

where we've come from

# 1960

## JUNE 1

New Zealand television's 'birthday'. Channel 2 in Auckland (AKTV2), broadcasts two hours of programmes in black-and-white from the Shortland Street studios it shares with radio station 1YA.

For the first six weeks programmes are broadcast for **two hours on two nights a week**.

## MID-JULY

Transmission is increased to **four nights a week**.

## AUGUST

A **television licence fee** of £4 a year is introduced (the equivalent of \$138 in December 2004 dollars).

Aucklanders can watch television for **2 ½ hours a night, seven nights a week**.

## APRIL 4

Auckland television goes **commercial**.

## JUNE 1

The Christchurch television channel, CHTV3, makes its debut.

## JULY 1

Official transmission begins on Wellington's WNTV1.

## APRIL 1

NZBS is **restructured** as New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation (NZBC), a Government-owned Corporation.

Auckland receives an outside broadcast van and similar vans are ordered for Wellington and Christchurch.

## JULY 31

Dunedin station DNTV2 goes to air. Television is now in all four main centres and there are 23,343 licensed television sets in New Zealand. The four stations are not linked but play the same programmes on rotation, with some local programmes such as news magazines.

Television reaches one-eighth of the population, with 80,000 licences issued and an estimated **300,000 viewers**.



1960



1961



1962



1963

## MAY

*Coronation Street* first shown on New Zealand television.

## OCTOBER

The **Tokyo Olympics** bring a boom in sales of television sets and TV licences double to 168,000.

The NZBC establishes a **Maori programme section**.

Planning begins for **Avalon**, to be the centre of a twin channel network.

**Four metropolitan stations** now broadcasting seven nights a week for a total of 50 hours.

Television licences total **300,000**.

## MARCH

First episode of *Country Calendar* goes to air.

## NOVEMBER

*C'mon* music show, filmed with live audience and compered by **Peter Sinclair**, makes its television debut.

## APRIL 10

Inter-island ferry *Wahine* is wrecked at the entrance to Wellington Harbour in a violent storm, with the loss of 51 lives. Wellington television crews win the World Newsfilm Award for their coverage.

## JULY 21

**US Apollo II mission** puts astronauts on the moon. New Zealand has no satellite receiver; so RNZAF flies video tape from Sydney to Wellington, and thanks to a temporary microwave link put together by NZBC engineers and technicians, viewers throughout the country see it simultaneously.

## NOVEMBER

**National news network** established. **Dougal Stevenson** reads first bulletin.



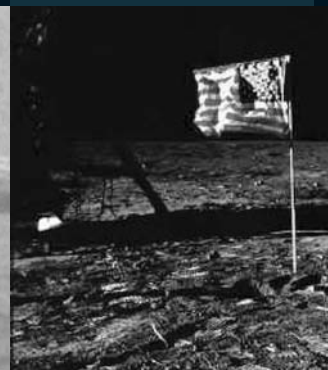
1964



1965



1968



1969

# 70s

**Inaugural Feltex Television Awards.** The Public Affairs award goes to Dr Brian Edwards for his interview with Dr Christiaan Barnard, who performed the world's first heart transplant.

**Warkworth Communications Satellite** opens, linking New Zealand to the rest of the world.

**NOVEMBER**  
**Melbourne Cup** is first live international broadcast.  
  
Radio licence is abolished and **television licence fee** is set at \$20 (= \$221 in 2004).

**SEPTEMBER**  
The **first All Black rugby test** to be covered live – NZ v Australia.

**NOVEMBER**  
Labour wins election. Prime Minister Norman Kirk announces that the **second TV channel** will be operated by the NZBC, not by the private consortium Independent Television Corporation, which had been granted the right to do so by the Broadcasting Authority in March 1972.

**OCTOBER 31**  
**Colour television** arrives. The colour licence fee is \$35 – the equivalent of \$336 in 2004.

**NOVEMBER 14**  
New Zealand viewers watch live coverage of **Princess Anne's wedding** to Captain Mark Philips in Westminster Abbey thanks to Warkworth satellite receiver station.

**DECEMBER**  
The television public is introduced to one of this country's first comedic characters, **Fred Dagg**, played by John Clarke.

Television network converts to the **PAL colour system**.

