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Chapter 1

HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY

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Chapter 1

HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY

Aboriginal people have been in Australia for at least 50 000 years. They probably came from Java and perhaps China, crossing the sea to the Australian continent on some kind of watercraft. They then spread to the most fertile areas, arriving in Victoria at least 30 000 years ago.

Tasmanian Aborigines arrived in Tasmania more than 20 000 years ago. They are the descendants of the first colonists of the Australian continent. By 12 000 years ago, they had become isolated from the rest of Australia by the rising sea flooding the Bass Plain. The creation of Bass Strait brought about the cultural and physical isolation of the Tasmanian Aborigines.

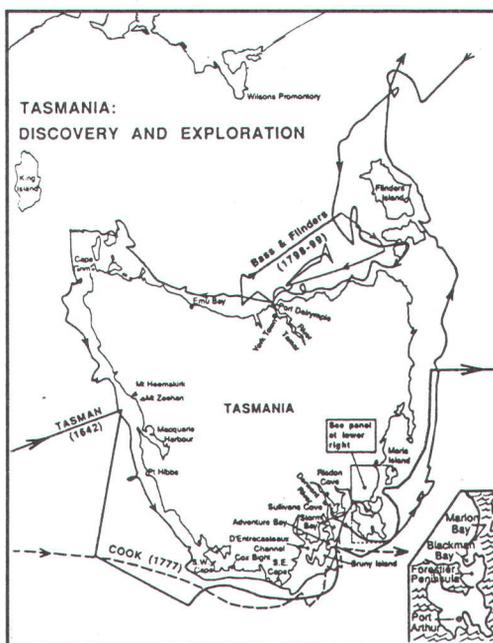
The duration of this isolation is probably unique amongst human populations, and led to some distinctive characteristics. Some generalised physical features distinguish Tasmanian from typical mainland Aborigines. Cultural isolation is particularly evident in that some specialised stone tools, boomerangs and spear throwers did not reach Tasmania, having been invented after it was cut off. Tasmanian aborigines were nonetheless successful colonists; they survived the Ice Age and were a viable population of 4 000 to 5 000 when Europeans arrived.

1.1 EUROPEAN DISCOVERY

1.1.1 Dutch Exploration, 1606–1642

In 1606, Captain William Jansz in the *Duyfken* was sent from Java to explore the islands of New Guinea and, crossing Torres Strait unawares, coasted along the west of Cape York Peninsula. This was the first of a series of voyages which encountered the northern or western shores of the unknown land.

Not all voyages were undertaken with the aim of exploration; Dirk Hartog's long journey along the western shore of Australia in 1616 resulted from his sailing too far east on the route from the Cape of Good Hope to Java. Some later captains on the same route even regarded the western Australian coast as a suitable landfall before turning north for Java — an indication of the difficulty of navigation when longitude had to be established by dead reckoning.



The Dutch East India Company (from its base in Batavia, now Djakarta, Indonesia) was active in the development of trade and exploration in the region. This activity expanded in the early 17th century and in 1642 Abel Tasman, an experienced and skilled navigator, sailed from Batavia to explore hitherto unknown southern and eastern waters.

1.1.2 Chronology: 1642-1802

- 1642 Abel Janszoon Tasman, commanding *Heemskirk* and *Zeehan*, sighted the west coast and named his discovery 'Anthony Van Diemensland'. Landings were made on the Forestier Peninsula and near Blackman Bay on the east coast.
- 1772 The landing of a party from the French Du Fresne expedition at Marion Bay resulted in an affray with the Aborigines.
- 1773 Tobias Furneaux, in the *Adventure*, became separated from James Cook in the *Resolution* and landed a party at Adventure Bay, Bruny Island.
- 1777 James Cook anchored the *Resolution* in Adventure Bay on his third southern expedition.
- 1789 John Henry Cox, on a sealing expedition from England, sailed the *Mercury* from Cox Bight to Maria Island.
- 1792 William Bligh, on a second voyage to the Pacific to secure breadfruit, charted the south-east coast.
- 1793 D'Entrecasteaux returned for further exploration of the south-east coast. John Hayes, commanding the *Duke of Clarence* expedition, explored the Derwent River.
- 1798 Matthew Flinders and George Bass circumnavigated Tasmania.
- 1802 Nicholas Baudin, commanding the *Geographe* and *Naturaliste*, explored the south-east coast.

1.2 SETTLEMENT

1.2.1 Settlement on the Derwent

Several reasons for the establishment of a settlement in Van Diemen's Land in 1803 were cited by Philip Gidley King, Governor of New South Wales —

- to prevent the French from gaining a foothold;
- to relieve Port Jackson by dividing the convicts;
- to provide another source of timber and other natural products;
- to encourage the seal fisheries; and
- to enable large-scale grain-growing.

New territories were also needed to accommodate an increasing number of transported prisoners in this early stage of Australia's settlement. Fifteen years had elapsed since Port Jackson's foundation and, up to that time, six to seven thousand prisoners had arrived. Further, because Van Diemen's Land was so remote and insular it was considered an ideal location for a penal settlement; there were few means of escape for the convicts.

In August 1803, Lieutenant John Bowen (aged 23) and Surgeon Mountgarrett, accompanied by eight soldiers, 29 convicts and 10 free settlers, disembarked from the *Lady Nelson* and the *Albion* at Risdon Cove, on the east bank of the River Derwent. Bowen judged the site to be suitable for occupation, with fertile soil, a fresh-water river ample for the needs of a settlement, and an appropriate landing place. Bowen later reported, "I named my settlement *Hobart*".

In February 1804, Lieutenant-Governor Collins landed at Bowen's settlement. At the request of Governor King, his party, including marines and convicts, had arrived at Port Phillip from England on the *Ocean* and the *Lady Nelson*. However, this site, at the other end of the bay from where Melbourne now stands, had been abandoned as it lacked adequate fresh water. Collins had then decided to move to the Derwent because of its reputation as a safe harbour and the fact that Risdon had already been settled. Collins was not pleased, however, with the site of the Risdon settlement; the land was steep, relatively infertile and exposed to cold winds, the river that had first attracted Bowen had dried up, the landing place was accessible only at certain tides, and the storehouse would be endangered by heavy rains. Bowen's party had arrived just before spring while Collins's expedition followed at the end of the following summer. Sullivan's Cove was selected by Collins as the site for the new settlement. It had a deep-water anchorage close to the shore, a fresh-water stream which ran from Mt Wellington, and a plentiful supply of timber close by. As well, nearby Hunter Island was useful for the landing of stores.

1.2.2 Settlement on the Tamar

While Lieutenant-Governor Collins was still in Port Phillip Bay, wondering where best to settle, he had sent William Collins on a voyage of exploration to the Tamar Estuary. By the time Collins returned, with reports of the Tamar as favourable for settlement, the Lieutenant-Governor had already decided to move to the Derwent.

A short while later, Governor King received a despatch from Lord Hobart which recommended the establishment of a colony at Port Dalrymple on the Tamar.

King nominated Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson as Lieutenant-Governor of the new colony who then set sail with two ships. After a first attempt was forced back by adverse winds, the party of 181 soldiers and convicts, now in four ships, arrived at Outer Cove (George Town) on 4 November 1804. After exploring the region, Paterson established York Town as his headquarters.

1.3 1804–1811: THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS

Of the 262 persons who first colonised Sullivan's Cove, only 31 were free settlers. After the first Sunday church service, the settlers were moved to a site near New Town Bay, a location where agriculture in Van Diemen's Land had its first beginnings. Land near Farm Bay (now the Cornelian Bay cemetery) was prepared for the sowing of wheat.

Initially the village around Sullivan's Cove mostly comprised officers' tents; the hospital was a marquee and the only building was the wooden cottage of the Governor. Equipment was poor and many of the convicts were old and unfit for sustained work; food was scarce and had to be supplemented by meat from native animals.

By 1805 there were still only 470 people in the village; most of the incoming persons were prisoners (309 in total, including 35 women). It was not until 1808 that the population increased significantly to about 1000 persons. Many were Norfolk Islanders who established a new settlement called Elizabeth Town (later called New Norfolk). In the north of the island the Tamar settlement was moved from York Town to Launceston in 1806, and in 1807 a party despatched from Port Dalrymple crossed the island to Hobart.

After Governor Macquarie arrived in 1811 he began to plan the layout of Hobart Town. He named and selected Mount Nelson as a signal station and issued an order to divide the town into one principal square and seven streets. He intended that George's Square (Franklin Square) would be the focal area, as the church, courthouse and main guardhouse overlooked it.

1.4 CHRONOLOGY: 1812–1984

- 1812** Lieutenant-Governor Thomas Davey arrived. The northern settlements at Port Dalrymple were made subordinate to Hobart. The *Indefatigable* brought the first shipload of convicts direct from England.
- 1815** Hobart and Port Dalrymple were declared free ports for import of goods. Davey proclaimed martial law against bush-rangers. James Kelly circumnavigated the island in a whaleboat.
- 1816** First issue of *Hobart Town Gazette*.
- 1817** Succession of William Sorell as Lieutenant-Governor.
- 1820** John Thomas Bigge conducted an inquiry into colonial administration.
- 1821** Second term by Governor Macquarie.
- 1822** A penal settlement was established at Macquarie Harbour.
- 1823** A British Act for the better administration of justice in NSW and Van Diemen's Land was passed.
- 1824** Inauguration of Supreme Court, arrival of Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur.
- 1825** The first Launceston newspaper, the *Tasmania and Port Dalrymple Advertiser*, was published. Tasmania was constituted a colony independent of NSW. An Executive and Legislative Council was established. Martial law was proclaimed against Aborigines.
- 1829** First settlement at Emu Bay (Burnie).
- 1830** George Augustus Robinson began his mission to conciliate the Aborigines. Juries were used for the first time in civil cases. The 'Black Line', the military campaign to round up the Aborigines was commenced. Publication of *Quintus Servinton*, the first novel to be published in Australia. Port Arthur was established as a penal settlement.

