 1814 – William Bland, destined to become first full-time doctor, arrives as convict,
NSW
- 1815 – First free immigrants arrive in VDL
- 1815 – James Kelly explores coast of VDL
- 1817 - Continent’s name changed to Australia by British
- 1817 – Australia’s first trading bank opens in Sydney, NSW
- 1818- The Great North Road from Hobart to Launceston is completed.
- 1820s –First reports of golf being played at Bothwell, VDL
- 1822 – Alexander Pearce escapes from Sarah Island Penal Settlement,
Macquarie Harbour, with 8 companions, whom he kills and eats
before he reaches Hobart, VDL
- 1823-5 – Richmond Bridge built by convicts, VDL
- 1824 – Martial law declared in Bathurst region,
massacres of local Wiradjuri people, NSW
- 1824 – Convict settlement at Moreton Bay, QLD
- 1824 – Bushranger Matthew Brady escapes from Macquarie Harbour convict
Settlement, VDL
- 1825 – VDL becomes a separate colony
- 1825 – Penal settlement established on Maria Island VDL
- 1827 – *The Bushrangers* by David Burn is the first Australian play
to be performed on stage
- 1827 – George Worrall hanged for murdering his neighbour, Frank Fisher
- 1828 – Governor Arthur proclaims martial law in VDL
- 1828- Cape Grim/Woolnorth massacre, VDL

- 1828 – Sturt follows Darling and Murrumbidgee rivers in search for inland sea
- 1827-40s – Whaling industry flourishes, NSW, VDL
- 1829 – James Sterling leads settlers onto Bibulmun land, Yagan leads his people's opposition WA
- 1829 – Preserved heads of Aborigines are a not uncommon item of trade in Sydney markets, NSW
- 1829 – Roy Cooper manufactures gunpowder, NSW
- 1829 – Lieutenant-Colonel James Morisset begins a reign of terror as Commandant on Norfolk Island, NSW
- 1829 – 'Free' settlement on Swan River
- 1830 – Robinson's Black Line, VDL
- 1830 – Bushranger Jack Donahoe captured and killed in a shootout -inspiration for ballad *The Wild Colonial Boy*, NSW
- 1830 – Cornwall Turf Club holds its first horse-race meeting in Launceston, VDL
- 1830 – Port Arthur established as VDL's main penal settlement
- 1830s – Squatters and sheep now occupy vast areas of land
- 1832 – Merthyr Tydfil riot leaders from Wales arrive in Sydney as convicts, NSW
- 1832 – Large scale assisted female migration begins
- 1834 – Low Head Lighthouse built, VDL
- 1834 – Tolpuddle Martyrs, transported for organising agricultural workers union in Dorset, UK, arrive in Australia
- 1834 - First apple trees planted in new colony of Port Phillip, VIC
- 1834-7 – Theatre Royal built in Hobart, VDL
- 1834-49 – Point Puer prison for boys operates near Port Arthur, VDL
- 1835-6 – Batman / Fawcner lead separate expeditions to settle Port Phillip Bay; settlement originally named Bearbrass, Batman signs treaty with Dutigalla band of Wurundjeri people, VIC
- 1835 - Escaped convict William Buckley lives with Wathawurrung people for 32 years until meets up with Batman's expedition, VIC
- 1835 – Wool replaces seal and whale products as main export.
- 1836 – Ross Bridge opens, VDL
- 1836 – Colony of South Australia established (free settlers)
- 1836 – Wreck of the *Stirling Castle* off Queensland coast
- 1836 – First railway in Australia is built in VDL (closes 1877)
- 1837 – Gravesend Aboriginal massacre, NSW
- 1837 – Melbourne officially named.
- 1838 – Caroline Chisholm arrives in Australia
- 1838 – Myall Creek Massacre, QLD
- 1838 – Killing of 70-120 Kamilaroi at Waterloo Creek, NSW

- 1839 – First shipload of immigrants , mostly Scots, arrive at Port Phillip, VIC
- 1840 – First camel introduced
- 1840 – Entire Aboriginal community killed in massacre at Long Lagoon
- 1840 – Paul Edmund de Strzelecki climbs and names Mt Kosciusko, NSW
- 1840 – British government suspends transportation of convicts to NSW
- 1841 – Caroline Chisholm founds Female Immigrants Home, Sydney, NSW
- 1841 – First gas lighting turned on in Sydney, NSW
- 1842 – German immigrants settle at Lobethal, SA
- 1843 - McMillam attacks Kurnai camp around Warrigal Creek, VIC
- 1843 – John Ridley demonstrates the first effective stripper harvester
- 1844 – Charles Sturt’s expedition to find inland sea
- 1844 – Butter and cheese exported to Californian goldfields from Sydney, NSW
- 1844 – Australia’s first synagogue founded in Melbourne
- 1845 – 406 people die as emigrant sailing ship *Cataraqui* wrecked off King Island, VDL
- 1845 – Ludwig Leichardt becomes first European explorer to travel through the NT
- 1846 –Benedictine monks establish a mission for Aborigines, WA
- 1847 – Ross Female Factory established, VDL
- 1848 – The Flying Pieman, NSW
- 1848 – Ludwig Leichardt leaves Moreton Bay in his second attempt to cross continent from east to west, but is never seen again. QLD
- 1851 – Hargraves discovers gold near Bathurst, NSW, and, with later discoveries in Victoria, leads to gold rush
- 1851 – James Harrison invents the first industrial use of refrigeration
- 1852 – Murrumbidgee River floods wipe away Gundagai, Wagga Wagga, NSW
- 1852 – Australian colonies introduce pre-paid adhesive stamps
- 1852 – University of Sydney founded, NSW
- 1853 – Transportation to Van Dieman’s Land ends with the arrival of last convict ship, the *St Vincent*
- 1853 – Gold replaces wool as Australia’s premier export
- 1854 – Eureka Rebellion, Ballarat, VIC
- 1855 – Harrison’s Mechanical Refrigeration invented
- 1855-56 – Lola Montez tours the goldfields with her amazing Spider Dance VIC

