

80s entertainment

1980

- The [Gold Logie](#) for the most popular personality on TV goes to Mike Walsh of *The Mike Walsh Show*, Nine Network (14 March)
- *Sale of the century*, a new quiz show hosted by Tony Barber and Victoria Nicholls, starts on Nine and becomes the big hit of the year (14 July)
- [Rubik's Cube](#) launched (26 July)
- American film *Star Wars Episode V: The Empire strikes back* released in Australia (7 August)
- *TV Times* and *TV Guide* magazines are amalgamated into *TV week* (August)
- Australian miniseries *The Last Outlaw* screens on the Seven network (18 October)
- Sony Walkman launched in USA
- Australian miniseries *Water under the Bridge* screens on Ten
- Ten's big budget series *Arcade* is axed after six weeks on-air with disastrous ratings
- Atari licenses a home version of the popular video arcade game *Space Invaders*

1981

- *Dynasty* premieres in the US (January)
- American film *Raging Bull* (1980, USA) released in Australia (26 February)
- *Good Morning Australia*, with Gordon Elliot and Sue Kellaway (later replaced by Kerri-Ann Kennerley) premieres on Ten (3 March)
- The TV Week Logie Awards televised for the first time. The Gold Logie for the Most Popular Personality on TV goes to Bert Newton of *The Don Lane Show* and *New Faces*, Nine (10 April)
- Federal government introduces the [TOBA](#) tax concession to encourage investment in film and television productions (June)
- *Wheel of Fortune*, produced by Grundy Productions, premieres (27 July)
- American film *Raiders of the Lost Ark* released in Australia (14 August)
- British film *Chariots of Fire* released in Australia (24 September)
- Seven premieres its new evening drama *A Country Practice* (November)
- Australian film *Mad Max 2* released in Australia (24 December)
- VCRs become available

1982

- Seven premieres its new evening series *Sons and Daughters*. The show becomes an immediate success in Australia and overseas and runs for six years (17 January)
- Nine launches the early morning news program *National News Today*, later renamed *Today* (February)
- Nine, Seven and ABC test transmission of sound in stereo (February)
- Jana Wendt joins *60 minutes* team as its first female reporter (February)

- The Gold Logie for the Most Popular Personality on TV goes to Bert Newton of *The Don Lane Show*, Nine Network (12 March)
- Australian film *Heatwave* released (March)
- American film *ET: The Extra Terrestrial* released in Australia (26 November)
- Australian film *Puberty Blues* released in Australia (December)
- American film *Blade Runner* released in Australia (16 December)

1983

- *The Sullivans* final episode airs on Nine (10 March)
- After a recording-breaking 1396 episodes, Nine's *The Young Doctors* ends (30 March)
- The Gold Logie for the Most Popular Personality on TV goes to Daryl Somers of *Hey Hey It's Saturday*, Nine Network (22 April)
- *The Eurovision Song Contest* has its Australian TV debut on Channel 0/28 (24 April)
- Sydney Entertainment Centre officially opens (1 May)
- Australian film *Goodbye Paradise* released (July)
- Australian film *Going Down* released in Australia (July)
- The Seven Network and selected regional stations make a two-hour test broadcast of movies and programs in 3D (29 October)
- American film *Star Wars VI: The Return of the Jedi* released in Australia (27 October)
- American action/comedy series *The A-Team* launched and becomes international hit

1984

- Ten's new afternoon dating show *Perfect Match* records the highest ratings ever for the 5.30 pm timeslot (30 January)
- Ten hosts Australia's first national telethon, a 26-hour broadcast, to raise funds for Australia's Olympic athletes (3 February)
- American film *The Big Chill* (1983, USA) released in Australia (23 February)
- The Gold Logie for the Most Popular Personality on TV goes to Bert Newton of *The Don Lane Show*, Nine Network (6 April)
- Australian film *Razorback* (Australian) released in Australia (April)
- Australian film *One Night Stand* released in Australia (April)
- American film *Ghostbusters* released in Australia (15 November)
- American film *Sixteen Candles* released in Australia (13 December)

1985

- Award-winning actor [Paul Hogan](#) named Australian of the Year (26 January)
- British film *The Killing Fields* (1984, UK) released in Australia (14 February)
- *Neighbours* screens on Seven for six months, then picked up by Ten after being axed (18 March)
- *This is Spinal Tap* (1984 USA) released in Australia (28 March)
- ABC TV launches the ill-fated hour long national news bulletin, *The National* (March)
- The Gold Logie for the Most Popular Personality on TV goes to Rowena Wallace of *Sons and Daughters*, Seven Network (26 April)
- American film *The Breakfast Club* released in Australia (2 May)

