

## Blacktown Suburb - Timeline

Before the settlement of New South Wales by Europeans, the Blacktown district was inhabited by the Darug Aboriginal people, who are the traditional owners and ongoing custodians of the land. We pay our respect to elders past and present, and acknowledge the Aboriginal people for their custodianship of the land.

A school for Indigenous Australia was moved in 1823 from Parramatta to the site where Richmond Road meets Rooty Hill Road North. The road from Prospect to Richmond then became known as the Black Town Road. In 1860 the Railway Department gave the name of Black Town Road Station to the railway station at the junction of the railway and the Black Town Road, with the name shortening to Blacktown by 1862.

Pre 1788	Prior to the settlement of New South Wales by Europeans, the Blacktown district was inhabited by the Darug Aboriginal people
1791	First land grants in the Blacktown District.
1800	Population 16.
1804	Vinegar Hill rebellion
1816	Governor Macquarie grants land to Colebee and Nurragingy.
1823	The Native Institution moves from Parramatta to the corner of Richmond Road and Rooty Hill Road South, and becomes known as the Black Town.
1824	Bungarribee House built for John Campbell.
1827	Bushranger, Jack Donohue (the "Wild Colonial Boy") starts robbing in the Blacktown area.
1845	St Brigid's Catholic Church opened.
1860	Railway comes to Blacktown.
1862	First post office opened at the Railway Station.
1864	Railway extended from Blacktown to Richmond.
1871	Blacktown Provisional School opened in August.
1872	Edward Palmer opened first butcher's shop in Blacktown.
1877	Blacktown Provisional School becomes Blacktown Public School in October.
1889	Sam Snyder opened first bakery in Blacktown.
1892	Services commenced at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Blacktown.
1906	The Shire of Blacktown was created by the Local Government Act of 1906. The first Council meeting was held at the Rooty Hill School of Arts in June.
1914	Population 6,000.
1919	Blacktown Cricket Club established and won A grade competition in the Parramatta Cricket Association that year
1920	First Blacktown Show held in the School of Arts. John Miller started the first taxi service in Blacktown.
1921	The Rivoli Theatre, Blacktown's first picture theatre, opened. Population 7,381.
1922	Blacktown Showground opened 3 March by Premier Jack Lang. Pitch laid for cricket club at showground.
1929	Blacktown Baptist Church opened. First Methodist Church opened.
1933	Population 13,724.
1934	Electricity was turned on in Blacktown
1936-37	Royal Hotel completely rebuilt and opened as the Robin Hood Inn.
1937	Francis Park opened on Saturday 20 November.
1939	Council chambers extended. Post Office opened in Flushcombe Road.
1939-1945	Over 1,000 people from the Blacktown area enlisted to serve during World War 2

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1946	Blacktown Advocate commences. Rivoli Theatre destroyed by fire on 10 October.
1947	Establishment of Mitchell & Townsend Holden dealership Baby Health Centre opened on Saturday 10 May by the Minister of Health, Mr Christopher Augustus Kelly
1951	Blacktown Bowling and Recreation Club established.
1952	Patrician Brothers High School, Blacktown officially opened on 8 June by His Grace Archbishop Eris O'Brien. Whitmont Factory opened. St Patrick's School opened.
1953	Blacktown Workers Club opened.
1954	Population 31,748. First naturalisation ceremony held.
1955	Railway line electrified to Blacktown.
1956	Blacktown High School (coeducational) on the corner of Sunnyholt Rd and Fifth Avenue opened. The school was replaced in 1959 by Blacktown Girls High and Blacktown Boys High.
1957	Bungarribee House demolished.
1957	Ukrainian Church opened on Kildare Rd, Blacktown. Blacktown North Public School opened. Blacktown West Public School opened. Electricity supply transferred from Blacktown Council to Prospect County Council.
1958	Opening of Blacktown Pre-School Kindergarten Association, Alpha St in March. Blacktown Ambulance Station was opened on 7 June by the State Governor, Sir Eric Woodward.
1959	Russian Orthodox Church opened in Kempsey Street, Blacktown. Blacktown Boys High School opened. Blacktown Girls High School opened. Blacktown South Public School opened. Frank Lowy and John Saunders open a small shopping mall in Westfield Place.
1960	Blacktown LGA boundaries change, leaving 253 square kilometres (98 square miles) in Blacktown Shire. Lynwood Public School opened January.
1961	Blacktown Olympic Memorial Pool opened after years of community fund raising. Blacktown becomes a municipal council. Foundation stone for Civic Centre laid on 17 June. Blacktown linked to Sydney and metropolitan telephone exchanges.
1963	Walters Road Public School opened January. Official opening of the Skyline Drive-in Theatre on 19 December.
1964	Blacktown Municipal Council is the first to introduce punch card machines to their accounting system. Blacktown South High School opened, changed name to Mitchell High School in June 1964.
1965	The existing Council building is completed – the highest building in Blacktown at the time. Although officially opened on 25 October, some lower floors were used from early 1963. Blacktown District Hospital opened.
1966	A six lane 50 metre pool was added to Blacktown Olympic Memorial Pool. Blacktown Courthouse opened on 28 February.