**JANUARY – FEBRUARY**  
**Commonwealth Games in Christchurch** are NZBC's first big assignment in **colour** for some events, notably track and field, swimming and boxing.

Both main political parties get new leaders. **Robert Muldoon** elected head of National July 9 after resignation of John Marshall, and Wallace (Bill) Rowling (Labour) takes over as Prime Minister after sudden death of Norman Kirk on August 31.



1970



1971



1972



1973

1974

## APRIL 1

Television One begins broadcasting from the new purpose-built **Avalon television centre** in Lower Hutt.

NZBC ceases to exist and its functions are divided between **two competing channels**, **Television One** (Wellington and Dunedin stations), **Television Two** (Auckland and Christchurch). There are two Directors-General: Alan Morris (TV1) and Allan Martin (TV2/South Pacific Television).

## MAY 12

NZ's second 'soap' **Close to Home** goes to air.

## JUNE 30

**Television Two goes to air.**

**Jenny Goodwin** is first woman in Commonwealth to read network news bulletin in prime time on **Two at Seven**.

## JULY 5

One week after it opens, TV2 raises over \$500,000 in the country's first **Telethon**.

## JULY 5

The Muldoon-led National Government, which had been elected in November 1975, **merges all broadcasting services**, including radio, into one corporation, the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand (BCNZ).

## APRIL

The first episode of **Fair Go** goes to air.

## FEBRUARY

**Television New Zealand** is established, and the two previously competing channels become part of a single organisation. South Pacific Television (TV2) ceases operating as a separate organisation and becomes the second channel of Television New Zealand. Auckland-based **Allan Martin** is appointed Director-General of TVNZ with Alan Morris as Deputy Director-General.

**National newsroom** is transferred from Avalon to Auckland.

## FEBRUARY

**The news in Maori, Te Karere**, is established in its own regular slot in the News schedule, following a successful trial the previous year.

## JUNE

After one year on air, **Northern Television** – owned by a consortium of newspapers led by **The New Zealand Herald** – ceases broadcasting morning television programmes.



1975



1976



1977



1980



1983

# 80s

New Zealand television celebrates its first 25 years.

Broadcasting Tribunal awards **third channel** broadcasting warrant to **TV3**.

**Julian Munter** is appointed Director-General of TVNZ.

Work begins on **Auckland Television Centre** on CBD Victoria St site.

Round-the-clock **satellite** access means international news footage is available on demand.

**State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986** requires SOEs to be run as commercially successful businesses.

## MAY/JUNE

TVNZ is host broadcaster for inaugural **Rugby World Cup**.

TVNZ braces itself for expected fierce competition from the **privately-owned TV3**, which has successfully bid to run **third channel**. **TV ONE News** is moved back half an hour to **6pm**. Huge pressure for new **Auckland TVNZ headquarters** to be fully operational before TV3 goes to air – staff begin moving in before construction is completed.

## DECEMBER 1

**BCNZ** is split to form two new broadcasting State-Owned Enterprises: **Television New Zealand Limited** and **Radio New Zealand Limited**. Party held on roof of the new Auckland Television Centre to celebrate 'SOE Day'.

**Avalon** becomes separate subsidiary of TVNZ.

## JULY 26

Labour Government elected. **David Lange** is Prime Minister.



1984



1985



1987



1988

# 90s

## APRIL 3

**Paul Holmes** makes his television debut on *Holmes*.

## JULY 1

**Broadcasting Act 1989** comes into force, removing restrictions on entry to broadcasting markets. Establishment of **Broadcasting Commission**, one of whose functions is to collect the **Public Broadcasting Fee** of \$110 (the equivalent of \$159 in 2004 dollars) per household.

**Dunedin** station closes down except for **Natural History Unit**.

## NOVEMBER 27

**TV3 goes to air** five months later than originally scheduled, missing peak advertising audiences. It was up against hit shows like *Sale of the Century* and *Wheel of Fortune* as well as TVNZ's new star Paul Holmes.

## JANUARY 1

**Avalon** is formed into separate limited liability company.

## JANUARY

TVNZ is host broadcaster for **Commonwealth Games in Auckland**.

## FEBRUARY 5

**Queen Elizabeth II** officially opens Auckland Television Centre.

## MAY

**TV3 goes into receivership** and is run in receivership for 18 months.

Launch of **Sky Television** network (three channels), New Zealand's first pay TV service, in which TVNZ has 35% share. Private consortium, **CTV**, takes over TVNZ's Christchurch assets and 30 staff. The majority of operational staff are laid off, but news and support staff continue.