- 1856 – Self government for colonies / secret ballots introduced
- 1856 – Eight Hour Day Campaign
- 1856 – VDL officially re-named Tasmania, TAS

- 1857 – Government grants 100 acres of land to Fanny Cochrane-Smith because she was Aboriginal, TAS

- 1858 – First game of Australian Rules Football played, coded in 1866, VIC
- 1858 – Non-Indigenous population reaches one million

- 1859 – Rabbits released by Tom Austin of Geelong, VIC

- 1860 – John Harmsworth, last known First Fleeter, dies
- 1860 – Burke and Wills expedition leaves Melbourne to cross continent , VIC

- 1860-1 – Lambing Flat anti-Chinese riots, NSW

- 1861 – First Melbourne Cup, VIC
- 1861 – Aborigines kill 19 settlers near Emerald; some 170 Aborigines killed in reprisal, QLD

- 1862 – Cobb and Co begin coach operations, NSW

- 1863 – Importation of indentured Pacific Islanders to work cotton, sugar plantations, QLD

- 1865 – Dan “Mad Dog” Morgan shot in siege, VIC
- 1865 – Ben Hall ambushed and shot dead near Forbes, NSW
- 1865- Sugar grown on banks of Pioneer River QLD

- 1868 - Australia’s first cricket team to tour overseas is an Indigenous Australian side
- 1868 – Granny Smith apples are first propagated by Maria Ann Smith, NSW

- 1867 – Moondyne Joe escapes (again) from Fremantle Convict Establishment, WA

- 1868 – Last convict transport, the *Hougoumort*, with 229 felons arrives at Fremantle, WA
- 1868 – Yellilong (Mary Ann Bugg) companion of Captain Thunderbolt, dies of Pneumonia

- 1869 – Palmerston (Darwin) established, NT
- 1869 – “Wandering Stranger” gold nugget (65 kilos) found at Moliagul, VIC
- 1869 – Opening of Suez Canal in Egypt gives a shorter shipping route to Europe

- 1870 – Bushranger Captain Thunderbolt, Frederick Ward, shot dead outside Uralla, NSW
- 1870 – Woodchopping begins as a competitive sport in Tasmania

- 1870 – Bananas first grown in Queensland
- 1871 – Foxes released near Ballarat in Victoria by Dr King, and at Point Cook by Thomas Chirnside
- 1871 – Tin discovered at Mt Bischoff, TAS
- 1872 – Overland Telegraph (Adelaide to Darwin) completed & telegraph link to London established
- 1872 – Victoria becomes first state to introduce free, secular and compulsory elementary education
- 1872 – The brig, *Maria*, wrecked on Bramble Reef, QLD
- 1872 – Arthur George Scott, “Captain Moonlite”, convicted and sentenced to 11 years in gaol for Mt Egerton bank robbery
- 1872 – Kanaka massacre on the *Carl*, QLD
- 1873 – Thomas Mort, with engineer Eugene Nicolle, develop meat freezing process using liquified ammonia gas, NSW
- 1873- Uluru first encountered by Europeans, named Ayers Rock, NT
- 1874 – Louis Brennan develops the self-propelling torpedo, VIC
- 1874 – *The British Admiral* wrecked off King Island, TAS
- 1874 – Barrow Creek Outrage, NT
- 1875 – *SS Gothenburg* is wrecked near Townsville, 102 die, QLD
- 1876 – Fenian convicts escape on whaling ship *Catalpa*, WA
- 1876 – Invention of stump jump plough by Richard B. Smith, SA
- 1876 – Death of Trucanini, wrongly claimed to be last Tasmanian Aborigine, TAS
- 1876 – Sydney’s Edward Trickett becomes first Australian to hold world title by beating English champion sculler, UK
- 1876 – Grace Bussell receives the first silver medal from Royal Humane Society of Australasia after rescuing survivors of shipwreck off WA coast.
- 1877 - The Ghan railway from Adelaide to Darwin begun, SA
- 1877 – Drought affects all colonies
- 1877 – Port Arthur penal station closed, TAS
- 1878 – Loch Ard shipwreck , VIC
- 1878 – First bore sunk for artesian water on Kallara Station, near Bourke, NSW
- 1878 – Cumming Smith and Co begins producing superphosphate out of waste material from sugarcane, VIC
- 1878 – *Advance Australia Fair* written and publicly performed, NSW
- 1879 – F.H.Faulding and Co produce wines from Australian grapes
- 1879 – Shootout between Captain Moonlite’s gang and police watched by 300 people in the Wagga district, NSW
- 1879 – First successful refrigerated cargo of meat and butter is sent to London.

