Mount Druitt District - Timeline

Major George Druitt (1775–1842) was granted 2,000 acres (810 ha) in the area by Governor Macquarie. He named his grant Mount Druitt.

This timeline provides information for the Mount Druitt district. Individual timelines are available for the suburbs built from the 1960s onwards.

1817	Major George Druitt arrives in the Colony aboard the 'Matilda'.
1821	Governor Lachlan Macquarie recommends a 1000 acre land grant (the original Mount Druitt Estate) to Major George Druitt as a reward for his years of outstanding service as Chief Engineer in the Colony. The grant was not signed over until 1837.
1822	Major George Druitt's house on the Mount Druitt estate is completed.
1823	George Foster Blackett arrived as a free settler aboard the 'Allies'. He was appointed as superintendent of Government Stock Farm at Rooty Hill. The suburb Blackett was named in his honour.
1825	George Druitt marries Margaret Lynch at Christ Church Castlereagh.
1831	James Whalan is granted 300 acres, east of Ropes Creek by Governor Darling. The suburb Whalan takes its name from James Whalan.
1842	Margaret Druitt dies on 23 February aged 44. Major George Druitt died four months after his wife on 8 June. He was 67.
1848	The Campbell family put up the Mount Druitt Estate for auction (Robert Campbell acquired the estate as part of security when George Druitt borrowed £4800 in 1839). The estate was bought by John Alger.
1849	The Mount Druitt estate house destroyed by fire.
1853	William Fredrick Emert and wife Rosina (from Hamburg, Germany) arrive in Sydney aboard the 'Helena'. Emerton is named after the Emert family who resided in the Mount Druitt area since 1861. Their house, Siglingen, still stands today.
1854	John Alger auctioned the Mount Druitt Estate. It was acquired by businessman William Lowder Lees who subdivided the land and sold it in lots.
1855	Local farmer Thomas Meacher bought 882 acres of the Mount Druitt Estate, where he ran cattle and cultivated a vineyard.
1880s	Thousands of residential lots are released in Mount Druitt, Rooty Hill and Marsden Park.
1861	Wooden chapel and Wesleyan Sabbath School built at Simpson's Hill Road. Colyton Public School opened on the original site, corner of Great Western Highway and Simpson Hill Road. The school moved to its present location in 1898.
1862	Railway line built through Mount Druitt.
1872	John King Lethbridge purchased James Whalan's grant of 300 acres, and consolidates this with his property. He built his house and called his farm 'Tregeare', moved in with his family around 1877. The suburb Tregear is named after the Lethbridge property.
1881	Mount Druitt Railway Station opened 1 July. George Kennedy King purchased 310 acres, originally part of the Mount Druitt estate, from John Mills. The land is subdivided into smaller lots and auctioned.
1887	The official opening of the New Wesleyan Church (corner of Mount Druitt and Ropes Creek Roads).
1892	A receiving office for mail at Mount Druitt railway station was changed to a post office with Alfred Mortimer as the postmaster.
1894	Presbyterian Church 'Rupertswood' completed.
1911	Mount Druitt population 141.
1912	The first official airplane crash occurred in the Mount Druitt area. William Ewart Hart crashed his plane adjacent to the railway line while flying from Penrith to