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	Blacktown Police Station opened. Population 111,488.
1967	Blacktown's Public Library opened. After eight months there are 22,000 members. Blacktown Road Public School renamed Shelley Public School.
1968	Lalor Park Branch Library opened. Kmart opened. Official opening of Blacktown RSL Sub-Branch Club on 27 July by Governor Sir Roden Cutler.
1969	Blacktown TAFE opened. Classes commenced on 30 June.
1970	Coreen School for Specific Purposes (SPP) opened. Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) opened on Richmond Rd in November. Application to build Westpoint Shopping Centre made.
1972	Gough Whitlam delivers Labor's policy speech (It's Time) in Blacktown's Civic Centre. Evans High School opened in January. Mayor Peter Richard Stone officially opened new Seventh Day Adventist Church in Newton Road on 8 April.
1973	McDonald's Main Street, Blacktown opened. Village Twin Cinema opened. The first Crafty Bunyip Festival (now the Blacktown City Festival) was held. Westpoint Shopping Centre opened. Blacktown & District Police Citizens Boys' Club (PCYC) building was officially opened by Hon. J.C. Maddison, Minister of Justice on 9 November 1973
1974	Blacktown-Richmond railway line electrified. Village Twin cinema opened.
1976	Population 38,235 (Census). Number of dwellings 10,211. John Velcich opened first Red Lea Store in 1976 on Alpha Street.
1979	Blacktown Municipality is proclaimed a City on 7 March.
1980s	Blacktown Cricket Club transferred teams to the new Blacktown Cricketers Association.
1982	Guide hall constructed in South Blacktown. Extensions finished to Blacktown Workers Club.
1986	Blacktown Youth Service opened. Homebase opened.
1987	Blacktown Ambulance Station moves to Marcel Crescent and was officially opened on 2 March.
1990	Blacktown Public School closed.
1994	Blacktown Ring Road opened.
1995	New railway station and bus interchange opens in Blacktown.
1996	Population 232,219.
1997	Blacktown recycling facility opened with an 800 tonne Lindemann Shear being commissioned soon after. Changes to Blacktown Mall to allow one way westbound traffic and parking facilities
2000	Blacktown Olympic Park the main venue for Olympic softball and 2 <sup>nd</sup> venue for Olympic baseball during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. New Blacktown Hospital opens.
2002	Blacktown Arts Centre opened in the former Christ Church, Flushcombe Road, Blacktown.
2003	Construction of a new central library at Blacktown commenced.
2005	New Max Webber Library opens on Flushcombe Road
2006	Population 271,712 (Census).

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	Blacktown Arts Centre closes for extensions. The city celebrates a Centenary of Local Government.
2007	Blacktown Leisure Centre, Stanhope Gardens celebrates fourth million visitor. Blacktown Library Services turns 40.
2008	Launch of "I Love Blacktown" campaign.
2009	Village Green project started. 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sister Cities relationship with Porirua, New Zealand.
2010	Revitalised Village Green opened.
2011	Population 3012,097 (Census). 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blacktown Aquatic Centre.
2012	Blacktown International Sportspark, Blacktown Libraries and Blacktown Festival websites launched.
2014	Blacktown Showground awarded "Best Playspace over \$1 million" in the NSW Parks and Leisure Association Award.
2015	Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope Gardens received its 11 <sup>th</sup> million visitor. Former Ashlar Golf Club site (38 ha) to be redeveloped by Australand.
2016	110 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of local government in Blacktown. Council gains accreditation as a White Ribbon workplace. \$154 million replacement for its current Animal Holding Facility announced. Fairwater Estate Blacktown wins NSW government Green Globe award Fairwater Estate Blacktown wins UDIA Best Residential Development and Environment Technology and Design Award for sustainability. Friday night markets introduced in Blacktown CBD. Population 347,591 (Census).
2017	Blacktown Arts Centre renamed Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre. Topping out ceremony of Altitude Tower, the tallest building in Blacktown City on 7 December 2017. Altitude is located at the corner of Boys Avenue and Second Avenue. Warrick Lane Masterplan aimed at transforming the Blacktown City Centre released.
2018	Council announced plans to develop educational facilities in partnership with a university. Blacktown is the first NSW Council to be awarded accreditation as a Pan Pacific Safe Community – the process took around eight years to complete. Nestle factory closed in October. Westpoint closes part of carpark
2019	New stadium at H E Laybutt Sporting Complex opened in March Announcement that Blacktown to be the home of Australia's first world class Brain and Spinal Institute led by Professor Charlie Teo AM in December.
2020	Australian Catholic University (ACU) opens Student Information Centre at 22 Main Street Blacktown. Clock Tower removed at Blacktown Court House on 29 February. Catholic Healthcare acquires St Hedwig Village in May.
2021	The Warrick Lane Precinct, Main Street, officially opened on 20 June 2021. Construction of Stage 1 development of St Hedwig Village started early 2021. Population 50,961 (Census – Blacktown Suburb)
2022	At Blacktown Hospital, 12-bed Paediatric ward officially opened on 5 April. Memorial Grove, a memorial for the victims of domestic violence and their families, was unveiled at Blacktown Showground in October. The new furnished part of Westpoint officially opened on 17 November. Blacktown Workers Club changed its name to Workers Lifestyle Group in February.