

80s music

1980

- The Birthday Party, one of the most important Australian bands of the post-punk era, leaves Melbourne for London
- New Zealand band Split Enz releases the *True Colours* album
- Sydney band, Mental as Anything, wins Gold Record Award for their second album, *Espresso Bongo*
- [AC/DC](#) singer Bon Scott dies (19 February)
- The English rock band Police plays at the Hordern Pavilion in Sydney (March)
- Radio station Double Jay becomes 2JJJ-FM. Throughout the 80s ABC's 2JJJ supports Sydney's local live scene by spreading information about gigs and broadcasting live concerts (1 August)
- First issue of music magazine *On the Street* published (3 October)
- Former [Beatle](#) John Lennon murdered (8 December)

1981

- Suburban pub rock group Hunters and Collectors forms in Melbourne

1982

- Scottish rock band Simple Minds tours Australia
- Australian rock 'n' roll band Hoodoo Gurus releases their first single, 'Leilani'
- American rock musician, Billy Joel's *52nd Street* is the first album to be released on CD (1 October)
- Michael Jackson releases *Thriller*, the biggest selling album ever (30 November)

1983

- The UK band Culture Club releases its *Colour by Numbers* album
- British singer David Bowie releases his hugely successful *Let's Dance* album and brings his Serious Moonlight tour to Australia.
- Melbourne pub-rock band Men at work release their debut album, *Business as Usual*, gaining number 1 position in America and England
- Melbourne band Divinyls wins platinum award for their album, *Desperate*.
- [The Pavarotti-Sutherland concert](#) at the Opera House is watched by an estimated TV audience of 10 million in the US and Australasia (23 January)
- Michael Jackson's performs his signature dance, the moonwalk, for the first time while performing 'Billie Jean' on US television (25 March)
- Sydney Entertainment Centre officially opens with a concert by Peter Allen, Roger Woodward, Tommy Tycho and Bert Newton (1 May)
- American singer Madonna releases her first single 'Burning Up'

1984

- American post-punk band Violent Femmes tours Australia and plays in small venues
- Final Narara Music Festival on Central Coast, NSW, features INXS, Simple Minds, Pretenders, Talking Heads, Eurythmics and Def Leppard (27–30 January)
- British singer Elton John marries Renate Blauel in Sydney (14 February)
- The British and Irish supergroup Band-Aid releases 'Do They Know It's Christmas? (Feed the World)' to raise money for famine relief in Ethiopia (November)

1985

- Australian rock 'n' roll band Hoodoo Gurus releases their *Mars Needs Guitars* album

1986

- The Logie Awards' first Silver Logie for Most Popular Music Video goes to 'What You Need' by INXS. This category runs from 1986 to 1993 (18 April)

1987

- Michael Jackson releases his *Bad* album
- 'Beds Are Burning', released by Australian band Midnight Oil, becomes a huge hit in USA
- Singer [John Farnham](#) named Australian of the Year (26 January)
- The Silver Logie for Most Popular Music Video goes to 'You're the Voice' by John Farnham (3 April)
- ABC launches its overnight music video program *Rage*. Weeks later, Ten starts a similar program *Nightshift* and Nine, *MTV* (April)
- [Countdown](#) ends after 13 years on ABC (19 July)
- Kylie Minogue releases her first single 'Locomotion' (July)

1988

- The Silver Logie for Most Popular Music Video goes to 'Locomotion' by Kylie Minogue (11 March)
- Kylie Minogue's album *Kylie* becomes all-time highest selling debut album in UK (August)

1989

- The Silver Logie for the Most Popular Music Video goes to 'Age Of Reason' by John Farnham (17 March)