

DUBBO CITY TIME LINE

- 1818 John Oxley passed through the district that became Dubbo
- 1824 Land permits to G.J.Palmer & John Wylde to occupy land two geographical miles in every direction in every direction adjacent to the Macquarie River. By 1828 Palmer had 13,000 acres, 1,847 head of cattle & 6,133 sheep.
- 1828 George ‘Dusty Bob’ Smith employed by Palmer & Wylde at Dibilambil Station, stockyards on site of Old Dubbo Gaol.
Palmer’s owner 13,000 acres.
- 1829 Sturt arrived “Murrumbigerie” and camped with Palmer’s stockman (George Smith) at “Dibilamble (sic) Station”. – *Where the Old Dubbo Gaol now stands.*
- 1837 ‘c’ Robert Venour Dulhunty took out a licence legalising his occupancy, at ‘Dubbo’, the aboriginal word meaning ‘red earth’. He also married this year. Dubbo was four miles south of the present city
- 1839 Dulhunty built his new stone home and called it “Dubbo House”, converted his old house into the “Macquarie Inn” and placed Edward Lang in charge.
- 1839 John Osborne, the son of John & Jane Osborne, was born at “Dubbo” Station. John snr. Being the accountant for Dulhunty
- 1841 Jean de Bouillon Emile Serisier opened a store on the southeast corner of Macquarie & Cobra Sts, thus being the first settler of the town.
- 1846 On 22nd December, Dubbo was proclaimed a place for holding a Court of Petty Sessions. A Court House was built.
- 1847 In January the Governor informed a Bench of four Magistrates to arrange for a Court House and lock-up to be built.
- 1847 Jean Emile Serisier, a Frenchman asked permission from Dulhunty to establish a shop on “Dubbo” Station but his request was refused.
- 1848 Serisier & Nicholas Hyeronimus moved north of “Dubbo” Station and asked permission from George Smith (Dusty Bob), Palmer’s stockman, to establish Despointes & Co. a trading post on his land. Permission was granted. This new settlement began diagonally across the block from the L H Ford Bridge to the corner of Smith & Reakes Streets. Hyeronimus built the first hotel in this area and called it “Carrier’s Arms”
- 1848 Surveyor Davidson draws a sketch and sort permission, from the government, to survey this area and have it proclaimed a village. This was granted and in October, Surveyor, George Boyle White, drew a map showing area features, the streets he would prepose for the new village.
- 1848 First mail coach.

Serisier opened his 2nd store after ceasing connection with Despointes – called it Dubbo Stores – site to RHS of Shire Building.

- 1849 Village gazetted 21st November.
First recorded murder.
Surveyor G. Boyle White signs his plans, dated 14th May 1849, for the village of Dubbo.
First Hotel licence 27th January. These original plans are a part of the Dubbo Museum collection. These plans were for 150 blocks covering areas in Macquarie, Brisbane, Carrington, Ave., Church, Wingewarra, Bultje & Talbragar Streets. A constables hut in Talbragar Street, and the Court House in Macquarie Street.
Regular mail deliveries commenced. J.E.Serisier 1st Postmaster - operating the business from his store.
- 1850 Serisier opens 3rd stores on north east corner of Macquarie and Bultje Streets. 2nd store taken over by Chinese.
37 x ½ acre blocks were submitted for sale in the new village. Sold November 20th.
- 1851 Census reveals population of 28 males and 19 females. Second sale of town blocks on 8th January. Population: 28 males and 19 females.
- 1851 Dr Walter Tibbits arrived to set up practice
- 1852 Robert Venour Dulhunty died at Old Dubbo and was buried at the Pioneer Cemetery.
- 1853 First Methodist Church Service held in the 1st Court House.
- 1854 Samuels family arrived in Dubbo
- 1855 First Catholic Church built, on a slab on Section 7. St.Brigid's on eastern side of Macquarie Street between Cobra & Bultje Streets. Slab building with a shingle roof, accommodated 20–30 people. This building was used until it blew down in 1869,
First MP George Lord elected 16th April
- 1856 Anthony's Flagstaff Stores built in Macquarie Street.

A pound established, with Adam Clark Taylor as first pound keeper
- 1857 James Samuels married by Rev. H Garven visiting minister from Wellington. 1st September, first slab built National school opened at 232(or 323 check number – Samuels Building) Macquarie Street. Slab walls, shingle roof, 2 classrooms and immediately closed whilst teacher was sent to Fort Street for training. Number on the roll 20 males, 16 females = 36 – with a regular attendance of 10 males & 14 females = 24. This school remained until 1872
- 1858 First Church of England built together with a Parsonage in Macleay St North Dubbo. The building was of weatherboard and built by Adam Gordon. Four Hotels operating at this time were: Dulhunty's Macquarie Inn; Hyeronimus's Carriers Arms; Royal; and Commercial.

Public School opened 1st September on the site of 232 Macquarie Street
- 1862 First Solicitor, George Taylor, arrived

