

Highlights of Illawarra

Following are some of the important dates in the history of the Illawarra district, as listed by Mr. W. H. Mitchell in a historical record:-

- 1770: Illawarra district is first mentioned by Captain Cook in the log book of the Endeavour; a party from the ship failed to make a landing.
- 1796: Bass and Flinders landed after a perilous voyage in the Tom Thumb. The district was called Alowrie by the natives.

- 1797 Survivors of a vessel, the Sydney Cove, found coal near Coalcliff.
- 1815: Dr. Chas. Throsby travelled overland from Sydney and cut a track down the Bulli Mountain and drove cattle into the district. Cedar getters settled in the district and first used Wollongong boat harbour.
- 1816: Organised settlement began and land grants were made; thus farming commenced.
- 1826: Military came to Wollongong to protect the settlers and to maintain order.
- 1827: First school established.
- 1834: Town of Wollongong was first planned by the Surveyor-General, Major Thomas Mitchell.
- 1843: Sir George Gipps constituted the first District Council.
- 1844: Captain Westmacott formed a route up the mountains at Bulli (the present Bulli Pass).
- 1849: James Schoobert opened the first coal mine at Mount Keira.
- 1851: First National School opened.
- 1855: First newspaper published.
- 1857: Thomas Hale opened a coal mine at Bellambi.
- 1859: Municipality of Wollongong was formed.
- 1865: First kerosene produced in Australia at Wollongong.
- 1876: Coke first manufactured.
- 1887: Railway line between Sydney and Wollongong completed.
- 1901: Work on Port Kembla Harbour construction commenced.
- 1904: Telephone system installed.
- 1909: Electrolytic Refining & Smelting Works opened at Port Kembla.
- 1913 First motor bus used in Wollongong.
- 1918: Metal Manufactures commenced operations.
- 1926: First steelworks established.
- 1932: Completion of cross-country railway to Moss Vale.
- 1942: Wollongong proclaimed a city.
- 1947: City of Greater Wollongong formed by the amalgamation of the City of Wollongong, the Shires of Bulli and Central Illawarra and the Municipality of North Illawarra.

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