- 1880 – Sugar cane first planted on the Johnstone River by T.H.Fitzgerald , QLD
- 1880 – Ned Kelly hanged, VIC
- 1880 – First telephone exchange opens in Melbourne, VIC
- 1880 – The Bulletin magazine begins publication
- 1880 – International Exhibition, Melbourne, VIC
- 1880 – MacRobertson’s confectionery first made in Fitroy, VIC

- 1881 – Pearling fleet wrecked in cyclone, WA
- 1881 – Tattersall’s Lotteries begin
- 1881 – Nellie Melba makes her home debut in a leading role, VIC
- 1881 – Smallpox outbreak in The Rocks area of Sydney, NSW

- 1882 – Rolf Boldrewood’s *Robbery Under Arms* serialised in Sydney Mail, NSW
- 1882 – James Alston invents the Australian windmill for pumping artesian water to surface
- 1882 – Birth of the Ashes cricket tests

- 1883 – Charles Rasp finds minerals at Broken Hill, NSW
- 1883 – Miss Lydia Amelia Harris becomes first female graduate of an Australian university

- 1884 – 17 year old Hugh McKay invents stripper harvester, Drummartin, VIC
- 1884 – Henrietta Dugdale and Annette Bean found Victorian Women’s Suffrage Society in Melbourne, VIC

- 1885 – The Heidelberg School of painting begins as an artist’s camp near Melbourne

- 1887 – Bulli mine explosion, NSW
- 1887 – Opal discovered at Lightning Ridge, NSW
- 1887 – Chaffey Brothers become pioneers of irrigation in Renmark, SA and Mildura VIC on the Murray River

- 1888 – Henry Lawson writes poem “Faces in the Street”
- 1888 - Roberts, Stretton, McCubbin and Conder set up painting camp, Heidelberg, VIC

- 1889 – Punuba people oppose pastoralists, Jandamarra leads Punuba opposition
- 1889 – Newcastle mining disaster, NSW
- 1889 – Sir Henry Parkes (NSW Premier) calls for Federation of colonies
- 1889 – January - recording of highest temperature in Australia – 53.1 degrees Centigrade – at Cloncurry QLD

- 1890 - Dr Constance Stone becomes first woman to be registered as a medical practitioner in Australia , VIC
- 1890 – Shipwreck of the RMS *Quetta* , Qld
- 1890 – Bagust brothers breed blue heeler cattle dog, NSW
- 1890s – Long ‘Federation Drought’ begins

- 1891 – Queensland shearers’ strike
- 1891 – Rabbit plague, Vic/NSW/SA

- 1891-2 – Depression follows collapse of land boom, VIC
- 1892 – Babyfarming made illegal in NSW
 1892 – Sheffield Shield cricket launched
 1892 – Australia’s first fruit cannery established , TAS
- 1893 – Brisbane floods worst in 100 years, QLD
- 1894 – Votes for women in S.A.
 1894 – Lawrence Hargrave ascends nearly 5 metres with aid of 4 box kites, NSW
 1894 – Rainbow trout introduced from New Zealand into NSW
- 1895 – AB (Banjo) Paterson writes “Waltzing Matilda”,
 also “the Man From Snowy River”
 1895 - Duck Reach power station brings hydro-electric power to Launceston, TAS
- 1896 – Edwin Flack wins first Olympic gold medals at Athens Olympics
 1896 – Mt Lyell Mining begins copper smelting at Iron Blow, TAS
 1896 – *Where The Billy Boils* by Henry Lawson is published.
- 1897 – Henry Austin builds first internal combustion engine car, The Pioneer, VIC
 1897 – Notorious native gangster, Pigeon, shot by WA police
 1897 – Bushfires kill 6 in southern Tasmania
- 1898 – William Farrer produces two strains of drought-resistant wheat , pioneers the
 development of 33 varieties of wheat suited to Australian conditions
- 1899 – Cyclone Mahina
 1899 – First Labor government in world lasts six days (QLD)
 1899 – First contingents of volunteer troops embark for the Boer War in South Africa
- 1900 – Bubonic plague reported in Adelaide and Sydney
 1900 – Salvation Army premieres film *Soldiers of the Cross*
- 1901 – Federation
 1901 – First Act of Parliament, Immigration Restriction Act, passed ,establishing
 the White Australia Policy
 1901 – Miles Franklin’s novel *My Brilliant Career* published
 1901 – Edmund Barton first Prime Minister of Australia
- 1901-4 – Rabbit Proof Fence constructed, WA
- 1902 – ‘Breaker’ Morant shot
 1902 – The magazine, New Idea, begins publication
 1902 – J.A. Birchall develops the first notepad in Launceston, TAS
 1902 – W.H. Gocher, owner and editor of Manly newspaper, breaks the law
 forbidding sea bathing between 6am and 8pm, NSW
- 1903 – Water piped to Kalgoorlie, WA

- 1903 – Vida Goldstein becomes first Australian woman to nominate to stand for parliament
- 1903 – Dunlop Tyre Co makes first tyres
- 1904 – Arbitration Court is set up to settle industrial disputes
- 1904 – Cherbourg mission set up, QLD
- 1905 – *Loch Vennachar* wrecked off Kangaroo Island, SA
- 1905 – World's first feature film, *The Story of the Kelly Gang*
- 1906 – Australia assumes control over Papua New Guinea
- 1906 – First licence to drive a motor vehicle in Australia issued
- 1906 – Unregistered bookmaker, Donald McLeod, unable to meet his payout, is killed by an angry mob at Flemington, VIC
- 1906 – Surf bathing during daytime is made legal
- 1906 – first feature length fiction film, *The Story of the Kelly Gang*
- 1907 – Basic wage established by Harvester judgement
- 1907 – Annette Kellerman wears a figure hugging bathing costume, arrested for indecency
- 1908 – Sunshine rail collision, VIC
- 1908 – Boy Scout groups established, NSW
- 1908 – The painting, *Chloe*, goes on display in Young and Jackson's Hotel amid protests of moral outrage, VIC
- 1908 – Dorothea Mackellar's poem, *My Country*, appears in Spectator magazine, London
- 1909 – Age and Invalid Pensions introduced
- 1909 – Roy Cazaly begins his senior football career, VIC
- 1909 – Newcastle/Maitland coal miners' strike, NSW
- 1909-11 – Land in south-eastern NSW set aside for Canberra ACT
- 1909 – Aboriginal inventor, David Uniapon takes out patent for improved sheep shears
- 1911 – All states have Protection Acts permitting the removal of Aboriginal children
- 1911 – First Myer sale, VIC
- 1911 – Separation of Northern Territory from South Australia
- 1911 – Passenger steamer, *Yongala*, founders in cyclone off Cape Bowling Green with loss of 120 lives, QLD
- 1911 – National drought lasts until 1916
- 1911-4 – Australian Antarctic Expedition led by Douglas Mawson
- 1911-4 – Dreadnought Boys (British boys aged 15 – 18 years) migrate
- 1912 – Sinking of 'SS Koombana' in cyclone, WA
- 1912 – Commonwealth Bank opens as savings bank
- 1912 – Mt Lyell Mine disaster, TAS
- 1912 – Fanny Durack is first woman to win Olympic swimming medal
- 1913 – Headlie Taylor patents the Sunshine Harvester