Port Arthur 1830–1877

Colonel George Arthur arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1824 and set about classifying convicts into seven classes:

- ticket-of-leave prisoners allowed to work for wages and become more self-sufficient;
- servants (assigned to free settlers);
- those employed by the Government in public works;
- members of road gangs;
- prisoners serving hard labour in chains;
- convicts sentenced to severe hard labour in separate penal settlements (e.g. those sent to Maria Island); and
- prisoners sent to Macquarie Harbour after conviction for the worst crimes.

A decision to abandon the Macquarie Harbour prison, due to its inaccessibility and harsh natural environment, necessitated the establishment of another penal settlement closer to Hobart. The Tasman Peninsula was selected because the only land access was by the very narrow Eaglehawk Neck, which could be easily patrolled. The peninsula was also considered appropriate as it had an abundant source of building timber. Port Arthur was established in 1830.

By 1833, convicts had been transferred from Macquarie Harbour and Maria Island, bringing

the total number of prisoners at Port Arthur to 675 (approximately five per cent of all convicts in Van Diemen's Land).

Provision was made for convicts to learn a trade which would be of use on completion of their sentences. The trades included farming, shoe making, ship-building, brickmaking, iron-work and leathercraft. A probation system was introduced in 1840 whereby convicts worked in gangs in unsettled areas of the peninsula for periods of time. If a probation period was completed satisfactorily, a prisoner would receive a probation pass, then a ticket-of-leave and, if the good behaviour continued, a conditional pardon. Probation stations were set up at Cascades (Koonya), Wedge Bay, Flinders Bay, Slopem Island, Saltwater River and Impression Bay (Premaydena).

Port Arthur closed in 1877. Convicts still serving sentences were transferred to the prison in Hobart. Some of the buildings were sold at auction and, in the latter part of the century, major bushfires damaged the remaining settlement. Recent years have seen a renewed interest in preserving the once-thriving penal establishment.

- 1831** The British Government's new land regulations, discontinuing free grants of land, and replacing them with land sales, were approved.
- 1832** First shipment of Aboriginals to Flinders Island. A Caveat Board was established to settle land disputes and to confirm titles. Maria Island was closed as a penal settlement.
- 1833** Macquarie Harbour penal settlement was closed.
- 1834** The Henty brothers from Launceston became the first white settlers in Victoria, occupying land in the Portland Bay area.
- 1835** John Batman sailed from Launceston to Port Phillip as agent for the Port Phillip Association. Tasmania was divided into counties and parishes. The Ross Bridge was opened. Tasmania's population was estimated as 40 172 persons.
- 1837** Sir John Franklin assumed office as Lieutenant-Governor.
- 1838** Sessions of the Legislative Council were opened to the public.
- 1840** Transportation to NSW ceased; the numbers transported to Tasmania consequently increased. The population was estimated as 45 999 persons.
- 1841** A Probation System of convict discipline replaced the Assignment System. The Rossbank Observatory for magnetic and meteorological observations was established in Hobart.
- 1842** Tasmania was created a separate Anglican diocese. Hobart was made a city. Peak year for convict arrivals (5 329).
- 1843** Sir John Franklin was recalled as Governor. He was succeeded by Sir John Eardley-Wilmot.
- 1844** Norfolk Island penal settlement was transferred from NSW to Tasmanian control.
- 1845** Six members of the Legislative Council (the 'Patriotic Six') resigned when the Governor used what they considered unconstitutional means to impose increased duties on various goods.
- 1846** Eardley-Wilmot was recalled. Foundation of the Launceston Church Grammar and The Hutchins Schools.
- 1847** Sir William Denison, the new Lieutenant-Governor, re-appointed the 'Patriotic Six'.
- 1848** Tasmania was now the only place of transportation in the British Empire.
- 1850** The Anti-Transportation League was established. The population was estimated to be 68 870 persons.
- 1851** Limited representative government; first elections for 16 non-appointed members of the Legislative Council were held.
- 1852** Payable gold was first found near Fingal. Elections were held for the first municipal councils in Hobart and Launceston.
- 1853** The last convicts to be transported arrived. Van Diemen's Land's first postage stamp (Penny Blue) was issued.
- 1854** Bad floods disrupted the Colony. A Bill establishing responsible government was passed.
- 1855** Sir Henry Fox Young succeeded Denison, and was accorded the title of Governor. The Constitution Act, enabling responsible government, was passed.
- 1856** Van Diemen's Land was renamed Tasmania. The advent of responsible self-government was followed by the opening of a new bi-cameral Parliament with W.T.N. Champ leading the first government in the House of Assembly.
- 1858** A Council of Education was set up and the *Rural Municipalities Act* passed.
- 1859** Charles Gould was appointed to undertake a geological survey of western Tasmania. A telegraph link was established with Victoria.
- 1860** The population was estimated at 89 821 persons.

- 1861 Colonel Thomas Gore Brown was appointed Governor. The telegraph cable to Victoria failed.
- 1862 A scheme for a railway between Launceston and Deloraine was promoted.
- 1864 The first successfully transported salmon and trout ova were hatched.
- 1868 Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh visited Tasmania. Primary education was made compulsory.
- 1869 William Lanny, the last male full-blood Aboriginal, died. Sir Richard Dry, the first Tasmanian-born Premier, died. A new telegraph cable was laid to Victoria.



Sir Richard Dry

Photo: Allport Library

- 1870 The remaining Imperial troops were withdrawn. Population 99 328 (Census).
- 1871 The Launceston-Deloraine railway was opened. Tin was discovered at Mt Bischoff.
- 1872 A contract was let for building the Tasmanian Main Line Railway.
- 1873 The Tasmanian Main Line Railway Co. commenced construction, marking the start of an economic recovery.
- 1874 There were riots in Launceston in protest at rates levied for the Launceston-Deloraine railway.
- 1876 Race meetings commenced at Elwick. A gold nugget worth \$12 200 was found at Nine Mile Spring. Trugannini, the last female full-blood Aboriginal died. The Main Line Railway opened for traffic.
- 1877 Port Arthur was closed as a penal settlement.
- 1878 Mineral exploration of the West Coast was increased.
- 1879 A rich lode of tin was discovered at Mt Heemskirk.
- 1880 The first telephone was installed in Tasmania with a line from Hobart to the Mount Nelson Signal Station.
- 1881 Population 115 705 (Census).
- 1883 Discovery of the 'Iron Blow' at Mt Lyell.
- 1885 A Russian-war scare was followed by activity in improvement of defences. The Mt Lyell Prospecting Association was formed.
- 1890 The University of Tasmania was established.
- 1891 The Van Diemen's Land Bank collapsed; a deep depression ensued.
- 1892 The Mt Lyell Mining Co. was established.
- 1896 Tattersalls Lottery was established by George Adams.
- 1898 Bush fires ravaged Tasmania. Tasmanians voted four to one in favour of Federation at a poll.
- 1899 The *Southern Cross* (Borchgrevinck) expedition departed Hobart for the Antarctic.
- 1900 The Tasmanian contingent to fight in the Boer War departed.
- 1901 The Commonwealth was proclaimed; polling was held for the first elections to the Federal Senate and House of Representatives. Population 172 475 (Census).
- 1903 The celebration of 100 years of settlement was cancelled because of a smallpox epidemic in Launceston. Suffrage (voting rights) was extended to women.
- 1905 Experiments in wireless telegraphy between Tasmania and the mainland were undertaken.
- 1907 A new Public Library opened in Hobart, built with a gift from Andrew Carnegie.
- 1909 Irish blight wiped out the State's potato crop. The State's first Labor Government under John Earle was elected.
- 1912 The North Lyell Mine, Queenstown, suffered a disastrous fire.
- 1914 First aeroplane flight in Tasmania. Tasmania's first contingent to fight in Great War departed. The Hydro-Electric Department was formed; the Government purchased a private hydro-electric power scheme and commenced a policy of encouraging high-energy-using companies to set up in Tasmania.
- 1915 Serious bush fires occurred.
- 1917 The Electrolytic Zinc works at Risdon and the Snug carbide works were established.
- 1918 The Great War ended.
- 1919 Frozen meat was exported for the first time.