- 1862 2nd Court House erected, still in Macquarie Street.
 Post Office and Money Order system established
 Nicholas Hyeronimus died, aged 53 years.
 Police Act extended to Dubbo
 Ben Furney now producing Hay & Chaff
 Sir Frederick Pottinger appointed Clerk of Petty Sessions & Registry of B.D.M's
- 1862 Police Act extended to Dubbo.
- 1862 First Solicitor, George Taylor, arrived
 Wheat loads coming in from John Morris at 'Benelong'
- 1863 2nd Court House erected in Macquarie Street
 Post Office and money order system established.
 Site for 2nd Catholic Church dedicated 16th July.
 Tenders called to build the bridge
- 1864 Dubbo Jockey Club formed
 Telegraph line from Wellington completed
 Foundation stone laid for Flour Mill, in Macquarie St. 14th November [Refer: 1996-1149]
- 1865 Commercial Banking Co of Sydney opened, on 2nd January, in rented premises owned by Jean Serisier. James Holmes was its first manager, carrying £15,000 (\$30,000) with him on the coach, from Orange to Dubbo. This money was to open the Dubbo Branch.
 First resident Church of England Minister appointed (Rev W Coombes)
 Johnny Dunn (Bushranger) escaped from Dubbo Gaol.
 Thomas Martin Manning established the "Dubbo Dispatch" newspaper in the Furney Building where the paper was printed until 1869.
 First Church of England resident minister appointed, being Rev. W Coombs
- 1866 First bridge across the Macquarie River, White Bridge, at end of Bultje Street was opened on 24th May by the Governor and Sir Samuel Saul. A ball was held on the bridge with Miss Campbell of Bunglegumbie playing the piano.
 Police Officer Granville J Grenfell 40 years shot by bushrangers at Narromine
 Establishment of the 'Dubbo Dispatch' newspaper
 One bank, four pubs and two wooden shanties serving as churches.
 Tait & Smellie store opened.
 Population noted as 500
 Wheat loads coming in from Thomas Baird at 'The Springs'
 Tenders called for to erect a telegraphic station
- 1867 Commercial Banking Co of Sydney opened on north/west corner of Macquarie & Bultje Streets
 Post Office erected
 Major Flood
- 1868 Jean Emile Serisier secured 4000 acres on Old Dubbo Road.
 Commencement of the building of Dubbo Hospital
- 1869 George 'Dusty Bob' Smith killed in a carriage accident. His will and subsequent documents are held at the Macquarie Regional Library, Dubbo branch.
 Soap Works opened

Catholic Church (established in 1857) blown down in a storm. Foundation Stone laid at 2nd site in Brisbane Street 22nd August and building commenced

Pre 1870 De La Salle College operating in Carrington Avenue

The hospital was opened, 1st July 1870 by J.C. Ryrie.

Mechanics Institute opened

Dubbo Dispatch moved to Church Street. W E Morgan joined the staff which was under the management of the Manning family and remained so until 1920.

The first Catholic boy's school, called St. Aloysius", opened in Carrington Ave. It consisted of a long brick building with a stone foundation, and featured gothic windows. The school remained until 1934 when the land was sold to Dubbo Council.

One of the biggest floods in the history of white settlement

1871 New lock-up built at a cost of £1,000 in Wingewarra Street.
Queens Park (later Victoria Park) gazetted under control of Trustees
Petition for the establishment of a municipality was presented

1872 19th February: Following a petitions from 102 people the Colonial Secretary notifies James Samuels Dubbo is constituted a Municipal Council.
22nd April: First elections held with Moffatt, Samuels, Frawley, Muller, Thompson & Taylor holding the first seats of office.
24th April: James Samuels jnr elected Mayor of Dubbo at meeting held in Court House.
6th May: From four applicants, council meeting decided to elect W E Morgan as Dubbo's first Town Clerk with a salary of £30 (\$60) per annum.
1st Butchers shop opened on site at Exchange Hotel.
Public school closed and the land purchased by the Bank of NSW for the establishment of their business. At that time a portion of the slab was removed and presented to Central School.

1872 Formation of the P.A. & H. Association.

1873 First Pastoral & Agricultural Show took place on 23rd March at the present racecourse, the property of J Penzer, as were the following two shows.
Tannery established by Henry Nancarrow
Central Primary School building commenced.
Wool Scour works established

1874 Dubbo Advertiser commenced
Methodist Church foundation stone was laid by Mrs. T. Baird. Opening service conducted in 1875.
Dubbo became a Circuit Court town.
Central Primary School opened, on present site, at the end of January. Brick building 1 classroom and teachers residence.
"The Dubbo Liberal" commenced print as "The Advertiser" in the Furney building.
1st August: The foundation stone was laid for the Presbyterian Church by Mrs A C Baird, with the official opening 3rd August 1876.
Council formed streets formed, sidewalks of gravel made, closed 242 yard brick and 250 yards ironbark drains built.
Next to the village a 640 acre common had been fenced by Mayor Samuels and other gentlemen.

1875 Foundation Stone of Holy Trinity Anglican Church laid on the 10th April..

- 1876 Bank of NSW opened at 232 Macquarie Street,
 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church opened – incumbent Minister Rev. Colin Greig had been operating since 1872
 Holy Trinity Anglican Church completed. Not consecrated until 29th September 1914 when it became clear of debt.
 Athletics and Football Clubs formed
 Queens Park (later Victoria Park) developed.
- 1877 Police Troopers Barracks built in Erskine Street.
 Thomas Newman hanged, 29th May, at first Gaol.
 Macquarie Lodge formed, 10th October, (under the Grand Lodge of Scotland)
 Bates Brickyards established
 Old Dubbo Cemetery at Butler’s Falls (Pioneer) dedicated on 13th March
- 1878 George H. Taylor elected to his second term as Mayor
 Victoria Park vested under control of Council.
 Well dug in Victoria Park for public water supply
 58 Hotels operating
 A new newspaper came on the scene it was called either “Express” or Gazette”.
- 1879 Dubbo Brass Band & Orchestra formed.
 Lodge Macquarie Masonic Temple opened.
 Victoria Park duck pond completed.
 Work commenced on the railway track.
- 1880 Jean Emile Serisier died in France.
 Fire Brigade formed, the Duke of Manchester ‘christened’ the engine.
 Albert the Aboriginal hanged, 26th May, at the new Gaol (present site).
 Dubbo Magistrate, John Oxley Norton, shot after a political meeting.
- 1880’s St Faiths built as the Anglican rectory, which became a girl’s hostel in 1912.
 Mumford Bros ‘Beehive Store’s established
- 1881 The arrival of the Railway – completed 1st February by Sir John Robertson, Minister for Public Instruction. A celebration & fireworks were held in Victoria Park
 Caro’s store lit by gas manufactured on the premises
 Movement to form a gas company commenced.
 Dubbo Amateur Dramatic Society formed.
- 1882 First Town Hall opened.
 ‘Robbery Under Arms’ written by Rolf Boldrewood (Thomas Browne Dubbo Magistrate).
 Thomas James Smith aged 6yrs & William George Smith aged 9yrs abandoned under the first White Bridge.
 Thomas James Fanning was the last person buried at Pioneer Cemetery, 27th January.
 Gas Lights installed through the town. G Kitchen the first manager, W Stewart engineer & John Henderson (father of Gil) the stoker).
 To compliment the water mill in Victoria park, a well was sunk, on the eastern side of the War Memorial, and a windmill built which pumped water into tank, for public use.