1914 – The tango, a dance from Argentina, becomes popular in Melbourne and Sydney
1914 – GJ Coles opens a ‘nothing over a shilling’ store in Collingwood, VIC
1914 – Australian Red Cross is established.

1914-7 – World War 1

1915 – Surfing comes to Australia, NSW
1915 – Income tax introduced to raise money for war effort
1915 – Gallipoli
1915 – Lance Corporal Albert Jacka wins first Victoria Cross awarded to an Australian in WWI
1915 – C.J. Dennis’ *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* published
1915 – Gilgandra marchers arrive in Sydney to enlist in army, NSW
1915 - Les Darcy wins world middleweight boxing championship in USA
1915 – BHP Steelworks open at Newcastle, NSW
1915 – Coober Pedy opal fields found, SA
1915 – William and Lawrence Bragg win Nobel Prize for Physics
1915-9 – Six o’clock pub closing / Temperance

1916 – Aspro goes on sale
1916 – Moore River Settlement (Aboriginal mission) established, WA
1916 – Retired Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia is formed (later to be RSL)

1916 & 1917 – Conscription referenda rejected

1917 – National General Strike occurs
1917 – German place names changed due to war sensibilities, SA
1917 – Death of Les Darcy (world middleweight champion) in USA
1917 – Pat Sullivan creates animated cartoon, *Felix the Cat*
1917 – Trans-continental railway line opened between Kalgoorlie and Port Augusta

1918 – *The Magic Pudding* by Norman Lindsay and *Snugglepoot and Cuddlepoot* by May Gibbs published
1918 – Armistice and post-war treaties

1919 – Influenza epidemic kills 12,000
1919 – Rate payable to females set at 54% of the male rate
1919 – Manufacture of piano rolls begins
1919 – Brothers Ross and Keith Smith fly the first UK-Australia flight

1920 – QANTAS takes to the skies, QLD

1921 - Edith Cowan becomes first woman elected to a parliament, WA
1921 – RAAF formed
1921 – Roy Cazaly, after 12 years with St Kilda, begins playing for South Melbourne and gives rise to the cry, “Up there Cazaly”, VIC
1921 – Ginger Meggs comic strip begins in Sydney’s Sunday Sun newspaper, NSW

1921 – Ford Motor Co begins assembling cars in Australia

1922 – Colin Ross hanged for rape and murder of Alma Tirtschke (aged 12) in Gun Alley, Melbourne, VIC

1923 – First radio station, 2SB, NSW
1923 – Vegemite invented by C P Callister for Fred Walker and Co, VIC
1923 – Hoadleys introduce Violet Crumble bar

1925 – Compulsory voting implemented

1926 – Forrest River massacre, WA
1926 – Anna Pavlova tours Australia with her company of dancers

1927 - Dame Nellie Melba sings at opening of Parliament House, Canberra
1927 – ACTU formed
1927 – Death of Squizzy Taylor, criminal,
1927 – Federal Parliament meets in Canberra for first time

1928 – Bert Hinkler flies solo from Great Britain to Australia
1928 – Coniston massacre, NT
1928 – Royal Flying Doctor Service established
1928 – First Speedo swimsuits

1929 – 38 – The Great Depression

1929-30 – Mawson Expedition to Antarctica

1929 – Widespread flash floods in northern Tasmania

1930 – Phar Lap wins Melbourne Cup
1930 – 2 – Aboriginal fast bowler Eddie Gilbert’s Sheffield Shield career brought to an end by “no – ball” judgements in Melbourne, VIC
1930 – Amy Johnson becomes first woman to fly solo from Britain to Australia

1931 – Walter Lindrum’s world record break of 4,137 in billiards
1931 – Sir Isaac Isaacs become first native-born Governor-General
1931 - “Bloody Friday” eviction fights in Newtown, Sydney NSW

1932 – Sydney Harbour Bridge opens, NSW
1932 – ABC established, NSW
1932-3 – Bodyline cricket controversy

1933 – Sister Kenny’s polio clinic established, Townsville, QLD
1933 – Australian Women’s Weekly first published
1933 – Errol Flynn makes his film debut in Australian docodrama
In the Wake of The Bounty
1933 – Dorothy Wall writes *Blinky Bill*

