

Year	Event Description
1901	Queen Victoria dies. The first Commonwealth Parliament opens in Melbourne's Exhibition Building. The first motor cars (no more than 50) appear on the city streets. Electric light introduced in Australia. Bulk handling facilities commissioned by the 'Shell' Transport and Trading Company of London at Gore Bay in Sydney Harbour and on land leased from the Victorian Railways near Williamstown Railway Station on Hobson's Bay. Shell ship Turbo arrives on 3 June with the first cargo of bulk kerosene (Rising Sun brand of Russian origin) ever to reach Australia.
1903	The first delivery of bulk fuel for Australia arrives in the Shell ship Murex.
1905	The Shell Transport and Trading Company and the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company establish the British Imperial Oil Company Ltd established in Australia as a joint venture.
1907	Shareholders agree to Royal Dutch and Shell combining operations, 60 per cent Royal Dutch and 40 per cent Shell Transport.
1909	The Model T Ford comes to Australia. The Kitchen family establishes the Neptune Oil Company to handle its oil business.
1910	John Fell & Co buys oil from Gore Bay for processing at its refinery next door.
1913	John Fell & Co acquires the assets of the Commonwealth Oil Corporation and began refining shale oil at Newnes (NSW).
1914	The Neptune Oil Company sold to the Lever Group. Euplectela delivers first bulk cargo of motor spirit to Australia.
1916	Shell announces bulk delivery to garages equipped with pumps. Famous 'Bowser' kerbside pump introduced. John Fell establishes a shale oil refinery (later Shell's Clyde refinery) at the confluence of the Parramatta and Duck Rivers, 16 kilometres west of Sydney.
1919	Shell Aviation Service starts.
1921	Shell introduces motorized bulk tankers.
1922	John Fell buys crude oil to refine at Clyde.
1926	Clyde refinery producing casing head gasoline, Dux Motor Spirit, petroleum, coke, tractor distillate, gas oil and Ajax Power kerosene. The Royal Dutch/Shell Group acquires the Neptune Oil Company from the Lever Group. Shell installs hundreds of company-owned kerbside pumps and leases them to dealers for a low deposit and rental.
1927	Duck River wharf opens at Clyde refinery to receive crude feed by barge from Gore Bay. The British Imperial Oil Company Ltd becomes The Shell Company of Australia Limited. Shell sponsors the silent film The Petroleum Industry.
1928	Shell buys Clyde refinery. Clyde produces Shell Imperial motor spirit, Cross Power kerosene, tractor distillate and fuel oil.
1931	Commonwealth Government imposes four pence per gallon excise duty on refined gasoline.
1932	Shell sponsors first sound film Large-scale poultry farming, followed by The Dairying Industry (1933), Cars and Motor Cycles (1935).
1935	Shell Educational Film Library opens and becomes one of the most important channels for film distribution in Australia: hundreds of educational and documentary films available on free loan.
1937	Shell builds theatrettes in its capital city offices.
1939	Shell Development Australia (SDA) receives its first Australian exploration concession. Shell puts physical resources and staff placed behind the war effort. Shell executive heads unit distributing petrol, oil and lubricants to the Australian army and air force.
1941	Crude oil supplies cut and Clyde refinery becomes an essential wartime industry.
1943	SDA suspends exploration until after the war.
1946	Clyde refinery reopens.
1947-1951	Shell launches a £1 million four-year oil exploration and drilling programme over 50,000 square miles of Queensland. Launch of Shell Touring Service.
1948	Shell Mobile Film Units bring cinema to many remote communities for the first time.

1949	Shell makes its 30th film and sponsors Australia's first demonstration of television.
1950	John Heyer becomes producer of Australian Shell Film Unit: his films include Rankin Springs is West, Shellubrication, The Forerunner, Two Men of Fiji, Playing with Water, Back of Beyond and the series In the Steps of the Explorer. Shell launches its Post Graduate Scholarship Scheme.
1951	Shell introduces the 'dealer plan' or solo marketing, hailed as the biggest single development in Australia's petroleum marketing history. The resulting network of stations selling only Shell products reduces distribution costs and contributes to keeping down the price of petrol. Decision taken to build Geelong oil refinery at Corio.
1953	West Australian Petroleum (WAPET) discovers oil of commercial quality in its Rough Range No 1 well near Exmouth Gulf but further expenditure of nearly £6 million fails to locate oil in commercial quantity.
1954	Shell Chemical (Australia) Pty Ltd forms to market the product of Australia's first petrochemical plant, Geelong refinery's sulphuric acid plant. Geelong's crude distillation units 1 and 2 come on stream.
1955	Shell establishes Shell Aria Award.
1958	Shell takes a 28.6% interest in WAPET's oil exploration venture. Shell Chemicals announces the building of an epoxy resin plant at Clyde refinery.
1958	First major expansion of Clyde refinery, total capital expenditure \$18 million.
1959	Shell announces a detergent alkylate plant at Geelong and a petrochemical plant at Clyde.
1960	Second major expansion of Clyde refinery, total capital expenditure \$34 million First major expansion of Geelong refinery.
1960-64	SDA 'roving team of geologists explore large areas of onshore Australia.
1962-1971	SDA explores onshore Maryborough, Queensland.
1963	SDA joins forces with Woodside and Burmah to explore the North West Shelf.
1964	Shell sponsors the Beatles' only Australian performance for television.
1964-1968	SDA explores Sydney Basin, New South Wales.
1965	SDA explores in Otway Basin, Victoria (1965-1975), Arafura Sea (1965-1977), Bass Strait (1965-1975, 1981 onwards).
1966	WAPET declares Barrow Island a commercial field. Offshore drilling starts in the Otway Basin.
1966	Third major expansion of Clyde refinery, total capital expenditure \$20 million.
1966-1977	SDA explores Great Australian Bight.
1968	Lady Casey, wife of the Governor-General, launches Shell's first Australian-built tanker, the 24,700 dwt Cellana. Shell commissions Australia's first turbine oil plant at Shell's Newport terminal.
1970	Shell Chemical erects the first southern hemisphere polypropylene plant at Clyde refinery at a capital cost of \$16 million.
1970-1973	First wave of oil shocks. Market for LPG increases rapidly.
1971	The first big discovery of North West Shelf gas made at North Rankin.
1972	Discovery of Angel and Goodwin on North West Shelf.
1973	Shell Folkloric Festival begins. Shell launches sponsorship of the Western Australia Shell Youth Concert.
1972-1973	Offshore Canning exploration.
1972-1980	Second major expansion of Geelong refinery.
1973	Sponsorship of Western Australia Shell Youth Concert begins.
1975	Shell Fremantle Print Prize established.
1976	Shell leads the industry in Australia into electronic self-serve pumps.
1977-1980	Offshore Canning exploration.
1978	Formerly separated Shell companies in Australia brought together as Shell Australia Limited.
1980	Shell Mileage Marathon established to encourage the development of fuel economy techniques and technology.