- 1883 Gas Works opened
Baking Powder Factory established in Gipps Street.
Commencement of a well & reservoir at Newtown Heights (completed 1894)
- 1884 St. Patrick's Convent opened in Bultje Street.
Frances Hodson 17yrs died after a fall during the construction of the 2nd White Bridge.
"The Liberal" was produced in a shed, which had been part of the Commercial Stores.
William White Council's became the first employee (still staff when aged 84 years). In he planted the old trees around the pond.
- 1885 First Bicycle Club formed.
Dubbo proclaimed a "town" on 20th March (?)
- 1886 First meeting of the Salvation Army in Dubbo, in February.
- 1887 New Post Office opened with Clock Tower (workings only) from the second Court House.
- 1888 Third Court House completed.
"The Liberal" transferred its business to the corner of Macquarie & Wingewarra Sts.
Later it was transferred to Church Street into a building once used as Blackett's Mart.
13th January: foundation stone laid for new Methodist Church, in Church St. Opening service held on 23rd December 1888.
G Paul 2nd engineer of Gas Works, and was again from 1910 to 1927.
- 1889 'Tantallon' built as a wedding present for Katie Samuels.
Wongaroon Cemetery dedication notification was on 29th January.
- 1890's Depression saw the demise of the pastoral industry. British markets collapsed & wool prices fell. By 1893 eight million acres of Occupation Licences were abandoned in New South Wales. The banking system also crashed.
- 1890 Pastoral Hotel built.
- 1891 Harold Dutton Mallalluieu hanged, 2nd June at Dubbo Gaol.
- 1892 First Butter Factory opened at Minore.
Minister of Agriculture makes a grant to the P A & H Association, of £350 (\$700) for national prizes. This was to encourage agriculture in the district.
- 1893 Showground grandstand built.
Flour Mill established.
- 1894 Water connected
- 1895 Waltzing Matilda first sung in public in Queensland
- 1896 Gun Club formed
- 1897 Local telephone service installed, opened 16th November at Town Hall. Lady Mayoress rang the hospital.

Victoria Park renamed, formerly Queens Park. The Duck Pond, called "Victoria Lake" was enlarged by John Whitney at 9d per yard. The fountain installed costing £25-5-00 (\$50-50), was unveiled 22nd June, by Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Ryan, wife Mayor Richard James Joseph Ryan.

"Elston Park" fountain erected shortly after at a cost of £11 (\$22).

Land Board Office erected in Brisbane Street.

March saw the formation of the Town Tennis Club in Bultje St., Opened 17th July.

Polo Club formed

Thomas Moore hanged, 24th June, at Dubbo Gaol

Committee formed to "look into" building a swimming pool.

1898 Large fire burnt out the Chinese quarter in block bounded by Bultje, Bligh & Wingewarra Sts

Golf Club formed, near Hospital.

Wong Ming hanged, 13th December at Dubbo Gaol.

1899 'Riverbank' Wool Scour Works (Mr. Gordon) opened.

1900 Outbreak of typhoid fever.

Snow in Dubbo, 15th July.

Dubbo Racecourse dedicated 22nd August.

1900's Not much land clearing (known as 'grubbing') had taken place before this time. Difficulty of ploughing practices kept farming areas small.

During this era there were a lot of Indian Hawkers. Replenishing stocks at railway stations, where prearranged goods had arrived. They called at Stock & Station Agents to advise where feed and water were plentiful or where drought conditions prevailed. A small retained was paid for this information or sometimes payment was in the form of feed or bits of harness.

'Vanguard West' written by Ned Konza Page 32 for a description of swaggies and page 37 for information on rabbits.

Of the large runs taken up in the early years only Barbigal, The Springs, The Meadows, Terramungamine and Murrumbidgee remained by this time.

1901 First motor car appeared in Dubbo.

Jacky Underwood hanged, 14th January, at Dubbo Gaol

1902 Mrs. Blanche Soane (nee Dulhunty) was the first woman to enrol to vote.

Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd established

1903 Writer Lennie Lower born in Wellington, 3rd September.

Ground set aside in Victoria Park for 3 sports ovals

18th July: Hall in Church St. leased by The Salvation Army

1904 Ah Check hanged, 28th June, at Dubbo Gaol.

Sports Ground opened.

Farmers & Settlers State Conference held in Dubbo.

Town Bowling Club Committee formed

1905 Second 'White' Bridge opened still at end of Bultje Street.

Dubbo Advertiser changed name to Dubbo Liberal.
Installation of Dubbo to Sydney telephone line.

- 1906 Dubbo Bowling Club opened 10th March
McCallum's Macquarie Brewery (72 Brisbane Street) converted to a Butter Factory.
7th March - Talbragar Shire Council formed.
Talbragar Shire formed with Isaac Holmes as first President, & A Wurfel, Shire Clerk.
- 1907 Time capsule buried under Foundation stone of new hospital extensions.
The building now (2004) occupied by Shakespeare's Funeral Parlour was used as the site of cookery classes for Central School.
Commercial Banking Co, of Sydney Ltd. Moved across the road the new premises. Now the called the National Bank.
- 1908 New racecourse constructed on present site.
First picture show held at Masonic Hall
Dubbo Base Hospital completed.
Plans and specifications drawn up for Swimming Pool
3rd Anglican Rectory built
- 1909 Dame Nellie Melba came to Dubbo and sang at 'The Pines' the residence of George Taylor
Horse-drawn Ambulance Service established
First garage established to repair motor cars.
- 1910 First Eisteddfod held in Dubbo
Sewerage discussed by Council
- 1911 First swimming carnival held at 'Devils' Hole on the Macquarie River, north of town.
Tracker Alec Riley joined the Police Force. First Aboriginal to become a Sergeant.
- 1912 First aerial flight seen in Dubbo at the Show
10th December, Tripp and Henderson's store opened in Talbragar Street, still exists (2002)
St Faiths became a Girls hostel.
- 1913 Monarch Picture Palace opened
Sewerage Survey undertaken. Work commenced but was abandoned in 1916
- 1914 Talbragar Street paved with tar.
- 1915 Recruitment Camp set up at Dubbo Showground
Specifications drawn up for Drill Hall in Darling Street
- 1916 Elizabeth 'Granny' Harper died, 12th November
6pm closing of Hotels introduced
Fire Station and Drill Hall constructed in Victoria Park
- 1917 Dubbo High School began with C H Christmas as first Principal.
George Henry Taylor died at his residence 'The Pines'
- 1918 Peace declared – Fire Bell rang till the clapper fell out and the Post Office clock stopped.

