

NORFOLK ISLAND AND PACIFIC-RELATED CHRONOLOGY TABLE

3 million years ago	Norfolk Island and neighbouring smaller islands formed by volcanic activity – probably Mt Pitt/Mt Bates, Ball Bay and Phillip Island were the vents for the lava. The island has been reduced by as much as two thirds its original size by erosion and general weathering since then
Between A.D. 1000-1400	In this period, on the basis of introduced plants and discovered artefacts, at least one Eastern Polynesian group arrived at Norfolk Island, likely from the Cook or Society Islands or North Island of New Zealand. Because no identifiable Polynesian burial grounds or human remains have been discovered, it has long been thought that these people were transitory, with none staying long. However, more recent archaeological evidence points to Polynesian settlement lasting a considerable period. Material from site excavations in the Kingston area is still being analysed, but interim interpretation of evidence suggests Polynesian occupancy of the area for a long period, perhaps from about the 11th /12th centuries AD until possibly as late as the early 1700s.
Between A.D. 1400-1774	Possibly another Polynesian group arrived, most likely from the South Island of New Zealand. Plantains, a type of banana, were established in the Kingston area by the first or second groups [see entry 1788 27 April – Phillip Gidley King’s discoveries], and possibly the Polynesian rat, one of the few Polynesian sources of meat, was introduced.
1520	Ferdinand Magellan the first European to cross the Pacific Ocean during the first circumnavigation of the world.
1522	Portuguese explorer Cristovao de Mendonca probably the first European to sight Australia, somewhere along the Great Barrier Reef, enough of a difficult navigational problem to avoid and swing north towards the Dutch East Indies.
1606-1696	Succession of Dutch, Portuguese and English explorers including Jantz, Hartog, Carstenz, Tasman and Dampier visit parts of Australia. For various reasons, such explorations more or less discontinued for nearly a hundred years after this period.
1663 2 Jan	Iliam Dhône (“Brown William”), great-great-grandfather of Fletcher Christian, executed for leading a mutinous revolt (the Manx Rebellion of 1651) against the English rule of the Isle of Man. Dhone is a controversial figure in Manx history, some view him as a traitor, while others view him as a patriotic martyr who stood up for rights of the Manx people.
1728	James Cook born in Marton-in-Cleveland, Yorkshire. His father was a Scottish farm labourer, who apprenticed James to a grocer at age 17. After eighteen months, Cook insisted on an apprenticeship to a coal shipping company at Whitby. At 27 years of age, Cook joined the Royal Navy, ranked Able Seaman. Within two years, his ability and intelligence saw him appointed Master of <i>H.M.S. Solebay</i> .
1754 9 Sep	William Bligh born Plymouth, Devonshire, England.
1764 25 Sep	Fletcher Christian born Moorland Close, Cumbria, England.
1767	Pitcairn Island first sighted by a European: Capt Philip Carteret, who was on a Royal Navy exploratory voyage to circumnavigate the

2 July	world. Because of shortcomings in navigational methods at the time, the island was recorded as being about 300 km west of its actual position. Carteret found no inhabitants but considerable evidence of earlier settlement including Polynesian marae (village centre) sites, introduced food plants and great numbers of artefacts.
1768-71	Capt James Cook's first Pacific voyage: observes transit of Venus at Tahiti, circumnavigates and charts New Zealand and east coast of Australia. While in Tahiti, Tupaia, a Tahitian, draws Cook a navigational diagram showing the positions of 74 islands centred on the Society Islands, proving that Polynesians had considerable knowledge of both near and distant island groups, probably from far-reaching accidental and deliberate exploratory and settlement canoe voyages in preceding centuries when all the islands in Polynesia were colonised.
1772-1775	James Cook's second Pacific voyage, during which he circumnavigated the Antarctic continent and sighted Easter Island, New Caledonia and Norfolk Island. The exploratory expedition comprised two fairly new ships, the <i>Resolution</i> (462 tons), and the <i>Adventure</i> (340 tons), both built by Fishburn at Whitby, and purchased by the Navy Board for Cook's voyage. Cook commanded <i>Resolution</i> , while his second-in-command, Captain Tobias Furneaux, commanded the <i>Adventure</i> . The reasoning behind sending two vessels was that Cook's first Pacific voyage in the unaccompanied <i>Endeavour</i> had on several occasions come close to disaster while sailing in the uncharted waters, without any hope of assistance. Cook described the <i>Resolution</i> as "the ship of my choice and as I thought the fittest for the Service she was going upon of any I had ever seen". The two ships accompanied one another over long sections of the expedition. <i>Resolution</i> carried a total of 118 persons aboard, including 20 marines and about 40 able-bodied seamen.
1774 10 Oct	James Cook discovers Norfolk Island. His journal entry on Tuesday 11th 1774 records " <i>I took possession of this Isle as I had done of all the others we had discovered, and named it Norfolk Isle, in honour of that noble family</i> " – (Cook's Journal). The Duke of Norfolk is the head of the Howard family, an important branch of the English aristocracy, but it is recorded that " <i>It was called Norfolk-Isle, in honour of the Duchess of Norfolk, who recommended it to Capt. Cook to have one Isle named after her</i> " – (Journal of Johann Forster, Cook's naturalist).
1775	Lexington, near Boston, first action of American War of Independence, as rebels retreat from British forces. A steady stream of British convicts had been transported to labour in the American and the West Indian plantations from the 1650s onwards, and the flow was stepped up from 1717 under a new law which made minor offences punishable by seven years' transportation. Between 1717 and the 1770s, at least 40,000 British felons went to the Americas in a disguised form of slavery, and jailers and shipping contractors traded profitably in the labour of convict transportees. This situation suddenly ceased with the rebellion of the American colonies and a new place to empty England's bursting jails had to be found.
1776 12 July	James Cook's third Pacific voyage: he sets sail from Plymouth. Commanding two ships, <i>Resolution</i> and <i>Discovery</i> , Cook's purposes were to return the Tahitian Omai to his homeland and to search for a sea passage across the top of the American continent. Omai (more correctly "Mai") was a Tahitian who had volunteered to go to England with Capt Tobias Furneaux, commander of <i>Adventure</i> on Cook's second Pacific voyage. As the first "South Sea Islander" to be seen in Europe, Omai had spent two years in England, creating a sensation and impressing all who met him (including King George III), with his intelligence, good humour and dignity. The effect of his visit was to create enormous interest in his home islands and the South Seas and directly resulted in the Bounty crew being entirely formed from volunteers, almost certainly the first Royal Navy ship ever to sail without any crew having been forcibly "pressed" into service by the infamous Navy press-gangs.
1779 14 Feb	James Cook killed by Hawaiians at Kealakekua Bay, Hawaii, after a dispute over a stolen boat escalated into fighting on the beach. Due to the illness of Lieutenants Clark and King, William Bligh, as Sailing Master on the <i>Resolution</i> , assumed command of the <i>Resolution</i> and <i>Discovery</i> . At the Navy enquiry into the incident, Bligh's evidence seemed to conflict with other crew members and the suggestion was raised that Bligh's actions at the confrontation with the Hawaiians on the beach may actually have contributed towards Cook's death.
1787 13	Later to become known as the "First Fleet", eleven ships under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip, whose flagship was <i>H.M.S. Sirius</i> , sail from Spithead (Portsmouth) for Botany Bay, N.S.W. in a planned expedition to make the land of Australia a penal settlement.