1981	Shell launches AutoCare to offer motorists specialised repair services. Shell wins a permit to drill for oil in Bass Strait. Shell launches Conus, 32,000 dwt.
1982	Shell's exploration expenditure, excluding the North West Shelf, is \$52.5 million. XM0 automotive lubricant launched as a best in world crankcase oil.
1983	Shell completes a five year investment of \$2,000 million on new plant and equipment, oil, gas, coal and metals ventures.
1984	Inauguration of first phase (domestic) of the North West Shelf. Sales of gas to the State Energy Commission of Western Australia begin. The Worsley bauxite/alumina project commissioned. Shell launches Nivosa, 115,000 dwt crude oil and product carrier. EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) facilities available at Shell service stations.
1984-1988	SDA explores onshore Canning Basin.
1985	Shell completes a five year investment of \$450 million to upgrade its oil refining and marketing network. Shell raised its holding in Woodside Petroleum from 21.34% to 40.04%. Sales and purchase agreement for NWS liquefied natural gas (LNG) signed with eight Japanese electricity and gas utilities. Shell produces Same Seasons documentary film to strengthen bonds between.
1986	Shell introduces unleaded petrol: Shell Ultra. Third wave of oil shocks.
1986-1989	SDA explores onshore Drummond, Queensland 1986-1988. SDA explores offshore Beagle, Western Australia 1986-1989.
1987	After 30 million kilometres of worldwide road tests, Shell Formula Diesel enters the market. The Boddington gold project comes on stream. SDA explores Browse Basin, Western Australia. Shell launches Royal Opera House Covent Garden Scholarship.
1988	Boddington gold mine (Shell interest: 30%) becomes Australia's largest single gold producer, less than one year after its first pour of gold. Shell buys CSR coal interests. Shell gains a majority interest in the Callide steaming coal mine in Queensland. Shell gains a majority interest in the Drayton steaming coal mine. SDA explores offshore Torquay, Victoria and begins exploration programme in Eromanga Basin, Queensland. Third major expansion of Geelong refinery. Shell sponsors Women's Cricket fourth world cup. Shell pioneers Operation Livewire in Western Australia. As its contribution to the 1988 Bicentenary, Shell sponsors permanent travelling Shell Questacon Science Circus.
1989	Official opening of Shell new Australian headquarters One Spring Street Melbourne. Shell spends over one billion dollars in search for oil in Australia. North West Shelf first deliveries of LNG to Japan.
1990	Shell drills for oil in Gippsland, Browse and Eromanga Basins.
1992	Major Geelong expansion with new residue catalytic cracking unit, central refinery control building and selective hydrogenation unit on stream.
1993	First stage of a \$48 million renewal and rationalisation of Shell's east coast lubricants blending and grease production facilities. Shell presents Van Gogh: his sources, genius and influences.
1994	Shell reduces its holding in Woodside Petroleum from 40.4% to 34.3%. Shell introduces half-lead petrol. Geelong commissions new sulphur handling units.
1995	Montell acquires Shell polypropylene business. Shell Australia floats gold assets as Acacia Resources. Development of the original scope of the North West Shelf project completed. Shell launches Helix range of petrol engine lubricants. Fly Buys loyalty programme. Shell becomes one of the first three companies to join the Greenhouse Challenge. NRMA's Clean Air 2000 initiative to reduce air pollution in Sydney launches with Shell support.
1996	Shell Coal assets reported at \$1.081 billion. Dartbrook, NSW coal mine commissioned. Convergence of Shell's Oil Products businesses in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands into Shell Oceania. Go ahead for Queensland's Moranbah North coal project. Shell announces Aboriginal Art Fund, administered by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
1997	Northern Australian Gas Venture, a joint venture between SDA and Woodside Energy, formed. Helix, 40,000 dwt product carrier arrives in home port of Geelong. Brisbane becomes the base for Shell's international coal business. Shell presents Rembrandt: a genius and his impact.