

Timeline for Prospect District

1788	Governor Arthur Phillip explored the area on 26 th April and named it Bellevue Hill. Bellevue means 'Fine Prospect'. The area later became known as Prospect Hill and then gradually Prospect.
1791	Governor Phillip granted land at Prospect to 13 ex-convicts. By the end of the year, only 20 acres of land had been cultivated.
1792	A further six families joined the other settlers.
1794	The total of land grants in the area was 25.
1798	Only six of original settlers remained.
1799	On 3 rd May, 160 acres of land was granted to John Kennedy.
1802	Prospect Hill was included in the new parish of St John based at Parramatta.
1806	William Lawson bought 30 acres west of Prospect Hill
1808	William Lawson was granted 500 acres north east of Prospect Hill.
1810	First mention of Lawson family living at Prospect.
1813	William Lawson departs Prospect to meet Gregory Blaxland and William Charles Wentworth for the exploration trip over the Blue Mountains.
1819	A road from Prospect to Richmond was built. Jacques Arago's painting shows Lawson's <i>Veteran Hall</i> under construction. Francis Peisley built <i>The Fox Under The Hill Inn</i> .
1820s	Local roads partly paved with broken dolerite from surface of Prospect Hill. Toll Bar erected opposite the <i>The Fox Under The Hill Inn</i> . Regular coach service operated along the Western Road to Penrith.
1821	Lawson family occupy newly completed homestead <i>Veteran Hall</i> .
1822	Surveyor General John Oxley advised Gov. Brisbane that 1050 acres of Crown Land were allocated in Prospect for Town, Church and School. In September, convict clearing gangs assigned to William Lawson at <i>Veteran Hall</i> . William Lawson receives 500 acre grant.
1825	Gov. Darling's despatches recorded that Church services were held at the Schoolmasters house. Tenders were called for the building of a church and school, but no tenders were finalised. Augustus Earle paints <i>Veteran Hall</i> .
1828	Census states William Lawson retained a workforce of 27 convict labourers and mechanics at <i>Veteran Hall</i> , these included an overseer, grooms, blacksmith and clerk.
1830	<i>Fox Under The Hill Inn</i> burnt down.
1830s	Subdivision of John Kennedy's 160 acre grant laid basis for the Prospect village.
1832	First Coach Service across Blue Mountains passed through Prospect on its two-day journey. <i>Fox Under The Hill Inn</i> re-built. <i>Veteran Hall</i> described as having "one of the richest mineral soils in the colony".
1833	The first record of Mass celebrated was at the family home of Matthew Hyland on 16 th July.
1836-37	Greystanes (home of Nelson Simmons Lawson, 3 rd son of William Lawson) was built.
1838	William Lawson called for tenders to build an Anglican church.
1841	On 14 th April, the Bishop of Sydney, William Broughton, opened St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, designed by Henry Robertson. 2 nd May, First baptisms' at St Bartholomew's, Margaret, Mary and James Goodin. 18 th July, First burials at St Bartholomew's, Margaret and Ann Goodin.

1845	A Catholic School commenced at Prospect with 55 children, taught by Mr John McFaddin.
1848	Wells Gazetteer stated that there were 117 houses and 714 inhabitants across the whole Parish of Prospect.
1850	On 16 th June, William Lawson died, aged 76 years. He was buried in St Bartholomew's churchyard. Henry Neeve built <i>Neeves' Cottage</i> (slab house) in around 1850.
1850s	William Lawson Jnr. Adds 'new front' to <i>Veteran Hall</i> . Lawrence Hyland built <i>Prospect Inn</i> on the Western Road.
1855	On 19 th July, Archdeacon John McEncroe laid the foundation stone of St Brigid's Catholic Church, on the corner of Thornley Road and the Western Road.
1856	On 27 th July Archbishop J.B. Polding opened St Brigid's Catholic Church.
1862	E. O'Doherty operated a Post Office service. Reverend Donkin operated a private school near the post office.
1867	On 28 th October William Pidcock appointed first Head Master of Prospect Public School. James Watts appointed as Prospect postmaster.
