



Murdoch University Timeline

A Chronology of the University's Growth and Achievements

1960s

1962	Proposed University Site	The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority recommends that approximately 400 acres (162 hectares) of Crown land at Bull Creek be reserved for purposes of a future university, regional hospital, and teachers college.
August 1966	Review of Tertiary Education	The State government appoints Sir Lawrence Jackson to chair a strong committee, with broad terms of reference, to examine the future needs of tertiary education in Western Australia.
December 1967	Proposed University Site	Following the findings of the Jackson Report, an area of 565 acres (228.7 hectares) in the south-eastern part of the Somerville pine plantation at Melville, endowment land held by the University of Western Australia, is provisionally earmarked by the State

government as the site for a new university campus.

1970s

29 March 1970	Second WA University Announced	Federal Education and Science Minister, Nigel Bowen, announces that the second university to be established in Western Australia will incorporate a veterinary school in its initial development.
2 July 1970	Chairman of Planning Board Appointed	Sir Noel Bayliss, Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Western Australia, appointed Chairman of a 12-person Board to plan the first phase of development of the new university.
9 July 1970	Name of University Announced	The Premier of Western Australia, Sir David Brand, announces that Western Australia's second university will be named after Sir Walter Murdoch, Professor of English at the University of Western Australia from 1913-1939 and its Chancellor from 1943-1948.
29 June 1972	Murdoch University Established	The act of parliament establishing Murdoch University is proclaimed.
1 October 1972	Stephen Griew First Vice Chancellor	Professor Stephen Griew, Professor of Psychology at the University of Dundee, is appointed the University's first Vice Chancellor.
1 July 1973	Foundation Professors	Scheduled commencement date for the University's ten foundation professors to officially commence duties.
25 July 1973	Murdoch University Constituted	Murdoch University is formally constituted, the date on which the Governor appointed the first members of the University Senate under section 12(1)(9) of the

		Murdoch University Act.
25 July 1973	Senate Members Appointed	The Governor of Western Australia, Major-General Sir Douglas Kendrew, appoints the first members of the University Senate.
3 August 1973	Inaugural Meeting of Senate	The inaugural meeting of the University's Senate held in the temporary offices of the University at 12 Stirling Highway, Nedlands. The meeting was chaired by Professor Stephen Griew.
1973	Physical Planning Report	Physical Planning Report for the first stage of the university building programme developed by project architects and site planners, Mr. R.J. Ferguson and Professor Gordon Stephenson.
25 October 1973	Schools of Study Established	University Senate ratifies Statute No. 3 "Schools of Study" establishing: School of Education School of Environmental and Life Sciences School of Human Communication School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences School of Social Inquiry School of Veterinary Studies
7 February 1974	Justice Wickham Elected Chancellor	The Hon John Wickham, Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, elected Chancellor of Murdoch University.
February 1974	First Students	Murdoch University's first students - 18 postgraduate research students – commence.
12 June 1974	Academic Council	Inaugural meeting of the University's Academic Council.
17 September 1974	Opening of Murdoch University	Inauguration ceremony to mark the opening of Murdoch University. The occasion was attended by the Governor General, Sir John Kerr, and marked by the laying in Bush

Court of a commemorative stone, a piece of granite from Sir Walter Murdoch's birthplace at Rosehearty in the burgh of Pitsligo in Aberdeenshire.

17 September 1974	Murdoch Memorial Lecture	Inaugural Murdoch Memorial Lecture delivered by J.A. La Nauze, Professor of History at the Australian National University, in Winthrop Hall at the University of Western Australia. The public oration was entitled 'Sir Walter Murdoch - A Centenary Tribute'.
November 1974	Campus Development	Completion of the library building.
January 1975	Campus Development	West Academic building Stage 1 (Social Sciences), and Amenities (Refectory) buildings completed.
24 February 1975	First Undergraduate Students	More than 500 foundation students attend the start of Murdoch University's orientation week.
March 1975	Campus Development	Completion of the East Academic (Physical Sciences) Stage 1 building.
23 April 1975	Honorary Degrees	A ceremony to celebrate the University's opening was held at the Perth Concert Hall to confer honorary degrees on Emeritus Professor Sir Noel Bayliss, the Hon Sir Lawrence Walter Jackson, and Emeritus Professor Peter Henry Karmel.
6 May 1975	Royal Visitors	H.R.H. Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips visit Murdoch University.
10 October 1975	Visitors' Day	Approximately 1,000 members of the public visited the University on its inaugural "Visitors' Day".
December 1975	Campus Development	Veterinary School (Stage 1) building completed.

