

Rooty Hill 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.

Rooty Hill was the centre of the government administration for the area and has been known as Rooty Hill since 1810. There are varying suggestions about the name's origin, including the amount of tree roots that were cleared to create a road in the area, or from the Hindi word for food, "ruti". There is also a suggestion it was named after Rooty Hill Road on Norfolk Island, where Governor King spent time in 1788.

Pre 1788	Prior to the settlement of New South Wales by Europeans, the Blacktown district was inhabited by the Darug Aboriginal people
1789	The first explorers that passed through the Rooty Hill district were a party led by Captain Watkin Tench, of the Marines. Included in the party were surgeons 'Arndell' and 'Lowes' as well as two marines and a convict. The route they took on 26 June, 1789 is closely followed by the present Great Western Highway.
1802-1803	Governor King builds a headquarters for his government stock reserve which he locates on a hillside. The location's name is most likely in honour of the Norfolk Island 'Rooty Hill' where the governor had spent many happy and productive years.
1811	The first printed record of the name 'Rooty Hill' appears in the Sydney Gazette on 10 August, 1811.
1812	The Rooty Hill is used to survey much of Sydney's west and south-west.
1815-1818	Governor Macquarie up-grades the headquarters (which was known as 'Thornleigh' at that time). The building not only housed the reserve superintendent but also served as a country residence for Governor Macquarie. The house is best known as 'Government House' or 'The Government Stock Farm'.
1819	William Minchin receives a grant of 1000 acres of land at Rooty Hill which he names Minchinbury. He died in 1821 and his daughter inherited the property.
1820s-30s	The last of the Government Reserve around the Rooty Hill is disposed of, with the proceeds going towards a fund supporting the Church of England clergy and also toward schools for the area.
1825	'Bold John Donahoe,' also known as 'The Wild Colonial Boy', assigned to a road gang at Rooty Hill for a minor crime. This was before he became a bushranger.
1861	Rooty Hill railway station is built and opens in January 1862. It closed 18 months later, as it was not heavily used. In December 1864 the station reopened as passenger numbers grew.
1875	Rooty Hill Public School opened (closed 1890).
1880s	Thousands of residential lots are released in Mount Druitt, Rooty Hill and Marsden Park.
1885	St Alban's Church of England opens.
1887	Walter Lamb establishes the 'Woodstock Fruit Company', a major cannery providing work opportunities in Rooty Hill North.
1890	The Imperial Hotel, located across from the railway station, opens. Its licence was transferred to Wallacia in 1936 due to bad behaviour.
1891	The Baptist church in Rooty Hill Road South is built. Later the church building is purchased by the Presbyterian church and named the Pioneer Memorial Presbyterian Church. Rooty Hill's population is 527.
1892	William Smith sets up a wheelwright and blacksmithing business near Rooty Hill station.
1896	Frank Watts, whose parents owned the first butchery business in the area, builds the historic 'Watts Cottage'.
1901	Rooty Hill School of Arts is built. Officially opened in March 1903, the opening ceremony attracts around 400 residents. The School of Arts has been used as a

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	cinema (around 1935) and also as a library.
1906	The temporary 'Council of Blacktown' holds their first meeting in the School of Arts building on 13 June 1906.
1907	St. Aidan's Primary School is established.
1912	The first aircraft crash in Australia occurs along the railway line between Mount Druitt and Rooty Hill.
1915	A ceremony is held to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone for St. Aidan's new (R.C.) Church at Rooty Hill.
1920s	Taxi cabs and hire cars carried passengers from the Rooty Hill railway station to the many scattered, outlying homes from as early as 1920. A fare to Eastern Creek was one shilling.
1936	Electricity officially switched on in Rooty Hill on 1 December.
1939-1945	Soldiers stationed at Wallgrove camp often attended dances in the town and would also patronise a popular roadside stall known as 'Cath's Canteen' which served hotdogs and hamburgers etc. The old Church of St. Albans, built in 1885 was destroyed by a windstorm.
1953	Scout group formed.
1954-56	Rooty Hill Rural Fire Service is established.
1955	The first electric train arrives at Rooty Hill station on 8 October 1955.
1957	Rooty Hill Public School opened January.
1959	Our Lady of Consolation aged care nursing home officially opens on 25 July 1959.
1960	The Uniting church building at Rooty Hill Road North is officially opened on 19 March 1960. The church (then known as The Methodist church) was first established in the garage of Mr and Mrs Freeman of Derby St. in 1957.
1961	St. Albans Church of England opens on Sunday, July 30
1962	St. Agnes High School opens on 3 June 1962. Rooty Hill High School opened January. The school was officially opened on 18 June 1964.
1964	The Rooty Hill RSL is established on Rooty Hill Road North with 127 members.
1972	The first stage of the present Rooty Hill RSL club opens at a cost of \$1,100,000.
1976	Population 6,791 (Census). The number of dwellings is 2,058.
1977	Local dentist John Lal purchases the Imperial Hotel which he restores and reopens in 1982. Work begins on the township's sewerage system construction.
1980	Davis Overpass officially opened on 6 September 1980.
1981	'Rooty Hill's School of Arts' extensions are officially opened on the 72 nd anniversary of the first meeting of the temporary council of Blacktown. Population 7,292 (Census)
1983	The Blacktown City Council Work's Depot located at Rooty Hill officially opens. The Rooty Hill Childcare Centre officially opened on 10 September, later renamed as Lynch Child Care Centre and in 2016 as Kids Early Learning, Rooty Hill
1986	Population 8,014 (Census)
1987	Land is purchased for Rooty Hill Mosque. Initially prayers are held in a small hall on the site until the Mosque is built (around 1990).
1989	Two tonnes of deadly gas ammonia leak from a pipe at the Nestlé's plant at Rooty Hill causing three people to be taken to hospital.
1991	Population 9,329 (Census)
1992	The State Government officially hands over the deeds to the historic 34 hectare landmark of the Rooty Hill to Blacktown City Council. Premier John Fahey officially opens the BHP mini-mill at Rooty Hill after years of controversial protest. Opening of Rooty Hill RSL resort – 163 unit motel and conference centre. Headmaster's residence on Rooty Hill Rd North, destroyed by fire in December.
1996	Population 10,830 (Census) includes Eastern Creek.
2000	Aquilina Reserve at Rooty Hill hosts the Sydney 2000 Olympic Women's Softball

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	competition and selected Baseball competitions.
2001	Population 11,173 (Census).
2002	A controversial \$20 million amphitheatre is proposed to be constructed at the foot of The Rooty Hill.
2003	The Rooty Hill Skate Park officially opened on 13 December 2003.
2006	Population 12,267(Census) includes Eastern Creek.
2011	Population 13,277 (Census). Blacktown Olympic Park renamed to Blacktown International Sportspark.
2016	Population 14,704 (Census).
2017	Construction of Anglicare retirement village in Rooty Hill Road South commenced.
2018	Sculpture of Dr Jose Rizal unveiled in Rizal Park in November by Mayor Stephen Bali.
2019	Melva McDonald Lodge Residential Aged Care Home, located within Anglicare's Rooty Hill retirement village at 11 Mavis Road, Rooty Hill, was officially opened on 20 March 2019. Sydney Coliseum Theatre at West HQ (formerly the Rooty Hill RSL) opened in December.
2020	Completion of Stage 2, Anglicare Rooty Hill Retirement Village.
2021	Population 16,176 (Census)
2022	Blacktown Exercise Sports and Technology Hub (BEST), formerly known as the International Centre of Training Excellence, was announced as the official name. This \$100 million project expected to open early 2023.