

## Whalan - 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.

Named for James Whalan, who was granted 300 acres (122 ha) at Mount Druitt, by Governor Darling in 1831. Many of the streets in Whalan are named after towns in Papua New Guinea.

The Whalan area was originally part of Mount Druitt. For history before the 1940s, please see the Mount Druitt timeline.

Pre 1788	Prior to the settlement of New South Wales by Europeans, the Blacktown district was inhabited by the Darug Aboriginal people
1940s	Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) dispersal airstrip built – the airstrip was known as Mount Druitt. The site later housed RAAF Repair and Salvage Units
1948-1958	The former RAAF airstrip was used as a race track. Drivers who used the race track included Jack Brabham and Leo Geoghegan.
1951	RAAF Repair and Salvage Unit disbanded, and the following year a full road circuit was built, which included the old airstrip.
1967	Whalan Public School opened in January.
1968	Dedication of St James Anglican Church in September.
1969	1 <sup>st</sup> Whalan Scout Group formed. Whalan Public School officially opened on 13 August.
1970	Unveiling of plaque in Whalan Reserve to commemorate the bicentenary
1971	St Johns Ambulance Tregear-Whalan Ambulance and Nursing Cadet Divisions formed.
1972	Whalan Community Centre opened in February Whalan High School opened in December.
1973	Officially gazetted as suburb on 23 November. Whalan Public School officially assigned/gazetted on 23 November. Madang Avenue Public School opened in January.
1974	Madang Avenue Public School officially opened on 16 September by the Honourable Eric Willis, Minister for Education. Halinda School for Specific Purposes opened in January.
1976	Population 8,851 (Census). Whalan Reserve gazetted 13 August. The reserved had been called Whalan Reserve Park.
1981	Population 7,483 (Census).
1986	Population 6,808 (Census).
1991	Population 6,092 (Census).
1992	50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the RAAF Repair and Salvage Unit, an event held at what is now known as the RAAF Memorial Park.
1994	Whalan Community Action Group formed.
1996	Population 6,054 (Census).
2000	Whalan High School opened as Senior Campus, Chifley College.
2001	Population 5,955 (Census). Kokoda Reserve gazetted 5 October.
2002	Senior Campus, Chifley College (former Whalan High School) moved to 67 North Parade, Mount Druitt.

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2006	Population 5,602 (Census).
2009	Luxford Gardens, Bloxham Park and Karangi Park, names assigned 24 April.
2011	Population 5,934 (Census).
2016	Population 5,919 (Census).
2018	Former Whalan High School building located on Mimika Avenue reopened as the Western Sydney Aboriginal Centre of Excellence. The name was later changed to Kimberwalli, meaning 'many stars' in Darug language.
2021	One-and-half kilometre cycleway from Whalan Reserve to Popondetta Park was constructed using Polyrok - a material made from recycled soft plastics. This was the first major project in New South Wales using Polyrok. Population 5,929 (Census).