- 1919 Dedication, at Methodist Church on 3rd August 1918, of twenty four camphor laurel trees. Twenty two trees for WWI service men & women from Dubbo's Methodist Church, plus one each for Joseph Cox & Samuel Armstrong. A palm tree was planted in the front garden in memory of who paid the ultimate sacrifice. [Refer: Uniting Church file]
- 1920 Flu epidemic – Showground grandstand became a temporary hospital, which opened on 26th
Jean Lee born in Dubbo (correct name Marjorie Wright)– the last woman to be hanged in Australia.
- 1921 Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) visited 13th August.
Fire Station in Darling Street opened.
- 1922 Population now over 5,032 [From the NSW Year Book]
- 1923 Western Stores built a grand new façade
Establishment of first C.W.A. branch in Dubbo
Castlereagh Hotel burnt down for the second time.
- 1924 The beginning of the Astley Cup
Tower & Bells added to Holy Trinity
Electricity introduced
- 1925 Visit by Prime Minister Stanley Bruce
- 1926 War Memorial (Cenotaph) unveiled, 25th April in Victoria Park and gardens laid out.
Friday, 27th February at 8:00pm: Electricity officially switched on in the Town Hall. First street lights erected in Macquarie St between Talbragar & Wingewarra Streets.
Dubbo to Molong rail line completed.
- 1927 Dubbo Golf Course moved to present site.
Foundation Stone laid for new St.Andrews Presbyterian Church in Wingewarra St.
Baptist Church services held in Protestant Hall (Roxy Theatre). On 13th October the Church building & Sunday School rooms were opened.
Bowling Greens constructed in Victoria Park
- 1928 Mechanics Institute opened.
Ambulance Motor Vehicle replaces the horse-drawn service
Further plans and specifications for Swimming Pool
- 1929 Clarrie Taylor opened the Monarch Empire Theatre, 4th July
Sewerage System completed
- 1930 New Commonwealth Bank opened in Macquarie Street
Town connected to Sewerage system
First Baby Health Clinic established by CWA
- 1931 The Royal Talkie Theatre opened with 'Rio Rita'
First plane landed in Dubbo
'The Southern Star' (aeroplane) [VH-UMG] visited with the Western Suburbs Cricket Team, Manager & Trainer who were the 1st to charter a plane to fulfil an engagement.

- Coursing Club formed.
- 1932 North Dubbo Infants School opened
Basketball Club formed
- 1933 Old Weir on Macquarie River (north of town) constructed.
- 1934 Butter & Cheese factory opened.
- 1935 NSW Hardcourt Tennis Championship held at Dubbo
St. Aloysius, Catholic boy's school closed and the property was sold to Dubbo Council.
- 1936 Dubbo Olympic Pool opened, 3:00 pm on 2nd December 1935 at a cost of £30,000. The pool committee was formed in 1897, with the plans being drawn up in 1908 & again 1927.
Official opening of Aerodrome and air service from Dubbo
Nancy Bird visited Dubbo
Tennis Courts constructed in Victoria Park.
Improvements to The Salvation Army Citadel – re-opened 7th December
- 1937 Radio Station 2DU opened 2nd December
Balcony of Macquarie View Hotel collapsed
- 1938 Nurses home at District Hospital under construction
- 1938 Second Council Chambers built in Macquarie Street
- 1939 Andrew Moss murder trial – first in NSW with no corpse. Tracker Riley played a leading role in the investigation.
A rally of 3,000 people help to fill the town's quota of 200 militia needed for the Government recruitment scheme.
- 1940 Construction of the Army Camp on the site of what became the Western Plains Zoo.
Toilet block added to the Drill Hall in Darling Street.
- 1941 Errol Baylis Serisier (grandson of Jean Emile) elected for his fifth term as Mayor.
New Weir on Macquarie River (south of town) constructed.
Sergeant Edgar William Honeysett awarded a Bravery Medal
Military Camp established.
- 1942 Dubbo RAAF Base established (No 6 Stores Depot – largest in the southern hemisphere)
Corvette HMAS Dubbo launched
New Ambulance Station in Brisbane Street opened.
- 1943 Tracker Alec Riley, the first Australian Aboriginal to be presented with the King's Medal.
The presentation took place 17th September, at Government House, by the Governor for NSW, Lord Wakehurst.
- 1944 District Hospital became Base Hospital 23rd July.
West Dubbo School opened

- 1945 Unemployment benefit introduced
- 1946 Dubbo Airport taken over by Dept. of Civil Aviation
- 1947 Dubbo Wool Store erected on Cobborah Road at a cost of £60,000. Never used as a wool Store. Later became Telecommunication Commission Divisional Headquarters (Demolished 2001).
- 1948 Pathology services introduced to Hospital
- 1949 Centenary Celebrations held. Mr.J.J.Cahill, Deputy Premier of NSW unveiled a memorial Plaque, at the Council Chambers, to honour the “Pioneers”
Technical College opened.
- 1950 Rural electricity switched on.
- 1951 Celebrations for the Commonwealth Jubilee
Seven Seas Stamps established
- 1952 Foundation Stone laid for CWA Baby Health Centre & Rest Rooms in Wingewarra Street,
19th August.
- 1953 Dubbo Infants School opened.
Abattoirs established and construction commenced
Monier block at Dubbo High School built [D/L 21-01-2004, P3 ...was thrown up during one of Australian architecture’s less inspired era.”
Andy Graham had a Museum in his shed at home – this was the beginning to the WPCC
- 1954 Abattoir opened 17th September
Queen Elizabeth II & the Duke of Edinburgh visited on 10th February
First Motel in Dubbo opened – Merino in Church Street.
- 1955 Disastrous floods – largest in history. Flood level markers were placed around the CBD.
- 1956 Second big flood hits Dubbo – causes economic setbacks.
Bonds Industries factory closes
Television introduced to Australia – but not yet in Dubbo
Andy Graham moved his museum into the Drill Hall (now Band Hall) at No. 1 Oval
- 1957 Westhaven Association established
Macquarie County Council began
- 1958 Lourdes Hospital opened 14th March
Errol Serisier died in Sydney
‘Dubbo Liberal’ newspaper changed name to ‘Daily Liberal’
- 1959 29th June - Inaugural meeting of Civilian Widows Assoc. in Red Cross Rooms
- 1960 Les Ford elected to Parliament
- 1961 Dubbo RSL Club built on present site.

