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Year after year, ever since 1908, the Australian Year Book has been published annually without fuss or fanfare, providing each year a new source of information about, and for, Australia and Australians. It is hard to think of any single national development of note over the past eighty years on which the Year Books do not throw light. Here, in one publication, is a continuous record of government policies, international relationships and a concise statistical summary of every facet of Australia's economy and society. Through the Year Books, one can scan eighty years of life on this continent, tracing the changes and noting the trends. The Year Books have included, too, from time to time, special articles of topical interest, thus adding unexpected treasure troves of detail to the broad brush-strokes of history.

As we enter this, our Bicentennial Year, it is appropriate that that faithful mirror of Australia past and present, the Australian Year Book, should accompany us, reflecting in its candid glass the nation in all its states and conditions. The strength of nations, as of individuals, lies in self-knowledge and there can be few better introductions to a knowledge of this nation than through its Year Books.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ninian Stephen".

*His Excellency the Right Honourable
Sir Ninian Stephen,
A.K., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.B.E.
Governor-General of the Commonwealth
of Australia*

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PREFACE

Year Book Australia is the principal reference work produced by the Central Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). It provides a comprehensive and detailed statistical review of various aspects of the economy and social conditions in Australia. In addition, it contains descriptive matter dealing with Australia's history, government, international relations, defence, climate, physiography, culture and environment.

The first Official Year Book of the Commonwealth was published early in 1908, though individual Australian States and colonies had been producing year books for several decades before that. *Year Book Australia 1988* is a commemorative edition, marking the bicentenary of permanent European settlement in Australia. As with its predecessors, the *Year Book* is issued under the authority of the Commonwealth Government. It follows a similar pattern to past issues but, in recognition of the bicentenary, an historical perspective has been included in many chapters.

A special feature is an historical study by Professor Colin Forster and Dr Cameron Hazlehurst entitled 'Australian Statisticians and the Development of Official Statistics'. The study tells of many Australian official statisticians who were among the world leaders in their profession — Archer, Hayter and Coghlan in the second half of the nineteenth century, and Knibbs, Wickens and Wilson in the first half of the twentieth. It also reveals that the first 'year book' produced in an Australian colony — the *Victorian Year Book* for 1873 — 'was a venture which probably had not been attempted elsewhere on an official basis'.

In addition to the special historical study, this *Year Book* contains nineteen briefer special articles prepared by contributors from various organisations, and many of the chapters have been revised and new material added.

More detailed, and in most cases more recent, statistics are available through other ABS dissemination media — printed publications, microfiche, magnetic tapes, floppy diskettes, Viatel, CD-ROM, etc. The *ABS Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) lists all recent and current ABS publications.

I extend my thanks to the many persons from various organisations who have been involved in the preparation of this bicentennial issue of *Year Book Australia*. They have sought to maintain a valuable tradition which has been established in Australia for more than a century, and which was expressed by the Victorian Government Statist, in his Preface to the 1873 *Year Book*, in the following terms:

It will be my endeavor in this succession of volumes to record facts with correctness and impartiality; to comment upon them only so far as may be necessary to elucidate them properly; to set up no theories except such as may be fairly deducible from the materials before me; and, in drawing inferences, to exercise perfect fairness to all sections of the community.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Canberra
June 1988


IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A number of government departments as well as private organisations and bodies have provided information in conjunction with the Australian Bureau of Statistics for inclusion in the *Year Book*.

The Bureau would like to thank the following institutions who either supplied basic material for the various chapters or advised on their preparation.

- A.C.T. Electricity Authority
- A.C.T. Health Authority
- AGL Canberra Limited
- AMDEL Limited
- Attorney-General's Department
- AUSSAT Pty Ltd
- Australia Council
- Australia Post
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- Australian Broadcasting Tribunal
- Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- Australian Customs Service
- Australian Dairy Corporation
- Australian Egg Marketing Council
- Australian Electoral Commission
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Institute of Criminology
- Australian Institute of Marine Science
- Australian International Development Assistance Bureau
- Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation
- Australian Mineral Industries Research Association Limited
- Australian National Railways Commission
- Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
- Australian Road Research Board
- Australian Sports Commission
- Australian Taxation Office
- Australian Wheat Board
- Australian Wool Corporation
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics
- Commonwealth Grants Commission (Professor R. Mathews)
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
 - Division of Building Research
 - Water Resources Committee
- Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission
- Defence Service Homes Corporation
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- Department of Administrative Services
 - Surveying and Land Information Group
- Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories
 - A.C.T. Administration
 - A.C.T. Housing Trust
 - Arts Branch
 - Environment Branch
 - Film Branch
 - Sport and Recreation Division
- Department of Community Services and Health
 - Public Housing Branch
- Department of Defence
- Department of Employment, Education and Training
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Housing (New South Wales)
- Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs
- Department of Industrial Relations
- Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce
- Department of Industry, Technology and Resources (Victoria)
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- Department of Mines (Queensland)
- Department of Mines (Western Australia)
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- Department of Primary Industries and Energy
 - Fisheries Division
 - Forestry Branch
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
 - Australian Bicentennial Authority
- Department of Social Security
- Department of Transport and Communications
- Department of Water Resources (New South Wales)
- Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission, Brisbane
- Engineering and Water Supply Department, Adelaide
- Film Censorship Board
- Industrial Design Council of Australia

