

Parklea - 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.

Parklea dates back to the early 1900s and is believed to be named by subdividers at the time.

Pre 1788	Prior to the settlement of New South Wales by Europeans, the Blacktown district was inhabited by the Darug Aboriginal people
1846	John Foreman Staff acquired 70 acres of land (at Parklea) and passed it on to his son, James Samuel Staff who became legal owner in 1853.
1853	James Samuel Staff built a homestead on his land and named the farm "Norfolk Vale".
1856	Pearce family owned "Stanhope Farm".
1882	James Samuel Staff sold "Norfolk Vale" to David Robert Howard, an orchardist.
1888	James Cocks, an orchardist, bought "Norfolk Vale" and renamed it "Sorrento".
1918	Parklea Public School was built on the corner of Lalor and Sunnyholt Roads (relocated on Glenwood Park Drive in 1996).
1933	Population at the census for Parklea and nearby area was 187. There were 42 occupied dwellings.
1941	Alfred William Casmir von Sanden acquired Sorrento and renamed it "Glenwood Park".
1949	Emile Marcel Nydegger bought "Glenwood Park", operating it as a dairy.
1972	Prime Minister Billy McMahon opened New South Wales Federation Soccer Academy in Parklea on 26 February.
1973	Housing Commission resumed Stanhope Park Dairy. Emanuel Baptist Church built in August.
1974	Housing Commission of New South Wales resumed Glenwood Park house.
1976	Population at the census was 1,117. There were 336 dwellings. Skyline Drive-in opened in December with Picnic at Hanging Rock.
1981	At the census, there were 1,528 people in the Kellyville-Parklea area. Parklea Gardens Caravan Park opened in October.
1983	Parklea Prison opened in November (officially opened on 5 September 1984). The first prisoners admitted on 7 November.
1984	Parklea Prison awarded with the Sir John Sulman Medal for architecture. Skyline Drive-in closed on August 8, 1984 and the site was cleared for Parklea Markets.
1986	Population of Kellyville-Parklea was approximately 1,400. Valentine Sports Park opened.
1987	Parklea prisoners rioted on 13 December. Parklea Markets opened illegally on 26 January and closed after four weekends.
1988	Parklea Markets won Metal Building News Merit Award for its creative use of steel construction techniques.

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1989	Parklea Markets begin operating in August (officially opened in August 1990). The Land and Environment Court approved the Meriton Apartments' Sundowner Village at Sunnyholt Road on 28 June.
1990	A second riot at Parklea prison occurred on 23 September over new rules concerning the personal property of prisoners. Parklea Markets officially opened in August.
1991	Population of Kellyville-Parklea was 1,003.
1992	Parklea prison was reclassified for maximum security to medium security.
1994	The Glenwood Estate opened in June (formally recognised as a suburb in 1996). The work started on Sikh temple on Meurants Lane, Glenwood.
1995	Stanhope Gardens Estate opened in 1995 (officially recognised as a suburb in 1996). Glenwood Park House damaged by fire.
1996	Population at the census for Kellyville-Parklea was 1,109. Acacia Gardens formally recognised as a suburb.
1998	New South Wales Softball made their headquarters at Stanhope Park Softball and Sports Centre.
1999	Parklea Public School at Glenwood opened 3 September. Davison Reserve (Reserve 793) name assigned 1 October. The reserve named after Norman Francis Davison for his community work with Parklea Public School.
2001	Population 1,289 (Census).
2005	Parklea Correctional Centre's new Chapel officially opened.
2006	Australia's first Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre opened within Parklea Correctional Complex. Population 5,575 includes Acacia Gardens (Census).
2008	Plans to privatise Parklea Correctional Facility are announced.
2010	Development of a motel, exhibition centre and growers' market proposed for the Parklea markets site.
2011	Population 6,598 includes Acacia Gardens (Census)
2016	Population 7,461 (includes Acacia Gardens). Plans released for the Parklea Markets site to become a housing and commercial hub after site sold to developers.
2021	Population 3,684 (Census – Parklea only)