- 1962 Blood Bank commenced at Dubbo Hospital
Dubbo & District Public Library opened.
- 1963 Television arrived from CBN8 Orange (1st Program Variety Show with Bobby Limb).
First “test patterns” received 17th February, and first programme in March.
Dubbo Rescue Squad formed.
December 27th, demolition commences, by Walmac (Wallace & McGee) on the Police Station in Brisbane Street
- 1964 ‘The Falls’ purchased by Edgells and 100 acres of asparagus planted.
Parkes Radio Telescope opened.
Andy moved his museum collection from Drill Hall to Macquarie Street Building – it was known as the Dubbo Pioneer Museum.
- 1965 Western District Lawn Cemetery opened
Commencement of the construction of the South Dubbo High School buildings.
September 24th, Pioneer Museum opened on old Drill Hall, with Andy Graham, Curator.
- 1966 Dubbo South High School opened with Mr. L Waterhouse as principal.
Police Station in Brisbane Street constructed
Dubbo General Cemetery adjoining the Racecourse (New) reserved by Gazette 3rd September
- 1967 Dubbo proclaimed a City by His Excellency Sir Roden Cutler, at 1.30 pm 12th September.
(Population 15,364)
February 14th, Australia’s monetary system changes from £.s.d’s to \$ & ¢’s.
Gaol officially closed as a prison in August.
Sister’s of Mercy celebrated their centenary
- 1968 Work commenced on Dubbo’s tallest building – Oliver House in Church Street.
February, Museum moved to old Bank of NSW (built 1874) building in Macquarie St.
Foundation stone laid for Dubbo War Memorial Civic Centre on 28th April 1967.
Dubbo High School celebrated 50 years of teaching.
- 1969 War Memorial Civic Centre opened 22nd March – cost \$700,000.
Dubbo Museum opened in Macquarie Street, 12th October (December?)
Ansett Aviation Repair Workshop built
- 1970 L.H. Ford Bridge opened, 26th September
- 1971 Commencement of withdrawal of Australian troops from Vietnam
- 1972 Air Terminal opened
Macquarie Private Hospital opened in Fitzroy Street
City Caravan Park opened, 9th June
- 1973 New Civic Administration offices, which included Macquarie Regional Library, opened in Church Street.
City Council held a special meeting on 24th April to celebrate the Centenary of the first Municipal Council meeting.

- 1974 New concept in shopping – Riverdale Centre commenced
Science & Library Block built at Dubbo High School
- 1975 Old Dubbo Gaol restored & opened to the public as a tourist attraction.
- 1976 New Obstetrics Block opened at the Hospital
- 1977 Talbragar Shire appointed first full time Health & Building Surveyor
Wambangalang Field Study Centre opened.
- 1978 Western Plains Zoo opened
John Gilbert Water Filtration Plant started.
Ethel Steadman died, 15th January.
- 1979 Dubbo Square (Dubbo City Centre) opened
Daily Liberal moved office to Wheelers Lane
- 1980 Orana Mall opened
Dubbo Nursing Home opened
Radio 2DU moved from Macquarie Street to Carrington Avenue.
- 1981 Talbragar Shire merged with Dubbo City Council
Plaque placed on “Drift Wells” at the western end of Tamworth Street.
- 1982 Population 28,503
New Water Filtration opened
Delroy High School opened.
New Court Complex opened.
Inaugural flight of Boeing 747 ‘City of Dubbo’
- 1983 First XPT train arrives
Post Office moved to Talbragar Street
Orana Heights Primary School commenced in Birch Avenue, East Dubbo
Orana Community College extended
- 1983 Dubbo Christian School opened
Grace Bros took over Myers Store
Gil Henderson 100th Birthday, 13th July.
- 1984 Orana Community College opens in Myall Street
Disastrous Xmas Day Bushfires
- 1985 Dubbo Council commissioned the first Heritage Study of the City.
- 1986 Norm Cox died in his 25th year as a Council Alderman
- 1987 Commonwealth Office Block opened, December
Macquarie Electricity moved to Hawthorne Street.
Serisier Bridge in Erskine Street opened 21st February
- 1988 Bi-Centennial Year.
Dundullimal Homestead restored & opened to the public

- Building of the Royal Coach completed
Fletchers International Abattoirs opened
- 1989 Wellington Bridge collapsed, 6th January
Bi-centenary fountain installed at DCC Civic Administration Building
- 1990 First Dubbo flooding since the Burrendong Dam was completed.
Dubbo opened its doors to victims from Nyngan flooding.
First roundabout constructed at Whylandra & Victoria Streets.
- 1991 \$1 mil. Fire damage to Delroy High School, 12th July
- 1992 Rainbow Cottage – Family Day Care run by Council opened, 7th January
Chernobyl children visit Dubbo.
- 1993 Mungeribar Manor, Narromine burnt down, 4th August
- 1994 Moran private Hospital opened
Captain & crew of HMAS Dubbo exercise their right of Freedom of the City
- 1995 Inaugural Fred Hollows Relay Race passes through Dubbo
- 1996 Gallop Inn destroyed by fire – Arson
First cremation at Western Districts Crematorium
- 1997 First students enrolled at Dubbo Campus of Charles Sturt University.
Tracker Riley Cycle Way opened 20th June
- 1998 Work commenced on upgrade to District Hospital
Work commenced on Juvenile Justice Centre.
- 1999 Sesquicentenary celebrations
- 2000 Millennium Bug never happened.
- 2001 Severe storm causes millions of dollars of damage, 6th January
Council purchases Old Dubbo High School Site
- 2002 Dubbo Museum moves to Administration building at Old Dubbo High Site. Collection into storage at the Airport
- 2003 15th April, fire causes severe damage to Civic Administration Building (Council)
17th April, Council operations transfer to Old Dubbo High School site.
- 2004 Planning commenced for Museum, Gallery and Community Cultural Centre.
- 2005 Construction started on Museum, Gallery at the Community Cultural Centre
- 2006 City Council presented with Bleuitt Award for most outstanding council in NSW 19th September