circa 1976	Award for Buildings Design	The Royal Australian Institute of Architects present a certificate of commendation to the University for the design of the first stage buildings by R.J. Ferguson and Gordon Stephenson.
24 June 1976	University Emblem	A university emblem based on a maroon shield carrying a stylised "M" above a representation of the banksia grandis is approved by Senate.
1 April 1977	First Guild President Elected	Mark Ames commenced office as inaugural President of the recently established Guild of Students.
9 June 1977	First Graduation Ceremony	Sixty one students awarded degrees at the University's inaugural graduation ceremony held at the Perth Concert Hall.
30 November 1978	Rhodes Scholar	Economics student Wendy Carlin becomes Murdoch University's first Rhodes Scholar (for 1979) and only the second Western Australian woman to be awarded the scholarship.
20 December 1978	Glenn Willson Appointed Vice Chancellor	Professor Glenn Willson, formerly Principal of the University of London, commences duties as the University's second Vice Chancellor.
22 March 1979	Merger with UWA	The (Sir Bruce) Williams Report recommends integration of Murdoch University's functions with those of the University of Western Australia.
23 March 1979	Opening of Veterinary School	The Hon Sir Charles Court, Premier of Western Australia, presides over the formal opening of the Murdoch University Veterinary School, and declares his government's support for an independent Murdoch University and opposition to any form of amalgamation or merger with UWA.

1980s

6 February 1980	Sir Ronald Wilson Elected Chancellor	Sir Ronald Wilson, Justice of the High Court of Australia, commences the first of his five three-year terms as Chancellor of the University.
28 June 1982	University Medal Established	The University Medal prize is established by which two University Medals are to be awarded for best academic performance by students completing an ordinary bachelor degree.
8 July 1983	Student Village Opened	WA Governor, Sir Richard Trowbridge, opens the first stage of the University's student housing project which will provide on-campus accommodation for 32 students.
circa 1984	Recognition of Veterinary School	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (UK) approve the recognition of the Murdoch University Veterinary School.
1 February 1985	Peter Boyce Appointed Vice Chancellor	Professor Peter Boyce, formerly Professor of Politics at the University of Western Australia, commences office as the University's third Vice Chancellor.
13 April 1986	Open Day	More than twenty thousand people attend the University's Open Day.
30 April 1988	Student Enrolments Pass 5,000	Total student enrolments pass 5,000 for the first time.
17 October 1988	Merger with UWA Approved	Following exploratory negotiations the proposed merger with the University of Western Australia is approved by the Murdoch University Senate.
8 June 1989	Merger Legislation Initiated	The University Senate authorises the Chancellor to request the State Minister for Education to prepare legislation to enable the amalgamation of Murdoch University

and the University of Western Australia to take effect from 1 January 1990.

22 December 1989	UWA Merger Blocked	Proposed legislation to amalgamate Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia blocked by the WA Legislative Council.
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1990s

19 February 1990	Name Change for Murdoch University	The University Senate agreed to request the State Minister for Education to amend the Murdoch University Act (1973-85) substituting the words 'The Walter Murdoch University of Perth' for the existing 'Murdoch University'. This did not proceed.
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14 June 1991	Economics and Commerce Building	Completion of the \$12 million Economics and Commerce building.
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2 December 1991	Baptist College Approved	Approval given to Lake Joondalup Baptist College to lease campus land for purposes of establishing a secondary college.
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2 December 1991	Rhodes Scholar	Biological Sciences student Glen Power becomes Murdoch University's second Rhodes Scholar, and will undertake higher studies at Oxford University in 1992.
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24 February 1992	School of Law Established	The University's Senate resolves to establish a School of Law with effect from the first day of second semester 1992.
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29 June 1992	SABC Established	Establishment of the State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre (SABC).
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1 July 1992	AJ Parker Centre Established	Establishment of the AJ Parker Cooperative Research Centre for Hydrometallurgy.
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1993	First Female Professor	Associate Professor Cora Baldock awarded a Personal Chair, thereby becoming the University's first female Professor.
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22 September 1993	Inaugural Overseas Graduation Ceremony	The first overseas graduation ceremony, attended by 128 graduands, held in the Regent Hotel Singapore.
21 July 1994	Opening of Loneragan Building	Federal Minister for Finance, the Hon Kim Beazley MP, officially opens a \$7 million science teaching and research building. The Loneragan Building is named in honour of Emeritus Professor Jack Loneragan and his late wife, Mona.
28 November 1994	Rhodes Scholar	Law student Tanya Aplin selected as Western Australia's 1995 Rhodes Scholar.
8 February 1995	Fred Chaney Chancellor	The Hon Mr Frederick Chaney, former Federal politician and distinguished foundation member of the Aboriginal Legal Service, commences as the University's third Chancellor.
14 August 1995	Rockingham Campus Master Plan	Master Plan and designs for the Rockingham Campus project approved.
19 October 1995	Rockingham Campus Building Budget Approved	A \$19 million capital budget approved for the development of the Rockingham Regional Campus.
21 February 1996	Steven Schwartz Appointed Vice Chancellor	Professor Steven Schwartz, formerly Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Western Australia, commences as the University's fourth Vice Chancellor.
20 February 1996	First Students at Rockingham Campus	Rockingham Regional Campus welcomes its first students on Orientation Day.
September 1996	Launch of	At the official launch of the University's new Rockingham Campus Federal Attorney-