May	
1787 23 Dec	Under the command of William Bligh, <i>H.M. Armed Vessel Bounty</i> , with 46 men and boys aboard, leaves Spithead, Portsmouth, to collect breadfruit plants from Tahiti to replant in the West Indies to provide a cheap food for sugar plantation slaves.
1788 19 Jan	First Fleet arrives at Botany Bay, Sydney. Phillip decides site not best for settlement so explores the vicinity in a small boat before deciding on an alternative.
1788 26 Jan	First Fleet finally anchors at Sydney Cove, Port Jackson. By 28 January, all convicts have disembarked.
1788 14 Feb	Lt Philip Gidley King, accompanied by 22 people including 9 male and 6 female convicts, leaves Sydney in <i>H.M. Brig Supply</i> to establish a settlement at Norfolk Island. During the voyage, an unknown island was discovered which Lieutenant Ball, commander of the <i>Supply</i> , named after Lord Howe, the First Lord of the Admiralty.
1788 29 Feb	King's party sights land; Phillip Island, the small island off the coast of Norfolk, named after Governor Arthur Phillip. In looking for a landing place, Ball Bay also named after Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball, Commander of the <i>Supply</i> .
1788 4 Mar	Exploratory party lands at Duncomb Bay, Norfolk Island. King, Jamison (surgeon's mate of <i>Sirius</i>), Callam (surgeon of <i>Supply</i>), Cunningham (master's mate of <i>Sirius</i>), and one of the <i>Supply</i> 's marines proceed to fight their way across country towards Anson Bay to see if a landing was practicable there. They found "ye woods so very thick, and so much underwood, which was rendered still worse by a large kind of supple-jack, which formed such an impenetrable network thro' which we had to cut our way" (King's Journal). In the process, Callam was separated from the others and got lost. While they went on and were taken back aboard the <i>Supply</i> , Surgeon Callam was forced to sleep on the island overnight, the first European known to have done so.
1788 6 Mar	After more unsuccessful efforts to land on May 5, King finally finds a passage through the reef at Sydney Bay, Norfolk Island (later called Kingstown, finally Kingston), and in two boats, landed "with great ease" all the men, most of the stores and provisions and immediately set the men to work making a clearing in which to set up tents. This date is now celebrated on Norfolk as Foundation Day. So began what is known as the First Settlement, the first European settlement at Norfolk Island, a new dumping ground for the worst occupants of England's overcrowded prisons. The First Settlement, although brutal enough, differed from the inhumanity and sadism which marked the Second Settlement as a shameful part of British history. Women convicts were sent out and free settlers encouraged; children were born out of unions between convicts (Captain John Piper, commandant of the settlement in 1804, took Mary Ann Shears, daughter of two emancipated convicts, as his mistress, later wife). No women convicts were allowed during the Second Settlement.
1788 27 Apr	King's journal records that he discovered plantain (a type of banana) trees in Arthur's Vale at Kingston, indicating previous habitation of the island. Other finds by King included worked stone artefacts, the remains of a small canoe and a small carving. One of the artefacts was identified by Tuki and Huru, the two Maori men kidnapped from New Zealand [see 1792 29 Oct entry], as being a stone axe of New Zealand origin.
1788 27 Apr	The ship <i>Golden Grove</i> sails from Sydney bringing the second group of 42 settlers for Norfolk..
1788 2 Oct	<i>Bounty</i> anchors at Matavai Bay, Tahiti
1789 Jan	On Norfolk, King learns from a convict gardener of a scheme to overthrow authority. Most of the plotters are ordered to carry on with normal duties, the leader being sent to Sydney for trial, and other ring-leaders put into irons.
1789 8 Jan	Norfolk: Ann Inett, Gidley King's convict mistress, gives birth to a son, the first European to be born on Norfolk Island, whom King names Norfolk King. Inett later bore King another child, who was named Sydney. Fortunately, Inett was later pardoned by King after she married a convict and the pair returned to England.
1789 4 Apr	<i>Bounty</i> leaves Tahiti with a full cargo of breadfruit plants after 5 months' stay, during which time crew and officers had made strong friendships with Tahitians and shipboard discipline had become lax. The ship was so filled with breadfruit plants that one witness described it as "a floating jungle".

1789 26 Feb	A devastating cyclone struck Norfolk Island at midnight, the wind felling huge trees and torrential rain destroying crops and stores. Because King had ordered that all the trees be cleared from around the camp at Kingston so that no hiding places were available to convicts, no-one was killed in the destruction (the 1789 attempt by convicts to take over the settlement was based on convicts hiding in scrub near the camp and ambushing the officers).
1789 5 Apr	Convict Thomas Jones completes his sentence and chooses to remain on Norfolk Island as a free settler, setting a precedent many would follow.
1789 28 Apr	“Just before Sun Rise the People Mutinied, seized me while asleep in my Cabbin tied my Hands behind my back – carried me on Deck in my Shirt – Put 18 of the Crew into the Launch and me after them and set us adrift”. So Captain William Bligh wrote in his log in the <i>Bounty</i> 's 23 foot (7 metre) open launch near the island of Tofua, in Tonga's Ha'apai island group. Some Bligh loyalists were unable to go in the launch because it was already dangerously overloaded. Twenty-five men were left on the <i>Bounty</i> , only ten of whom would be brought to trial.
1789 14 Jun	<i>Bounty</i> 's launch arrives at Kupang in Dutch Timor. In 47 days, with minimal navigational aids, Bligh had completed one of the great maritime feats by sailing 3,900 miles (6300 km) from Tofua, Tonga to Timor in an open boat. Bligh's leadership and courage (and stubbornness, a characteristic he was known for) ensured that only one life was lost during the epic voyage - that of John Norton, who was killed by islanders at Tofua when a party went ashore for water. However, some of the sailors were later to die from the effects of the voyage.
1789 7 Jun	Mutineers arrive back at Tahiti in the <i>Bounty</i> after deciding to settle at Tubuai in the Austral group, about 480 km from Tahiti. At Tahiti, they take on livestock and food and some 28 Tahitian men and women (dumping the breadfruit to make room), and head south again to Tubuai. They build a small fort named Fort George (after King George III) but the attempted settlement fails because of friction erupting into warfare between mutineers and islanders.
1789 10 Feb	A vote taken amongst the mutineers resulted in a decision to leave Tubuai and return to Tahiti
1789 17 Sep	<i>Bounty</i> sails from Tubuai for Tahiti
1789 23 Sep	Nine mutineers sail from Tahiti, knowingly taking 3 Polynesian men, 19 women and one female child (“Sully”, a full-blooded Tahitian daughter of Teio and an unknown Tahitian father). During a drinking party onboard <i>Bounty</i> , Christian quietly slipped anchor, without the Polynesians realising until it was too late that the ship was leaving. One woman jumped overboard and swam a considerable distance to shore. Six of the women, considered “rather ancient”, were put ashore at Moorea. Another three stowaway Polynesian men were found, and fatefully for the future stability of the group, Christian allowed them to remain aboard. This meant that there were fifteen men (nine European, six Polynesian) and only twelve women. Christian and the mutineers sailed west from Tahiti towards Fiji, discovering Rarotonga in the Cook Islands on the way (October 1789). Christian realised that populated islands would not be safe and decided after careful study of Bligh's charts that Pitcairn's Island, being uninhabited, remote and with difficult landing, would be ideal. The mutineers then sailed back 2,000 miles (3220 km) the way they had come.
1790s	During this final decade of the Eighteenth century, Polynesian populations were decimated by introduced diseases such as tuberculosis, typhus, measles, smallpox and venereal diseases, to which there was no natural resistance. In some cases, populations were reduced by as much as 80%. Island cultures began a parallel rapid slide of deterioration due to the powerful and pervasive influence of missionaries, traders, whalers and settlers. William Bligh on his second breadfruit expedition to Tahiti in 1791 noticed and commented on the huge changes to the Tahitian culture, language, and behaviour which had occurred in the brief two years since he was last there.
1790 Jan	Second Fleet, consisting of six ships carrying 1006 convicts, sails from England, bound for NSW.
1790 15 Jan	<i>Bounty</i> reaches Pitcairn, some 8½ months and nearly 8,000 miles (13,000 km) of sailing after the mutiny. Heavy weather prevented a landing.
1790	Christian, Brown, Williams, McCoy and 3 Polynesians land and spend 2 days on Pitcairn.