1870	Stone quarry opened by Messrs Walding and Warrins to supply blue-metal to the Sydney Council and government departments. They built a narrow gauge tramway to the Western Railway at Fullager's Bank, 4 ½ miles in length. Bailliere's gazetteer described Prospect as a postal village. Population of the village was 100.
c1871	Five acres of land at the corner of Blacktown Rd and the Western Rd bought for thirteen pounds ten shillings, for the erection of a public school.
1871	New Prospect Public School building completed, a long room with a verandah. Teacher's residence was a 4 room cottage with no kitchen bathroom.
1874	James Watts and his wife Mary Ann operated the general store and Post Office. NSW Mines Department annual report stated basalt on Prospect Hill was good quality, in unlimited quantities.
1875	Toll Bar opposite <i>Fox Under The Hill Inn</i> removed.
1879	Teacher's residence extended with an extra room, kitchen and verandah.
1880	<i>Veteran Hall</i> and its surrounding 2000 acre property resumed by the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage. Work on Prospect Reservoir commenced.
1881	On 16 th September, James Manning was issued a publican's license for <i>Royal Cricketer's Arms</i> hotel. Flushcombe Stores, which James Manning operated in partnership with William Neeves, was established adjacent to the <i>Royal Cricketer's Arms</i> hotel. Parents petition for a weather shed at the school.
1882	A hall was built at Prospect Reservoir to serve as Chapel and school for the families of workers building the Reservoir. This hall was later moved to St Bartholomew's Church property to serve as the Sunday School hall. Weather shed at school completed.
1883	Presbytery was built next to St Brigid's Church. Two police constables stationed at Prospect. First commercial quarrying begun by Sperring and Partner.
1885	Father Patrick Augustine Holland appointed as first Parish Priest of Prospect.
1887	On 26 th February, the parish of Prospect was proclaimed. The red brick octagonal Valve House, approached by a footbridge over the waters of the reservoir, was built, as well as the lower Valve House, also octagonal in style, which is located below the dam wall, This valve house released the water into the Lower Canal.

	<u>Hotels:</u> Nils Desperandum, Charles Curtis; Reservoir Hotel, John Bucket; Royal Cricketer's Arms, John Manning; Commercial Hotel, Nelens Radbourn; Prospect Inn, John Walton.
1888	Completion of Prospect Reservoir, which was the first earthfill embankment dam in Australia. Metropolitan Water Supply Board used <i>Veteran Hall</i> as a Manager's Residence from 1888 til 1912. Police station downgraded to a single constable. July, Municipality of Prospect & Sherwood, area 20 square miles, 345 house, population estimated at 1725, July, Prospect Registry Office closed,
c1890	The Post Office building was built at Prospect (now 23 Tarlington Place)
Mid 1890s	Reservoir post office closed.
1891	Sacristy built on to St Brigid's Church. Postal Inspector reported that the Reservoir works village had a 'very deserted appearance'.
1892	The Commissioners for Fisheries established a trout hatchery at Prospect Reservoir which supplied trout all NSW streams until 1926.
1893	Prospect Reservoir transferred to the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.
1895	Arthur Streeton does a painting of Prospect Reservoir.
1897	January, Reservoir school closed. Constable Beattie at Prospect Police Station. New avenue under construction from Veteran Hall to Western Road.
1898	James Watts died and his wife Mary Ann Watts continued to operate the general store and Post Office. His widowed daughter, Harriet Higgin became Postmistress.
1899	June, residents of Prospect voted against Federation, 18 for, 53 against. A new road built at the foot of the dam to embankment to ease pressure.
1900	Cottage built at Reservoir for the gardener. Yewen's Directory showed a variety of agricultural crops grown in area.
1902	On April 7 th , a private railway began operation from Prospect Quarry to Toongabbie, this ran until 1945.
1903	The Emu and Prospect Road Gravel and Metal Company was formed.
1904	Florence and Edward Cooney became caretakers of St Brigid's Church.
1907	Cottage built at Reservoir for one of the maintenance men. All M.W.S. & D. Board residences at the Reservoir provided with 'proper sanitary arrangements' including septic tanks and continuous filters.
1909	Cottages at the Reservoir had the earth-closets replaced with septic tanks.
1910	Mary Ann Watts died and her son George Henry Watts (a local builder) bought the post office and store and occupied the house with his wife and four children. His daughter, Ethel Watts became the Postmistress.