- 1920** Visit by Edward, Prince of Wales. Cadbury's purchased a site at Claremont for a chocolate factory.
- 1921** Population 213 780 (Census).
- 1922** The Waddamana power station was completed.
- 1924** Superphosphate was first manufactured in Tasmania by the Electrolytic Zinc Co. at Risdon.
- 1925** Osmiridium fields were discovered at Adamsfield.
- 1927** An inquiry into a proposed bridge over the Derwent at Hobart was held. The Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) visited Tasmania.
- 1929** Automatic telephone facilities were introduced to Hobart. Economic depression and serious floods affected Tasmania.
- 1930** Export prices fell to half the 1928 levels. The Australian pound was devalued so that £1 sterling equalled £1/5s.
- 1931** The Depression continued — the federal basic wage was cut by 10 per cent. An austere Premier's Plan included a conversion loan to reduce the rate of interest on internal federal debt by 22½ per cent. Senior Ministers, including J.A. Lyons from Tasmania resigned from the Scullin Government. Following the carrying of a vote of no-confidence in the Government, elections were held at which the Scullin Labor Government was swept from office. Lyons led the opposition United Australia Party to victory.
- 1932** Joseph Lyons was sworn in as Prime Minister.
- 1933** A Commonwealth Grants Commission was appointed to inquire into the affairs of claimant States.
- 1934** Thirty-five years of continuous Labor Government in Tasmania began with the election of the A.G. Ogilvie Ministry. The second phase of hydro-electric development commenced at Tarraleah and Butlers Gorge.
- 1936** Tasmania was linked with Victoria by a new sub-marine cable.
- 1937** An epidemic of poliomyelitis occurred. Economic recovery resulted in five shillings 'prosperity loading' being added to the federal basic wage.
- 1938** A paper mill using native hardwoods was established at Burnie. The first turbines began operating at the Tarraleah power station.
- 1939** World War II began. Prime Minister Lyons died in office.
- 1940** Tasmanians sailed for the Middle East with the Australian 6th, 7th, and 9th Divisions.
- 1941** Newsprint production began at Boyer on the Derwent. Tasmanians sailed for Malaya with the Australian 8th Division.
- 1942** Uniform federal income tax commenced.
- 1943** The floating-arch Hobart Bridge opened for traffic.



Photo: Mercury

- 1944** Pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) income taxation was introduced from 1 July.
- 1945** World War II ended.
- 1946** The Legislative Council rejected a bill to grant Federal Government price control powers for three years.
- 1947** 'Displaced persons' commenced arriving from Europe. Population 257 078 (Census).
- 1948** A forty-hour week was awarded to most workers from 1 January. The High Court rejected as unconstitutional the *Commonwealth Bank Nationalisation Act, 1947*. Tasmanians voted 'No' almost two to one in a referendum denying Federal Government power over prices and rents. The Legislative Council's denial of Supply forced the dissolution of the House of Assembly — the Cosgrove Ministry was returned to power.
- 1949** Compulsory chest X-rays were introduced in the fight against tuberculosis. Clark Dam at Butlers Gorge was completed. The Theatre Royal was purchased by the Government.
- 1950** Federal petrol rationing ended. Dissolution of the House of Assembly was granted by the Governor and the Cosgrove Ministry was returned to power.

- 1951** The *Communist Party Dissolution Act* was declared invalid by the High Court. A double dissolution of Federal Parliament together with a referendum to give Federal Government powers in regard to communism. The 'No' vote prevailed, although Tasmanians expressed a slight preference for 'Yes'.
- 1952** A single licensing authority was established for hotels, clubs etc. The State's free hospital scheme ceased.
- 1953** The Arbitration Court abandoned the system of quarterly adjustment of the federal basic wage. State wages boards suspended quarterly basic wage adjustments.
- 1954** The Queen visited Tasmania for the first time. A bill was passed to resolve deadlocks in the House of Assembly. The Metropolitan Transport Trust was formed.
- 1955** The Bell Bay aluminium plant and the Trevallyn and Tungatinah power schemes were opened.
- 1956** The State wages board restored the 'cost-of-living' adjustments effective from 1 February but later suspended them. The House of Assembly was dissolved and Labor returned to power. The EZ Company's sulphate of ammonia plant was opened. The Centenary of self-government was celebrated.
- 1957** The Legislative Council rejected a bill giving aid to private schools. The first satellites — Sputniks I and II — were seen over the State.
- 1958** The Rivers and Water Supply Commission was established, together with the Public Service Tribunal as an industrial authority.
- 1959** The first election to fill 35 seats in the enlarged House of Assembly resulted in Labor being re-elected. The *Princess of Tasmania* commenced roll-on roll-off ferry service from Melbourne to Devonport.
- 1960** Liapootah power station was commissioned. The Zeehan-Strahan railway closed. The Inland Fisheries Commission was created. First Tasmanian telecasts began.
- 1961** The *William Holyman*, a cargo container vessel, entered Bass Strait trade. The Legislative Council rejected equal pay legislation.
- 1962** The Catagunya power scheme turbines began producing electricity. State Wages Boards granted three weeks annual leave. State subsidies were announced for municipal fluoridation schemes.
- 1963** The Federal Court increased margins by 10 per cent and granted three weeks annual leave. The Universities Commission recommended a medical school for the Tasmanian University. The Mt Lyell railway, from Queenstown to Strahan, closed.
- 1964** The Tasman Bridge opened for traffic. Hobart's water supply was fluoridated. Glenorchy was raised to city status.
- 1965** Provisional driving licences were introduced. A Dental Nurse scheme for schools was implemented.
- 1966** Decimal currency was introduced. The Burnie-Launceston co-axial cable was completed. Equal pay for certain State Public Service females was granted. Breathalyser tests were approved for use by police. Subscriber-trunk-dialling was introduced.
- 1967** The bush fire disaster of 7 February resulted in 62 deaths and over 1000 houses destroyed. The Federal Arbitration Commission abolished the basic wage and substituted a total wage concept but the basic wage was retained in State awards. The Mt Cleveland tin mining town of Luina was completed.
- 1968** The HEC Repulse Dam on the lower Derwent was completed. The Batman Bridge across the lower Tamar was opened. The Federal Government granted a subsidy for apples and pears exported to the UK and other countries. Full adult suffrage for Legislative Council elections from 1 July 1969 was introduced. Capital punishment was abolished.
- 1969** Parangana Dam (Mersey-Forth scheme) was completed. A State election resulted in the election of 17 ALP, 17 Liberals and one Centre Party member (Mr Kevin Lyons). Mr Lyons combined with the Liberals to form a coalition government, ending a 35-year Labor rule in Tasmania. The Full Bench of Federal Arbitration Commission granted equal pay to females performing equal work. The copper smelter at Mt Lyell was closed; concentrate was now sent to Japan and Port Pirie (SA) for treatment.
- 1970** The first pyrites from Rosebery were railed to the Burnie sulphuric acid plant. The EZ Co. commenced a \$6.3m residue treatment plant. Parliament legislated to introduce permanent daylight saving.

- 1971 APPM Ltd's Wesley Vale paper plant was opened. A serious shipping strike occurred. The Population Census count was 390 413 persons.
- 1972 K.O. Lyons resigned cabinet portfolios and ended the Liberal-Centre Party Coalition. The ANL vessel *Princess of Tasmania* made her final trip to Tasmania. Federal elections resulted in the ALP being returned to power after 23 years in opposition.
- 1973 The Bell Bay rail link, the first legal casino in Australia, Wrest Point and the \$121m Mersey-Forth HEC scheme were officially opened. Storeys Creek tin mine closed down. The *Blythe Star* was lost at sea. Tasmania voted in line with other Australian States on prices and incomes referenda; 'No' to both.
- 1974 Workers under State Wages Boards' awards were granted four weeks annual leave; women were awarded equal pay. Gordon Dam completed. A no-fault third party insurance scheme was implemented.
- 1975 Tasmanian suburban rail services ceased. Bulk ore carrier *Lake Illawarra* rammed the Tasman Bridge resulting in a 128-metre gap and 12 deaths. The TAB began operating. Transmission of colour television programs commenced in Tasmania. The Federal Government took over Tasmanian railways. Hotels were allowed to open for Sunday trading.
- 1976 Sea cargo to and from Tasmania was subsidised by a freight-equalisation scheme. The South-West National Park was doubled in size in line with South-West Management Plan proposals.
- 1977 The Federal Government confirmed Kingston as the site for Australia's new Antarctic Division Headquarters. The Tasman Bridge was re-opened. Drought conditions in many parts of the State were the worst for 30 years.
- 1978 The Tasmanian railways came under full control of the Australian National Railways Commission. All regular passenger train services in Tasmania ceased. A major study of the State's coal reserves revealed potential deposits of 251 million tonnes in the Fingal Valley.
- 1979 The State Government expanded the South-West Conservation area to more than 20 per cent of the State's total area. The State's first Ombudsman was appointed. Tasmania's Parliamentary Hansard was introduced. Mr Bill McKinnon (Labor), who lost his seat in the July election, filed a petition in the Supreme Court claiming that a new Labor MHA in Franklin, Michael Aird, had breached the *Electoral Act* by spending more than the statutory limit of \$1 500 on his election expenses. This began the so-called 'Electoral' or 'Constitutional Crisis'. The HEC released a report which recommended a \$1.36 billion power development scheme involving the Lower Gordon, Franklin and King Rivers to meet the State's electricity needs until the year 2000.
- 1980 Work commenced on the second Hobart bridge. A by-election for the Denison electorate was held after the 1979 'electoral crisis'. The Treasurer introduced legislation into the House of Assembly to allow \$530m to be spent on the HEC's Pieman River development. East-West Airlines were given approval for the only direct Hobart-Sydney air service. The National Parks and Wildlife Service started a major advertising and promotion campaign aimed at short-circuiting the HEC's proposed Franklin-Lower Gordon power scheme. The State Government decided to save the Franklin River by opting to flood the Gordon at its junction with the Olga and to construct four separate schemes on the King River. Parts of Southern Tasmania faced the worst drought since white settlement. The Gordon-above-Olga power scheme was passed by the House of Assembly. The first direct flight from Hobart to Christchurch was made by Ansett Airlines. The Upper House Select Committee recommended the HEC's proposed Gordon-below-Franklin scheme and rejected the Government proposed Gordon-above-Olga scheme legislation.
- 1981 Bushfires at Zeehan destroyed 40 homes. The State Government banned Saturday afternoon trading by companies employing more than 100 people on a statewide basis. The Federal Government agreed to subsidise airfares to and from the State by 10 per cent following acceptance of the Holcroft report. A referendum was announced for November concerning the State's next power development. The Premier, Mr Doug Lowe, was deposed and Mr Harry Holgate replaced him as Premier. Mr Lowe resigned from Cabinet, Caucus and the ALP and took his place in the House of Assembly as an independent. The State Labor Government lost its majority in the House of Assembly with the resignation of Mrs Mary Willey. The Tasmanian Conservation Foundation

called for an informal vote in the referendum by writing 'no dams' on the ballot paper. A Royal Commission was appointed to investigate the powers of the Legislative Council. The referendum resulted in an extremely large informal vote but most supported the Gordon-below-Franklin option.

