

Barayikuwa[^]

Deep Time, Big History*

13.8bya—Big Bang, Universe came into existence

11bya—Galaxies and super-novas formed

8bya—Solar system and the Milky Way appear

4.6 to 4.4bya—Earth comes into being, then the moon

2.4bya—Oxygen fills the air

2bya—Pangea the super-continent forms

936mya—Origin of Algae and Plants

530mya—First land animals

380mya—First trees and forests

251mya—'Munibung Hill' rose into being within the super-continent Pangea. She had been around for 70 million years before Gondwanaland broke away to form the continent we know as Australia. That was 180mya. Fungi was already playing an important part in evolutionary history.

220mya—First mammals and dinosaurs

130mya—first flowering plants.

66mya—'Munibung Hill' as a geological feature was around before and during the time of the Dinosaurs.

2.5mya—Homo sapiens came on the scene.

65,000 years ago—Aboriginal presence in Gondwanaland. This part of country was integral to the Aboriginal community of the area. There was no Lake Macquarie in those times. Only a series of lagoons and swamps across the valley floor.



41,000 years ago—earliest painted cave art.

12,000 years ago—Last ice age ends. The hill was believed to be a place where

Aborigines communicated between mountains, and the site of a dreamtime story where a serpent brought water into the (valley and lagoons) Lake (as it became) - the top of Munibung Hill was a place where Aborigines watched Lake Macquarie fill with water across a period of time extending from 12,000 to 6,000 years ago.' Ownership of the area was held in common by the Awabakal community.

270 years ago—Industrial revolution begins in 1750.

190 years ago—Steam age kicks off in 1830. European settlement of the Munibung Hill area commenced the displacement of local indigenous people. It's high vantage point and 360 degree views of the surrounding area made it a significant location, and there were once a number of stone arrangements on the hill linked to traditional stories of the Awabakal tribe. Threlkeld recorded that the hill was named 'Kona-konaba', and that it provided a source of ochre for the local people.

See column at right .. >>

See Australian reminiscences & papers of L.E. Threlkeld, missionary to the Aborigines, 1824-1859 / edited by Niel Gunson

140 years ago—Electrical age in 1880.

65 years ago—Anthropocene epoch beings in the 1950s. Human activity is leading to changes to the atmosphere, ecosystems and biodiversity all the while depleting many of the Earth's resources.

50 years ago—Digital age starts in 1970. www in 1989.

European settlement and industrial development

190 years ago—Formal European occupation of the area commenced in 1828 when William Brooks selected 1,280 acres encompassing the present day suburb of Speers Point. Brooks operated a coal mine on the western side of the hill (near present day Hopkins Street) from 1843 - c1856.

150 years ago—William Speer, a Sydney businessman and timber merchant, acquired the property in about 1870.

117 years ago—in 1902, the first subdivisions were made around Munibung Hill. Some of the remaining land was acquired by Mrs Mersie Hardy. Although she subdivided some portions of land the hilly area remained undeveloped. This area of Munibung became known as Hardy's Hill.

108 Years ago (circa)—The hilly part of Mersie Hardy's land was acquired by A G Hawkins who established gravel quarries to support road building activities. During the war, gravel taken from this quarry was used in the construction of Williamtown Air Base.

There was also cattle grazing across the ridges and stone fruit orchards on the eastern slopes.

56 years ago—The last major project this quarry was used for was Speers Point Memorial Pool complex in 1963.

42 years ago—December 1977, the hill is formerly named Munibung Hill.

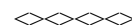
40 years ago—In May 1979 the first major dissent of residents via the Boolaroo-Speers Point Advisory Committee over the use of the quarry was reported in the newspapers. By November 1979 council was formulating plans to rehabilitate the quarry rather than open it to use.

33 years ago—From 1986 onward, Boral Resources Pty Ltd operated a gravel quarry on the site.

5 years ago—The quarry licence was formally surrendered in 2014. The zoning of Munibung Hill is amended to permit housing within the two disused quarries.

2 years ago—Approval is granted for housing development.

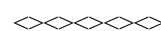
Acknowledgement: Selections from Lake Macquarie Library Community History Department.



To get the history of this column into some kind of perspective requires a fundamental shift in our thinking:

The discovery that Aboriginal people have lived in Australia at least 65,000 years, 18,000 years longer than was known previously, has blown the minds of archaeologists worldwide and challenged many previously held assumptions.

It's a hard number to wrap your head around, so consider this: if Aboriginal culture were 24 hours old, then the First Fleet arrived just five minutes and four seconds ago.



[^] **Barayikuwa** (Earth Time) - see the MHCS website: www.munibunghill.com

***Big History** is a field of human understanding that measures time according to the cosmos. Its principle author is [Professor David Christian](#) who established the [Big History Project](#) at Macquarie University with Bill Gates (Microsoft).