- 2006 Dubbo Outback Cultural Centre opened to the public 20th September. Renamed Western Plains Cultural Centre.
- 2007 Police Station, in Brisbane Street, demolished to make way for their new three storey building. Police moved to St. John's Primary School as a temporary measure.
- 2008 Tuesday 17th June, 8:30 – 11:00am: commencement of daily, Dubbo based, 'Morning' at ABC radio hosted by Dugald Saunders. Focus – locally dedicate.
- 2008 September 1st – National Bank moves to new premises in Macquarie Street. Old Commercial Banking Co. Of Sydney Ltd now closed and empty.
- 2008 Monday 27th October temporary police station at old St. Johns School closes and new building at 143 Brisbane Street opens. Superintendent Single as area Commander.

Compiled by
 Dubbo Museum & History Centre
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 Updated 2002
 Updated 2003
 Updated early 2004
 Updated 2005
 Updated 2008

TIMELINE FOR VICTORIA PARK

- 1849 Dubbo declared a village. A 71 acre site identified for public purposes.
- 1867 Area gazetted as "Public Open Space".
Gazettal Notice 1903
- 1871? Portion of the land on the northern side resumed by the Crown for the railway yards.
Ref: PL 1-2-2 Pt 1
- 1876 Tender accepted for the construction of fence and gates to enclose the recreation area, and the area cleared of vegetation.
M/F 3-1 1976-78
- 1878 Area gazetted as being vested to Dubbo Council.
 Well installed to supply water to the Park

- 1897 "Duck Pond" completed with the installation of the fountain to celebrate the reign of Queen Victoria.
- 1903 Gazettal notice of the setting aside of an area of Victoria Park for an Athletics ground.
Gazettal notice 1903
- 1904 Sports ground was opened April 27th. Cycling track was opened in October.
- 1914 Area dedicated for a Public School. Southeast corner.
Gazettal notice on File M/P 3-1 Pt 7.
- 1916 Fire Station constructed on the Southwest corner, unsure of Gazettal date.
- 1925 Erection and official unveiling of the WW1 war memorial April 25th. (Cenotaph)
Correspondence signed by A .G. Kelly dated 15/03/1988
- 1926 Bowling greens constructed, unsure of gazettal date, transferring land from the Crown to Dubbo Town Bowling Green in fee simple.
- 1929 Amenity block constructed.
M/P 3-1 1976-78
- 1935 Swimming Pool constructed. Officially opened December 2nd.
- 1940 Opening of Grandstand at Victoria Park No 1.
Official unveiling plaque attached to the building.
- 1958 Begonia House (Greenhouse) constructed by Rotary Club and handed over to Council in 1959.
Newspaper clipping dated April 17th 1959.
- 1964 Staff facilities constructed at Victoria Park No 1
Newspaper clipping dated December 6th 1963.
- 1964 Western District Memorial Park (cemetery) opened
- 1972 Drainage installed in Park and Ovals
MP 3-1 1968-73
- 1972-3 Irrigation installed in Park and Ovals
MP 3-1 1968-73
- 1973 Additional land adjacent to DHS gazetted to the Dept. of Education.
Gazettal notice on File MP 3-1 Pt 7
- 1975 Installation of cycle track lights at Victoria Park No 1 November 22nd
Newspaper clipping dated November 22nd 1975
- 1985 Obelisk unveiled listing the names of soldiers killed in WW11
Correspondence signed by A. G. Kelly dated March 15th 1988
- 1992 24th Feb, visit by Queen Elizabeth & Prince Philip

- 1995 Victoria Park Master Plan adopted by Dubbo City Council
PL 1.2.2 Pt 2
- 1995 Construction of broadcasters box in grandstand at Victoria Park No 1.
PL 1.2.2 Pt 1
- 1995 Modification of amenity block at Victoria Park No 1 for Rugby Clubhouse.
A2-1-15
- 1996 Installation of new playground adjacent to the swimming pool at a cost of \$200,000
PL 1.2.2 Pt 2
- 1996 10th April – a promise of having a Charles Sturt University in Dubbo within 12 months, on land already purchased.
- 1996 27th Feb. First students to attend CSU in Myall (TAFE) premises. Bachelor of Business course. Graduated 10-06-1999.
- 1999 17th March construction of CSU to commence next week on Yarrandale Road
- 2000 28th December – Elston Park’s children’s Water Park’ turned on. (hours 8:00am - 8:00pm)
- 2001 Ozanam Villain Darling Street changed its name to St. Mary’s Villa
- 2008 July – Lourdes Hospital changed name to Taken over by the Catholic Church
- 2002

TIMELINE FOR RIVERBANK PARK

- 1964/65 Riverbank 4 (now known as Katrina Gibbs) and Nita McGrath Netball Courts (formerly a cricket ground) were established.
Draft Riverbank Plan of Management.
- 1972/73 Amenity block constructed at the Nita McGrath Netball Courts.
Draft Riverbank Plan of Management.
- 1973/74 Riverbank 6 & 7 and Bob Dowling Fields (formerly Riverbank 8, 9 & 10) constructed.
Draft Riverbank Plan of Management
- 1984 Playing lights constructed at the Katrina Gibbs Fields.
Draft Riverbank Plan of Management

