

## 80s fads and fashion

### 1980

- [‘Je suis mod’ dress](#), showing the influence of the punk aesthetic, designed by Australian designer Jenny Bannister
- [Sony’s walkman](#), a stereo portable cassette tape player, first launched in the US
- [Rubik’s Cube](#) launched by Ideal Toys (May)

### 1981

- Italian designer [Ettore Sottsass](#) and writer Barbara Radice launch the Memphis group in Milan
- English fashion designer and punk pioneer Vivienne Westwood launches her fashion label in London
- [Elizabethan 80s-style evening gown](#) designed by English Fashion designer Zandra Rhodes
- [‘Bran cusi’ mini dress](#) designed by Katie Pye in Sydney
- Japanese video game Pac-Man becomes available in US arcades
- [Royal wedding](#) of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer is watched by millions around the world; in Australia the wedding is televised on ABC and every commercial television station (29 July)

### 1982

- [‘Opal Passion’ outfit](#) designed by Australian designers Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson
- The *Trivial Pursuit* board game is released and quickly becomes an 80s fad
- [The Cabbage Patch Kid](#) is mass produced by Coleco in the US. It soon becomes one of the most popular toy fads of the 80s
- Jane Fonda releases her first workout video (April)

### 1983

- Japanese fashion designer Rei Kawakubo champions black as a colour for both day and night, challenging traditional notions of glamour in designs for the [Comme des Garçons label](#)
- Karl Lagerfeld uses Australian designer Jenny Kee’s [black opal print](#) as feature fabric in his collection for Chanel
- The Swatch watch, known as ‘fashion that ticks’, is introduced into the market
- *My Little Pony*, a line of colourful toy ponies, is launched
- The Prince and Princess of Wales together with their first son, Prince William, begin their [Royal visit](#) to Australia. The young Diana struck a chord with people around the world, creating the Diana phenomenon (20 March)

## 1984

- The must-have party frock of the 80s designed by Sydney-based fashion label [Studibaker Hawk](#)
- [Stripes and flowers women's outfit](#) designed by Australian designer Stuart Membery
- [Spiked vest](#) designed by Melbourne-based jewellery designer Michael Anderson
- [Stainless steel and titanium neckring kit](#) designed by Australian jewellery designer David Walker
- Stonewashed jeans first introduced
- *Thomas the Tank Engine* premières in the UK and soon becomes a worldwide television and merchandising phenomenon
- *Newsweek* declares 1984 as the year of the yuppie (31 December)

## 1985

- [Gold and black gown](#) designed by French designer Thierry Mugler
- 'Stay Alive in 1985' T-shirt designed by Katherine Hamnett, England
- [YSL evening gown](#) designed by Yves St Laurent in 1985
- American singer, Madonna, named by *The Edge* as woman of the decade (February)

## 1986

- [Mouse shoes](#) designed by Japanese shoe designer Tokio Kumagai

## 1987

- 'Aboriginal Paisley' [cotton jersey](#) designed by Bronwyn Bancroft, one of the most successful Aboriginal artists and designers in Australia
- The bulky and expensive [Telecom Walkabout mobile phone](#) becomes available in Australia — the ultimate status symbol in the 80s

## 1988

- [Hammer pants](#) worn by RAT Party organiser Jac Vidgen

## 1989

- 'New Age Business Suit' designed by Australian designer Peter Tully