18 Jan	
1790 23 Jan	<i>Bounty</i> stripped of all stores and useful materials and burned in Bounty Bay, Pitcairn Island. Tradition has it that a drunken Matthew Quintal set fire to the ship. Those who landed and settled at Pitcairn were: Fletcher Christian (with first consort Mauatua); Edward Young (first consort Teraura); John Adams (first consort Obuarei); William Brown (first consort Teatuahitea); William McCoy (first consort Teio); John Mills (first consort Vahineatua); Isaac Martin (first consort Teehuteatuaonoa); Matthew Quintal (first consort Tevarua); John Williams (first consort Faahotu); Sully (baby daughter of Teio, from Tahiti); Manarii, Oha, Niau, Tararo, Teimua and Titahiti (the six Polynesian men); and Mareva, Tinafanaea and Toofaiti (the three shared Polynesian consorts of the Polynesian men). In the early stages of the Pitcairn settlement, the island was divided into nine parts, one for each of the mutineers and none for the Polynesians. This action, along with the fact that six Polynesian men had to share three women and that all the Polynesians were treated more like serfs than equals, caused serious resentment, which led to the later violence and murder.
1790 19 Mar	<i>H.M.S. Sirius</i> , the flagship of the First Fleet, bringing supplies and replacement personnel to Norfolk, driven ashore and wrecked on the reef at Sydney Bay, Norfolk Island. The wreck remains on the reef for two years. The wrecking also had the unfortunate side effect of doubling Norfolk's population at a time of severe food shortages and resulted in the extermination of the providence petrel on Norfolk Island, a great flock of which had arrived to nest and breed. In just over three months, an estimated 170,000 of them were killed and eaten. The birds never returned to breed on Norfolk but still breed on Lord Howe Island.
1790 June	William Bligh publishes his journal recording the <i>Bounty</i> mutiny and launch voyage. It becomes an immediate bestseller.
1790 June	Second Fleet arrives at Sydney. Overcrowding and lack of food result in a death rate of 25% of the mainly young men and teenage boys aboard – 40% died within 8 months of arriving.
1790 July	Construction of schooner <i>Resolution</i> in Tahiti. Conceived, designed and overseen in construction by James Morrison, the boatswain's mate from <i>Bounty</i> , the <i>Resolution</i> was a two masted schooner 30 feet (9 m) long, with a beam of 9 feet (2.7 m). The ship, named after Cook's vessel, was the first ever to be built by Europeans in the Pacific Islands; its purpose, according to Morrison's journal, being to carry the Bligh loyalists to the Dutch East Indies and then to England. Before ship was ready, the <i>Pandora</i> had arrived.
1790 7 Aug	William Charles Wentworth arrives at Norfolk Island on the convict transport <i>Surprize</i> (on which he was probably born) with his mother. His father D'Arcy Wentworth became an assistant at the hospital and later made his fortune in rum, land and trade in the N.S.W. colony. As a young man, William Wentworth crossed the Blue Mountains in N.S.W. (with Blaxland and Lawson) in 1813, for which Governor Macquarie granted him 1,000 acres of land. Later, as a member of the N.S.W. Parliament, his efforts to gain self-government for the Colony caused him to become known as "the Father of the Australian Constitution".
1790 Oct	Thursday October Christian born: first child born on Pitcairn and the first child of Fletcher Christian and Mauatua.
1790 25 Oct	Captain Edward Edwards receives his formal orders, which were to sail <i>H.M.S. Pandora</i> , a refitted "sixth rate frigate of 24 guns", to the Pacific, find the <i>Bounty</i> , and capture Fletcher Christian and the mutineers. There may also have been other purposes for Edwards' voyage, however. War with Spain was thought imminent, and the <i>Pandora</i> had been armed with 20 six-pounder carriage guns and four 18-pounder carronades, 12 times the fire power of the <i>Bounty</i> , with six times as many men. <i>Pandora</i> may have meant to have been a deterrent to any Spanish territorial designs in the Pacific.
1790 7 Nov	<i>Pandora</i> sails from England.
1791 16 Mar	Capt Edwards discovers a small island west of Easter Island, which he names Ducie's Island. Ducie is less than three hundred miles (480 km) from Pitcairn, where Fletcher Christian's group are hidden. Had Edwards continued on the same parallel, he would have sighted Pitcairn and almost certainly have captured the mutineer group there. Instead, he turned north from Ducie and missed Pitcairn. Edwards went on to Tahiti, where the remaining mutineers were discovered.
1791	The Third Fleet, consisting of 11 ships carrying 2047 convicts, arrives at Sydney.
1791	<i>H.M.S. Pandora</i> , carrying 14 of the mutineers captured at Tahiti, runs aground on the Great Barrier Reef and sinks. Thirty-one of the

28 Aug	ship's company and four mutineers, Hildebrant, Stewart, Sumner and Skinner, still in irons and locked in "Pandoras Box" on deck, were lost. Eighty-nine crew and 10 mutineers survived.
1792 May	Norfolk Island population 1156, including guards and soldiers, women and children, free settlers, time-expired convicts and 874 serving convicts.
1792 Sept	Norfolk Island population 1115
1792 12 Sept	Trial of <i>Bounty</i> mutineers begins at Portsmouth, England, some 3½ years after the mutiny. Four accused acquitted, six sentenced to death for mutiny and desertion. However, the court recommended the King's Mercy for Morrison and Heyward, who were pardoned, Muspratt was discharged on a technicality, and three (Ellison, Burkitt and Millward) sentenced to hang.
1792 29 Oct	Two young Maori men, Tuki and Huru, were lured aboard the ship <i>Daedalus</i> in New Zealand's Bay of Islands, kidnapped and brought to Norfolk Island via Port Jackson, arriving in Norfolk in May 1793. Philip Gidley King, Norfolk's commandant, had ordered this so as to gain Maori expertise in flax dressing. However, the two men knew nothing about the processes, this being women's work. When King offers them the choice of leaving on the Shah Hormuzear for England or staying on the island until they can be returned home, they choose to stay. During their enforced stay, they lived with King at Government House ["It is needless to say that they both live with me, and lye in my house, where every care and attention is shewn them" – King's Journal] and eventually formed a deep respect and friendship with King. Interestingly, the Maori men identified one of King's Norfolk Island stone artefacts as an axe of New Zealand origin. The Tuki/Huru episode is significant because they were the first Maori ever to live in a European community. [see also 1993 Nov 9 entry]
1793 20 Sep	Massacre Day, Pitcairn Island. Mutineers Fletcher Christian, William Brown, Isaac Martin, John Williams and John Mills were killed by Polynesians after bloody disputes over women and work on the Island. According to reconstructions of the events, it is thought that John Williams was shot dead by Titahiti, Niau and Teimua; these three, with Manarii, then went to Christian's place and shot him; McCoy was attacked but fought off his assailants; he, along with Matthew Quintal, realised what was going on and hid in the hills; William Brown was beaten to death; Adams was shot at, wounded, attacked with musket butts, but finally fought free and then surrendered – he was carried to Edward Young's house. For some reason, the Polynesians did not attack Edward Young. It is thought that Young, being a favourite of the women, was protected by them. By 3 October, further killings of Polynesian men, at least one of who was killed by the women, resulted in a total of nine men having been slaughtered during the conflicts.
1793 9 Nov	Lieutenant Philip Gidley King, Commandant of the penal settlement on Norfolk Island, recommends that, because of distance between Sydney and Norfolk and the ongoing communications and shipping problems, jurisdiction of Norfolk should be transferred to New Zealand.
1791 Dec	Australia's first state-assisted school begun on Norfolk Island - Lieutenant Phillip Gidley King's ruled attendance at the Government school for all children of convict or free parents was compulsory.
1798	Mutineer William McCoy, in a drunken delirium from the alcohol he had distilled from syrup of a Pitcairn plant, ties a stone around his neck and throws himself into the sea at Pitcairn Island.
1798 7 Oct	Sloop <i>Norfolk</i> , 25 tonnes, built on Norfolk Island from Norfolk Pine timber, sailed from Sydney Cove under command of Lieutenant Matthew Flinders and crew of 8 on exploratory voyage. Flinders circumnavigates Van Diemen's Land, proving it to be an island separate from the mainland. The <i>Norfolk</i> had been built on Norfolk because of the irregularity of shipping from Sydney but it was confiscated by Governor Hunter on its arrival in Port Jackson in June, as construction of vessels large enough for convicts to seize and escape from Norfolk was forbidden under standing orders to Commandants.
1799	Mutineer Matthew Quintal, after becoming violent and threatening, is executed on Pitcairn, probably at the behest of John Adams.
1799	Thomas Salisbury Wright first convicted of forgery and transported to Australia at age 60.
1800	Mutineer Edward Young dies of an asthma attack on Pitcairn. Young is the only male up to this point to die a natural death. John Adams

