

CULTURAL HERITAGE

HISTORY TIME LINE OF HORNSBY SHIRE

- 1788 - The original land owners of Hornsby Shire region were Aboriginal people from the Darug and Ku-ring-gai language groups. They lived in the district 15,000 - 20,000 years before European settlement.
- 1788 - "Discovery" of the Hawkesbury River by Captain Arthur Phillip.
- 1789 - Naming of the Hawkesbury River by Captain Arthur Phillip during his second voyage in July.
- 1820s - Building of the Great North Road begins to open up in the western side of the Shire around Epping, Pennant Hills, Dural and Wiseman's Ferry.
- 1827 - (1) Thomas Edward Higgins takes up a grant of 250 acres in Old Man Valley thereby becoming the first permanent white settler in Hornsby. (2) Solomon Wiseman begins operating a ferry crossing at what would later become Wiseman's Ferry.
- 1830 - Constables Samuel Horne and John Thorne shoot bushranger, John MacNamara. This incident led to John Thorne and Samuel Horne being granted land in the Thornleigh and Normanhurst area. Samuel Horne names his "Hornsby Place" and the name of Hornsby is born. The area is later renamed Normanhurst and Hornsby Junction is renamed Hornsby.
- 1830s - George Peat carves out a track between Old Berowra Road and the Hawkesbury River at Peats Ferry. This opens up the eastern side of the Shire along what is now the Pacific Highway.
- 1857 - Wiseman's Ferry Post Office established.
- 1886 - Hornsby, Epping, Beecroft and Thornleigh Railway Stations open on the 17 September 1886.
- 1887 - First Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge opens at Brooklyn. Pennant Hills, Berowra, Hawkesbury River (Flat Rock) and Mt Colah Railway Stations open.
- 1894 - (1) First School at Berowra is established. (2) Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park established.
- 1895 - (1) Waitara Station, the last of the North Shore line stations to open on 20 April. (2) Hornsby Station, now known as Normanhurst Station, opens 21 November.
- 1898 - The last of the new main line stations is opened at Cheltenham.
- 1900 - Hornsby Post Office is established on its present site.
- 1903 - Mount Ku-ring-gai Station opens.
- 1906 - Incorporation of Hornsby Shire Council.
- 1929 - Electrification of railway line from Strathfield to Hornsby.
- 1933 - Hornsby District Hospital opens on 26 August 1933.
- 1934 - John Tipper establishes Muogamarra Sanctuary.
- 1945 - Hawkesbury River Road Bridge opens. Up until then the river was crossed via ferry.
- 1946 - Second Hawkesbury Railway Bridge opens. First bridge decommissioned.
- 1951 - Population in Hornsby Shire is 39,500.
- 1961 - Westfield Shopping Centre Hornsby, opens.
- 1966 - Population of the Shire reaches 80,000.
- 1968 - Stage 2 of Westfield Shopping Centre opens. It is 4 times the original size of Stage 1.
- 1988 - Fagan Park opens to the public.
- 1989 - The F3 Freeway is officially opened on 19th March.
- 1993 - Water Sculpture by Victor Cusack is unveiled in the Westfield Shopping Mall.
- 1997 - Population of the Shire 137,000
- 2001 - (1) Stage three of the Westfield Shopping Centre opens at Hornsby.
(2) Population for the Shire 145,968
- 2003 - Work starts on the building of a Sporting Complex at Dartford Road Normanhurst.
- 2006 - Hornsby Shire Council celebrates its centenary

*Welcome to
Hornsby Shire
the Country of
the Darug and
Guringai people"*

Statement of Reconciliation

"... This Statement of Reconciliation is an acknowledgment of regret over practices and policies which have impacted on Indigenous people and an expression of hope in a future of peace and Reconciliation."

"The land we now know as Hornsby Shire is home to the spirit of many generations of the Darug and Guringai peoples.

We acknowledge and respect the ongoing strength of the spiritual presence of the Darug and Guringai people in the Shire. We acknowledge that this was their land and water and that they remain its spiritual custodians ..."

"... This Statement of Reconciliation is offered in the confident hope that in the Hornsby Shire the spirit and practice of Reconciliation among all Australians will be nurtured and grow strong."

