

Australian History Timeline 1788 – 1988

Aboriginals arrive in Australia date unknown .

Prior to the First Fleet's arrival Aboriginals had been living in Australia for thousands of years.

1788: The First Fleet from England under Arthur Phillip arrives at Sydney Cove.

1803: Matthew Flinders completes the first circumnavigation of the continent.

1804: A settlement in Tasmania is founded.

1808: The Rum Rebellion.

1813: Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth cross the Blue Mountains.

1813: Matthew Flinders calls New South Wales (Australia's old name) Australia.

1817: Oxley begins charting the rivers of NSW.

1824: A penal colony is founded at Moreton Bay, now the city of Brisbane.

1829: The settlement of Perth is founded.

1830: Sturt charts the Murray River.

1851: The Victorian gold rush starts in Ballarat.

1854: The Eureka Stockade.

1868: The transportation of convicts to Australia ceases.

1872: Overland Telegraph Line linking Darwin and Adelaide opens.

1891: A severe depression hits Australia.

1901: Australia becomes a federation on 1 January.

1911: Australian Capital Territory proclaimed.

1914: Australian soldiers are sent to the First World War.

1918: First World War ends.

1929: The Great Depression hits Australia.

1932: The Sydney Harbour Bridge opens.

1939: Australia enters the Second World War.

1942-43: Japanese planes make almost 100 attacks against Australian sites.

1949: Construction of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme begins.

1950: Australian troops are sent to the Korean War.

1963: Indigenous Australians are given full rights as citizens.

1966: Decimal currency introduced.

1971: Neville Bonner first Aborigine to become an Australian Member of Parliament.

1973: The Sydney Opera House is opened.

1974: Darwin is devastated by Cyclone Tracy.

1988: Australia celebrates its bicentenary.