	is the only remaining adult male on left on Pitcairn. Within a couple of years of Young's death, it is likely that an alcoholic John Adams had visions which caused him to give up drinking and turn to the Bounty Bible and prayer books. Adams came up with his own form of Anglicanism, and as the patriarch, soon converted the entire remaining population, so successfully that all who subsequently visited the island were impressed with the genuine piety of its people.
1800 28 Sept	Philip Gidley King replaces John Hunter as Governor of New South Wales
1804	Norfolk Island population 1,104 – free settlers and emancipated convicts outnumber serving convicts
1806 Jan	Te Pahi, a Maori chief from New Zealand's Bay of Islands, visits Governor King in New South Wales. Te Pahi had hitched a lift on a whaler, first to Norfolk Island and then on to N.S.W. Other Maori had also visited King as a direct result of the news of good treatment of Tuki and Huru during their enforced sojourn in Norfolk Island in 1793; to the Maori, high status ("mana") as a worthy man was earned by honourable actions and King's status was considered very high. Some historians claim that the negotiation of the Treaty of Waitangi between the Maori leaders and the British Crown was influenced by King's good relations with the Maori.
1808 26 Jan	William Bligh's third mutiny. The officers of the New South Wales Corps rebelled against him as Governor of N.S.W. over a number of issues. Bligh is caricatured in the local press as being dragged out from his hiding place under his bed by soldiers.
1808 6 Feb	Captain Mayhew Folger on US whaler <i>Topaz</i> calls at Pitcairn Island. Folger is amazed when a group of dark-skinned young men speaking English paddle out in Polynesian-type canoes to meet the ship from the supposedly uninhabited island. The young men speak to Folger of their patriarch "Aleck". Folger is mystified. At first fearing retribution, Aleck (Alexander Smith aka John Adams) is hidden but eventually speaks with Folger. Adams gives Folger one of what was to be many different versions of the story, and Folger finally realises that he has discovered the destination of Fletcher Christian's Bounty mutineers. From the original group, only John Adams and four Polynesian women have survived, along with a group of children and teenagers, the oldest being Thursday (Friday) October Christian, Pitcairn's first-born. Folger duly made a report to the British Admiralty and the event was briefly reported in the press, but the revelation caused little interest in England, now deeply immersed in the Napoleonic wars.
1814 Feb	First penal settlement on Norfolk Island is closed and the mostly wooden buildings are destroyed. Convicts and free settlers are all moved to Van Diemen's Land, all the stock slaughtered and preserved and the island abandoned, with exception of a few goats and pigs.
1814 17 Sep	Two British warships, <i>H.M.S. Tagus</i> and <i>H.M.S. Briton</i> , under Commander Philip Pipon and Thomas Staines respectively, who were searching for an American warship during US-Britain hostilities, called at Pitcairn Island. Captain Folger's 1808 report to the British Admiralty on his discovery of the mutineers' Pitcairn settlement had been largely ignored by British authorities and the Admiralty in particular, so that when canoes were put in the water and paddled out to the ships and a young 'Native' man called out in English "Won't you heave us a rope, now" - "our astonishment may be better conceived than described on finding that the inhabitants spoke the English language perfectly well". Technically, John Adams was guilty of mutiny, a crime on which there was no statute of limitations, so the two British captains were faced with a difficult decision regarding the arrest and seizure of "old John Adams" (now 47 years old). Adams volunteered to go back to England with them but the community showed such concern over this possibility that Staines and Pipon, seeing the obvious benefits of Adams' leadership in the community, made the humane decision that he should stay. The reports resulting from the visit of the <i>Tagus</i> and <i>Briton</i> caused a sensation and ships calling into Pitcairn became reasonably common. Visitors wanted to look at a community which was thought to be the world's most perfect, and when ashore for meat, fruit and vegetables, were expected to leave the usual sailor's bad behaviour behind.
1817	Teehuteatuaonoa ("Jenny"), original consort of Isaac Martin, leaves Pitcairn, the first of the mutineers or Tahitians to do so. Interviews with her were reported in 1820s Australian newspapers (<i>Sydney Gazette</i> etc) and revealed for the first time that Christian and the mutineers did not go directly from Tahiti to Pitcairn.
1823 10 Dec	John Buffett and John Evans arrive at Pitcairn on British whaler <i>Cyrus</i> . When John Adams asked the <i>Cyrus</i> 's Captain Hall if one of the crew could stay to help with the education of the children, Buffett volunteered. John Evans jumped ship to stay with his friend. They

	were the first new residents to settle in the island in 34 years.
1825 May	Transportation of convicts to N.S.W. ceased but continued to Van Diemen's Land, Port Phillip District, and West Australia.
1825 6 Jan	Second penal colony established on Norfolk Island with the object that the new settlement would be “. . . one for Capital Respites and other higher classes of offences. I could wish it to be understood that the felon who is sent there is forever excluded from all hope of return.” (Letter from Sir Thomas Brisbane, Governor of New South Wales, to Earl Bathurst, Secretary of State in England in 1824). Similarly, Sir Ralph Darling, succeeding Brisbane as N.S.W. Governor in December 1825 wrote “My object was to hold out that Settlement as a place of the extremest punishment, short of Death”. First party of 57 convicts arrive under the command of Captain Richard Turton, who spent one year as commandant. Nearly all convicts sent to Norfolk over the thirty-odd years of the second settlement were to be Capital Respites i.e. doubly convicted men who had had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment. Most of the convicts were housed in one large barrack, divided into wards holding from 20 to 120, with the convicts sleeping in hammocks. The banning of women convicts resulted in these wards being scenes of “. . . every conceivable degree of depravity . . . through the heat of the climate, the violence of unbridled passion and the absence of women, unnatural crimes were of common occurrence.” (Reverend Thomas Atkins in his reminiscences, 1869).
1826 Sept	An insurrection by fifty convicts on Norfolk Island resulted in three convict and one military death, one day's freedom for some on Phillip Island, their re-capture and two convict executions, with the rest sentenced to prison to be followed by labour in chains.
1826 Dec	Brig <i>Wellington</i> seized by convicts en route to Norfolk Island, with no lives being lost during the action. The convicts sailed to the Bay of Islands in New Zealand, where the captain and crew of the whaler <i>Sisters</i> overpowered the mutineers, who were taken back to Sydney and the ringleaders executed.
1828 5 Nov	George Hunn Nobbs and Noah Bunker arrive at Pitcairn on a 20 ton cutter from Valparaiso, Chile. Bunker died shortly after arriving, probably from an illness. Nobbs was to become an important figure in the religious and educational life of both the Pitcairn and Norfolk Island communities.
1829 5 Mar	John Adams/Alexander Smith dies on Pitcairn aged sixty-two.
1829 26 May	Lt Col James Thomas Morriset arrives at Norfolk Island to take up office of Commandant. In his five years in charge, Morriset was to prove a brutal, ruthless Commandant, building on the island's fearful reputation.
1829 18 Oct	George Hunn Nobbs marries Sarah Christian on Pitcairn
1831	The British Government, concerned at the situation of the Pitcairners (scarcity of resources , particularly water), decided that the people should be removed to another island. Consequently, the entire population of eighty-six was taken to Tahiti on the government barque Lucy Ann, arriving on 23 March . However, the move was notably unsuccessful: the uninhibited Tahitian lifestyle offended the devout Pitcairners and they contracted various illnesses to which they had no natural resistance, resulting in eleven deaths at Tahiti and others later from diseases believed to have been contracted there. One death was that of Thursday October Christian, first child of Fletcher Christian and Mauatua, and the first child born on Pitcairn. Within six months the depleted families had returned to Pitcairn by the good graces of a US whaler Captain William Driver, who the Pitcairners had turned to for help. Driver offered to take the entire group back to Pitcairn for a fee of \$500. The Tahitian European community raised \$300 by donations, and the Pitcairners sold what little property they had and Driver accepted a quantity of copper bolts from the <i>Bounty</i> as the balance. Diverting his ship <i>Charles Doggett</i> , carrying a valuable cargo of whale oil, Driver landed the surviving Pitcairners back at their home on 2 September 1831. Several generations of Pitcairners subsequently memorialised Captain Driver's good deed by using “Driver” as a given name for their children (e.g. Driver Christian Road on present-day Norfolk Is).
1832 Oct	The arrival of the self-appointed ruler of Pitcairn, Joshua Hill. A puritanical busybody, Hill was probably also mentally unbalanced, and caused an enormous disruption in the community, having initially duped a number of important people in Hawaii and Tahiti into believing he was a person of influence and had some sort of official backing from the British Government. Hill stayed at Pitcairn for