- 1933 – Western Australia votes to secede
 1933 – 41 per cent of Antarctica becomes an Australian External Territory
- 1934 – “Pyjama Girl” mystery, NSW
 1934 – “Battle of Dingbat Flat”, WA
 1934 – Lewis Brandt designs first commercially made ute
- 1935 – First greyhound racing track established at Harold Park, Sydney, NSW
 1935 – Introduction of the cane toad, QLD
 1935 – Herbert Sachse of the Perth Esplanade Hotel creates the pavlova in
 homage to the dancer, Anna Pavlova WA
- 1936 – Last Thylacine dies, TAS
 1936 – Albert Namatjira learns watercolour painting from artist Rex Battarbee, NT
 1936 – Tasmania is first state to begin school bus services.
- 1937 – Stinson airplane crash, QLD
 1937 – Radio serial, “Dad and Dave” begins
 1937 – Poliomyelitis epidemic
- 1938 – APPM mill begins operation, Burnie, TAS
 1938 – Topless bathing for men allowed, VIC
 1938 – Joy King (aged 5) records the *Aeroplane Jelly Song*, NSW
 1938 – Sesquicentenary of British settlement; Aboriginal Day of Mourning
- 1939-45 - World War II
- 1939 – Black Friday bushfires, VIC
 1939 – Sliced bread is introduced into Australia by Sunshine Bakeries, NSW
- 1940 – The *Dunera* arrives in Sydney carrying Jewish refugees from Europe
 who are interred as ‘enemy aliens’ at Hay, NSW
 1940- The Story Bridge on Brisbane River completed.
- 1941 – Edward Florey tests penicillin
 1941 – *HMAS Sydney* lost with entire crew in battle with German raider *Kormoran*
 off WA coast, WA
 1941 – Australian forces capture Tobruk and Derna in North Africa
- 1942 – Bombing raids on Darwin, NT, and Broome, WA
 1942 – Australian Women’s Land Army established
 1942 – Kokoda Track, PNG
 1942 – *HMAS Perth* sunk in the Sunda Strait with loss of 357 lives,
 106 survivors die in prison camps
 1942 – Dan Sheehan writes poem, *Pub without Beer* (later a song,
A Pub With No Beer by Slim Dusty), Day Dawn Hotel, Ingham, QLD
 1942 – Japanese midget submarines invade Sydney Harbour, NSW
 1942 – Battle of Brisbane, QLD
- 1943 – 40 American servicemen die in air crash, Mackay, Qld

- 1943 – William Dobell wins Archibald Prize with controversial portrait, NSW
- 1944 – Cowra prison breakout, NSW
- 1944 – Reginald Saunders is the first Aboriginal commissioned officer in the Australian Army
- 1945 – “Blue Hills” radio serial begins on ABC radio
- 1945 – Howard Florey wins Nobel Prize for Medicine
- 1945 – First Sydney to Hobart yacht race
- 1945 – Post war migration program
- 1947 – Hills Hoist rotary clothesline goes into production, SA
- 1947 – Post-war migration boom begins, Assisted Passage Scheme
- 1947 – CSIRO team builds CSIRAC, the world’s fifth computer, and the first to play ‘computer music’
- 1947 – Sydney Nolan exhibits his ‘Ned Kelly’ series of paintings.
- 1948 – First Holden car, VIC
- 1948 – Quiz show, Pick-a-Box, begins on radio, NSW
- 1948 – Herbert Vere Evatt elected President of United Nations General Assembly
- 1949 – Beginning of Snowy Mountains Scheme, NSW
- 1949 – Uranium discovered at Rum Jungle, NT
- 1949 – Coal Miners’ national strike
- 1949 – ASIO formed
- 1950s – Maralinga is used by British as a site for above-ground atomic bomb testing
- 1950 – Federal Government provides free milk for schoolchildren
- 1950 – The rabbit virus, myxomatosis, succeeds in trials
- 1950 – Australian troops deployed in Korea
- 1950 – The Colombo Plan is established with an interchange of students
- 1951 – Anti- Red Referendum (to outlaw Communist Party) defeated
- 1951 – School of the Air begins broadcasting from Alice Springs, NT
- 1951 – ANZUS treaty signed with NZ and USA
- 1952 – Victa lawn mowers begin manufacture
- 1952-62 – Britain tests atomic bombs on Australian soil at Monte Bello Islands WA
- 1953 – Oil struck at Exmouth, WA
- 1953 – Sydenham train crash, NSW
- 1953-57 – Atomic tests carried out at Emu and Maralinga, SA
- 1954 – Black Box Flight Recorder invented
- 1954 – Royal Tour
- 1954 – Petrov Affair – Petrovs defect from USSR Embassy, granted political asylum
- 1954 – First permanent Australian station in Antarctica, Mawson, established.
- 1954 – the *Happy Little Vegemite* song first performed on radio

1955 – Jedda, first colour film opens in Darwin, NT
1955 – Aluminium plant opens at Bell Bay, TAS
1955 – First performance of Ray Lawler's *Summer of Seventeenth Doll*
1955 – First theatrical appearance of Edna Everage, Melbourne, VIC
1955 – One millionth 'new Australian' arrives under migration scheme

1956 – Melbourne Olympics, VIC
1956 – Television comes to Australian homes, VIC

1957 – Johnny O'Keefe support act for Bill Haley and the Comets- rock'n'roll arrives with release of '*Billy Goat*' by Johnny O'Keefe
1957 – "Pick-a- Box" quiz show on TV, NSW
1957 – Australia-Japan commerce agreement
1957 – Patrick White wins the first Miles Franklin Award for his novel, *Voss*

1958 – Nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights begins operation, NSW
1958 – David Warren develops prototype of Black Box flight recorder

1959 – Qantas put jets on London route
1959 – Billy Graham crusade.
1959 – First major Snowy Mountains Scheme power station begins operation, NSW
1959 – ABC TV begins popular music program, *Six O'Clock Rock*
1959 – *Princess of Tasmania* begins Bass Strait service, TAS

1960 – Rupert Murdoch begins to build his media empire
1960 – Lucas Heights nuclear reactor opens, Sydney, NSW
1960 - First Adelaide Arts Festival, SA
1960 – Graeme Thorne murder case, NSW
1960 – Frank McFarlane Burnett wins Nobel Prize for Medicine
1960 – Medway Creek Rail Bridge collapse, Bogantungan, QLD
1960 – Macfarlane Burnet wins Nobel Prize for Medicine

1961 – Oral contraceptive pill arrives and begins sexual revolution, Women's Lib
1961 – ABC TV's *Four Corners* current events program begins
1961 – Vast iron ore deposits found in the Pilbara, WA
1961 – First commercial oil field discovered at Moonie, QLD
1961 – Installation of 'black box' equipment on airplanes becomes mandatory.

