

WHAT'S HAPPENED

since 1788



17.2.1788	Lord Howe Island is first sighted by Henry Lidgbird Ball.
1833- 34	First settlers arrive at Lord Howe on the barque 'Caroline' and establish themselves at Old Settlement Beach.
1873	The Island trading vessel 'Sylph' is lost at sea.
1878	Captain Armstrong appointed as first resident administrator.
1879	Island school is opened with T.B. Wilson as school master.
1882	Visit to the Island of the Bowie Wilson party results in Captain Armstrong's dismissal. Preparations are made to observe the transit of Venus across the sun, and the first photographs of Island life are taken.
1890	Government House is built to accommodate visiting magistrates.
1893	Burns Philp commences a regular steamship service to Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands.
1906	Kentia Palm Seed and Plant Cooperative is set up with 22 Island and three mainland shareholders.
1911 - 12	Two Royal Commissions investigate the palmseed industry and the welfare of Islanders generally. The K.P company is wound up, and Walter Bevan recommends the formation of a Board to manage Island affairs.
1914-18	World War 1 - Nine Islanders volunteer to serve in the armed forces (almost 10 percent of the entire Island population).
1913	The Lord Howe Island Board of Control is established along with a Local Advisory Committee.
1918	Rats invade the Island from the stranded Burns Philp ship 'Makambo'.
1927	Thompson's Store opens.
1929	First morse code message is sent from the newly completed AWA Radio Station by Stan Fenton.
1931	Francis Chichester brings the first airmail to the Island in his Gypsy Moth seaplane, 'Madame Elijah', and is delayed by an accident. Cecil Whiting publishes the Island's first news sheet.
1936	The motor launch 'Viking' is lost at sea with Gower Wilson, his son and three crewmen. The Community Hall is completed.
1939-45	World War 11 - 24 Island residents volunteer to serve in the armed forces.
1940	Gower Wilson Memorial Hospital is constructed. First Superintendent, Mr C.E. Ahrens, is appointed to Lord Howe.

1947	Trans Oceanic Airways commence the first commercial flying boat service to the Island.
1948	RAAF Catalina from Rathmines crashes while trying to make an emergency landing; Islander Roy Wilson is awarded the George Medal for bravery.
1951	Islanders Tom Payten and Bryant Smythe are lost at sea.
1953	The Lord Howe Island Act passes through State Parliament and Islanders get secure land tenure for the first time in 120 years. Islander newspaper 'Signal' commences publication with James Whistler as editor
1960	Lord Howe Islander Rosemary Fenton is crowned Miss Australia.
1962-72	Vietnam War - Two Islanders serve in the armed forces
1974	Last commercial flying boat service terminates as the new airstrip is opened.
1978	Lord Howe Island Museum opens with James Dorman as curator.
1979	A captive breeding programme is established to rescue the Lord Howe Island Woodhen from the brink of extinction.
1981	The Lord Howe Island Amendment passes through Parliament, giving Islanders majority representation on the Island Board for the first time in history.
1982	Lord Howe Island is registered on the United Nations' World Heritage List.
1985	A Regional Environmental Study is completed as a basis for future land management on the Island.
1986	The Regional Environmental Plan is gazetted.
1987	'Signal' ceases publication; 'Sailo' commences with editor Daphne Nichols.
1988	Bicentennial Celebrations take place on Lord Howe Island. The Community Hall is renovated as the major Bicentennial project. Lord Curzon and his wife (descendants of Lord Howe, for whom the Island was first named) visit the Island for Discovery Day - February 17th.