1913	John Tarlington's grant was subdivided for residential lots, with many of them being purchased by George Watts. Royal Cricketer's Arms Hotel was sold to Edward and Florence Cooney (daughter of James and Agnes Manning) who operated a dairy farm whilst their daughters ran a tea-room in the main brick dwelling. On 1 st January, Veteran Hall and surrounding paddocks was leased until 1915 to the Commonwealth military authorities to be used as a remount depot.
1915	Veteran Hall was handed back by the military to the Water Board, but was not re-occupied. Georgina Watts became Postmistress.
1919	Emu and Prospect Gravel and Road Metal Company was taken over by the New South Wales Blue Metal Company.
1921	New company incorporated, New South Wales Associated Blue Metal Quarries Limited.

1923	<p>Father Dionis Spiteri at St Brigid's Church, conducted the first Maltese Mission in Australia.</p> <p>On 2nd June, the School of Arts building opened with a dance. The land was donated to the council by George Watts.</p> <p>George Henry Watts died.</p> <p>School enrolments increased due to growing local population.</p>
1925	On 26 th December, Water Board announced intention to demolish Veteran Hall.
1926	<p>Widemere Quarry opened on the southern side of Prospect Hill with a private railway from the Quarry to Fairfield station. This operated until 1945.</p> <p>Great Western Road gazetted as a 'Main Road'.</p>
1927	The electricity substation on Blacktown Road was opened on 17 th December. The Shire President's wife Mrs W.T. Cable turned on the electricity.
1929	<p>Veteran Hall was demolished.</p> <p>Great Western Road became the Great Western Highway.</p>
1933	New school building completed at a cost of 2,254 pounds.
1936	Charley family sell Prospect Hill to NSW Associated Blue Metal Quarries Ltd for 38,000 pounds.
1937	<p>Royal Cricketer's Arms Hotel was a private residence under several owners until 1963.</p> <p>Fox Hills Golf course was operating.</p>
1939	<p>During WW11 there was an anti-aircraft battery at the Reservoir.</p> <p>Avenue of Jacarandas planted at the Reservoir.</p>
1942	Rifle range associated with Wallgrove army camp was operating.
1940	May, water from Warragamba Emergency Scheme reached Prospect Reservoir.
1944	George Watts' widow Grace Louise died in January, leaving the store and post office business to her daughters, Georgina and Ethel.
1946	<p>Styles Blue Metal Co Ltd., leased land to the west of Prospect Quarry from the Water Board, this quarry was later operated by Ready Mixed Concrete.</p> <p>Georgina Watts retired as Postmistress and the family sold the business. The Watts family had run the Post Office for 79 years.</p> <p>Greystanes House was demolished</p>
1947	The population of Prospect was 671.
1948	In December, The National Trust of Australia (NSW) included St Bartholomew's Church on its first list of buildings considered essential to the heritage of New South Wales.
1949	Mr J.A. Cornell applied for a licence to screen films in the School of Arts building.
1950s	Honeman family operated <i>Honey's</i> , a roadhouse on the Western Road, selling meals and petrol. This was near the Reservoir Rd intersection.
1950	On 18 January, the first film, " <i>Blue Skies</i> ", screened at the School of Arts.
1951	<p>BMG established a hot mix bitumen plant called Bituminous Pavements at Prospect.</p> <p>Land north of the Great Western Highway/Reservoir Road zoned as green belt land.</p>
1952	4 th Australian Pan Pacific Scout Jamboree held at Prospect Hill, Greystanes, from 29/12/1952 until 9/1/1953.
1953	CSIRO established a Sheep Biology Laboratory.
1954	<p>NSW Associated Blue Metal Quarries Limited was taken over by Blue Metal Industries Ltd (BMI).</p> <p>Blacktown Sub-station set up at 432 Blacktown Rd., Prospect.</p>
1956	<p>Prospect County Council took over electricity supply for the area.</p> <p>A new room added to the Public School.</p>
1958	7 June, film screening discontinued at the School of Arts.
1959	CSIRO site was renamed as "Ian Clunies Ross Animal Research Laboratory".
1961	Gold discovered on Prospect Hill, assays found it was not in payable quantity.

1962	Copper guttering stolen from St Bartholomew's Church.
1963	Royal Cricketer's Arms Hotel was bought by the Blacktown Drive-In and served as a caretaker's residence. On 20 th December, Hoyts Skyline Drive-In opened at Prospect with <i>State Fair</i> .