	over five years: his bogus status and claimed aristocratic connections overawed the Islanders, and he rapidly became a dictator, instituting changes to the legal structures, splitting the community into his supporters and opposition. Eventually, Nobbs, Evans and Buffett were forced to leave the Island. Hill's oppression finally resulted in the Pitcairners turning against him, Nobbs, Evans, and Buffett were allowed back and a formal enquiry into the affair conducted by the captain of a British warship resulted in Hill's own banishment and a return to normality
1834 Jan 15	A mass uprising of convicts on Norfolk Island. At least seven convicts killed and about 50 crippled from injuries received in the fighting. Charges of mutiny were brought against 137 men – 55 came to trial and thirteen were publicly hanged in two sessions on Sept 22 and 23 1834.
1834 Mar	Major Joseph Anderson becomes Commandant of Norfolk Island penal settlement. Holds office until 1839 and as brutal as predecessor Morriset. Under Anderson, Irish convict William Riley, in heavy irons for taking part in the 1834 mutiny, receives, over a two years' period, 1,000 lashes, 11 months in solitary confinement and three months' jail. Riley got 100 lashes for "Smiling while on the Chain" and the same for "Singing a Song", probably one of the banned Irish "treason songs". Another Irish prisoner, Michael Burns, received 2,000 lashes in less than three years; like Riley, one crime was "Singing a Song".
1838 30 Nov	A constitution for Pitcairn Island was drawn up with the help of Captain Elliott of <i>H.M.S. Fly</i> and signed aboard the <i>Fly</i> at Pitcairn. Edward Quintal becomes First Magistrate. It was the first British constitution (and, it is believed, in the world) incorporating female suffrage (voting rights) and the Pitcairners date their formal incorporation into the British Empire from the signing of this document.
1839	Pitcairn's population passed 100 for the first time – fifty-three of each sex.
1840 Mar	Captain Alexander Maconochie takes command of Norfolk's penal settlement. Maconochie had evolved a system for reform rather than continued punishment of convicts. Marks were given for good behaviour so that convicts could earn remission of sentences. On Queen Victoria's birthday (25 May 1840), Maconochie's trusting treatment of the convicts consisted of all being released for the day, given a simple festive meal, some rum, fireworks, and games and a play were put on. The behaviour of the prisoners was reported as exemplary, with some even going back early and voluntarily to their cells at the end of the day. Maconochie was criticised for his "soft" treatment of the convicts and back in NSW, calls were made for his recall, despite later inspections appearing to show that his administration seemed to have been effective. Maconochie stayed in command until 1844.
1840	Another escape attempt by convicts at Norfolk Island – an officers' shooting party to Phillip Island resulted in the five convicts accompanying them getting control of the boat and sailing to New Zealand, where they apparently took to whaling. Other escapes occurred from time to time – in 1841, nine convicts in Norfolk seized a boat and escaped. In 1842, eight convicts had built a boat in secret but probably drowned in huge seas which came up soon after they put to sea. In 1842, six convicts and two soldiers stole a whaleboat and escaped, avoiding capture the next day because of dense fog.
1841	Mauatua (Isabella, Mainmast, Mai'mas), original consort of Fletcher Christian, dies.
1844	Thomas Salisbury Wright dies on Norfolk Island aged 104. Wright was born in 1739, convicted of forgery in England aged 60, sentenced to be hanged, that sentence respited to transportation for life. In 1839, at 100 years of age, he was again convicted of forgery in Sydney and transported to Norfolk Island for fourteen years. At the time of his arrest, Wright had in his house some £8,000 in forged banknotes: at his trial Wright claimed that he had "as good a right to establish a bank as any other gentleman".
1844 Feb	Major Joseph Childs appointed commandant of Norfolk Island. Childs was not very well equipped for the task, having to contend with orders for rigorous discipline but deal with the more relaxed system implemented by Maconochie. His period of command was marked by savage punishments and poor administration, resulting in hunger and convict insubordination. In August 1845, Samuel Barrow was posted to the Island as Stipendiary Magistrate with instructions to deal with the convict discipline problem. Barrow more or less overruled Childs on many issues, instigating his own system of convict police who made a practice of illegal torture and sadism.
1846 Jul	A violent convict uprising on Norfolk was led by bushranger William Westwood ("Jacky-Jacky") after the men's personal cooking tins

	or kettles were confiscated on Stipendiary Magistrate Samuel Barrow's orders. About thirty men took part in a spontaneous act of savage retaliation against Barrow and his convict police. Westwood murdered four officials and he and eleven convicts identified as his accomplices were tried on the island, executed on 13 October and buried in unhallowed ground outside the graveyard, possibly in a mass grave known now as Murderer's Mound.
1846 Aug	John Price takes command at Norfolk Island, replacing the incompetent Major Childs. His 6½ year-long rule of terror seems to have been fuelled by some form of mental illness in which he delighted in the total power he had over both convicts and his staff, encouraging convicts to inform on their own and meting out excessively cruel punishments. Price was eventually battered to death by convicts in Pentridge Gaol, Melbourne on 27 March 1857.
1846 Oct	Convicts on Norfolk number 1,989, civilian staff at 80 and the garrison numbered about 300. These numbers were to prove all-time peaks
1846	Earl Grey, British Secretary of State for Colonies, advised Sir William Denison, Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, in despatches of 30 Sept and 7 Nov that the British Government intended to close the Norfolk Island settlement. Things moved slowly, however, due to Denison's own preference for the settlement to be continued as it was. Nothing had really been done by December 1848, when Earl Grey agreed to the retention of the settlement, though H.M Government was still anxious to find an alternative.
1850	Teraura (also known as Mataohu, Sussanah or "Doubit"), first consort of Edward Young, dies at Pitcairn. The last of the original Tahitians.
1852	George Hunn Nobbs, pastor, schoolteacher and community leader of Pitcairn for over 20 years, goes to England, where he is ordained by the Bishop of London and has an audience with Queen Victoria. During his visit, English Pitcairn sympathisers formed the Pitcairn Island Fund Committee which paid his expenses and medicines, tools, clothing and other materials for the Pitcairners until their settlement on Norfolk Island.
1853	Transportation to Van Diemen's Land officially ended: last ship carrying convicts arrived in Hobart in May. In January 1853, Captain Rupert Deering was appointed commandant at Norfolk, and his duties included the beginning of the winding down of the penal settlement, the process continuing under the command of Captain H.J. Day between November 1853 and May 1855. Between Day's departure and the arrival of the Pitcairners, the Island was put under the charge of Commissariat Storekeeper T.S. Stewart. Between 1788 and the cessation of convict transportation to Norfolk Island, extant records (as at 2018) show that 6,458 persons were sent to the Island (Causer source)
1856 8 June	The entire population of Pitcairn Island disembark at Norfolk Island from the ship <i>Morayshire</i> to take up residence in their new homeland. Except for a small group of caretakers, all convicts and free settlers from the Second Penal Settlement had been removed to New Norfolk on the Derwent River in VDL/Tasmania. The Pitcairn group consisted of 194 persons – 40 men, 47 women, 54 boys and 53 girls. Forty-eight were named Quintal, 47 Christian, 23 Young, 19 Buffett, 18 Adams, 16 McCoy, 13 Nobbs and 10 Evans. Priscilla Pitcairn Quintal was the last child born on Pitcairn and Reuben Denison Christian was born on board the <i>Morayshire</i> on the voyage to Norfolk. All heads of families were granted about 50 acres of land and almost all the stock, stores and equipment from the penal settlement was given over to the Pitcairners for their use. Special training had to be given in the use of horses, which the Pitcairners had never seen. The families originally settled in the abandoned penal settlement in the Kingston area, keeping close together in the manner in which they had lived communally on Pitcairn. Some islanders' reluctance to leave the Kingston area and take up residence on their grants of land were later to cause ongoing problems and result in the infamous 1908 evictions from the Crown-owned buildings. Much misunderstanding and misinterpretation has resulted from what the Pitcairners were or were not told about the cession of Norfolk Island to them or who actually owned what land. Most Norfolk Islanders at the time of the resettlement believed that the whole of the island had been given to them for their sole occupancy, in the same way that they had become accustomed and been allowed to continue to solely occupy and "own" Pitcairn. Many official enquiries, commissions and legal opinions have over the intervening years endeavoured to clear up the uncertainties of who "owns" Norfolk Island and following from that question, Norfolk Island's constitutional relationship