- SBS expands to Brisbane, Adelaide, Gold Coast, Wollongong and Newcastle (30 June)
- American film *Nightmare on Elm Street* (1984, USA) released in Australia (1 August)
- American film *Back to the Future* released in Australia (15 August)
- Australian film *Bliss* released in Australia (September)
- American film star Rock Hudson dies from AIDS-related illness (2 October)
- Brazilian/American film *Kiss of the Spider Woman* released in Australia (20 December)

1986

- *Neighbours* screens on Ten and soon dominates the 7.00 pm timeslot (20 January)
- SBS expands to Perth and Hobart (16 March)
- *The Movie Show* begins on SBS (March)
- The Gold Logie for the Most Popular Personality on TV goes to Daryl Somers of *Hey Hey It's Saturday*, Nine Network (18 April)
- American film *Pretty in Pink* released in Australia (8 May)
- American film *The Colour Purple* (1985, USA) released in Australia (26 June)
- *Ferris Buellher's Day Off* (1985, USA) released in Australia (21 August)
- Paul Hogan's comedy film *Crocodile Dundee* released in Australia (26 September)
- *Neighbours* screens for the first time on the BBC in UK (27 October)
- Australian film *Dogs in Space* released in Australia (December)

1987

- American film *Blue Velvet* (1986, USA) released in Australia (26 February)
- Sydney-based Fairfax Group buys HSV7 from *The Herald and Weekly Times*. Soon after virtually all Melbourne-based programming of HSV7 is axed in favour of networked programming from Sydney. *Seven National News* is snubbed by Melbourne viewers, with ratings as low as zero (March)
- The Gold Logie for the Most Popular Personality on TV goes to Ray Martin of *Middy*, Nine Network (3 April)
- Wedding of Charlene Ramsay (Kylie Minogue) and Scott Robinson (Jason Donovan) screened on *Neighbours* (1 July)
- Australian film *High Tide* released in Australia (July)
- *Simon Townsend's Wonder World*, Ten's magazine-style top-rating children's show, finishes after 2000 episodes over eight years (3 September)
- *Burke's Backyard*, the first of a long line of prime-time 'infotainment' programs on commercial television, premieres on Nine (September)
- Australian film *The Year My Voice Broke* released in Australia (October)
- American film *The Princess Bride* released in Australia (3 December)
- The joint American and Japanese production of animated TV series, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, premieres on Australian TV (27 December)
- American film *Fatal Attraction* released in Australia (31 December)

1988

- *Imparja* Television, begins transmission to outback regions in the Northern Territory and South Australia through the AUSSAT satellites (1 January)
- Seven launches its new evening soap *Home and Away* (17 January)

- *The Comedy Company* is launched on Ten, marking a revival of high rating [Australian comedy](#) on TV (16 February)
- American film *Wall Street* (1987, USA) released in Australia (25 February)
- The Gold Logie for the Most Popular Personality on TV goes to Kylie Minogue of *Neighbours*, Network Ten (11 March)
- German film *Wings of Desire* (1987, Germany) released in Australia (31 March)
- American film *Moonstruck* (1987, USA), released in Australia (10 March)
- Australian film *Shame* released in Australia (June)
- American/British film *A Fish Called Wanda* released in Australia (10 November)

1989

- American film *Dangerous Liaisons* (1983, USA) released in Australia (9 March)
- The Gold Logie for the Most Popular Personality on TV goes to Daryl Somers of *Hey Hey It's Saturday*, Seven Network (17 March)
- Nine's *Midday with Ray Martin* continues enjoying top ratings, despite, Seven's launch of *The Bert Newton Show* and *The Power and the Passion* (20 March)
- Southern NSW becomes the first aggregated television market, with three local networks: Prime (affiliated to the Seven Network), WIN (Nine) and Capital (Ten) (31 March)
- [Game Boy](#), a handheld video game device developed and manufactured by Nintendo, released in Japan (21 April)
- ABC premieres its acclaimed medical drama, *GP*, which runs for eight years (July)
- American film *Field of Dreams* released in Australia (31 August)
- American film *When Harry Met Sally* released in Australia (19 October)
- American film *Sex, Lies and Videotape* released in Australia (30 November)