200 years proudly supporting Australia

WESTPAC TIMELINE

Year	History
1817	Established in 1817 as the Bank of New South Wales, Westpac is Australia's first and oldest bank and its first and oldest public company.[1] On 8 April 1817, the Bank of New South Wales issues the first bank note – guaranteed legal tender - which signified the establishment of the foundations of the Australian economy.
1851	Gold is discovered in South East Australia, and The Bank opens a branch in Melbourne.
1879	Ned Kelly and his gang raid the little town of Jerilderie in NSW. Their main target is the Bank of New South Wales, which they rob of £2000.
1932	Head Office premises (341 George St) finished & occupied on the same day the Harbour Bridge is opened.
1961	First female teller appointed – Judith Millar. Makes news around the country.
1966	Australia changes to decimal currency.
1973	The Bank of New South Wales launches Australia's first civilian rescue and medical care helicopter service, in association with the Surf Lifesaving Association of Australia.
1980	The Bank of New South Wales issue its first debit card – called Handycard – which allows users to deposit, withdraw and transfer their funds 'electronically' between accounts through Handybank (automated teller machines) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
1982	Merger of the Bank of New South Wales and the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited to form a new entity, to be called Westpac Banking Corporation.
1995	Westpac was one of the first publicly-listed companies to introduce paid parental leave in 1995.
2014	Westpac announces the single largest private education scholarship program in Australia's history, the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation, a $100 million fund to support 100 scholarships every year, forever.

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[1] Westpac Our Heritage, Third Edition 2004 p. 2

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