1982 The South-West National Park, the Franklin-Lower Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and the Cradle Mt-Lake St Clair National Park were nominated by the Federal Government for the World Heritage List; both proposed dam sites lay within the nominated area. The Holgate Labor Government was defeated on a no confidence motion by a majority vote of the Liberal Opposition, two Labor defectors and a Democrat. The ensuing election resulted in the Liberal Party forming a Government in its own right for the first time in Tasmania's history. Legislation for the controversial \$453m Gordon-below-Franklin power scheme finally passed through Parliament. State Government requested Federal aid to help fund Tasmania's record deficit estimated at \$38m. The Federal ALP Conference decided to oppose the construction of the Gordon-below-Franklin scheme. The Federal Labor Party announced a no-dams policy for a Federal Labor Government in a decision which split the party in the State. Tasmanian police were given new powers in a bid to combat a blockade of dam site construction in the South-West by conservationists. The Senate Select Committee on South-West Tasmania came out against building the dam. The Attorney-General, Mr Bingham, announced that Tasmania had formally applied to have its opposition to World Heritage listing heard by the World Heritage Committee in Paris and announced that he would go to Paris to lobby the Committee. The Federal Government announced it would not intervene in the construction of the Gordon-below-Franklin dam. The World Heritage Commission placed Tasmania's endangered South-West wilderness area on its list. A total of 196 people were arrested for trespassing at the dam site.

1983 New drink-driving legislation reducing the permissible blood alcohol level for drivers from .08 to .05, and introducing random breath tests, came into force. The Shell Co. of Australia revealed that coal mining at Mt Nicholas in the north-east could be sustained for 40 years. Tas-



Photo: Mercury

mania's unemployment rate rose to 11.4 per cent. The Premier, Mr Gray, rejected \$500 million, offered by the Federal Government to delay construction of the Gordon-below-Franklin dam. Tasmania's biggest ever rally was held to protest against the damming of the Franklin River; an estimated 12 000 to 20 000 people attended. The Federal Opposition Leader, Mr Hawke, pledged to stop construction of the Gordon-below-Franklin power scheme and offered financial assistance to meet the State's energy needs to the year 2000 as well as alternative employment for the HEC workforce should the Labor Party win government on March 5. Hobart experienced its driest summer for 85 years. The Liberal Party was defeated by the Labor Party in the Federal election although Tasmania's five Liberal members of the House of Representatives were re-elected. Mr. Hawke was sworn in as Australia's new Prime Minister. Regulations under section 69 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1975*, gazetted by the Federal Government, made any further work on the Gordon-below-Franklin dam illegal. A Commonwealth writ, seeking an injunction to permanently stop work on the proposed Gordon-below-Franklin dam, and a Tasmanian writ seeking a declaration from the High Court that regulations under which the Commonwealth was acting were constitutionally invalid, were filed in the High Court. The Daylight Saving Bill, to permanently entrench a five-month period, was passed by the House of Assembly. The lowest temperature yet recorded in Tasmania, -13°C , was regis-

tered. The High Court, in a landmark decision, ruled that the Gordon-below-Franklin dam could not go ahead. Alternative works to the Gordon-below-Franklin dam began. These included the Guildford-Hampshire and Cradle Mountain road links, the Mt Black deviation near Tullah, and the Lyell Highway 14 mile deviation. The Federal Government committed \$23 585 000 compensation for job alternatives to the south-west dam. The State Government decided to speed up work on access roads for the \$460 million Henty-Anthony and King River hydro power schemes. The Premier put the comprehensive, long-term south-west dam compensation at \$3 455 million. The Legislative Council took only 30 minutes to approve the \$549 million King and Anthony Power schemes.

The new Devonport \$6.5 million jet airport was officially opened. A Legislative Council Select Committee report recommended the formation of a greater city of Launceston by amalgamating the urban areas of five surrounding municipalities. The greater Launceston proposal was rejected by four of the six municipalities involved in the referendum held to decide the issue.

1984 Thousands of dollars worth of plantation and regenerated forest, sawlogs, and pulp wood were destroyed by fire. Marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$150 000 were seized at Smithton. Industrial Equivy Ltd gained control of Cascade Brewery Co. Ltd. The United Launceston Citizens' Committee continued to push for a Launceston municipal amalgamation. The \$48.5 million Bowen Bridge was opened by the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke. The HEC was fined \$750 in the Hobart Magistrate's Court on two charges of polluting the Pieman River. The Tasmanian Wilderness Society launched a campaign for the creation of a 1 760 000 hectare world class national park in Western Tasmania. The Premier, Mr Gray, offered to trade his \$319 million compensation claim on lost South-West jobs for the \$1.5 million submarine construction venue and exclusive 200 mile zone fishing rights. The Federal Government ruled out any South-West compensation deals with the Tasmanian Government concerning the site for the Navy submarine contract. The Federal Government offered the Tasmanian Government \$270 million South-West compensation settlement. Fifty employees

(one-third of the total) at Cleveland Tin Mine were retrenched. The Tasmanian Government accepted in principle the Commonwealth \$270 million South-West compensation offer. The State Government won its battle against the Legislative Council to link parliamentary salaries to rises awarded to its public servants. The Wrest Point Convention Centre was opened. The Federal Government announced that it would give Tasmania \$26 million to buy a West German replacement for the *Empress of Australia*. Fire caused approximately \$1 million damage to Hobart's historic Theatre Royal. Mr Hawke and Mr Gray signed an agreement for \$270 million compensation to Tasmania for the loss of the Gordon-below-Franklin power scheme. The Premier announced a \$6.9 million road building project to make Queenstown the gateway to the South-West World Heritage area. The State Government announced plans to spend \$6 million of dam compensation funds on upgrading the Hobart Airport. The overseas vessel *Nils Holgersson* was named as the definite replacement for the ageing ferry *Empress of Australia*. The intersection of Hobart's Macquarie and Murray Streets was declared the most historic and prestigious commercial city intersection in Australia. The State Government announced it would hand over all Aboriginal remains held in Tasmanian museums to the local aboriginal community. The State Budget included the introduction of \$5 000 per job subsidy designed to create work for 2 000 Tasmanians, as well as a record allocation for a capital works program of \$561.2m. The State Government agreed to tighter restrictions on shop trading hours. Tasmania's first mobile breath analysis units were brought into use. The Federal Government provided \$3 million for the upgrading of Hobart Airport. Hobart experienced 28 millimetres of rain in an hour causing damage in low lying areas in and around Hobart. Following objections by professional planners and architects in Hobart to the design, size and appearance of the proposed \$50 million international hotel, The Premier Mr Gray requested that the architects who designed the hotel develop an alternative design to 'address public concern'. The State Government proposed that the Launceston and St Leonards Councils amalgamate. The Launceston International Velodrome, costing \$6 million was officially opened.

1.5 CHRONOLOGY: 1985

January

Tasmania won the right to host the world open and lightweight rowing championships at Lake Barrington in October 1990. The full-bench of the new State Industrial Commission sat for the first time. Former Deputy-Premier, Mr Neil Batt, announced his return to State politics. Cascade Brewery Co. Ltd gained control of the Tasmanian Four Seasons accommodation chain. State Government announced that it would legislate to amalgamate the municipalities of St Leonards and Lilydale with the City of Launceston to create a new greater Launceston City of over 60 000 people — the largest local government area in Tasmania in terms of population. The Northern Midlands Environmental Protection Committee issued a Supreme Court writ on the Hydro-Electricity Commission in an effort to hinder survey work on the proposed coal-fired thermal power station at Conara.

February

The Federal Government announced international sports complexes for Tasmania: a \$2 million hockey centre for Hobart and a \$1.2 million netball centre for Launceston. Premier Gray hinted at the development of small hydro-electric power schemes in preference to coal-fired thermal station on environmental grounds. Uniform national credit protection laws on contracts under \$20 000 began in all States except Tasmania where the State Government said it would 'wait and see' before legislating. Stage 1 of Launceston's southern outlet (7.4 km costing \$20 million) was opened.