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	Parramatta.
1925	Mount Druitt Advancement Club opens its hall.
1933	Mount Druitt population 442.
1934	Water board mains installed at Mount Druitt.
1942	Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) operates from Mount Druitt (formerly known as St Marys Siding).
1946	Vogue Theatre (operating in the Mount Druitt Advancement Hall) opens with its first feature film, National Velvet.
1950	Mount Druitt Motor Racing Circuit leased by Belfred Jones was built on the remnants of the second world war airstrip used by Royal Australian Air Force.
1954	Mount Druitt population 1,474.
1958	Mount Druitt Racing Circuit closed.
1960	Minister for Local Government decides to plan a new town in the Mount Druitt area
1961	Mount Druitt Public School opened May. Mount Druitt population 7,929, including Rooty Hill.
1964	Development of the Housing Commission estate starts in Mount Druitt. Millers Mt Druitt Hotel opens.
1966	First housing commission homes built in Mount Druitt
1967	Whalan Public School opened.
1968	Tregear Public School opened.
1969	Lethbridge Park Public School opened in April. Tregear Shopping Centre opened in October. Mount Druitt High School opened. Emerton Public School opened.
1970	Ambulance Station at Mount Druitt officially opened on 24 October.
1971	Establishment of Mount Druitt Police Station.
1972	Official opening of Blackett Public School has been operating since 1971. Whalan High School opened. Hebersham Public School opened.
1973	Great Western Regional Shopping Centre opens at Mount Druitt in October. Hebersham Public School was officially opened by the Governor of NSW, Sir Roden Cutler in November. Willmot Public School opened.
1974	Shalvey Public School and High School opened. Emerton Shopping Centre opened by Mayor Peter Richard Stone. Mount Druitt's new railway station officially opened on 8 December.
1975	Bidwill Public School opened. Mount Druitt and Emerton Swimming Pools officially opened.
1976	Mount Druitt District population 53,571. The number of dwellings is 1,561. Bethel Assembly purchases the Wesleyan Church, name changed to Bethel Church.
1977	Mount Druitt Branch Library was officially opened on 18 March by Premier, Neville Wran. Bidwill High School opened. Mount Druitt Police Station opens.
1979	Mount Druitt TAFE opens.
1982	Official opening of Mount Druitt Hospital by Queen Elizabeth II. Emerton Youth Centre opened by Premier of NSW, Neville Wran on 13 December.
1983	Mount Druitt Bowl and Recreation Centre officially opened on 23 July.
1984	Super Kmart and Coles store opened at Mount Druitt on 13 February.
1985	Mount Druitt Waterworks opens.
1986	Mount Druitt District population 55,574.

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1991	Astro Cinema opens 15 March. The cinema closed in 1997 when the owner, Dr Peng Tin Chia, went into receivership.
1992	Dedication of RAAF Memorial Park, Belmore Avenue on 27 April.
1995	Remembrance Gardens established at the site of Mount Druitt Waterholes, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII. Islamic school, King Abdul Aziz College, is built. The School is renamed "The Australian Islamic College of Sydney" in 2005.
1996	Population 50,852 (Census).
2000	Commencement of Chifley College including Dunheved, Shalvey, Bidwill, Mount Druitt and Whalan campuses.
2001	Population 51,909 (Census).
2002	Chifley College Senior Campus, next to Mount Druitt TAFE completed.
2003	New interchange at Mount Druitt station commenced.
2005	Westfield Mount Druitt is expanded.
2006	Population 84,302 (Census). Department of Community Services Office in Mount Druitt is refurbished and officially opened by the Premier Morris Iemma. Emerton Leisure Centre opened. Mount Druitt Courthouse officially opened.
2007	Willmot Community Garden officially opened in Willmot Public School grounds.
2008	'The Manse', a house built in the 1880s and owned by the Kennedy family, is being restored by Blacktown City Council.
	The former Millers Mt Druitt Hotel is renovated and reopens as the Village Hotel.
2009	'The Manse" restoration completed and officially reopened with Mount Druitt Historical Society as tenants.
2010	Indigenous Job Market day held at Mount Druitt.
2011	Prime Minister Julia Gillard visits Mount Druitt to inspect the nearly completed Mount Druitt Hub. The complex includes a library, a senior citizens' centre, sessional offices, clinic space and meeting rooms and was officially opened in November.
2015	Anzac Centenary Mosaics unveiled in Dawson Mall.
2016	Population 88,713 (Census).
2017	Emerton Leisure Centre renamed the Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre.
2019	Sydney's last video story, Video Ezy closed in February.