Industries Assistance Commission	Queensland Railways
Insurance and Superannuation Commissioner	Queensland Water Resources Commission
Life Insurance Commissioner	Rail Industry Council
Management and Investment Companies Licensing Board	Reserve Bank of Australia
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Victoria	River Murray Commission
National Arts Industry Training Committee	Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Hobart
National Association of Australian State Road Authorities	Rural Water Commission of Victoria
National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia	Services and Investment Limited
National Heart Foundation of Australia	South Australian Housing Trust
National Industry Extension Service	Special Broadcasting Service
National Library of Australia	Standards Association of Australia
National Occupational Health and Safety Commission	State Housing Commission of Western Australia
National Standards Commission	State Rail Authority of New South Wales
Northern Territory Water Authority	State Transport Authority, South Australia
Overseas Telecommunications Commission, Australia	State Transport Authority of Victoria
Queensland Housing Commission	Tasmanian Housing Department
	Telecom Australia
	Victorian Ministry of Housing
	Water Authority of Western Australia
	Westrail

GENERAL INFORMATION

Symbols

The following *symbols*, where shown in columns of figures or elsewhere in tables, mean:

- n.a. not available
- n.y.a. not yet available
- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- n.p. not available for separate publication (but included in totals where applicable)
- p preliminary—figure or series subject to revision
- r figures or series revised since previous issue
- n.e.i. not elsewhere included
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
- n.e.s. not elsewhere specified
- break in continuity of series (where drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)
- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.
m.—males; f.—females; p.—persons.

Other forms of usage

The following *abbreviations* are used for the titles of the Australian States and Territories and Australia: N.S.W. (New South Wales), Vic. (Victoria), Qld (Queensland), W.A. (Western Australia), S.A. (South Australia), Tas. (Tasmania), N.T. (Northern Territory), A.C.T. (Australian Capital Territory), Aust. (Australia).

In general, the *statistics in this volume relate to the States and Territories of Australia*, i.e. they exclude particulars of the External Territories of Australia, which, however, are specifically dealt with in Chapter 27, The Territories of Australia.

Yearly periods shown as e.g. 1986 refer to the year ended 31 December 1986; those shown as e.g. 1985–86 refer to the year ended 30 June 1986. Other yearly periods are specifically indicated. The range of years shown in table headings, e.g. 1901 to 1985–86 indicates the period covered, but does not necessarily imply that each intervening year is included.

Values are shown in Australian dollars (\$) or \$A) or cents (c) unless another currency is specified.

Catalogue numbers. Throughout this book references are made to ABS publications. In each case the catalogue number is shown in brackets; this should be quoted when ordering these publications (*see below*).

Where figures have been rounded, *discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.*

Availability of ABS publications

Information regarding the availability of ABS publications and other products can be obtained from the Information Services Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616, Australia, phone (062) 52 6627, or from ABS offices in any capital city in Australia.

A complete list of ABS publications produced in Canberra and in each of the State Offices is contained in the *ABS Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0) which is available from any ABS office.

In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer printout or clerically extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries may be made by contacting Information Services in the nearest ABS office.



AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIANS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Colin Forster and Cameron Hazlehurst

Colony of
New South Wales

1822

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<i>Imports and Exports</i>	<i>Page</i> 117
<i>Coins, Exchange, &c</i>	<i>Page</i> 121.



Returns of the Colony ("Blue Books"), 1822, (A.O. N.S.W. ref.: 4/251) held by the Archives Office of N.S.W.

In the preparation of this essay, Professor Colin Forster took particular responsibility for the colonial period and Dr Cameron Hazlehurst for the twentieth century. The authors are grateful for the assistance of Ann Mihulka, Rosemary Brissenden, Margot Kerley, Helen Bridge and Carol Flanagan.