March

Devonport's \$186 000 bikeway and walking track from the city centre to the olympic pool was opened. A \$6 million upgrading of Wynyard Airport was agreed to with joint funding by State and Commonwealth Governments. Plans for the \$10 million redevelopment of the Mersey General Hospital at Latrobe were unveiled. The Tasmanian yacht *Intrigue*, skippered by Don Calvert, was selected in Australia's Admiral's Cup Team. Hobart's metropolitan councils challenged the State Government's handling of the municipal amalgamation issue by lobbying members of the Legislative Council to block the controversial legislation. Victorian cyclist, Dean Woods, broke the world 4 000 metre record with a time of 4.34.65 at the Launceston Velodrome. State legislation gave Tasmania's two trustee banks more freedom to compete fully against trading and foreign banks. The Tasmanian Government formally took possession of the new Bass Strait ferry *Abel Tasman* (formerly *Nils*

Holgersson) at a handing over ceremony in West Germany. The State Government revealed details of a \$22 million West Coast road link between Smithton and Zeehan. The revised design for Hobart's controversial international hotel was unveiled.

April

The controversial Northern municipal amalgamation legislation was passed by the Legislative Council. A \$23 million shopping centre for Glenorchy was given Council approval. The nuclear powered cruiser 'USS Texas' visited Hobart. Tasmania's first forest rally attracted 1 200 people to Hobart's Franklin Square. After a lunchtime march through the city's streets the protestors gathered to call for the preservation of Tasmania's forest heritage. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, visited Hobart.

May

Hobart's \$13 million CSIRO Marine Laboratories were officially opened. More than 300 Tasmanian Aboriginals attended the cremation of skeletal remains of their ancestors at Oyster Cove. Federal grants and benefits to Tasmania were slashed by \$12.6 million in a mini-Budget; the biggest cut involved the axing of the 10 per cent Commonwealth air fare subsidy for travel between Tasmania and Melbourne.

June

The Bass Strait ferry, *Empress of Australia* made its farewell voyage from Devonport. During its 13 year service it had made 4600 trips to Tasmania, and carried more than 1.6 million passengers. A State Mini-Budget to save \$8.5 million in 1985-86 was brought down by the Treasurer, Mr Gray. The Electrolytic Zinc company announced that it would spend \$80 million modernising its Risdon plant to increase productivity. The HEC announced that it would cut its West Coast workforce by 340 over the next 12 months on completion of the 192 megawatt Lower Pieman power scheme.

July

The University of Tasmania appealed to the Planning Appeals Board against the Clarence Council's decision to refuse the installation of a radio-telescope on the University's farm at Richmond. The Commissioner of Police, Mr Max Robinson, black banned the ABC from any police co-operation. The ban followed a report by the 'National' on what it claimed to be fraudulent practices involving the police and the tow truck and vehicle repair industry. The Federal Government announced that it would hand over Hobart's Repatriation Hospital to the State after it had been substantially upgraded. A Federal Government proposal to introduce fees for tertiary education was condemned by the

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania. Former State Labor Premier, Mr Doug Lowe, announced he would quit the House of Assembly and contest the Legislative Council seat of Buckingham in May 1986. The Minister for Health, Mr John Cleary, confirmed that six people, including a school-age child, in Tasmania were found to have AIDS antibodies in their blood.

August

Federal and State Police raided homes and offices in Launceston as part of the National Crimes Authority's investigation into the Allied Fisheries group, one of the Country's largest fishing organisations. Ansett Airlines announced new jet services through Devonport Airport. The Central Launceston telephone system collapsed for the second time in four days, causing community condemnation of Telecom. Victorian and Tasmanian scallop fishermen disputed rights to rich scallop beds, found off Tasmania's north-east coast, before the beds were closed indefinitely by the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, Mr John Kerin. The \$34 million silicon metal plant at Electrona put the Kingborough Council and the State Government on a collision course as the Council voted to re-zone the area. The Government introduced legislation overriding the Council's decision.

September

The State Government declared that 24 November would be known as Tasmania Day. Tasmania's largest meat exporter, Richardson's Meat Industries, closed its Derwent Park abattoir. However, most of the 75 meatworkers were transferred to the company's Bridgewater plant. Senator Brian Archer became the Opposition's new spokesman for science and matters pertaining to the Special Minister of State. The Launceston City Council faced a million dollar plus bill for severance pay after the amalgamation of some northern municipalities. The State Budget gave pay-roll tax relief, assistance to some farmers and promised 2 000 more jobs. The anxiously awaited Evers' Report into Tasmanian football recommended a 10-team, State-wide competition.

October

The total cost of the redundancy scheme, after the amalgamation of St Leonards and Lilydale Municipalities with the City of Launceston, was in excess of \$4 million. The Comalco aluminium smelter at Bell Bay announced that it would cut its workforce by 130 over the next twelve months to enable it to remain competitive in a depressed world aluminium market.

November

Senator Peter Rae announced that he would resign from the Federal Parliament to contest

Bass for the Liberal Party at the 1986 State Election. In Hobart, hundreds of log hauliers mounted a massive protest at proposed restrictions on the State's timber resources. This protest coincided with a visit to Hobart by the Federal Minister for the Environment, Mr Barry Cohen. 200 000 litres of milk were emptied into paddocks as the result of a strike at United Milk Tasmania Ltd's East Devonport factory. Doctors in Tasmanian public hospitals threatened to resign unless the State Government exempted them from impending legislation which would bring them under the direct control of the Department of Health Services.

December

Heavy rain was dumped over Tasmania, culminating in one of the wettest weeks ever recorded in the State. State Cabinet approved the construction of a chairlift on the Nut at Stanley. Launceston doctors treated 178 children, believed to have come into contact with a deadly influenza germ which had claimed the life of a three-year-old girl. Qantas joined the Tasmania-New Zealand link with its first flight from Auckland to Hobart.

1.6 CHRONOLOGY: 1986, 1987

JANUARY 1986

State Election

Premier Gray announced a State election would be held on 8 February.

Rail Deaths

The State experienced its worst level crossing smash when a freight train collided with a semi-trailer at the River Road crossing near Burnie. Three men were killed when two locomotives and five fully-laden wagons catapulted from the bridge into the Emu River.

Second Passenger Ship Study

The State Government ordered a feasibility study into the need for a second Tasmanian passenger ferry which would service Hobart.

Redundancy Payments

The Launceston City Council received \$3.3 million from the State Government to help overcome the Council's cash problems caused by redundancy payments.

Aboriginal Rock Paintings

State archaeologists discovered the first authenticated Tasmanian Aboriginal rock paintings near the Maxwell River in the South-West. The archaeologists believed the paintings could

be about 20 000 years old, making them some of the oldest known human paintings in the world.

JANUARY STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.5
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	110.5
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	39.9

FEBRUARY 1986

Bass Highway Construction

Approval was given by the Federal Government to re-route the Bass Highway between Penguin and Howth. Expected to cost \$30 million and to take eight years to complete, the new 11.5 kilometre section will bypass Sulphur Creek and Preservation Bay.

Motor Vehicle Registration Slump

There were 1 056 new motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles) registered in Tasmania in February 1986. This was 25 per cent less than in February 1985. January and February 1986 were the two lowest months for new motor vehicle registrations since April 1983.

RAN 75th Anniversary

Five naval ships and one submarine visited Hobart to celebrate the Royal Australian Navy's 75th anniversary.

State Election

Mr Robin Gray's Liberal Government was re-elected with a majority of three seats. A record 15 MHAs lost their seats.

Breach of Shop Trading Hours Act

G.P. Fitzgeralds and Co. were fined \$2 000 for breaching trading hours legislation. The conviction was the first under the provisions of the *Shop Trading Hours Act* which took effect in September 1984.

Opposition Leadership

Mr Batt replaced Mr Wriedt as Opposition Leader and Mr Field replaced Mr Holgate as Deputy Leader.

Bell Bay

Bell Bay's \$5.2 million port development was officially opened.

FEBRUARY STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.2
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	106.9
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	23.3

MARCH 1986

Rushy Lagoon

Rushy Lagoon, a 24 000 hectare grazing property in the far North-East of the State, was sold for \$10.1 million. The purchase, by Mr Bert Farquhar, makes him the biggest landowner in the State.

Anti-logging Protest

Forestry workers and conservationists clashed at Farmhouse Creek, near Geeveston. The State Government invoked special legislation making it illegal to enter the logging area without permission. Wilderness campaigner, Dr Bob Brown, an Independent MHA for Denison, was shot at in bush near the site of the protest. The managing director of Risby Forest Industries and his family received death threats over the conservation issue.

Daylight Saving

The State Government secured parliamentary approval to vary future daylight saving periods according to decisions in other States.

Nurse Education

The Education Minister, Mr Rae, announced that the transfer of nurse education from public hospitals to the TSIT in Launceston would be delayed for at least one year.

Halley's Comet

Tasmanian comet enthusiasts had good sightings of Halley's Comet during the month, but overall the comet's visit was much less spectacular than predicted.

MARCH STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.2
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	111.7
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	33.5
Consumer Price Index (% increase March qtr)	1.6

APRIL 1986

Antarctic Museum

A \$5-\$7 million international Antarctic museum based on Hobart's Sullivan's Cove was proposed.

Electricity Charges

The HEC announced a 13 per cent increase in Tasmanian electricity charges.

TCA Takeover

An eight-man reform group gained control of the Tasmanian Cricket Board.

Development Control Bill

The State Government abandoned its controversial fast-track development legislation which deprived Tasmanians of the right of appeal against major planning projects.