	with the Commonwealth of Australia.
1856 24 Jun	An Order-in-Council issued by Queen Victoria under the <i>Australian Waste Lands Act 1855</i> (Imp) severed Norfolk Island from Van Diemen's Land; it was, according to the Order, to be "a distinct and separate Settlement", and a proclamation to this effect was made by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir William Denison, on 31 October 1856. Governor Denison, under a separate commission, became the Governor of Norfolk Island, empowered to legislate for Norfolk Island, but, by a Royal Instruction, was to preserve "the laws and usages" of the Pitcairn people. The Governor consulted with the local people on proposed legislation and also delegated to a locally elected magistrate, assisted by a council of elders, the power to make and administer laws. All adults, including women, voted, and there was no official presence on the Island. The first elected Chief Magistrate was Frederick Young. This form of participatory democracy prevailed until 1897.
1858 2 Dec	Moses and Mayhew Young, with their wives and twelve children, unhappy with conditions on Norfolk and homesick for Pitcairn, leave Norfolk on the schooner <i>Mary Ann</i> to return to Pitcairn.
1859	A Norfolk Island whaling industry established. Many young Norfolk men had previously joined American whalers. Thirty-three Islanders formed a company with equipment from the whaler <i>Andrew Hicks</i> . Norfolk population 221. Whaling continued sporadically until 1962.
1859 June	Governor Denison visited Norfolk and expressed great dissatisfaction with what he found had been happening there, in particular the lack of development of the land grants and trafficking in land. Denison made clear the distinctions between public and private property: all land, buildings and stock remained the property of the Crown, with the exception of that land granted to the settlers. Thomas Rossiter, government storekeeper, was to control public property, and Denison made regulations for the transfer and dealings in land: no land would be permitted to be transferred to any person who had not received permission from the Governor to live on Norfolk Island.
1860 25 Oct	Alexander Maconochie, enlightened commandant of Norfolk Island 1840-44 and pioneer prison reformer whose methods were rejected by higher authorities (but still in use today), dies in Surrey, England, aged 73.
1863 18 Dec	Twenty seven more Pitcairners leave Norfolk Island in the schooner <i>St Kilda</i> to return to Pitcairn. They included Thursday October Christian II (Fletcher Christian's grandson); Robert Buffett and his wife; Samuel Warren and his wife Agnes (Warren was a "mainlander" from Providence, Rhode Island who had jumped ship from a whaler at Norfolk and married T.O. Christian II's daughter a few days before); Simon Young, together with family members. The ship arrived at Pitcairn 2 February 1864.
1864 August	Two young Norfolk Island men, Fisher Young (son of Simon Young) and Edwin Nobbs (son of George Hunn Nobbs), on missionary work with John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop of Melanesia, are killed by islanders at Santa Cruz, now in modern Solomon Islands.
1868 10 Jan	Last convict ship to Australia lands 60 Irish Fenians (Republicans) and other non-political common criminals at Fremantle, W.A., 80 years after the First Fleet landed.
1870 1 Feb	All Saints Church, designed and built at Kingston by Norfolk Islanders, was destroyed by a hurricane, which caused extensive damage right across the Island. Later in the year, the convict-built Commissariat Store was approved for conversion to a church for the use of the Church of England community.
1875 Nov	At Norfolk, the foundation stone of St Barnabas Chapel at the Melanesian Mission was laid: it was to be a memorial to John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop of Melanesia, who was killed by Solomon Islanders in 1871.
1880	St Barnabas Chapel construction completed in June and consecrated six months later.
1896	Viscount Hampden, governor of New South Wales, visited Norfolk Island on instructions from the British government, after reports that the local governmental system lax and breaking down. His enquiries resulted in the government of the island being vested in him under advice from his ministry. [Aust Dict of Biog]
1897	Norfolk's unique system of elective magistracy, its ability to make its own laws, and votes for women, were abolished following a Commission of Enquiry from the mainland authorities. The 1856 Order-in-Council was revoked, a new Order-in-Council abolished the

	separate office of Governor of Norfolk Island and Colonel W. Warren Spalding became the first resident Chief Magistrate to be appointed by successive Governors of New South Wales. His inept handling of the local people proved a disaster and he was removed from office in 1898 after a public enquiry. These events marked the beginning of the end for the Norfolk Islanders' unique form of experimental democracy and the changes were bitterly resented by the Islanders.
1899	Population at the Melanesian Mission total numbers 210 persons, including all Melanesian students, teaching and ancillary staff
1901 Jan 1	Australian Federation Day additional info requ.
1902	Pacific Overseas Cable Station established at Anson Bay, Norfolk Island, on the site later to be occupied by the Telstra communications centre. Norfolk became an important part of the state-of-the-art undersea cable system, which came from Vancouver through Fanning Island and Fiji. The cable forked at Norfolk Island, one link going to Queensland and the other to New Zealand. The cable network circled the world.
1902 Aug 7	Admiral Rawson , Governor of NSW and also the Governor of Norfolk Island, and as such, directly responsible for the affairs of Norfolk Island, requests the Imperial Government to annex the island to the newly formed Commonwealth. <i>"The present divided authority can never answer: the postal arrangements, customs and tariff, and presumably the defence, being worked by one, the administration the other"</i> , he gave as the reason for the request ("the one" and "the other" being Federation and State)
1906	Governor Denison's 1859 law preventing sale of land to outsiders abolished, in order to encourage new settlers. Crown land was then able to be taken up on leases of 28 years, conditional upon certain improvements being made. A few new settlers resulted, but this event marked the beginnings of the alienation of Pitcairner settler land..
1907	"In 1907, the British Parliament passed an Act providing that properties concerning which there had been so much argument belonged absolutely to the Crown. Certain lands were designated as belonging to the Pitcairners and their descendants." [PIM February 1955 p.157]
1908	A long-standing problem concerning the Pitcairners' occupancy of Crown-owned buildings in Kingston on Norfolk Island finally resulted in the majority of the occupants being forcefully evicted from the properties, leaving those few who had signed lease agreements to stay in the buildings they had made their homes. The whole issue was part of a larger, recurrent and ongoing problem concerning the Pitcairners' views on land ownership conflicting with those of the authorities.
1911	A census recorded Norfolk's population as 985 – this included, as well as Pitcairners, tourists, resident mainlanders, and Melanesians
1914 30 Mar	By an Order-in-Council, King George V placed Norfolk Island under Commonwealth of Australia's authority
1914 1 Jul	<i>Norfolk Island Act 1913</i> , a Commonwealth law, comes into effect, bringing the Island, formerly a British Colony, under the authority of the Commonwealth, control being invested in the Governor-General of the Commonwealth. A resident administrator, also acting as Chief Magistrate, was the effective executive government, under the immediate direction of the Minister for Home and Territories. A twelve member council, called the Executive Council, had almost non-existent powers, those being mainly over maintenance of roads, public reserves and noxious weeds. Six members were nominated by the administrator and 6 elected by the people. Some legal opinions hold that nothing was done to annex Norfolk to Australia, which it is said would have required an Act by the British Parliament.
1914 1 Nov	Parliamentary visit reports that with Norfolk under Commonwealth control, the average land price has risen from £3 (\$6) to £5 (\$10) per acre [NIN]
1920	Melanesian Mission on Norfolk Island closed, with the idea that its operations should be moved north, nearer to mission outstations in the Solomon Islands.
1924	First motor vehicle arrives on Norfolk Island. A Mr Baldwin apparently had the Ford dealership and he brought the first Model A direct from Canada at a cost of £165 delivered to buyer. It appears that a notice was flashed on the screen of the Saturday night picture shows advising when the car would be on the road, although this story may apocryphal.