1962 – Heather McKay (nee Blundell) begins string of world squash titles
1962 – Snake antivenene developed by CSIRO
1962 – Australian involvement in Vietnam War begins
1962 – The Australian Ballet founded

1963 – John Eccles wins Nobel Prize for Medicine
1963 - Freedom Bus ride, NSW

1964 – The Beatles tour Australia
1964 – Australian TV drama 'Homicide' screens

1964 – Collision of HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Voyager
1964 – Conscription re-introduced by Menzies Government
1964 – Tasman Bridge is completed. TAS

1965 – Troops to Viet Nam, conscription
1965 – Feminists protest segregation in pubs, QLD
1965 - Wine cask invented by Angoves Wines
1965 – UK model Jean Shrimpton shocks with a mini-skirt at Melbourne Cup, VIC
1965 – Roma Mitchell QC becomes first woman judge in Aust., SA,

1966 - Decimal Currency introduced
1966 – Gurindji people walk off Wave Hill station, NT
1966 – Beaumont children go missing, SA
1966 – PM Harold Holt declares “All the way with LBJ” on Vietnam War
1966 – End of White Australia policy

1967 – Referendum to count Aborigines in census
1967 – Oil strike in Bass Strait, TAS
1967 – Ronald Ryan last person executed in Australia, VIC
1967 – Tasmanian bushfires, TAS
1967 – Prime Minister Harold Holt disappears in sea off Cheviot Beach, VIC

1968 – Lionel Rose wins world bantamweight boxing title
1968 – Bomb kills Sydney vice king, Joe Borg, NSW
1968 – Australia’s first heart transplant, St Vincent’s Hospital, NSW
1968 – Meckering (WA) earthquake

1969 – Victorian bushfires
1969 – Train ‘*Southern Aurora*’ collides head-on with a goods train
at Violet Town, VIC
1969 – Scandal as Harry M Miller presents rock musical *Hair* in Sydney, NSW
1969 – US satellite base at Pine Gap becomes operational, NT

1970 – Indian Pacific railway (standard gauge) opened at Broken Hill, NSW
1970 – APPM given licence to export green timber in woodchip form
1970- - Viet Nam Moratorium movement
1970 – Margaret Court wins tennis Grand Slam
1970 - Yolgnu people of Yirrkala attempt to have mining stopped on
traditional lands. NT
1970 – Germaine Greer’s *The Female Eunuch* causes controversy
1970 – Westgate Bridge collapses, Melbourne

1971 – Evonne Goolagong wins women’s singles title, Wimbledon, UK
1971 – Anti-apartheid protests as South Africa’s Springboks Rugby team tours
1971 – Jane Cooper goes into seclusion on De Witt Island for 12 months, TAS
1971 – NSW, Vic, ACT join TAS in daylight savings
1971 – Senator Neville Bonner becomes first Aboriginal Member of Parliament

1971 – Harold Thomas designs the Indigenous Australian flag

1972 – Gough Whitlam elected Prime Minister in ALP government
1972 – Aboriginal Tent Embassy opens, Canberra, ACT
1972 – Flooding of Lake Pedder, TAS
1972 – Ord River Scheme opened, WA
1972 – Equal pay for women judgement made in Arbitration Commission
1972 – Faraday State School kidnapping of teacher and six children, VIC

1973 – Queen Elizabeth II opens Sydney Opera House, NSW
1973 – “Blue Poles “controversy, Canberra, ACT
1973 – Australia’s first legal casino, Wrest Point, Hobart, opens, TAS
1973 – Patrick White wins Nobel Prize for Literature

1974 – Equal pay for women
1974 - ABC TV *Countdown* begins with Molly Meldrum
1974 - Cyclone Tracy ravages Darwin, NT
1974 – Bankcard launched
1974 – First women’s refuge opens
1974 – Abortion funded under Medicare

1975 – Dismissal of Whitlam government, Canberra, ACT
1975 – Racial Discrimination Act
1975 - Great Barrier Reef protected, QLD
1975 – Juanita Nielsen vanishes, NSW
1975 – Family Law Act passed
1975 – Papua New Guinea achieves independence
1975 – Tasman Bridge collapse, *Lake Illawarra* sinks, Hobart, TAS
1975 – ABC rock radio station 2JJ (later TripleJ) opens, broadcasting 24 hours
1975 – Colour television begins
1975 – John Cornforth wins Nobel Prize for Medicine
1975 – Renaissance of Australian film industry begins with *Picnic at Hanging Rock*

1976 – No fault divorce introduced / Family Court
1976 – First Indo-Chinese boat people arrive at Darwin, NT
1976 – ABC radio serial *Blue Hills* ends its 32 year continuous run
1976 – Cigarette ads banned on television
1976 – Pat O’Shane becomes first Aboriginal barrister
1976 – Graeme Murphy appointed artistic director of Sydney Dance Company, NSW

1977 – Granville train crash, NSW
1977 – World Series Cricket begins
1977 – Don Chipp resigns from Liberal Party and forms Australian Democrats

1978 – First Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade, NSW

1978 – Hilton Hotel bombing, Sydney, NSW
1978 – Australia’s last whaling station at Cheynes Beach, Albany, closes, WA
1978 – Cochlear Implant invented

1979 – Fairlight CMI invented
1979 – Luna Park Ghost Train fire, Sydney, NSW
1979 – Space junk from *Skylab*, crashes to Earth near Esperance, WA
1979 – Terania Creek Rainforest Logging Protest, northern NSW
1979 – Appin mine explosion,

1980 – Azaria Chamberlain disappears, NT
1980 – Australian Institute of Sport founded, ACT
1980 – First Australian test tube baby born, Melbourne, VIC
1980 – SBS TV goes to air, Melbourne & Sydney
1980 – Bombings of Woolworths stores, NSW

1981 – Thruster surfboard invented by Simon Anderson
1981 – Referendum on Franklin River has 45% informal vote from
NO DAMS campaign TAS
1981 – Land rights for Pitjantjatjara, SA
1981 – Kakadu National Park I listed on World Heritage Register.
1981 – first death from AIDS in Australia occurs.