Hobart International Hotel

Protest began against the use of pink and red brick cladding on the \$50 million Hobart International Hotel.

APRIL STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.3
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	111.4
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	29.7

MAY 1986

Justice Wright

Mr Justice Wright was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in Burnie filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr Justice Brettingham-Moore.



Photo: Mercury

Tasmanian State Bank

The Chairman of LBS Statewide Bank began canvassing the idea that the LBS should form the nucleus of a Tasmanian State Bank.

Derailment

14 fully-laden log wagons were derailed as a log train crossed the Karoola trestle bridge over Pipers River. The train was taking a consignment of woodchip logs to the APPM plant at Longreach.

Hobart International Hotel

The State Government and the developers of the Hobart International Hotel agreed to share the cost of replacing controversial pink bricks used in the construction of the hotel with sandstone coloured bricks.

Port Arthur

The Federal Government withdrew further financial support for the restoration of Port Arthur.

OBITUARY

Former judge Justice Cecil George Brettingham-Moore died in Hobart aged 66. Justice Brettingham-Moore served as Master of the Supreme Court from 1960 to 1985. In addition to his Supreme Court duties he had acted as a magistrate and a commissioner of the Court of Requests and completed various inquiries for the State Government.

Electrona Smelter

The State Government announced the Electrona silicon smelter project would proceed.

Cleveland Mine Closure

The exhaustion of ore reserves and the decline in grade to less than one per cent tin, compounded by poor world tin prices resulted in the closure of the Cleveland tin mine at Luina.

Legislative Council Elections

Legislative Council elections were held in the electorates of Buckingham, Macquarie and South Esk. Elected were Mr Lowe, Mr Shaw, and Mr Archer respectively.

MAY STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	8.7
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	122.6
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	37.8

JUNE 1986

Kings Meadows Shopping Complex

Plans to build a \$11 million shopping complex containing a supermarket and 21 speciality shops in Kings Meadows were announced.

Abel Tasman Fares

The State Government announced an increase in Abel Tasman fares of up to 15 per cent.

Premiers' Conference

The Premier sought Cabinet approval to recall Parliament to bring down a mini-budget of tax increases. Mr Gray stated the extraordinary measure was necessary after funding cuts were imposed at the Premiers' Conference.

Reece Power Station

Tasmania's newest hydro power station, Reece, on the central West Coast came into operation. The \$680 million station added about 22 per cent to the overall generating capacity of the State's electricity system. The State's generating capacity has doubled in the past 17 years.

Mini-Budget

The Premier warned union leaders that 800 public servants would lose their jobs if \$24 million could not be saved from their annual wages bill. He also announced a wide range of new and increased taxes and charges to become effective immediately.

POPULATION CENSUS 30 JUNE 1986

The 1986 Census counted 436 353 people in Tasmania on census night, an increase of 4.2 per cent on the 1981 count.

Major growth areas in the State were:

Municipality	% increase
Portland	31.7
Sorell	29.4
Brighton	23.6
Westbury	19.8
Kingborough	19.3

JUNE STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	8.3
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	108.6
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	30.7
Consumer Price Index (% increase June qtr)	2.1

JULY 1986

Lyell Municipality

The municipalities of Gormanston and Queenstown amalgamated to create the new municipality of Lyell.

North Broken Hill

Tasmania's largest private employer, North Broken Hill, announced that it would have to pay an extra \$7.4 million in taxes and charges a year as a result of the State Government's mini-budget. Employment cuts and drastic cutbacks in development programs were predicted as a result.

ALP Conference

The ALP's biennial national conference was held at Wrest Point Casino. It was the first time in 31 years that the conference was held in Hobart. The conference directed the State branch to admit the secretary of the Tasmanian Trades and Labour Council, Mr Paul Lennon, to membership.

Public Service Cut-Backs

The Premier began discussions with public sector union leaders concerning the proposal to reduce Public Service expenditure. Angry public servants began threatening industrial action as a result of Mr Gray's proposal to cut wages.

Heavy Snowfall

Hobart experienced its heaviest snowfall in 65 years. Eight centimetres of snow blanketed the city, greatly disrupting transport and throwing normal city services into disarray.



Richardson's Meat Industries went into receivership with debts of \$17 million.

JULY STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	8.2
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	117.0
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	26.3

AUGUST 1986

Public Service Sackings

The State Government formally put the Public Service sackings dispute before the State Industrial Commission and deferred the sacking of 400 public servants for two weeks.

Mr Gray's preferred option for saving \$7 million was to cease payment of the 17.5 per cent annual leave loading to public servants.

The State Industrial Commission imposed a 12-month deferral of the 17.5 per cent leave loading.

Daylight Saving

Cabinet extended daylight saving by three weeks.

US Base

The Premier made direct approaches to the United States Government to secure, for Hobart, the \$20 million United States Air Force's Antarctic transit base rumoured to be moved from Christchurch, New Zealand.

Stolen Car Racket

According to a senior Victorian policeman Tasmania is a dumping ground for stolen Victorian cars because of the State's easy registration procedures.

BUILDING APPROVALS INCREASE

There was a marked increase in the number of new dwelling units approved in August 1986. 401 dwelling units were approved, an increase of 59 per cent on July 1986. A significant increase was shown in the number of public sector dwelling units approved. There were only 6 new dwelling unit approvals in this sector during July 1986, compared with 100 approvals for August 1986. The value of all building approved for August 1986 was \$29.8 million.

AUGUST STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	8.2
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	116.7
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	29.8

SEPTEMBER 1986

Bass Strait Ferry Plan

Transport Tasmania's TT-Line revealed plans for an ultra-luxurious ferry to replace the *Abel Tasman* on the Bass Strait run. The \$100–\$150 million 'super-ferry' would carry 1500 passengers, 400 cars and 50 semi-trailers, (double the *Abel Tasman's* capacity) but will only be about 20 metres longer. A feasibility study, which could take approximately 3 years, would need to be carried out before the proposed vessel would be plying Bass Strait.

Aboriginal Remains

The National Museum of Australia announced a decision to hand over the remains of four Tasmanian aborigines to descendants of the race. The remains include a complete skeleton and three skulls.

TASMANIAN FOOTBALL FINALS

- TANFL — Glenorchy defeated Sandy Bay
- NTFA — Scottsdale defeated Longford
- NWFU — Ulverstone defeated Wynyard

SEPTEMBER STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	8.2
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	118.3
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	61.1
Consumer Price Index (% increase, Sept. qtr)	2.6

OCTOBER 1986

HEC Borrowing Loss

The Hydro-Electric Commission faced a potential \$91.9 million loss on its overseas borrowings as a result of the plummeting value of the Australian dollar.

Beaconsfield Gold Mine

A new company was formed to redevelop the Beaconsfield gold mine in Northern Tasmania.

USS Missouri

The warship *USS Missouri* visited Hobart. The French frigate, *FNS Commandant Blaison*, also visited Hobart.

FBT Challenge

Tasmania joined Queensland in a High Court challenge to the Fringe Benefits Tax.

Abalone Farm

Construction began on a \$5 million abalone farm, three kilometres south of Swansea. A joint venture between Tasmanian Univalve Pty Ltd and Japanese interests, the farm is the first land-based abalone farm outside Japan and the United States.

National Estate

Quamby Bluff and Jackeys Marsh were listed on the National Estate.

**OCTOBER
STATISTICS—TASMANIA**

Seasonally Adjusted Series —	
Total Employed Persons ('000)	186.2
Total Unemployed Persons ('000)	18.8
Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.2
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	122.8
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	30.5

NOVEMBER 1986

Tattsлото Winner

A Bothwell shearer won \$2.8 million in Tattsлото. He was one of four winners who shared the \$11 million jackpot. The jackpot was the largest cash prize in the history of Australian lotteries and the second largest in the world.

Papal Tour

Pope John Paul II visited Hobart and held Mass for approximately 32 000 people at Elwick racecourse.

Marine Scientists Conference

More than 80 marine scientists from around the world met in Hobart for the biennial conference of the (SCOR) Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research.

**NOVEMBER
STATISTICS—TASMANIA**

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)		9.5
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)		122.8
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)		28.5

DECEMBER 1986

Christmas Pageant

A huge crowd lined Hobart's streets to view a Christmas pageant in which about 1 200 people took part.

Record Wool Price

Japanese wool buyer, Fujii Keori Co. paid 28 000 cents a kilogram for a 101 kilogram bale of extra superfine merino wool at the spring wool sales. The price equalled the record for the world's highest priced bale.

Tassie Devil 2001

International Catamaran's wave-piercing boat, Tassie Devil 2001, was launched.

Lemonthyme Forest

The Federal Government proposed to invoke World Heritage legislation to prevent logging in the Lemonthyme Forest.

Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race

Bob Bell's 80 foot maxi, *Condor*, took out line honours in the Sydney-Hobart yacht classic. The handicap winner was the 36-footer *Ex-Tension*.

1986 Birth Statistics

Tasmania's 1986 birth rate was the lowest since records began in 1860. There were 6 950 births in 1986, 299 less than in 1985. Tasmania's birth rate of 15.6 births per 1 000 population was nevertheless still above the national average of 15.2 births per 1 000 population in 1986.

