

Riverstone 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.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Charles O'Connell was granted 2,500 acres (1,010 ha) by Governor Macquarie in this area. He named his grant "Riverston" after his birthplace in Ireland. When the Railway Station was established, an "e" was added to the name.

Pre 1788	Prior to the settlement of New South Wales by Europeans, the Blacktown district was inhabited by the Darug Aboriginal people
1794	Old Windsor Road from Parramatta to Hawkesbury River cut through the area
1803	Government Stock Farm established by Governor King. Present day Riverstone located in the north-west corner
1810	Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Charles O'Connell is granted 2,500 acres of land, which he calls "Riverston Farm". The grant extended from the presentday Garfield Rd to Bandon Rd and from Windsor Rd to Eastern Creek
1815	Reverend Samuel Marsden is granted 1,000 acres of land in the district
1816	Richard Rouse is granted 450 acres of land in the district
1819	James Ruse is granted 100 acres of land in the district.
1821	John Schofield arrives in the Colony as a convict aboard the <i>Minerva</i>
1828	John Schofield granted ticket of leave on the 26 September
1845	Riverston Farm, 3 500 acres, offered for sale. John Schofield purchased a 600 acre property known as 'Argown', from Robert Fop.
1846	Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell appointed Acting Governor of NSW until Governor Sir Charles FitzRoy arrived later in 1846
1848	Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell dies, buried in Rookwood Cemetery.
1856	Riverston Estate subdivided into 59 farms and offered for auction.
1863	Work commenced on Blacktown to Richmond railway line, the colony's first branch rail line. English spelling of "Riverstone" came into being.
1864	Commissioner of Railways buys portion of John Schofield's land for construction of railway line to Richmond. First regular train service on the Blacktown-Richmond line.
1867	Greatest flood on record in the Hawkesbury area. Height 19.2m.
1877	Riverstone Post Office established at Riverstone Railway Station.
1878	Riverstone Meat Works established by Benjamin Richards.
1881	Riverstone Estate offered for sale.
1882	St John's Catholic Church in Garfield Rd Riverstone, opened by Archbishop Vaughan on 2 July.
1883	Riverstone Public School opened, with William Langton appointed the first teacher. Main railway station building constructed at Riverstone.
1884	St Andrew's Presbyterian Church opened in Regent St, later moved to Garfield Rd in 1912. Services had been held in the home of Mr John Greig since 1875. Roseberry Park Estate, one of the last subdivisions of the Riverstone Estate.
1885	St Paul's Church of England opened.
1886	Telegraph Office opened at the Riverstone Railway Station.
1892	Police residence completed, now used as Riverstone Police Station. First resident Policeman appointed was Mr E Grace. Vineyards destroyed by phylloxera insect, most small farmers ruined.

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1904	St John's Catholic Church opened (present brick church).
1911	Riverstone population 981.
1914	Telephone exchange installed at the Riverstone Railway station.
1919	War Memorial unveiled.
1920	Olympia Theatre in Garfield Rd commenced screenings.
1921	Riverstone Scouts formed.
1923	Schofields Primary School officially opened. Royal Pictures commenced screening in the Oldfellows Hall.
1926	First motor repair shop, service station opened in Riverstone by Bill Nichols in Garfield Rd.
1928	Riverstone separated from Windsor Council and came under the administration of Blacktown Shire Council.
1929	Riverstone Public School moved to the eastern side of Garfield Road.
1933	Riverstone Country Women's Association Branch formed on August 24 th . Riverstone population 1,319. Riverstone connected to Metropolitan water supply.
1934	Electrical services connected at Riverstone in June. "Back to Riverstone" Carnival held in June.
1941	Methodist Church opened in Pitt Street, Riverstone.
1943	Official opening of the Riverstone Post Office on 27 February 1943. This building replaced the post office at the railway station.
1950	Catholic School operated at St John's Catholic Church.
1952	Baby Health Centre opened.
1955	St John's Catholic Primary School opened.
1957	Riverstone Public School operated on two sites – Infants in Garfield Rd and Primary in Elizabeth St. St Clare's Convent Riverstone dedicated on 28 April.
1961	60 families evacuated from their homes at Riverstone due to flooding.
1962	Riverstone High School opened January. Riverstone's first swimming pool opened, constructed using community funds.
1967	Riverstone Cemetery came under control of Blacktown Council.
1970	Two fires at Riverstone Meatworks, one resulting in the death of six men.
1973	New complex opened at Meatworks in December.
1975	Inaugural electric train service between Blacktown and Riverstone on 22 May.
1976	Riverstone Olympic Swimming Pool opened. Population 6,071 (Census). The number of dwellings is 1,629.
1978	Riverstone Marketown opened. Riverstone Branch Library opened by NSW Minister for Mineral Resources and Development Ron Mulock on 27 November.
1980	Coverdale Christian School opened. Residents able to connect to sewer.
1981	First O'Connell County Fair held. Population 5,727 (Census)
1986	Population 5,452 (Census)
1988	Blacktown and District Bicentennial Museum opened in original Riverstone Public School premises in December.
1991	Population 5,587 (Census)
1994	Riverstone Meatworks closed down.

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1996	Riverstone population 5,497 (Census).
2000	Riverstone Branch Library moves to expanded premises, still in the same building.
2001	Riverstone suburb gets its own website. Riverstone County Fair held. New RSL club opened. Riverstone population 6,595 (Census).
2002	Riverstone Public School consolidates and opens on Elizabeth St site.
2003	Restoration work at Riverstone Cemetery undertaken.
2004	Casuarina School opens for students with behavioural problems. Riverstone Area Family Centre opened in May. Riverstone's Coverdale Christian School's creative resources centre officially opened by NSW Governor Marie Bashir on 30 July.
2007	Rugby League field at Riverstone Park renamed Basil Andrews Field. Riverstone Bowling Club celebrates 50 th anniversary. Riverstone Guide group celebrates 40 th anniversary.
2008	John Palmer Public School opens at The Ponds. New precinct plan for Riverstone which will accommodate up to 8,000 new houses, a new town centre, a business park and an upgraded railway station is released by the NSW government.
2009	Riverstone-Schofields Memorial Club won ClubsNSW People's Choice award. Rezoning of land in Riverstone West to allow the establishment of a 16 ha business park.
2010	Riverstone's bicentenary was celebrated the entire year, with the major event being held in May at the Riverstone Festival. Football NSW announces its plans to relocate its headquarters from Glenwood to Riverstone. Riverstone Precinct, one of the First Release Precincts in the North West Priority Growth Area, bounded by Bandon Road to the north, Schofields Road to the south, the Richmond Rail Line to the west and First Ponds Creek and Windsor Road to the east, rezoned for development in May. The 975 hectare site will comprise 9,000 dwellings and a projected population of 27,000.
2011	Riverstone Bicentenary celebrations named Blacktown City's Community Event of 2010. Concern over delay in providing a safe railway crossing continues.
2016	Riverstone Police Station (Quakers Hill LAC) official opening 3 August Troy Grant MP, Deputy Premier of NSW and Minister for Justice and Peace. Population 17,312 (Census Riverstone – Marsden Park)
2019	Rededication of Riverstone War Memorial on 9 November.
2020	Suburb boundaries realigned on 6 November. Areas excluded from Riverstone now form part of the existing suburbs of Vineyard, Schofields, Marsden Park and Rouse Hill, and the new suburbs of Angus, Richards and Grantham Farm.
2021	Population 8,627 (Census)