

# MANILLA & DISTRICT Comprehensive TIMELINE

*including events influencing settlement – document in progress – updated June 2009*

**1818 - Exploration Party** led by **John Oxley** crosses the **Peel River** (then known as Calala), 30 km south-east of Manilla. **Oxley's Anchor**, placed near **Hallsville** along the road to Tamworth, marks the vicinity.

---

**1823 - Exploration Party** led by **Allan Cunningham** discovers and names a passage (**Pandora's Pass**) over the Liverpool Range onto the Liverpool Plains. He continues north, crossing the **Namoi River** (then known as Muleirindi) and discovers the **Gwydir River**.

---

**1827 - Exploration Party** led by **Allan Cunningham** passes through district on way north.

---

**1828 - Exploration Party** led by **Thomas Mitchell** traverses the **Namoi River**.

---

**1829 – The Colony** (New South Wales) is **divided** into **19 Counties** within **Boundary Limits** drawn to restrict settlement and grazing. Policing the boundary proves impossible and the limits are soon breached for running cattle etc.

---

**1832 – Northern district land** taken up by prospective farmers.

- **Several Cattle runs** set up with shepherds (future boundary riders) left in charge of stock. **Some runs become Stations** with substantial dwellings and outbuildings;
  - **Government report** of the time shows as many settlers, cattle & sheep outside **Boundary Limits** as were inside;
  - **Squatters** are ordered to pay 10 pounds per/yr to squat on Government land.
  - **Otto Baldwin** takes up land, 6 miles below junction of Manilla & Namoi Rivers;
  - **Mr White** secures grazing rights of land on Namoi River upstream from the Peel. Establishes a cattle run.
- 

**1835 –** Map of 1835 shows the Manilla River as the **Maniil** (see Boundary Map of the 19 counties 1835 -in Macleod's" Transformation of Manellae" 1948) It is later referred to as the **Manellae**, (Macleod 1948) suggesting European corruption of the name. Research has shown that the word Manellae is not known in the local language. This adaptation of the name led to the assumption that the local indigenous tribe was called "The Manellae" and has resulted in historical misinterpretation. It has long been held that the name Manilla meant winding river or similar. The Gamilaraay / Yuwaalaraay / Yuwaalayaay dictionary published 2003, the indigenous word **maniil** describes a 'hunt', with the extension of the word to **maniil-y** specifying 'a hunt for kangaroo'.

---

**1837 – Otto Baldwin** obtains licence for **Dinnawirindi Station**;

- **Overseer Joseph Greenhatch**, holds post on Dinnawirindi to the east of the homestead.
  - **White** surrenders his pasturage licence to **Wm. Sims-Bell** who establishes **Keypet Station** (later renamed **Keepit**).
- 

**1838 – Major Nunn** is sent north by **Colonial Administrator Snodgrass**, to quell alleged problems with **Aboriginal** people.

- Nunn arrives at the "**Greenhatch**", outpost of Dinnawirindi Station 40km n/w of Tamworth with 23 mounted police.
  - Local tribe of **Kamilaroi (Gamilaraay) people** is ambushed at the Namoi River and scatters into bush. A number are rounded up and marched back to Greenhatch.
  - **One Aboriginal man** nicknamed Doherty, is accused of crimes against a landowner to the north, then tried, shot and buried.
- 

**1839 – Edward Mayne** is appointed **Commissioner of Police for Liverpool Plains**, stationed at **Murrurundi**.

- The **Pringle** Family take up land around Somerton and Bective and name the Station **Summer Hill**.
- 

**1840 – Police Base** established at **Somerton** (then known as Goora) with 10 white officers and several blacktrackers;

- **First convict settlement** in northern area established at **Somerton** on hill half mile downstream from present bridge.
  - Summer Hill Station, later renamed Somerton, is worked by **convict labour**.
  - **Teamsters & Carriers** ferry goods from the Hunter district through to northern goldfield settlements & cattle stations via tracks following the local **Namoi and Manilla Rivers**. Teams are often delayed at "The Junction" by high water in the Namoi.
- 

**1847 – The Manilla River** is shown as **Manellae** on Maps.

---

**1851 –**High water in the Namoi River regularly halts passage of Teamsters travelling north from Maitland with supplies. Campsites are set up along the southern bank.

---

**1853 - John George Rideout** builds a **boarding house** on the northern side of the Namoi River, believed located between Rowan and Manilla Streets. Sold to Davis. Later acquired by Thomas Connor prior to 1860s;

- **George Veness** arrives at '**The Junction**' of the Rivers with wife Sarah and son John, to setup a store and wine shop in vicinity of teamsters' camping ground. It is suggested Veness selected this land 2 years before. He arrived from Deptford, Kent in 1849 and had gone to Barraba, c.1851 where he worked with storekeeper W. McKid.
- 

**1854 – George Veness**, through his association with teamsters on the road north, saw an opportunity to supply stranded travellers with goods and services wheat their campground. He establishes the town's first General Store along the known track on the eastern bank of the Namoi River at its junction with the Manilla River.