**DECEMBER
STATISTICS—TASMANIA**

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.5
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	172.5
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	25.2
Consumer Price Index (% increase, December qtr)	2.9

JANUARY 1987

Flash Flooding — Sandy Bay

Thousands of dollars worth of damage was caused by flash flooding in Sandy Bay. Shops, vehicles and homes were damaged in a heavy 30-minute downfall.

Southern Tasmanian Gales

Gale force winds hit Southern Tasmania creating havoc for motorists, turmoil on the Derwent and a string of damage to houses and property. The winds gusted up to 120 kmh and were strong enough to blow a container from a semi-trailer as it travelled over the Tasman Bridge. The strongest winds ever recorded in Hobart were 150 kmh.

OBITUARY

A former Minister of health in the Reece Labor Government and president of the Tasmanian branch of the Alcohol Industry Foundation, Dr Allan Foster, died.

Tasman Bridge Navigational Aids

Plans to house navigational equipment in a special pontoon to be installed near the Tasman Bridge were revealed. The equipment will provide up-to-date information on currents and wind strengths for ships passing under the bridge. A deep keel will be constructed on the pontoon to model the effects of currents on a typical ship using the bridge.

US Antarctic Supply Base

US sources, in Canberra, ended long running speculation that Hobart was to become the next US Antarctic supply base. It was stated that the US did not have plans to move their Antarctic base from Christchurch.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS DOWN

New motor vehicle registrations for January 1987 (735) were the lowest recorded for any month since January 1968. Motor cycle registrations slumped to their lowest since November 1966 with only 18 cycles registered during the month.

JANUARY STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.5
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	116.7
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	21.2

FEBRUARY 1987

Muttonbirding

Almost the entire population of Flinders Island were set to defy a State Government ban on amateur muttonbirding due to come into force in March.

New Home for Herbarium

Work began on the construction of a building to house the Tasmanian Herbarium, the botanical department of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. The building, of earth-sheltered design will be built on the campus of the University of Tasmania. The herbarium holds a collection of more than 100 000 specimens of Tasmanian plants, some dating back to Captain Cook's third voyage (1777). The collection vaults at the new site will be buried in the hillside to provide maximum protection and temperature control and the roof of the building will be covered with soil, grassed and landscaped. The offices, laboratories and public reception will be open to natural light.

Nella Dan in Hobart

The Antarctic supply ship *Nella Dan* returned to Hobart after being stuck in pack ice for the second year running. The ship arrived 10 days late after being freed from the ice by a Soviet icebreaker. Despite being ice-bound, the *Nella Dan* expedition achieved most of its objectives.

Devonport Laundry

Work began on a \$1.5 million laundry at Devonport. When completed it will be the most modern commercial laundry in Australia. Eventually the business plans to employ 30 people, with provision being made to employ handicapped people from Devonport's Devonfield Complex.

OBITUARY

Mr Michael Sharland, who wrote nature notes for *The Mercury* for 60 years under the name of Peregrine, died aged 87. Mr Sharland's dedication to preserving Tasmanian wildlife and scenery began long before conservation was a widely accepted idea. He was a member of the Scenery Preservation Board which was the forerunner to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Wynyard Airport

Wynyard Airport's jet-standard runway was opened. More than \$6.9 million was spent on the upgrading. The Emu Bay Apex Club organised an air show (Jetport '87) to celebrate the opening.

Japanese Garden Completed

The Japanese Garden at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens was opened after two and a half years of work. The official opening was attended by 60 delegates from Hobart's Japanese sister city, Yaizu.

FEBRUARY STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.4
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	112.5
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	32.2

MARCH 1987

Highfield House Restoration

Restoration work on the stables of historic Highfield House at Stanley began.

Senate Seat Vacancy

The State ALP nominated president John Devereux for the casual Senate vacancy left by retiring Senator Don Grimes began. Mr Devereux's strong support for conservation issues led to his eventual rejection by a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

Antarctic Museum

The State Government unveiled plans it hoped would win it approval to construct a proposed National Antarctic Museum against competition from Victoria. The three-stage \$9.7 million 'living museum' in the heart of the city's most historic district would rely on Federal finance to go ahead.

Milk Dispute

A strike at Devonport's Tasmaid plant threatened to stop milk supplies from getting to Launceston and much of Northern Tasmania.

MARCH STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.8
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	118.7
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	31.8
Consumer Price Index (% increase March qtr)	2.1

APRIL 1987

Supernova in Southern Hemisphere

The Physics Department at the University of Tasmania took delivery of receiving equipment to help track the supernova appearing in the Southern Hemisphere.

Mansell in Libya

Tasmanian Aboriginal activist, Mr Michael Mansell, flew to Libya as part of a six-man Australian delegation to ask Libyan President, Colonel Gaddafi, for resources and money to internationally publicise the plight of Aboriginals in the bicentenary year.

Honorary Doctorate

Mr Bob Green, curator of zoology at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery was made an Honorary Doctor of Science. The award, made by the University of Tasmania, was in recognition of Dr Green's contribution to the study of Tasmanian natural history.

Coolstore Fire

About 800 tonnes of hops owned by Australian Hop Marketers Pty Ltd and worth between \$3.5 million and \$4 million were burned in a coolstore at South Hobart. Apart from hops, 300 tonnes of frozen fish, poultry, fruit and fruit-juice concentrates were also destroyed.

Sea Rescue

Five people were rescued from seas on the notorious St Helens barway.

Devonport Fire

The historic arts block at the Devonport High School was destroyed by fire. Built around the 1900's the arts block was the last of the original high school structures remaining.

APRIL STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.1
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	127.6
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	33.9

OBITUARY

Dean George Cullen, aged 90, died in Launceston. Dean Cullen was a Catholic priest for 63 years and served in many areas of the State. He was born at Ballaghadereen, on Ireland's west coast.

MAY 1987

Purity Franchising

The Purity supermarket chain considered franchising a supermarket in Launceston to pressure the State Government to change its shop trading laws. The move was considered after the successful opening of the Sandy Bay Purity supermarket which was franchised to the former manager of the store.

Lloyd Rees Exhibition

Tasmanian artist, Lloyd Rees, was invited to exhibit at Printemps, a big department store in Paris, as the focus of an Australian trade fair.

OBITUARY

The Governor of Tasmania, Sir James Plimsoll, died at Government House, aged 70. Sir James joined the Australian diplomatic service in 1948, beginning an impressive ambassadorial career. He served as Australian High Commissioner to India and Ambassador to Nepal (1963-65), as Ambassador to the USSR and Mongolia (1974-77), to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Economic Community (1977-80), and more recently as ambassador to Japan in 1981-82. On 30 September 1982 he was officially sworn in as Governor of Tasmania. A State funeral was held in Hobart.

Sale of Swan Island

Swan Island, situated about 3 km off the north-eastern tip of Tasmania, was offered for sale. The 200 hectare island was expected to sell for between \$200 000 and \$250 000.

MAY STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	10.0
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	128.1
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	31.6

JUNE 1987

New MTT Bus

The Metropolitan Transport Trust unveiled a new bus designed especially for aged or disabled passengers. The 'kneeling' step at the front of the bus may be lowered on request.

RSPCA Report

A report prepared by the RSPCA for the Federal National Parks and Wildlife Service slammed the methods used to kill wallabies in the State. The report recommended urgent changes to be made in the methods used to kill wallabies and that Tasmania's export licence for wallaby products should be suspended.

Inspection Head Wharf Collision

Three fishermen had to jump for their lives as a 21 000-tonne cargo ship threatened to crush their boat at Inspection Head Wharf. The men jumped seconds before the giant Panamanian vessel, *Southern Angel*, hit a \$300 000 neighbouring boat, *Ole Madsen*.

Record Low Maximum Temperature

Launceston Airport recorded a maximum of only 4 degrees, the lowest June maximum ever recorded. Temperatures reached only 7 deg. in Launceston, 8 in Devonport and 11 in Burnie.

ANM Modernisation

A \$22 million thermo-mechanical pine pulp mill, part of ANM's \$75 million three-year modernisation programme, was opened at the Boyer plant.

JUNE STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	10.2
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	125.1
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	29.6
Consumer Price Index (% increase June qtr)	1.5

JULY 1987

Sea Fisheries Sacking

The Minister for Sea Fisheries, Mr Ray Groom, alleged that the sacking of the head of the Department of Sea Fisheries, Dr Marc Wilson, resulted from a \$1.5 million sale of government owned shares, which he had no approval to initiate. Mr Groom stated that Dr Wilson had also personally owned 1 000 shares in Tasmanian Atlantic Salmon Ltd and he considered it improper for the head of the Sea Fisheries department to have a pecuniary interest in the fishing industry.

Federal Government Election

Mr Duncan Kerr won the seat of Denison from sitting member, Michael Hodgman. It was the first time in 12 years that Labor had won in Denison. Sitting Liberals Max Burr, Bruce Goodluck, Warwick Smith and Chris Miles were re-elected.

Mt Wellington Observation Deck

Plans for an observation deck on the pinnacle of Mt Wellington — which will include an 11-metre by 5.5 metre viewing window, were unveiled.

OBITUARY

A former Liberal MHA, Mr Peter Bensen Walker, died in Melbourne aged 65. Mr Walker was a member of the Tasmanian Parliament between 1982 and 1986.

Davis Quits Liberal Party

State Government back-bencher, Mr Geoff Davis, MHA, quit the Liberal Party over the Government's decision to base the chief executive of the proposed State Bank in Launceston.