1926 2 Feb	Royal Commissioner Francis Whysall arrived to investigate and report on the manner in which Norfolk Island was governed. After a three month stay, he returned a report largely critical of the Administrator, Col. E.T. Leane: one of the Commissioner's "suggestions" was that " <i>in the interests of the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island, the present Administrator be recalled without delay</i> ". Another of Whysall's "suggestions" was that in assessing future candidates for the post, " <i>due consideration to the psychology of the Norfolk Islanders should be given: the temperament of a future Administrator, if not compatible with, should be capable of ready adaptability to the social conditions of the Island. This applies with equal force to to the appointee's wife.</i> " Shortly after Commissioner lodged his report, Colonel Leane was recalled.
1925	Schooner <i>Resolution II</i> launched through a hole blasted in the reef at Emily Bay, Norfolk Island – 61 feet long, 59 tons gross weight – it was a vessel built by Norfolk Islanders as a trader to alleviate inadequate shipping services. The venture was not commercially successful and the vessel was sold to Burns Philp Company in 1927. It was believed to have sunk at anchor in Vanuatu some years later.
1930s	Norfolk experienced a boom in the exportation of bananas, following an outbreak of disease which devastated Australian crops. Typical of the "boom and bust" economy which characterised Norfolk's series of industries, the "banana boom" soon ended.
1931 28 Mar	The first ever aircraft lands at Norfolk Island - without the benefit of an airport. Francis Chichester, flying a tiny (455 kg = ½ ton) De Haviland 60 Gypsy Moth seaplane named Madame Elijah touches down in the sea at Norfolk. Chichester, an adventurer later to single-handedly circumnavigate the world in a yacht called Gypsy Moth, had flown the 1000 kilometres from New Zealand navigating with only a sextant and had almost run out of fuel when he sighted the Island. Local lore has it that an Islander ploughing a field, never having heard or seen an aircraft, fell to the ground on his knees as the machine roared overhead. After repairing damage to the plane, Chichester flew on the Lord Howe Island and Australia.
1935 18 Jul	The Norfolk Island Printers & Newspapers Ordinance is put into effect by Australian authorities. The ordinance had the effect of banning the publishing of a newspaper without the approval of the Administrator and the posting of a £300 (\$600) bond. Under these circumstances, the Island's only newspaper, the <i>Norfolk Island Times</i> , was forced to close down, the editor claiming that the move was the Australian authorities' response to the newspaper's criticism of the Administrator's heavy-handed tactics in local affairs. The press censorship law was finally repealed in 1964.
1936	Another legislative change for Norfolk Island - the duties of the Administrator and Chief Magistrate were separated.
1936 21/22 May	A storm dumps 381 mm (15 inches) of rain on Norfolk Island. Large sections of land slumped and slid away, including a very large slide into Anson Bay which damaged the Cable Station facilities.
1942 Aug 15	The advance party of 14 people of the N.S.W. Dept of Main Roads arrive on the ship <i>Moamo</i> charged with the task of initiating the building of an airport on Norfolk Island, to provide a stopping point for Allied warplanes transiting north to the combat zones around New Guinea, New Hebrides and New Caledonia. The proposal to build the airfield caused a great deal of controversy and resistance from the Islanders, necessitating as it did the destruction of the Avenue of Pines, an iconic long double row of 375 huge Norfolk Pines in the middle of the island, planted in convict times. At the centre, where two roads crossed, was the Tree of Knowledge, where church and public notices had been pinned for eighty years.
1942 25 Dec	The first aircraft lands on Norfolk Island. A Lockheed Hudson of New Zealand's R.N.Z.A.F.'s #9 Squadron landed on the newly constructed airport, built by a combined force of N.S.W. Dept of Main Roads, New Zealand personnel from a garrison of up to 2000 "N Force" from N.Z.'s 36th Battalion and American engineers. According to local legend, the pilot of that first plane had been flying over the airfield dropping frozen lamb, shelled peas and new potatoes for the forces' personnel Christmas dinner but so much food was bouncing off the airfield that the pilot, against orders, decided to land on the not-quite finished strip. Again according to the story, when summoned to receive a reprimand for disobeying orders, the crew ended up drinking with an Administrator grateful for receiving his frozen lamb and peas intact.
1943 1 Mar	Mrs Marianne Selina Buffett, the last of the Pitcairners who moved to Norfolk Island in 1856, dies. She was born on Pitcairn Island 4

	February 1856, three months before the <i>Morayshire</i> sailed for Norfolk (3 May 1856). (insert photo from PIM)
1947 10 June	First ever issue of Norfolk Island postage stamps. A view of Phillip Island looking over Ball Bay was featured on all the 12 values of stamps, ranging from one halfpenny (½ cent) up to 2 shillings (20c). However, according to Ed Howard (NIN Jun/Jul 1976), the first stamps franked with a Norfolk Island postmark were in July 1854.
1947 Oct	A fortnightly air service between Sydney and Norfolk Island by Qantas commenced, using the Avro 691 Lancastrian. Pilot L.R. Ambrose had command of the first flight. This service continued until 1949, when Douglas DC4s replaced the Lancastrian.
1947 2 Nov	New Zealand National Airways Corporation (N.A.C.) commences regular weekly air services from Auckland to Norfolk Island using the venerable Douglas DC3 aircraft. DC3 registration ZK-APB piloted by L.M. Pirie lands at Norfolk after a flight of approximately 3½ hours.
1940s -- 60s	Period of one of Norfolk's more important pre-tourist industries – growing of high-quality bean seed, which was exported to N.S.W. A purpose-built shed was put up at Middlegate where co-operative work on sorting and bagging the seed was carried out. The building was known as “The Beanshed” for many years after and, after Rawson Hall, was the second polling place for elections and the occasional referendum. It was converted to school classrooms in the 1990s
1956 Fri 13 Jan	5.8 magnitude earthquake struck Norfolk Island - 15 km depth
1960 7 Apr	The <i>Norfolk Island Act 1957</i> was put into effect by the Commonwealth of Australia. The Act was to give the Advisory Council of Norfolk Island very limited powers of self-government. Because the Council believed that the Act could or would lead to land taxes, it refused to accept them. The Act was repealed several years later.
1965 6 Aug	Tom Lloyd issues Volume 1 Issue 1 of <i>The Norfolk Islander</i> newspaper, price 6d (sixpence = 5 cents). Technically, the publication was the first legal newspaper since the enactment of the 1935 ordinance banning newspaper publication without the express permission of the Administrator: the ordinance was not repealed until 1964. Tom Lloyd's maiden editorial ended with the words “ <i>Hettay “The Norfolk Islander – I hope yorlye enjoy et”</i> (“Here is The Norfolk Islander – I hope you all enjoy it”). This may be the earliest instance of the Norfolk language in written form – the speaking of the language had been discouraged at the Norfolk Island School for decades
1965	H.S. Newbery, a long-time Norfolk Island resident, challenged the right of the Crown (Commonwealth) to make laws for the government of Norfolk Island in a Supreme Court case heard at Kingston, Norfolk Island, based on an argument that Norfolk Island had been created “a distinct and separate settlement”, having been severed from Van Diemen's Land in 1856 by Governor Denison's proclamation and that this situation had not been changed by later legislation. Justice Richard Eggleston ruled that the Crown's power to make laws for Norfolk Island had been properly transferred to the Commonwealth Government by the Order in Council of March 1914
1971	Norfolk Island's position outside the mainland income tax structure had increasingly been exploited by mainland companies over a period of several years – by 1971, 1,754 new companies had registered in the island, bringing large sums into Norfolk's coffers in the form of registration fees but depriving the Commonwealth of many millions of dollars in tax. Commonwealth legislation passed in 1973 closed the loopholes.
1971 24 Mar	The Kingfisher Airtel, a large hotel complex near the Cable Station at Anson Bay, was destroyed by a fire, “ <i>leaving some staff members with no more than the smoke-stained clothes on their backs</i> ”, as was reported in <i>The Norfolk Islander</i> newspaper on Saturday 27 March 1971. Although proposals to do so were lodged, it was never rebuilt.
1972	A proposal by the Commonwealth that a high security animal quarantine station be established on Norfolk Island made for a great deal of controversy on the island. A referendum of residents on 8 November rejected the idea, and the Commonwealth withdrew the proposal.
1974 Oct	Celebrations mark the bicentenary of the discovery of Norfolk Island by James Cook. Queen Elizabeth (along with Prince Philip and other members of the royal family) visits Norfolk Island and opens the QE lookout on Rooty Hill Road above Kingston. Other dignitaries included Prime Minister Gough Whitlam and Pervis Young, chief magistrate of Pitcairn Island. It was the first visit by a monarch and of