- 1985 Lady Cutler Park purchased jointly by Council and Dubbo Crown Lands for active and passive recreation.
P 1.13
- 1989 Three (3) bitumen courts constructed at the Nita McGrath Netball Courts.
P 1.9
- 1990 Wiradjuri Park purchased by Council for \$81,000. State Government reimbursed \$40,500 therefore Crown Land with Council as Trust Manager.
P 1.31 pt 1
- 1991 Lady Cutler Park laser levelled by Goddard Earthmoving for \$15,000
P 1.13. Quotation accepted 5/12/1991
- 1992 Sir Roden Cutler Park shelter, two (2) BBQ's and toilet block constructed in NW corner by West Dubbo Rotary for \$32,000
DA 92-1 Adopted 28/1/1992
- 1992 Ovals 1,2,3,6 & 7 irrigation upgraded to automatic electrical control system by Mac Irrigation for \$9,261.
P 1.1/4900 Quotation accepted 19.10.1992
- 1993 Lady Cutler Park outfields stolonised in January with Wintergreen Couch by Qualturf Pty Ltd for 48 cents per square metre.
P 1.13
- 1993 Lady Cutler Park turf wickets laid with Santa Anna couch by Australian Turf Grass Research Institute in February. DDCA contributed \$30,000
P 1.13
- 1993 Lady Cutler Park automatic irrigation installed by Southern Cross.
P 1.13
- 1993 Lady Cutler tree planting on access roads with drip irrigation
P 1.13
- 1993 Lady Cutler Park 3 Phase power supplied to amenities block by Western Power for \$1,775
P 1.13
- 1993 Sir Roden Cutler Park acquisition of land known as 'Riverbend' from M O'Brien Lot 12 in DP 227455 for \$170,000.
P 1.18
- 1993 Sir Roden Cutler Park automation of irrigation by Mac Irrigation for \$3,400.
P 1.18 Quotation accepted 3/3/1993
- 1993 Three (3) bitumen courts constructed at the Nita McGrath Netball Courts.
P 1.9 Draft Plan of Management

- 1994 Lady Cutler Park amenities block constructed by Neil O'Connor Constructions for \$162,500 DDCA & DDSA contributed \$20,000 each
P 1.13 pt 1.
- 1994 Lady Cutler Park Sports Complex officially opened by Mayor Anthony McGrane. Four (4) turf cricket wickets and six (6) soccer fields at a cost of \$880,000 plus.
P 1.13 pt 1 Officially opened 16/10/1994
- 1994 Police Paddock, Dubbo Touch Association submitted proposal for development of two storey amenities block, field irrigation and lighting.
Development proposal.
- 1995 Sir Roden Cutler Park Macquarie River Viewing Platform constructed.
P 1.18/4100
- 1995 Wiradjuri Park boulders with ancient grinding grooves from Terramungamine Reserve placed and serpent trail constructed with assistance from N.P.W.S. and local Aboriginal community.
P1.31.pt1
- 1995 Wiradjuri Park trees planted.
P1.31
- 1995 Lady Cutler extension to irrigation pipeline completed by Western Irrigation for \$4,745
P1.13.pt21
- 1997 Lady Cutler East Soccer Complex (Capri's land) irrigation installed for \$124,000
SF1.13 Media Release 19/12/1996
- 1997 Riverbank Oval No 4 50% of irrigation sprinklers replaced.
SF1.17 October 1997
- 1997 Riverbank Oval No 4 Five (5) new 240 litre garbage bins installed.
SF1.17 October 1997
- 1997 Riverbank Ovals 8, 9, 10 five (5) new 240 litre garbage bins installed
SF1.17 October 1997
- 1997 Lady Cutler South levelled, irrigation and concrete wickets installed
SF1.11
- 1997 Lady Cutler South. Grass sown.
SF1.11 October 1997
- 1997 Sir Roden Cutler Park, Amenities dedicated to Kevin Macarthy.
Dedicated 12th June 1997
- 1997/98 Netball Association constructed clubhouse at the Nita McGrath Netball Courts
SF 1.9, Draft Plan of Management

- 1998 Riverside Walking Trail extended from L.H.Ford Bridge to Serisier Bridge
LS 2.6
- 1998 Nita McGrath Netball Courts 3 courts re-sealed
SF1.11 AF1.13
- 1998 Lady Cutler East Soccer Three (3) new grassed fields first used.
SF1.11
- 1998 Macquarie Lions Park. New play equipment installed
LS 2.6
- 1998 Riverdale Park new fitness play equipment installed adjacent to boat ramp on western end of Church Street.
LS 2.6
- 1998 Sandy Beach Park picnic shelters & BBQ's constructed.
LS 2.6
- 2000 Lady Cutler East Soccer Clubhouse D.D.S.A. spent \$3,697 to date
Balance Sheet 31st June 2000
- 2001 Sir Roden Cutler Park shelters constructed.
HL 2.21
- 2001 Ollie Robbins Oval proposal submitted for Viewing Platform adjacent to boat ramp.
Terra Consulting
- 2001 Lady Cutler East Soccer Clubhouse D.D.S.A. spent \$8,483 to date.
- 2002 Wall of Memories erected at Old Dubbo Cemetery
Balance Sheet 31st June 2001
- 2002 Netball Association constructed 5 new bitumen courts at a cost of \$110,000
SF 1.9
- 2002 Lady Cutler East Soccer Complex car park constructed.
SF 1.13
- 2002 Lady Cutler East Soccer Complex irrigation reinstalled on western portion by Western Irrigation for a cost of \$36,825
December
- 2002 Nita McGrath Netball Courts commenced construction of five (5) extra sealed courts at a cost of \$118,820. Dubbo Netball Association contributed \$58,820. Playing Fields improvement Grant \$15,000
FPC 2/26
- 2002 Lady Cutler East Soccer Complex field lighting installed by Alex Klassens Electrical for a cost of \$110,596. D.D.S.A. contributed \$80,596.
SF 1.13