JULY STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.7
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	128.7
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	37.5

AUGUST 1987

Tasmania Bank Chairman

The former chairman of the Savings Bank of Tasmania, Mr Robert Mather, was appointed chairman of the new Tasmania Bank. The Managing Director of ENT Limited, Mr David McQuestin was appointed his deputy.

Call for Police Commissioner's Resignation

North-west and West Coast rank-and-file police officers demanded the resignation of the Police Commissioner, Mr Max Robinson, over his handling of the Galloway affair. Mr Galloway, a policeman for 21 years and a senior sergeant, was dismissed from the force after being charged over the alleged falsification of a breathalyser reading. The charges were subsequently dropped and Mr Galloway was reinstated

Credit Union Fraud

Trading was suspended at the Campus Credit Union due to evidence of fraud and misappropriation of funds. The Credit Union had about 1 000 members, mostly University of Tasmania staff and their families and assets of approximately \$8 million.

Art Gallery Proposal

A proposal for a new Hobart art gallery, the second in 18 months, was unveiled. Costing about \$4 million the plan involved splitting the art gallery from the museum and locating it in lower Davey Street between the Royal Engineers building and the Cenotaph.

Federal Liberal Frontbench

Mr Warwick Smith, MHR (Bass) and Mr Chris Miles, MHR (Braddon) were included in the Federal Liberal frontbench; Mr Smith as Opposition spokesman for Science and Energy and Mr Miles as Aboriginal Affairs spokesman.

Workshop Fire

Fire partially destroyed Walkabout Industries bottling workshop. Damage was estimated at about \$400 000.

OBITUARY

Mr George Francis Davies, the last member of the Davies Brothers Limited publishing dynasty died aged 76. Mr Davies was a great-grandson of Mr John Davies, who founded *The Hobart Mercury* in 1854 and was the last member of the family to be associated with the company as a director.

AUGUST STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.3
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	121.1
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	25.3

SEPTEMBER 1987

OBITUARY

Sir Alfred White, former Tasmanian Labor Minister and Agent General in London, died aged 85. Sir Alfred retired from Parliament in 1959 and became Agent-General in London for a record 12 years. He was responsible for introducing the 'roll-on-roll-off' shipping system to Tasmania,

State Airline Proposal

The State Government began investigating the possibility of buying its own passenger aircraft and operating under a State Government flag.

Ferry Operating Surplus

The Bass Strait passenger ferry *Abel Tasman* recorded a \$2.7 million operating surplus in its second year of operation.

Logging Ban

A High Court decision banned logging in the Lemonthyme and Southern Forests of Tasmania.

TASMANIAN FOOTBALL FINALS

TFL — North Hobart defeated Glenorchy
NTFL — Ulverstone defeated East Devonport

Death of Halwes

Halwes, arguably the best horse of any breed produced in Tasmania, died aged 28. Halwes dominated the local racing scene in the 1960s and was unrivalled as the best pacer in Australasia, winning 53 races from 68 starts.

New Governor

General Sir Phillip Bennett was appointed Tasmania's new Governor following the death of Sir James Plimsoll.

Retirement of Geoff Davis

Former Cabinet Minister, Geoff Davis, ended his political career two months after crossing the House of Assembly floor in protest at Government interference in the State bank issue.

Record High Temperature

A record temperature for September (31 degrees) was recorded in Hobart. The previous September record of 28.2 degrees was recorded in 1973.

Retirement of Police Commissioner

Tasmania's Commissioner of Police, Mr Max Robinson announced his retirement to take effect from 31 January 1988.

SEPTEMBER STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.3
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	126.4
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	46.7
Consumer Price Index (% increase, Sept. qtr)	1.8

OCTOBER 1987

New Liberal MP

Mr John Barker was sworn into State parliament as the new Liberal member for Denison after a recount, replacing Mr Geoff Davis who had resigned.

Tasmania's Weather

Tasmania's prolonged dry weather broke many records with six centres recording their lowest cumulative rainfall ever during the eight months from February to September inclusive. The centres were Burnie, Launceston Airport, Scottsdale, Fingal, Swansea and Campbell Town.

Logging Inquiry

The State Government appeared before the Helsham logging inquiry. A last minute decision not to boycott the inquiry meant that the Government was free to argue that logging in the Lemonthyme and southern forests could go ahead in the summer because no World Heritage values were involved.

Port Arthur Admission Fee

A general admission fee of \$5 for adults was implemented at the historic site of Port Arthur.

Aboriginal Art

Aboriginal hand stencils dating back to the last Ice Age were discovered in a cave in the Cracroft Valley in Southern Tasmania. Thought to be the biggest find of aboriginal hand paintings discovered in Tasmania, they were found by archaeologists hired by Australian Newsprint Mills to investigate the area as part of its case to the Helsham Commission of Inquiry into the World Heritage value of Tasmania's Lemonthyme and southern forests.

Record High Temperature

A record temperature for October (34.6 degrees) was recorded in Hobart. The previous October record of 33.14 degrees was recorded in 1914.

OCTOBER STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	8.6
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	135.0
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	32.2

NOVEMBER 1987

Sheraton Hotel

The Hobart Sheraton Hotel was officially opened by the Premier. Although the 234 room Sheraton opened its doors for business in August the hotel was not considered fully operational until the official opening.

Mt Wellington Development

A proposed \$35 million development for Mt Wellington met with fierce public opposition. The outcry came just 24 hours after the State Government revealed it had approved in principle a hotel, restaurant, cable car and artificial snow fields on the mountain. The final decision on the proposal was left with the Hobart City Council.

Development of the Hobart Rivulet

Hobart's Lord Mayor, Ald Doone Kennedy planted a tree as the ceremonial start to the \$87 000 first stage development of a park which will eventually stretch the length of Hobart's Rivulet from Molle Street to Cascade Gardens in South Hobart. The work will include a pathway, lighting, barbecue and rest areas, and the planting of native and exotic ornamental plants.

Nella Dan

The Australian Antarctic ship, *Nella Dan*, was freed from pack ice after its third entrapment in as many seasons.

Japanese Yen for Tasmania

Plans for a \$100 million holiday resort and housing subdivision at Seven Mile Beach were revealed. The State Government was looking to Japan for the finance after a trade delegation held discussions in Tokyo with possible investors. The plans include a 200 room hotel, a 200 berth marina, 900 residential blocks each selling for about \$40 000, plus a variety of condominiums and units, a shopping centre, nine hole golf course, indoor swimming pool, health centre and sports centre.

Tasmania Day

Thousands of Tasmanians across the State joined the festivities to celebrate Tasmania Day. Wynyard artist Christine Hiller was named Tasmanian of the Year.

Comalco Upgrading

Aluminium producers, Comalco, announced a \$70 million two year upgrading project at Bell Bay. The project will employ up to 200 people at the peak of construction.

Lady Nelson Launch

Tasmania's Bicentenary Tall Ship, the *Lady Nelson* was launched. The original *Lady Nelson* was the first ship to sail west through Bass Strait, in 1800, and the vessel from which Hobart was established in 1803. The new ship, a full sized replica was intended to provide sail training for young Tasmanians.

NOVEMBER STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted	
Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	9.1
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	133.5
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	25.0

DECEMBER 1987

Helsham Inquiry

The Helsham Inquiry rejected conservation arguments that logging should be banned in four small forest areas. As a result logging is permitted in the Lemonthyme Forest in the north and in the southern forests.

Crawford Inquiry

Tasmanian Police sergeant, Graham Galloway was again dismissed from the force after the Crawford Inquiry found that he and former traffic constable, Carsten Bauermeister had been involved in the fabrication of a breathalyser reading on 17 March.

Court Challenge to Inquiry

The Australian Conservation Foundation prepared to take the Federal Government's Helsham logging inquiry in Tasmania to court. The Foundation seeks to overturn the decision by the Helsham Commission of Inquiry to free four forest areas in the Lemonthyme — southern forests from High Court protection.

Shop Trading

Legislation hurried through Parliament before it rose for 1987, enabled shops in the central business districts of Hobart and Launceston to trade seven days a week over the holiday period.

HEC Charges

The Hydro-Electric Commission announced that power charges for ordinary consumers would rise by 4.8 per cent from 1 January.

Tamar River Clean-up

Department of Environment figures revealed pollution levels in the Tamar and North Esk Rivers posed a huge problem to Launceston. As a result the Launceston City Council announced a clean-up of the rivers and had allocated \$2.5 million to upgrade sewers and treatment plants. The State Government also allocated \$8.4 million over the next four years.

Tasmanian Gun Laws

The national Gun Summit broke down after Tasmania and Queensland refused to support uniform gun laws.

Latrobe Carnival

Michael Grenda broke a 53 year record when he won the 16 km A Grade scratch race at the Latrobe Carnival.

Nella Dan

Australia's Antarctic supply ship *Nella Dan*, a veteran of more than 90 voyages to the region,

sank off Macquarie Island. The ship sank as it was under tow to be scuttled after running aground at Macquarie Island earlier in the month.

Yacht Races

Victorian sloop *Flying Colours* took line honours for the third year running in the Melbourne-Hobart yacht race. Super-maxi, *Sovereign*, became the first Australian yacht to win the line honours-handicap double in the Sydney-Hobart blue-water classic.

DECEMBER STATISTICS—TASMANIA

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (% of labour force)	8.8
Value of Retail Sales (\$m)	192.9
Value of Building Approvals (\$m)	34.7

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