National Government removes media ownership restrictions and Canadian media company **CanWest** takes 20% share and management control of **TV3**.

TVNZ becomes an **independent satellite operator**, relinquishing Telecom contract for satellite facilities and installing its own earth station on the roof of the Auckland Television Centre.

## MAY 25

First episode of *Shortland Street* goes to air.

**TV2 begins 24-hour, seven-day coverage.**



1989



1990



1992

1994

**ONE Network News** is extended to one hour and Holmes moves to 7pm.

**Horizon Pacific Television**, TVNZ's regional network, launched. In Christchurch it takes over CTV name and studios. Two years later Horizon Pacific closes due to lack of profitability.

**Te Mangai Paho** established, having evolved from Maori broadcasting funding agency that began two years previously.

**CanWest** increases its stake to **100% ownership of TV3** and launches a second channel, TV4, targeting the youth market.

TVNZ begins broadcasting **MTV** music channel.

TVNZ **sells 80%** of Dunedin-based **Natural History Unit** to Fox Television Studios.

Remaining 20% of Natural History Unit acquired by **Fox**. As **NHNZ**, it will become one of the world's leading producers of factual programmes.

## JULY 1

Government announces **Public Broadcasting Fee** (held at \$110 for the last decade) to be phased out over next 12 months.

## SEPTEMBER 9 – 13

**APEC Summit** held in Auckland is New Zealand's biggest news event, and the biggest covered by TVNZ as host broadcaster. Twenty-one heads of Government attend, including US President Bill Clinton, Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

**TVNZ sells shareholding** in Sky TV.

## NOVEMBER

**Change of Government.** Labour, led by **Helen Clark**, takes office in coalition with Alliance and Green parties.

## FEBRUARY

TVNZ is host broadcaster for **America's Cup 2000 series**, sailed in Auckland.

## MARCH

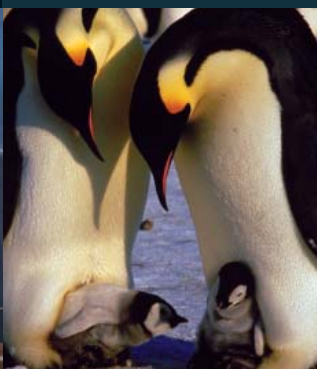
TVNZ launches internet portal, **nzoom.com**.

## JULY 1

Year-long phase-out of Public Broadcasting Fee completed.



1995



1997



1998



1999



2000

# 2005

*What Now?*, celebrates 20 years of entertaining and educating Kiwi kids.

Consumer watchdog *Fair Go* celebrates its 25th season.

TV ONE and TV2 are retransmitted on SKY's satellite digital platform.

## SEPTEMBER 11

Terrorists fly planes into twin towers of World Trade Centre in New York. TVNZ runs uninterrupted coverage for 36 hours.

## MARCH

The New Zealand Television Archive building in Lower Hutt opens.

## APRIL 29

Ian Fraser takes over as CEO of TVNZ.

## MAY 25

*Shortland Street*, New Zealand's longest-running local drama, celebrates its first 10 years.

Server-based newsroom goes live.

## JANUARY

TVNZ is host broadcaster for 2003 America's Cup.

## FEBRUARY

TVNZ established as a Crown Owned Company.

## MARCH 1

TVNZ Charter is officially adopted, emphasising the company's role as a public broadcaster.

Advertising revenue in 2003 passes \$300 million for the first time.

## MARCH 28

At dawn, Maori Television, New Zealand's first national Maori channel, begins official broadcasts.

Transmission Holdings Limited separates from TVNZ to become new SOE.

TVNZ Satellite Services Limited is wound down in response to cheaper methods of transmitting data globally.

Competition increases in the 7pm current affairs slot: Paul Holmes leaves TVNZ after 16 years presenting *Holmes* and launches *Paul Holmes on Prime*; *Close Up* replaces *Holmes* on One, with Susan Wood as presenter; TV3 launches *Campbell Live*, with John Campbell moving from news to front the new programme.

Avalon achieves 30 years of production.

New Zealand television achieves 45 years on air.



2001

2002

2003

2004

2005