2002 Lady Cutler East Soccer Complex 500kva transformer installed by Country Energy.
SF 1.13

GAZETTAL DATES

Lady Cutler Ovals	Note 134 on Map 18T (Lands Dept) Portions 13 & 25. Gaz. 19 th December 1886 (fol.6283) to R5890 for Public Recreation. Not'd 7 th April 1888
Hans Clavan through to Police Paddock	Note 29 on Map 18T (Lands Dept) Dedicated for Public Recreation Gaz. 2 nd November 1945
Sir Roden Cutler through To L.H.Ford Bridge	Note 53 on Map 18T (Lands Dept.) Dedicated for Public Recreation Not'd 7 th April 1888 and 1 st October 1971
Lions Park/Biddybunge	Note 83 on Map 18T. Dedicated Public Reserve Gaz. 14 th November 1893
O'Briens Land	Note 149 on Map 18T. Purchased jointly by State of NSW and DCC and added to R5890. Gaz 20 th May 1994
Two small pieces of land Between Nita McGrath Courts R/B 6 & 7 and Bob Dowling Fields	Note 99 on Map 18T. 1.104ha added. Gaz 10 th February 1978 to Public Reserve. Note 100 on Map 18T 6070m2 added. Gaz 26 th January 1979 to Public Reserve. Dedicated 2 nd November 1945
Police Paddock	Note 124 on Map 18T. R97642 for Public Recreation. Gaz. 4 th January 1985 (fol 55)

INFORMATION COLLECTED AS PART OF MUSEUM DESIGN BRIEF – PUT INTO CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

1848 Serisier opened 2nd store after ceasing connection with Despointes – called Dubbo Stores – site
RHS of Shire Building.

- 1849 Mail delivery commenced to Dubbo. J.E.Serisier 1st Postmaster operating from his store.
- 1850 Serisier opens 3rd store on north east corner of Macquarie & Bultje Streets. 2nd store taken over by Chinese.
- 1854 1st Church service – Wesleyan in the Court House.
- 1857 1st Catholic Church built in Macquarie Street between Cobra & Bultje Streets. Slab building with a shingle roof – accomadted 20 to 30 people. Blown down in a storm in 1869
- 1858 James Samuels married by Rev. H Garven visiting minister from Wellington.
1st School opened at 234 Macquarie Street on 1st September. Slab walls, shingle roof, 2 classrooms and immediately closed whilst teacher was sent to Fort Street for training. Number on the roll 20 males 16 females = 36 with a regular attendance of 10 males and 14 females = 24
- 1859 1st Anglican Church erected together with a parsonage in Macleay Street
4 Hotels operating
Dulhunty's Macquarie Inn,
Hyeronimus's Carriers Arms,
Royal,
Commercial
- 1860 Ben Furney producing Hay & Chaff
Sir Frederick Pottinger appointed Clerk of Petty Sessions & Registrar of B.D.M's in November.
- 1862 Wheat loads from John Morris at Benalong
- 1863 Site for 2nd Catholic Church dedicated 16th July.
- 1865 Rev Coombes 1st incumbent Anglican Minister
- 1866 1st Newspaper established Dubbo Dispatch – population noted as 500
Wheat loads from Thomas Baird
- 1867 1st bank – Commercial Banking Co of Sydney.
- 1869 1st Catholic Church (established in 1857) blown down in a storm.
Foundation stone laid at 2nd site in Brisbane Street 22nd August and building commenced.
- Pre 1870 De La Salle College operating in Carrington Avenue.
- 1872 1st Butchers Shop on site in Exchange Hotel.
- 1874 2nd Newspaper Advertiser closed and revived under name of Express which then ran until 1905 – new owners and new name Dubbo Liberal. Absorbed the Dispatch for a short time.
Central Primary school opened at the end of January. Brick building 1 class room and a teachers residence.

- 1875 58 Hotels operating
Wesleyan church built 13th June.
- 1876 St.Andrews Presbyterian Church built – incumbent minister Rev Colin Greig had been operating since 1872.
1st Church service in Holy Trinity (church was not consecrated until 29th September 1914 when it became clear of debt.)
- 1877 Bates brickyards established.
- 1880's St.Faith's built as the Anglican rectory, which became a girls hostel in 1912
- 1890's Depression saw the demise of the pastoral industry. British markets collapsed & wool prices fell. By 1893 8 million acres of Occupation Licences were abandoned in New South Wales. The banking system also crashed.
- 1900's Not much land clearing (known as 'grubbing') had taken place before this time. Difficulty of ploughing practices kept farming areas small.
- During this era there were a lot of Indian Hawkers. Replenishing stocks at railway stations where prearranged goods had arrived. They called at Stock and Station agents to advise where feed and water was plentiful or where drought conditions prevailed. A small retainer was paid for this information or sometimes payment was in the form of feed or bits of harness.
- See Ned Konza's book 'Vanguard West' Page 32 for a description of swaggies. Also Page 37 for information on rabbits.
- Of the large runs taken up in the early years only Barbical, The Springs, The Meadows, Terramungamine and Murrumbidgee remained by this time.
- 1902 Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd established.
- 1904 Town Bowling Club opened
- 1906 Talbragar Shire formed (Shire population 700)
- 1907 The building now occupied as Shakespeare's Funeral Parlour was used as the site of cookery classes for Central School.
- 1908 3rd Anglican Rectory
- 1912 St.Faith's became a Girls Hostel.
- 1917 High School opened July 5th. 133 students. (Block A)
- 1914-19 In Australia between the terrible years of 1914-19, we lost, through bad nursing and want of care generally, more babies than we lost men at the front. We lost these babies, or a very large percentage of them, from preventable causes. (CWA)
- 1924 Croquet Lawn established at Town Bowling Club.

- 1929 High School additions of 4 class rooms and 2 staff rooms
- 1930-39 Depression years. Swaggies & Hawkers. Only bought sugar, flour, tea & salt. Everything else made or grown on the farm.
- 1934 CWA opened the Baby Health Centre.
- 1935 Gipps Street Building (Block B) of the High School added to complex
- War Years Women's Land Army worked in areas of fruit picking in Young, Cootamundra and the Riverina. Western lands were used for grazing and not much cropping. Provided Seasonal workers for Piggeries and Dairy Farms. Camouflage Nets were made by CWA in Dubbo.
- 1950 Stockyards established under the control of Talbragar Shire Council.
- 1954 Extensions to both Block A & Block B of the High School
- 1967 28th April, Foundation Stone laid for Civic Centre