	Rockingham Campus	General Daryl Williams unveils a plaque to commemorate the construction of its first buildings.
7 October 1996	Merger talks with ECU	The Murdoch University Senate establishes a working party for purposes of entering into formal discussions with Edith Cowan University concerning possible amalgamation.
24 February 1997	Merger with ECU not to Proceed	The University Senate announces that the proposed merger between Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University will not proceed.
24 March 1997	New Corporate Image	The University adopts a new logo as part of its revised corporate image.
31 March 1997	Student Enrolments pass 10,000	Total student enrolments pass 10,000 for the first time.
5 April 1998	Opening of Rockingham Campus	WA Governor, Major-General Michael Jeffery, officially opens the University's Rockingham Regional Campus.
9 August 1999	Retirement Village Project Approved	The University Senate approves the \$50 million St Ives Murdoch Retirement Village project for development on the Murdoch University campus.

2000s

2 June 2000	Opening of Murdoch College	Official opening of Murdoch College, an international secondary school, on the Murdoch University campus by the Premier of Western Australia The Hon Richard Court.
July 2000	Royal Visitor	Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, visits the School of Veterinary and Biomedical

		Sciences as a joint guest of the University and the Australian Veterinary Association.
4 February 2002	Malcolm Nairn Vice Chancellor	Professor Malcolm Nairn, former Vice Chancellor of Northern Territory University, commences as the University's fifth Vice Chancellor.
1 July 2002	John Yovich Appointed Vice Chancellor	Professor John Yovich, Executive Dean of Murdoch University's Division of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, commences as the University's sixth Vice Chancellor.
9 July 2002	Geoffrey Bolton Elected Chancellor	Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton, eminent historian and academic, elected Chancellor of the University.
2003	Innovative Research Universities Group Formed	Murdoch University co-founds the Innovative Research Universities (IRU Australia) group with five other Australian universities: Flinders, Griffith, La Trobe, Macquarie and Newcastle.
22 July 2004	Law building Opened	The University's new law building officially opened by Chief Justice David Malcolm and Sir Ronald Wilson.
8 December 2004	Gates Grant for HIV Research	The Centre for Clinical Immunology and Biomedical Statistics (CCIBS) receives a \$13 million project grant for HIV vaccine research from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
28 June 2005	Merger talks with Curtin University	Murdoch University Senate agrees to participate in a joint feasibility study with Curtin University of Technology to investigate the desirability and feasibility of a merger of the two universities.
30 June 2005	Opening of Peel Regional Campus	The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson MP, Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, presides over the official opening of the Peel Regional Campus at Mandurah.
1 August 2005	Chiropractic Clinic	The Murdoch University Chiropractic Clinic is opened.

	Opened	
27 October 2005	Premier's Prize for Achievement in Science	HIV physician and clinical immunologist Professor Simon Mallal, Executive Director of the Centre for Clinical Immunology and Biomedical Statistics, receives 2005 Premier's Prize for Achievement in Science.
2 November 2005	Curtin University Merger Not to Proceed	Murdoch University and Curtin University of Technology decide not to proceed with a proposed merger of the two institutions.
26 November 2005	Chancellor Bolton WA Australian of the Year	The University's Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO, named Western Australian "Australian of the Year 2006".
29 November 2006	Terry Budge Elected Chancellor	Mr Terry Budge, former Managing Director of BankWest, elected new Chancellor of Murdoch University.
29 November 2006	Expansion St Ives Retirement Village	Senate approves the expansion of the St Ives Retirement Village for Stages 8, 9 and 10.
18 March 2007	New Corporate Identity Launched	Launch of the 'Discoverers welcome' brand campaign.
31 March 2007	Student Enrolments pass 15,000	Total student enrolments pass 15,000 for the first time.
20 April 2007	Murdoch University Endowment Established	The Murdoch University Endowment is formally established. \$40 million generated by the sale of one of the University's land assets is a key component of the endowment.

9 May 2007	Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases	The Federal Government allocates \$19.5 million towards the establishment of a \$64 million world class medical research facility at Murdoch University to be known as The Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases (IIID).
6 July 2007	Learning Common	The \$2 million Murdoch University Learning Common facility is opened by the Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP.
23 August 2007	Relocation of Department of Agriculture and Food	The WA State Government and Murdoch University sign an agreement to co-locate the Department of Agriculture and Food WA and new biosecurity facilities at Murdoch University. The \$183 million relocation to be completed by 2011.
3 September 2007	Stage Two of Peel Campus Opened	The Hon Julie Bishop MP, Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, officially opens Stage Two of the University's Peel Campus.
17 July 2008	Murdoch first to use 15% GreenPower	Murdoch University becomes the first university in Australia to sign a deal to use 15 percent GreenPower (renewable energy).
5 August 2008	Graduate Satisfaction	Murdoch University achieves the top (five-star) rating for graduate satisfaction in the 2008 Good Universities Guide becoming the only university in Australia to achieve this rating 13 times in the last 14 years.