1982 – Random breath testing introduced, NSW
1982 – ‘Countdown’ most watched music TV show
1982 – Conservationists begin blockade on Gordon below Franklin River
dam sites, TAS

1983 – America’s Cup win
1983 – Medicare introduced
1983 – Cliff Young wins Sydney – Melbourne marathon
1983 – High Court rules against Franklin Dam in Tasmanian SW
1983 – 111 women arrested at Pine Gap protesting against US bases, NT
1983 – Discovery of megafauna fossils at Riversleigh , QLD
1983 – Ash Wednesday bushfires, VIC/SA

1984 – National Anthem referendum goes to “Advance Australia Fair”
1984 - Milperra motorcycle massacre involving the Commancheros and
the Bandidos gangs, NSW
1984 - \$100 note introduced, \$1 note replaced by coin
1984 – Fine Cotton race fixing scandal, QLD

1985 – TV soap opera ‘Neighbours’ begins
1985 – Uluru and Kata Tjuta handed back to Anangu, NT
1985 – ANZUS alliance in crisis over nuclear warships

1986 – ‘Crocodile Dundee’ is a hit in Aust & USA

1986 – Moura mine explosion, QLD
1986 – Treasurer, Paul Keating makes “banana republic” comment
1986 – BLF deregistered
1986 – Goondiwindi riot, NSW/QLD border
1986 – The first sealed road around Australia is completed near Fitzroy Crossing WA

1987 – Grim Reaper HIV/ AIDS advertising campaign
1987 – Hoddle Street terror, Julian Knight arrested, VIC
1987 – Fitzgerald Inquiry into police and political corruption begins, QLD
1987 – Vietnam Veterans welcome home parade 15 years after last troops withdrawn from Vietnam, Sydney, NSW

1988 – Bicentenary of British settlement/ invasion
1988 – Burnum Burnum claims Britain, on behalf of Aboriginal people, at the White Cliffs of Dover
1988 – 200 kilo block of chocolate produced at Cadburys, TAS
1988 – Eftpos machines introduced across Australia

1989 – Newcastle earthquake, NSW
1989 – Hot air balloon crash, Alice Springs, NT
1989 – Internet introduced to Australia
1989 – Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing, China results in extension of rights of residence to Chinese students then in Australia
1989-90 – Industrial dispute between pilots and airlines

1990 – Privatisation of government services begins with Qantas and Australian Airlines
1990 - First Clean-Up Australia Day
1990 – Dr Carmen Lawrence becomes first female state Premier, WA
1990 - Australian troops sent to Iraq

1991 – Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation established
1991 – Murder of heart surgeon, Dr Vincent Chang, NSW
1991 – “Night of the Toads” in Brisbane Botanic Gardens, QLD
1991 – Strathfield massacre, NSW

1992 – Mabo Native Title decision in High Court overturns concept of “terra nullius”
1992 – Severe outbreak of toxic blue-green algae on Murrumbidgee and Darling Rivers
1992 – Sydney Harbour Tunnel opens, NSW
1992 – Fairlie Arrow abduction hoax, Qld
1992 - Children’s TV show *Bananas in Pyjamas* begins
1992 – Death of artist Brett Whiteley at Thirroul, NSW

1993 – Belanglo State Forest backpacker murders tally to seven, NSW
1993 – *Terra nullius* nullified as Native Title (“Mabo”) Bill passes through parliament

1994 – NSW bushfire crisis

1994 – Discovery of Wollemi Pine, NSW
1994 – 400 people strip-searched in police raid on Tasty nightclub, VIC
1994 - *Muriel's Wedding* and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* national and international film hits
1994 – Cathy Freeman displays Aboriginal and national flag during victory lap at Commonwealth Games in Vancouver, Canada, leading to furore
1994 – Lowest recorded temperature in Australia occurs (-23.1degrees centigrade) at Charlotte Pass in Southern Alps

1995 – Pay TV begins
1995 – Pope beatifies Mother Mary McKillop
1995 – NT legalises mercy killings, NT
1995 – Demidenko novel controversy
1995 - Aboriginal polymath, David Uniapon appears on \$50 note

1996 – Port Arthur massacre, TAS
1996 – Peter Doherty wins Nobel Prize for Medicine
1996 – Peter Dombrovskis, nature photographer, dies in South West Wilderness, TAS
1996 – Black Hawke helicopter collision kills 18, Townsville, QLD

1997 - Thredbo landslide, NSW
1997 – Pauline Hanson MP launches One Nation Party
1997 – Stolen Children Report handed down

1998 – High Court rules on Patrick/MUA waterfront dispute
1998 – Hurricane force winds and seas hit Sydney-Hobart Race fleet

1999 – Troops deployed to East Timor
1999 – Referendum on republic
1999 – Glenbrook train crash, NSW
1999 – Jesse Martin becomes youngest person on record to sail around the world alone and unassisted
1999 – Australia accepts 4000 temporary Kosovar refugees after war in Kosovo ends

2000 – Sydney Olympics & Paralympics, NSW
2000 – GST introduced
2000 – Reconciliation Bridge walks
2000 – Childers backpackers hostel fire, QLD
2000-2001 – Afghan refugees begin work in abattoirs at Young, NSW

2001 – Tampa refugee crisis, Pacific Solution implemented
2001 – Donald Bradman dies, SA
2001 – Demise of Ansett Airlines

- 2001 - Australian troops deployed in Afghanistan, followed by Iraq
- 2001 – Astronaut Andrew Thomas becomes first Australian to walk in space.