1964	Prospect Inn was demolished to build the present Prospect Hotel. Millers Hotel/Motel built to replace Prospect Hotel, to the rear of original site. Fox Under The Hill Inn demolished to make way for Golf Club car park.
1966	2 nd pipeline between Warragamba Dam and Prospect Reservoir completed.
1967	On 31 st December, last service held at St Bartholomew's Church. Transfer of Prospect School of Arts to Blacktown Municipal Council. Group of interested parties met at St Bartholomew's Church to commence to clean up the grounds. The Prospect Heritage Trust, under different names, grew from this group.
1968	Prospect deviation of Great Western Highway which cut off a large section of the old highway, at a cost of \$1,122,000. Substantial changes made to electricity supply system. Electricity Commission and Prospect County Council jointly rebuilt the Blacktown Substation.
c1969	Prospect School of Arts building was destroyed by fire.
1970s	NSW Dept of Main Roads constructed Western Freeway, running parallel to Great Western Highway, between Prospect and Penrith.
1970	St Bartholomew's Church listed in The Register of the National Estate. Cairn erected to mark the site of Veteran Hall.
1972	In August, Blacktown Municipal Council leased from Church of England, a part of St Bartholomew's Church property for 50 years. Post Office closed, Mr Albert Waldron was the last Postmaster. May, St Bartholomew's Preservation Committee formed. June, first "Old Ironbark's Day" held.
1973	St Bartholomew's Church Classified Potential "A", amongst the top 70 buildings in NSW.
1975	Last Mass held at St Brigid's Church.
1976	The New South Wales Planning and Environment Commission resumed the post office property.
1977	St Brigid's Church was dismantled and some bricks were used for St Michael's Church, Blacktown South. March, new Blacktown sub-station completed.
1978	Restoration works on St Bartholomew's Church completed.
1979	Prospect Dam wall strengthened by the placement of stabilising beams on the downstream face.
1981	Population of Prospect was 10,330.
1982	On 19 th February, Permanent Conservation Order No 37 placed on St Bartholomew's Church on recommendation of The Heritage Council of NSW. IKEA, a home furnishing Swedish retailer, opened a store at Prospect. October, Boral Ltd acquired Blue Metal Industries (BMI) Ltd.
1983	On 27 th August, William Lawson Child Care Centre opened.
1986	Population of Prospect was 4100. Colonial First State Property constructed Homebase Shopping Centre on Stoddart Road. Homeworld display centre established.
1987	On 9 th January, Huntingwood named, this area was developed to cater for industry, warehousing and goods handling.
1988	On 7 th September, Cannon Street Child Care Centre opened. Public School closed in December.
1989	On 5 th May, Department of Planning placed a Permanent Conservation Order on

	<p>Royal Cricketer's Arms Hotel and purchased the property. Deutsche Schule Johannes Gutenberg, Australia's first German day School, opened in February with 40 pupils in the former Prospect Public School. On 4th November, fire gutted St Bartholomew's Church. Statewide Roads Ltd commenced work on the 'missing link' of the M4, between Mays Hill and Prospect.</p>
1990	<p>The Community & Road Education Scheme (C.A.R.E.S.) facility opened on the Reservoir grounds, a joint project between the Police and Guildford Rotary. In November, State Tourism, Lands and Forests Minister, Mr. Garry West, officially opened the Forestry Commission's new mechanical workshop between the Great Western Highway and Augusta Street.</p>
1991	<p>Population was 4811. On 5th June, Veteran Hall site listed in the Register of the National Estate. On 21st July, Prospect Trust at 'A Day of History & Heritage' at St Bartholomew's Church, gave a Dageurrotype of Caroline Lawson (nee Icely) and her sons Thomas and James to the Mitchell Library. NSW State Public Works replaced the roof of St Bartholomew's Church and repaired brickwork.</p>
1992	<p>In May, the 'missing link' of motorway between Mays Hill and Prospect opened.</p>
1993	<p>Regional Headquarters for the State Emergency Services (SES) established in Old Church Lane. On 21st May, Robert Brown, founder of The Prospect Trust died. On 18th July, first 'Back to Prospect Day' held at St Bartholomew's Church.</p>
