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.

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.

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.

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

**70s**

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

**NOVEMBER**
Melbourne Cup is first live international broadcast.

Radio licence is abolished and television licence fee is set at $20 (= $221 in 2004).

**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.
**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.

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.
**1984**


**80s**

New Zealand television celebrates its first 25 years.

Broadcasting Tribunal awards third channel broadcasting warrant to TV3.

Julian Mounter 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.

**JULY 26**

Labour Government elected. David Lange is Prime Minister.

**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.**
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.

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

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

Te Mangai Pahoe 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

JULY 1
Year-long phase-out of Public Broadcasting Fee completed.
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<td>TVNZ established as a Crown Owned Company.</td>
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<td>The New Zealand Television Archive building in Lower Hutt opens.</td>
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<td>SEPTEMBER 11</td>
<td>Terrorists fly planes into twin towers of World Trade Centre in New York. TVNZ runs uninterrupted coverage for 36 hours.</td>
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