- 2002 – Islamic terrorists kill hundreds (inc. 88 Australians) in Bali nightclub bombings
- 2002 – Death of Alec Campbell, last Gallipoli veteran, aged 103 years
- 2002 – Mass breakout from Woomera Detention Centre, hunger strikes and lip sewing on inside, SA
- 2002 – Worst drought in over 70 years
- 2002 – Dr Karl Kruszelnicki wins Ig Nobel Prize for research into belly button lint and why it is usually blue
- 2002 – 300 million SMS messages sent each month in Australia
- 2002 – Federal Government launches \$15 million, 3 month counter-terrorism media advertising campaign
- 2002 – Federal Government excises thousands of islands off the country’s northern Coast in effort to more effectively combat people smuggling

- 2003 – Cost of postage stamp rises from 45c to 50c, first rise in eleven years
- 2003 – Australia joins “Coalition of the Willing” in Iraq invasion
- 2003 – Resignation of Governor-General Dr Peter Hollingsworth
- 2003 – Death of Slim Dusty, iconic Country singer
- 2003 – Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease discovered , threatens to wipe out Devil population
- 2003 - Baxter Detention Centre opens, SA
- 2003 – Marion Scrymgour becomes the first Aboriginal woman to hold office of Cabinet minister in Australia after her appointment as NT Minister for Family and Community Services, Environment and Heritage

- 2004 – The Ghan makes its maiden journey from Adelaide to Darwin
- 2004 – Tasmanian woman, Mary Donaldson marries Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark
- 2004 – Nationwide debate when ABC’s Play School shows a film about a girl with two mums
- 2004 – Terrorist bomb blast kills eleven and injures hundreds at Australian Embassy in Jakarta
- 2004 – XXVIII Olympiad in Athens is Australia’s most successful with 49 medals Won
- 2004 - Liberal/National Coalition re-elected to Federal parliament for fourth term
- 2004 – Australian average yearly wage rises above \$50,000 for the first time.
- 2004 – Tsunami in South Asia

- 2005 – Cronulla race riots (NSW)

- 2005 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) abolished by Federal legislation
 - 2005 – Nine Australians(the Bali Nine) arrested in Bali after allegedly attempting to smuggle eleven kilograms of heroin into Sydney
 - 2005 – Gold Coast woman Schapelle Corby sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for drug smuggling into Indonesia
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- 2005 – Cornelia Rau and Vivien Solon detention and deportation cases reported
 - 2005 - Makybe Diva wins record third Melbourne Cup (VIC)
 - 2005 – Australia reaches soccer’s World Cup finals for first time since 1974.
 - 2005 – New anti-terrorism laws passed through Federal and State parliaments in response to July bombings in London,UK
 - 2005 – Commissioner Terence Cole appointed to head inquiry into Australian Wheat Board scandal in Iraq
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- 2006 – Commonwealth Games in Melbourne (VIC)
 - 2006 – Cyclone Larry devastates banana crop (QLD)
 - 2006 – Death of Private Jake Kovco in Iraq
 - 2006 – Beaconsfield Gold mine disaster and 15 day rescue (TAS)
 - 2006 – WorkChoices workplace relations reforms introduced
 - 2006 - Cervical cancer vaccine (Gardasil) from University of Queensland scientists approved for sale by US Food and Drug Administration (QLD)
 - 2006 – Steve Irwin, “The Crocodile Hunter”, killed by stingray off Cairns while filming for his wildlife tv program (QLD)
 - 2006 – Bachar Houli becomes first devout Muslim Australian to be in AFL draft; plays for Essendon
 - 2006 – Swimmer Ian Thorp announces his retirement from competitive swimming
 - 2006 – Kevin Rudd elected ALP leader with Julia Gillard as deputy.
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- 2007 – CHOGM closes down sections of Sydney ; satirical tv show, *The Chaser’s War on Everything*, infiltrates high level security in skit gone wrong.
 - 2007 – Report on child sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities leads to Federal Intervention in Northern Territory
 - 2007 – election of Rudd ALP Federal Government, Julia Gillard becomes first female Deputy Prime Minister, ALP governments in all Federal, State and territory Parliaments
 - 2007 – Australia belatedly signs Kyoto Protocol on Climate Control
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- 2008 – First opening of Federal parliament with smoking ceremony and welcome to Country
 - 2008 – Rudd government apologises to the Stolen Generations
 - 2008 – Wreck of HMAS Sydney (sunk in 1941) located off Western Australian coast
 - 2008 – Anglican Church appoints first female bishop (WA)
 - 2008 – Appointment of Dr Quentin Bryce as Australia’s first female Governor-General

- 2008-09 –Global Financial Crisis, massive economic stimulus packages from Governments, recession, rise in unemployment
- 2009 – ‘Black Saturday’ bushfires claim 170+ lives, hundreds of homes and businesses in Victoria
- 2009 – floods across Northern Queensland and Central Coast NSW
- 2009 - Anna Bligh becomes first elected female State Premier, Queensland
- 2009 – H1N1 Influenza (swine flu originating in Mexico) achieves pandemic status from World Health Organisation (WHO)

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