



BANKSTOWN
City of Progress

Time line of Bankstown

- 1795 George Bass and Matthew Flinders explored the Georges River in their rowing boat the Tom Thumb.
- 1796 Governor Hunter extended the exploration as far as the present site of the Lansdowne Bridge.
- 1798 Governor Hunter placed a settlement of marines near the junction of the Georges River and Prospect Creek (Garrison Point). District named Banks Town in honour of Sir Joseph Banks. First land grant issued to George Bass.
- 1814 The Great South Road (Liverpool Road or Hume Highway) constructed at a cost of £130 per mile.
- 1818 District Constable appointed.
- 1826 Bushrangers hanged on the site of the present day water tower on Liverpool Road.
- 1836 Lansdowne Bridge over Prospect Creek is officially opened by Governor Bourke. Foundation stone of St. Felix Church land donated by John and Bridget Abbott.
- 1858 Municipalities Act is the beginning of Local Government; Bankstown is placed in the control of a Board of Trustees
- 1860 Chapel Road Bankstown is officially opened
- 1863 First Post Office
- 1880 First Public School
- 1886 First Methodist Church
- 1888 Reservoir constructed at Potts Hill
- 1889 First Official Police Station
- 1894 Auburn and Enfield Councils announce that they wish to absorb the district of Bankstown
- 1895 Joseph James Cooper and his colleagues petition for Bankstown to become a municipality
- 1895 Bankstown declared a municipality and the First Council meeting is held in Mrs Caird's Post Office; Joseph James Cooper is elected Mayor
- 1898 First Town Hall and Council Chambers constructed on Liverpool Road
- 1907 Construction of the Belmore to Bankstown railway begins
- 1909 Belmore to Bankstown Railway line opens
- 1912 "Empire Theatre" showing silent movies opens in Bankstown
- 1913 Potts Hill reservoir No 2 commenced construction and was completed in 1923

- 1914 Gas street lamps erected in the main residential roads, replacing kerosene lamps
- 1915 The Majestic Theatre opened
- 1917 Soldiers settlement established at Milperra; permanent fire brigade established.
- 1918 Council Chambers moved to South Terrace and Bankstown Post Office relocated from Irish Town to the rail station area.
- 1922 The division of the Central Ward creates East and West wards; number of aldermen increased from nine to twelve.
- 1923 Electricity is switched on for the first time; Council is responsible for the mains until 1955 when Sydney County Council assumed responsibility
- 1926 Bede Brennan built the Capital Theatre, located in Chapel Road
- 1927 Railway line is electrified
- 1928 Rail link to Bankstown and Regents Park established
- 1929 Population reaches 29,000
- 1931 Single railway line to East Hills opened
- 1933 Bankstown Olympic swimming pool opened
- 1938 Ambulance station is opened on South Terrace
- 1940 640 acres in Bankstown resumed for Bankstown Aerodrome; Royal Australian Air force Station – Bankstown is formed; Bankstown Aircraft Park no 2 becomes an integral link in the Allied Forces defence strategy; American troops arrive in Bankstown - referred to as "Yanks Town"; 1st Fighter headquarters transferred to "The Bunker" cnr Marion Street
- 1946 Children's Library in Restwell Street opened
- 1947 Bankstown's population reaches 42,000
- 1953 Blanche Barkl is elected first woman Mayor.
- 1954 Bankstown Central Library opens; Bankstown Council is dismissed and an administrator appointed
- 1955 The "Torch" newspaper premises are destroyed by fire
- 1956 Major flooding affects Prospect Creek and the Georges River
- 1957 Bankstown Hospital opens in Eldridge Rd
- 1959 Police Station in Fetherstone St and the Court House in Chapel Road open
- 1960 Population reaches 146,000
- 1963 Bankstown Council is dismissed; Bankstown Civic Centre precinct consisting of Council Chambers and Administration building opened
- 1966 Bankstown Square opened
- 1973 Bankstown Town Hall is opened by Prime Minister Gough Whitlam
- 1980 Bankstown proclaimed a City
- 1983 Bankstown's new central library is opened on the site of the old library
- 1984 Bankstown swimming pool closed after 52 years
- 1988 Bankstown participates in the re enactment of the voyage of the Tom Thumb
- 1990 Bankstown Civic Tower is opened
- 1995 Bicentenary of the settlement of "Bankstown"
- 1997 Council's administration centre destroyed by fire; Dunc Grey Velodrome opened, venue of the cycling events of Olympics
- 2000 Keating Park opened by Paul Keating, former Prime Minister, and Bankstown plays host to the United States Olympic team
- 2001 "Volunteers" statue unveiled near Paul Keating Park
- 2002 Helen Westwood elected second female Mayor
- 2005 Bankstown celebrates its "Silver Jubilee" 25 years as a city
- 2010 Bankstown celebrates 30th Anniversary of City status