

Historical timeline



1866 Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co founded in Switzerland.

1867 Henri Nestlé developed Farine Lactée, the first infant food.

1885 NESTLÉ trademark registered in New Zealand.

1904 Nestlé added chocolate to its product range when Peter and Kohler Swiss General Chocolate Company produced milk chocolate under the NESTLÉ trademark.

1905 Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co merged.

1908 First Australian branch opened.

1911 Dennington Condensed Milk factory built (largest in the world during the war).

1918 Abbotsford Chocolate factory built, Sydney.

1919 Nestlé took control of the Peter, Cailler, Kohler Company in Australia.

1920 Laboratories opened in Sydney.

1921 Australasian Branch incorporated locally. Bacchus Marsh Company acquired with factories at Smithtown NSW and Maffra VIC, producing LACTOGEN and Malted Milk Powder.

1929 Sarotti & the Peter, Cailler, Kohler Chocolats Suisses S.A. merged with Nestlé. This marked the Group's entry into the chocolate and confectionery business in Europe.

1929 Nestlé confectionery factory opened in Parnell, Auckland. Closed in 1988.

1934 MILO powder developed at Abbotsford, Sydney.

1937 SUNSHINE milk powder launched in Australia.

1938 NESCAFÉ instant coffee invented.

1947 The Maggi Company merged with Nestlé. Company name became Nestlé Alimentana SA. This marked the Group's entry into the culinary products business.

1947 NESCAFÉ coffee introduced in Australia.

1951 MAGGI soups launched in Australia.

1955 Gympie, Queensland factory opened.

1960 Crosse & Blackwell (British culinary products company) acquired (Pakenham Factory VIC).

1961 Cambria Park Factory, Auckland, commenced production.

1962 Acquired 80% of Frisco - Findus (by 1974, 100% acquired). Sale of the FINDUS brand and part of the frozen food business in Europe took place in 1999.

1971 Merger with Ursina-Frank (makers of Tongala brand products in Australia).

1974 Minority interest in L'Oreal (cosmetics) acquired.

1977 Acquired Alcon (ophthalmologic products).

1980 Nestlé Pacific Islands (NPI) set up as a separate business.

1983 Purchased PAPA GIUSEPPI'S in Australia.

1984 First production facility in Pacific Islands, Fine Foods Fiji Ltd (Lami) - joint venture with CJ Patel.

1985 Carnation business purchased (milk products, culinary products, entry of the Group into the pet food business under the brand FRISKIES).

1986 Andronicus coffee business purchased in Australia.

1986 Heards confectionery business in New Zealand purchased; included Waiuku factory which was closed in 2003.

1987 NPI opened factory at Lae, PNG.

1988 Buitoni-Perugina purchased by Nestlé. (Italian Cuisine: BUITONI; chocolate: PERUGINA), Rowntree (chocolate and confectionery business) purchased.

1989 Allen Lifesavers (Aust) – increased stake from 50 to 100%. Pet food business of Arnott Harper acquired.

1991 Equity participation in Maganlal Jiwa Ltd led to acquisition of Ba factory, in Fiji; partnership with Chedlait S.A. in Noumea established.

1992 Nanda (pasta) business purchased. Sold in 1999.

1992 Animal Health Food Company (TUX brand) purchased in New Zealand.

1992 NPI acquired Noumea-based chocolate producer, Chocody.

1995 Nestlé New Caledonia established.

1995 Regina confectionery factory in Oamaru, New Zealand, purchased. Closed in 2001.

1996 Nestlé Polynesia S.A.S. trading company formed in Tahiti.

1997 Nestlé Trading Fiji Ltd formed.

1999 Nestlé Oceania region formed.

2001 NPI made major extensions at Lae, PNG and Ba, Fiji factories. Decommissioned Lami factory.

2002 Nestlé Australia acquired CDS Gourmet Foods (made-to-order, value-added fresh and frozen meals and meat components).

2002 Nestlé UK acquired SKI yogurt brand (includes rights to SKI brand in Australia although current licence to use the brand for yogurt products is held by Dairy Farmers).

2003 Nestlé Switzerland acquired the MÖVENPICK ice cream brand on a worldwide basis. This includes Australia and New Zealand although the rights to the brand in New Zealand have been licensed to Chateau Crème until end 2005.

2004 Nestlé Australia acquired Chalet Patisserie (gourmet cake manufacturer).