

Bungarribee - 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 residential suburb on the site of the Bungarribee property, owned initially by John Campbell, who was granted 2,000 acres (approx. 810 ha) in 1821. The property was resumed by the Commonwealth Government during World War II and served as an overshoot airfield. It was used by the Overseas Telecommunications Commission from 1949 to the early 1990s.

Pre 1788	Prior to the settlement of New South Wales by Europeans, the Blacktown district was inhabited by the Darug Aboriginal people
1821	John Campbell, Commissioner for Crown Lands, comes to Australia along with his wife and 13 children. He takes up a 2,000 acre grant of land on the southern part of what is now the suburb of Doonside. 'Bungarribee', as he called it, was to have many different owners. Robert Crawford arrives in Port Jackson from Scotland, as a free settler, on November 7.
1826	John Campbell starts building 'Bungarribee House', using bricks imported from England and convict labour. He dies on 10 October 1827, and his wife dies shortly after. The house was neither completed, nor occupied by Campbell. Many of the homes' later occupants believed the house to be haunted.
1828	Thomas Icely, a well-known landowner and stockbreeder, buys 'Bungarribee', with the assistance of John Macarthur, who allowed him to take over Campbell's original mortgage.
1832	Charles Smith, known as the 'Sporting Butcher' of George Street, buys 'Bungarribee' and uses it as a breeding base for his bloodstock horses. The estate became a leading stud and he spent a considerable sum on improvements including brick stables and outhouses that remained until their final demolition in 1957.
1840	Henry Herman Kater buys 'Bungarribee', and continues to use it as a horse stud for his thoroughbred horses and for Durham cattle.
1841	Veterinarian Joseph Armstrong occupies 'Bungarribee'. He makes a respectable living there, buying horses for resale to agents in India as well as establishing a sheep - boiling down works. It is not known if Armstrong was a tenant or an owner.
1845	The East India Company acquires 'Bungarribee', which they use to spell their regimental horses, and for breeding. Numerous opulent, well-attended gatherings were held at Bungarribee House during this time. 'Bungarribee' is featured in newspapers when the body of Major Frederick Hovenden was found on an isolated part of the estate.
1846-1849	Bungarribee is purchased by Benjamin Boyd, a large landowner. He imported natives of the New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands in 1847 to create a supply of cheap labour for his pastoral holdings. Thirty-five of these were destined for 'Bungarribee'.
c1850	The Australian Agricultural Company uses 'Bungarribee' as a depot for its horses.
c1860	Mr and Mrs Cleeve own 'Bungarribee' until the late 1870s.
1901	Major John James Walters acquires the Bungarribee Estate. He used the property for sheep and cattle and shared the early owners' interest in horse breeding. After 17 years, Major Walters sold 'Bungarribee' to Mr Tom Cleaver,

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	who used it to spell thoroughbreds.
1903	A 'provisional' Public School opens, but is closed in 1909 due to a lack of support. It re-opened in 1911 and closed again in 1913.
1906	Major Walters was a member of the 'temporary' council, which met to plan the establishment of the Shire of Blacktown.
1910	'Bungarribee' is subdivided into farms, made up of three, five, six, and eight hectare sites.
1942	American armed forces build a 1500 metre sealed runway for emergency landings on the Bungarribee Estate.
1946	By 1946 most of Robert Crawford's land was subdivided into smaller building blocks for a new population growth.
1949	The Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) acquires 'Bungarribee' with plans to build a radio transmitting station.
1957	Bungarribee House is demolished amongst loud protests. During its demolition, an older dwelling, believed to be an overseer's slab is discovered incorporated in the house.
1957	Official opening of OTC station by Postmaster-General in February.
1976	Assembly of God Church opens. Population at the census is 5,267. The number of dwellings is 1,952.
1977	The last remaining outbuilding of Bungarribee, a two-storey brick barn that once housed convict workers, crumbles after a violent storm in January.
2001	OTC site closed in the 1990s and station buildings and aerial masts removed by 2001.
2004	NSW Government announces the plan to incorporate the OTC/Bungarribee site in the Western Sydney Parklands.
2006	NSW Government announces it will rezone part of the Western Sydney Parklands to residential. Doonside and Rooty Hill Roads and the Great Western Highway border the land in question.
2008	The Department of Planning proposes releasing 700 housing lots on 55 ha of bushland, next to the Western Sydney Parklands on the historic Bungarribee Precinct in Doonside.
2009	Bungarribee Creek Reserve gazetted 24 April.
2010	Residential development commenced. Landcom developer Bunya 730 lots.
2011	Gazetted as new suburb on 17 June.
2012	Bungarribee Homestead Park gazetted 5 April.
2013	Bungarribee Resource Hub opened. Daruma Park gazetted 26 April.
2014	Bungarribee Resource Hub officially opened on 8 February.
2016	Population 2,629 (Census).
2019	Sydney Zoo opened on the Great Western Highway, Bungarribee in December.
2021	Population 3,177 (Census).
2022	Glow – a mini festival of lights hosted at Sydney Zoo from 13 May – 5 June.