

AUSTRALIAN CHART BOOK: THE ALBUMS (1952-2018) CHRONICLE

1976:

At the beginning of the year **Abba** had the No. 1 album, with “Abba”. At the end of the year Abba had the No. 1 album, with “Arrival”. In the middle of the year Abba had the No. 1 album, with “The Best Of Abba”. All together 29 of the year’s 52 weekly charts were led by Abba.

During the year “**The Best Of Abba**” became the first album ever to sell **one million** copies in Australia.

When “**Arrival**” was released in November, the album’s debut chart position was No. 1. A rare event in the 1970s, but a common place one in the 21st century.

In between all this domination, the other 23 chart tops were shared by Bob Dylan, Queen, Sherbet, Neil Diamond, Rod Stewart and Bryan Ferry. The only album to miss the top because of Abba was “Wings At The Speed Of Sound”, which held onto No. 2 for eight weeks in May-June-July.

Queen’s fourth album was their third to chart in Australia. It was “A Night At The Opera”, which claimed the top spot a week before the single “Bohemian Rhapsody” did so. This was Queen’s only No. 1 album (until 2019).

Sherbet’s second No. 1 album was “Howzat”, which was also the band’s second No. 1 single. All told, the band had nine top 20 albums, and lead singer **Daryl Braithwaite** scored three.

As the disco movement continued to grow, some new names made their appearances: **Donna Summer**, with “Love To Love You Baby” and “A Love Trilogy”; **Penny McLean**, with “Lady Bump”; and **Tina Charles**, “I Love To Love”. **Bryan Ferry** topped both the singles and albums charts with “Let’s Stick Together”.

With the addition to their lineup of Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks, **Fleetwood Mac** developed a new sound, and their latest album, titled “Fleetwood Mac”, became their first top ten entry. Now established, a further eight albums became top ten items in the coming years.

Eagles had been gaining popularity since “Desperado” in 1973. With “One Of These Nights” they reached the top five in 1975, this one paving the way for “Their Greatest Hits 1971-1975”, which peaked at No. 3. At the end of this year they released “Hotel California”, which took them to the top in 1977.

Kiss had three charted singles and three charted albums in 1976. However, their albums all made higher chart positions than the singles, with “Kiss Alive” (released late 1975), “Rock And Roll Over”, which reached the top 20, and “Destroyer” which took them to No. 6.

Rodriguez’s 1970 album “Cold Fact” first charted in Australia in 1976. It peaked at No. 77, and remained on the top 100 for just five weeks. In 1978 it re-charted, and peaked at No. 23, during a further 55 weeks’ run. With further chart time in 2013 and 2014, the album eventually rose to No. 8.

Soundtracks of the year were “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” (See 1974), and Led Zeppelin’s film soundtrack “The Song Remains The Same”. The TV Soundtrack of “Rock Follies” peaked at No. 9.

The top 10 albums of 1976: **1** THE BEST OF ABBA, Abba; **2** A NIGHT ON THE TOWN, Rod Stewart; **3** ABBA, Abba; **4** A NIGHT AT THE OPERA, Queen; **5** BEAUTIFUL NOISE, Neil Diamond; **6** ARRIVAL, Abba; **7** THEIR GREATEST HITS 1971-1975, Eagles; **8** TAKE IT GREASY, Ol’ 55; **9** WINGS AT THE SPEED OF SOUND, Wings **10** HOWZAT, Sherbet