1994	<p>Royal Cricketer's Arms Hotel leased to James and Susan Kelly who restored the interior and re-opened it as an English style pub in May.</p>
1995	<p>In July, Lower Prospect Canal, from Prospect Reservoir to Guildford, decommissioned by Sydney Water.</p>
1996	<p>Population was 5,148. Prospect Reservoir Filtration Plant commissioned. State Government establish a Steering Committee to develop a Plan of Management for Prospect Lower Canal.</p>
1997	<p>IKEA moved to the Homebase Shopping Centre. Vandalism and a fire at St Bartholomew's Church Hall. Prospect Dam wall strengthened by the placement of stabilising beams on the upstream face. 6 December, Eastern Creek International Karting Raceway opened.</p>
1998	<p>High levels of cryptosporidium cysts and giardia cysts found in water supply</p>
1999	<p>January, Eastern Creek, in conjunction with the Australian Karting Association hosted the Oceania Championships. On 2nd April, Royal Cricketer's Arms Inn listed on State Heritage Register. On 17th April, Prospect History Cottage opened. On 9th June, Boral released colour brochure outlining plans for 300Ha Greystanes Estate and hold an open day at the Estate. On 18th November, Prospect Reservoir listed on State Heritage Register.</p>
2000	<p>Blacktown City Council bought St Bartholomew's Church and cemetery from the Anglican Church. Site of <i>Veteran Hall</i> homestead listed on The Australian Heritage Commission's Register of the National Estate Database. CSIRO announce Prospect site to close. In August, Lower Prospect Canal Reserve transferred from Sydney Water to the Minister for the Environment. Tenders chosen to fill Lower Prospect Canal.</p>
2001	<p>St Bartholomew's Church restored for community use with the aid of government grants.</p>

	<p>According to 2001 census, population was 4,278. Prospect Trust officially changed its name to The Prospect Heritage Trust Inc. Boral initiate plans to close down the quarry and turn the 330ha site into half light industrial, half housing and open space, with the transition expected to be completed by 2013.</p> <p>On 5th August, Boral hold community open day at the 300Ha Greystanes Estate and the first plans of the housing estate at Greystanes are on public display. On 31st August, Premier Bob Carr launched 1st stage of \$600million Business Park.</p>
2002	<p>An old well rediscovered, probably built by convicts. January, CSIRO vacated Prospect site.</p>
2003	<p>October, CSIRO sold its Laboratory site. On 17th October, Prospect Hill listed on State Heritage Register.</p>
2004	<p>On 18th July, last 'Back to Prospect Day' held by The Prospect Heritage Trust. September, HomeBase Shopping Centre renamed HomeWorks. On 28th November. IKEA at HomeWorks, closed. Reserve on cnr. Flushcombe Rd and Gt. Western Highway named "<i>Robert Brown Reserve</i>". 7.7 Km bicycle/walking track on Lower Prospect Canal opened.</p>
2005	<p>April, Blacktown City Council formed a Friends of St Bartholomew's group to assist Council in protecting and conserving the integrity of the Church and Cemetery. On 15th March, Dept. of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources call for proposals from the private sector for development of a major commercial recreation facility on a 25Ha site adjacent to the M4 Motorway. Prospect Heritage Trust opposed the development of a commercial recreation facility. Blacktown City Council commission a heritage study of the Prospect area.</p>
2006	<p>On 1st April, first 'Back to St Bartholomew's Day' held by Friends of St Bartholomew's.</p>
2007	<p>On 22nd April, Lewis Henry Campbell family reunion held at St Bartholomew's. On 4th August, first Cemetery Workshop at St Bartholomew's held by Friends of St Bartholomew's.</p>
2008	<p>March, Boral Outdoor Factory outlet opened in Clunies Ross St., On 2nd April, Millstone unveiled at Prospect History Cottage On 14th August, Sydney Water announced \$10million hydro-power generation plant to be added to Prospect Reservoir filtration plant. August, Chifley Hotel (cnr Peter Brock Drive and Brabham Drive) opened. October, joint efforts of RTA, Blacktown City Council and NSW Police result in completion of upgrade to the Community & Road Education Scheme (C.A.R.E.S) facility at Reen Rd., Prospect. Reen Rd renamed Peter Brock Drive.</p>