	an Australian prime minister in office.
1975-1976	<p>Sir John Nimmo, a judge of the Australian Industrial Court, conducts an exhaustive enquiry into the constitutional relationship between Norfolk Island and Australia. His report made 74 recommendations over wide-ranging topics. Essential proposals were that Norfolk should be integrated into the Australian political system of laws, social benefits and taxes and that it become part of the electorate of Canberra. The recommendations and some of Nimmo's comments created intense controversy on the Island. The elected Norfolk Island Advisory Council unanimously opposed the proposal that the island lose its separate political status.</p> <p>Also in 1975, R.J. Ellicott, Q.C., gave an opinion that the "separate and distinct" status of Norfolk Island, conferred by Queen Victoria's 1856 Order-in-Council, could only be altered by, or pursuant to, a British Act of Parliament. However, in 1980, Ellicott, as the Commonwealth Minister for Home Affairs, appeared to have changed his views, asserting that Norfolk Island was part of, or belonged to, Australia.</p>
1976 Mar 30	In deciding the case <i>Berwick Limited v. R.R. Gray</i> (R.R. Gray being the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation), the five judges of the High Court of Australia, including Chief Justice Sir Garfield Barwick, held that Norfolk Island is part of the Commonwealth of Australia. The case primarily involved taxation but other issues concerning the relationship of Norfolk Island to Australia were, to all appearances, finally decided. The Court decreed that Norfolk Island is part of the Commonwealth of Australia; that the Australian Parliament's power to make laws for the Island is "plenary" (complete and not limited by restriction); and that the Australian Tax Commissioner has the right to require any person or company on Norfolk to provide information or to file a return for any year, regardless of whether the person or company may owe any tax.
1977 Feb	All members of the Norfolk Island Advisory Council, acting as private citizens, appeal to the United Nations to protect Norfolk from being integrated into Australia without the electors' consent. The Federal Minister for Territories is petitioned by 158 Norfolk Island residents supporting the Nimmo Report. More than 600 residents (more than two-thirds of the electors) sign "solemn declarations" in support of the Island's separate status. Senator Reg Withers, Territories Minister, dismissed the petition
1977 27 Feb	QANTAS Airways conducted its last flight on the Sydney-Norfolk run on, East-West Airlines taking over the service.
1977 Nov 16	The wreck site and remains of the vessel <i>H.M.S. Pandora</i> was discovered about 80 to 100 miles off Cape Glenville, near Cape York, by an RAAF aircraft using a magnetometer, which detects metal. [PIM Jan 1978 report]
1978	Australian Parliament introduces new legislation with the aim of giving Norfolk Island a greater measure of self-government.
1979	The <i>Norfolk Island Act</i> (1979), a Commonwealth Act of Parliament, passed into law, providing for the establishment of a nine-member Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly to assume responsibility for a wide range of functions previously handled by a Commonwealth-appointed Administrator, with assistance from a locally elected Advisory Council. First Assembly elected 1 August 1979. Members elected were; D.E. Buffett, W.A. Blucher, E.D. Howard, G.W. Jackson, B.C. Mackenzie, J.D. McIntyre, B.K. Nunn, J.H. Ryves and K.J. Williams. But there was widespread dissatisfaction with the proportional representation method of voting used in the first Legislative Assembly. The Australian Minister for Territories had instigated the voting system some five weeks before the election, replacing the traditional "first-past-the-post" method, and it was ...
1983 Jul	David Huw Lewis, a disgruntled ex-teacher, attempts to seize power at Norfolk Island using a rabbit and some gunpowder. Lewis left a message at the radio station ordering the Administrator and his wife to leave the Island, threatening to release rabbits, a serious pest, on the Island. He was arrested and deported.
1985 15 July	The Administrator of Norfolk Island advised the Department of Territories of the visit of the yacht <i>Ouvea</i> . Norfolk Island police detained and spoke with crew members at the South Pacific Hotel. Subsequently, New Zealand Police arrived at Norfolk Island, questioned crew

	members, searched the <i>Ouvea</i> , and having no jurisdiction, were unable to detain the French citizens further, who sailed away in a yacht which was never seen again. It was later established that the <i>Ouvea</i> was the vessel which carried a French sabotage team to Auckland harbour, where the Greenpeace vessel <i>Rainbow Warrior</i> was bombed, killing a crew member. A lot of fingerpointing and blamelaying occurred in Australian Senate as a result of the bungled investigation.
1986 May	The election for the Fourth Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly combined with a referendum on the question “Would television as proposed by the Norfolk Island Government be good for Norfolk Island?” The question was resolved in the negative but a rash of large television receiving dishes being privately erected prompted the government to provide a free public television broadcasting service in June 1987.
1991 7 Mar	A report is tabled in the Australian Parliament by yet another Commonwealth-sponsored group. A number of House of Representatives MPs conducted an enquiry into “the adequacy of the laws and legislative structure” of Australian external territories and the Jervis Bay Territory. The possible recommendations of the Standing Committee naturally caused concern to Norfolk Island residents. Submissions had been called for from interested parties. A referendum was held in Norfolk Island on February 13 on the question: “With respect to the matters discussed by the Legal Regimes Inquiry, including the question of federal representation, should the constitutional position of Norfolk Island be changed?” 82% of electors voted for no change to the existing situation. The Committee made 46 recommendations to Parliament covering a broad range of concerns about the legal structures and general conditions prevailing in Norfolk Island; in general terms, its main thrust was that “Australian citizens must be accorded the same or at least comparable benefits, rights and protection under the law as enjoyed by mainland citizens”.
1993 9 Nov	A ceremony in Norfolk Island marks the bicentennial of the departure of the two Maori men Tuki and Huru from Norfolk Island in 1793 to return to their home in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand [see entry 1793 Mar]. The deeply-felt commemorative ceremony saw descendants of Tuki and Huru from the Muriwhenua people of New Zealand, along with descendants of Commandant Phillip Gidley King, take part in gift-giving and traditional Maori protocol. Two patu (stone clubs), given to King by the grateful families of Tuki and Huru on their homecoming, were given back to Tuki and Huru’s descendants, who in turn passed the clubs to the people of Norfolk Island through two members of one branch of the Norfolk Nobbs family, who are also descendants of Philip Gidley King. Info from <i>The Norfolk Islander</i> 13 Nov 1993.
2002 21 Aug	A referendum on Norfolk Island by all electors rejects the proposed introduction of digital mobile telephones. Nevertheless, a mobile phone service was later introduced.
2006 20 Feb	Jim Lloyd, Australian Federal Minister with responsibility for Territories, announces that the Commonwealth plans wide-ranging changes for the governmental arrangements of Norfolk Island, claiming that the present system is not working and that the Island is sliding towards insolvency. Two models proposing the replacement of existing governmental arrangements were presented by Lloyd as acceptable to the Commonwealth. Both models appear to include the substantial loss of autonomy granted under the 1979 Norfolk Island Act. Integration into the mainland systems of taxation, social welfare etc etc., seems inevitable and the proposals have caused another series of rifts and differences in the Norfolk Island community. The story continues.
2013 20 Mar	The Fourteenth (and last) Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly was sworn in. It consisted of Lisle Snell, Robin Adams, Ronald Ward, Tim Sheridan, Melissa Ward, David Buffett, David Porter, Ron Nobbs and Hayden Evans. Reported in <i>The Norfolk Islander</i> newspaper, as was a letter dated 18 March 2013, from “Chief Minister elect” Lisle Snell to Simon Crean, Commonwealth Minister for Territories, in which Snell made a request for financial assistance from the Commonwealth because of shortfalls in the Norfolk Island budget.
2015 May	While a referendum was held on the island this month, the question it asked residents was (arguably) opaque. Instead of asking the islanders who they would like to be governed by, it said: “Should the people of Norfolk Island have the right to freely determine their political status, their economic, social and cultural development, and be consulted ... on the future model of governance for Norfolk Island before such changes are acted on by the Australian parliament?”

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Sources

1. MH = *N.I.- An Outline of its History* by Merval Hoare
2. NIN = *The Norfolk Island News* newspaper edited by Ed Howard in the 1970s-1980s
3. TNI = *The Norfolk Islander* newspaper edited by Tom Lloyd 1965 until 2017; hence edited by Jonathan Snell
4. PIM = *Pacific Islands Monthly*
5. TFS + *The Fatal Shore* by Robert Hughes.

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