- Veness leads the way to town settlement and is acknowledged as founder.
- 

**1856 - First Post Office established.** Town receives **official name of Manilla**, nominated by **first Post-master** George Veness.

- 3 Other Veness brothers arrive to take up positions and further community development in Manilla and other districts.
- 

**1857 - Daniel Veness** becomes **First Public Officer & Poundkeeper** – position held for 40 years.

- **Town Pound** set up on land cnr Court & Arthur Streets, later site of **Public School construction 1901**.
  - **Newcastle to Maitland Railway** line completed.
  - Rail line from **Maitland to Tamworth** is begun.
-

**1860** – NSW Executive Council instructs **Lands Office Tamworth (Govt. Surveyor Charles Flide)** to lay out the town of Manilla.  
 - **George Harrington** establishes a **market garden and orchard** on land at sth-east cnr Manilla and Court Sts;

**1861** - Surveyor Arthur **Dewhurst** surveys area from **Moore Creek to Deadhorse Gully**, (south of Manilla settlement).  
 - Dewhurst moves on to survey the town of **Narrabri**.

**1863** – Arthur **Dewhurst** conducts detailed **survey of Namoi River from Narrabri to Manilla**;  
 - **Hotel at Tarpoly** established by Mrs **Haydon**;  
 - **First sale** of town lands at **North Manilla** (G. Veness and others);  
 - **Thomas Connor** builds **Australian Arms Inn**, also known as Manilla Hotel at North Manilla near the river to the west of Manilla Street;

**1864** - Flood sweeps away **Veness' store** and other buildings on the river.  
 - **Fitzgerald's** house on the bank of the Manilla River at the Junction is swept away, drowning four.  
 - Baldwin's **Dinnawirindi** Station homestead washed away.  
 - **Australian Arms Inn** at north Manilla inundated by floodwaters;  
 - **Arthur Dewhurst** maps out **Manilla streets** and names them.

**1865** - **The Australian Arms Inn** advertised for sale in **Maitland Mercury**.

**1867** – **David Beynon** is **first to select land** on the **Manilla River**.  
 - c.1867 Otto Baldwin replaces Dinnawirindi house lost in 1864 with large home on northern side of Namoi River. Renames it **Durham Court**;  
 - **Wm. Hill** purchases the **Australian Arms Inn**

**1868** – Teamster **Thomas Bowman** selects 1280 acres at Upper Manilla;  
 - **Tarpoly Mail Coach Stables** established on Barraba Rd **Upper Manilla**

**1869** - **Lands selected** at Manilla by settlers **Hill, Coulton, Byrnes and Iliffe** for cultivation.

**1870** – Teamsters **John & George Nixon** select land in **Upper Manilla Valley** – J.Nixon establishes "**Oakhampton**", G.Nixon "**The Pines**";  
 - Teamster **John Coote Snr**, becomes fourth to select in Upper Manilla Valley.  
 - **First Government sub-division sale** of Manilla town lands (southern side).

**1870s - POLICE DEPOT** - Rushes Creek Road eastern side at Greenhatch Creek, a slab building with bark roof, horse yards and resting paddocks. At this time the road from Tamworth to Manilla followed Greenhatches Creek from near Norris' Inn.

Police Depot established eastern side Rushes Creek Rd at Greenhatch Creek

?c.**1870s** (see also 1882) – Single story **Junction Hotel** licenced to Stephen Veness in 1882. Timber single storey, construction date written as 1882, builder Coulton. <sup>(Macleod, 1949)</sup> Research reveals a public meeting took place at "**The Junction Hotel**" in c.**1875** to discuss the need for a rail service. <sup>(Lyle Green 2004)</sup>

*Note:* It may be that reference to "The Junction Hotel" in the 1870s was to the premises of George Veness (Store and Inn) re-established at the north-west corner of Namoi and Market Streets c.1865. (Junction Hotel at corner Manilla & Strafford Sts renamed Post Office Hotel in 1913 by postman-licence.)

**1872** - **First wheat** grown in Manilla district for commercial purposes and sold to mill at **Tamworth**;  
 - **Mail Coach run** to Manilla commenced by **Wilkinson and Bowden**;  
 - **Keepit & Upper Manilla School** buildings constructed for full-time classes;  
 - Bell family sells "**Keepit**" (renamed from Keypet) to the **Blaxland** Family;  
 - "Arlington" on Manilla Road Sth established and built by George Coulton;  
 - **School** building constructed at **Upper Manilla**.

**1873** – Surveyor **George Dowe** selects land at **Milliwindi**, Keepit area. He steadily increased his holding to the area resumed by NSW Government for **Keepit Dam**;  
 - **Thomas Bowman** selects 1280 acres on Namoi River – "North Ceurindi";  
 - **John Wheeler** selects land at Long Flat. Becomes one of district's first **wheat** growers;  
 - **Private School** established corner Rowan & Strafford Sts;

**1874** - **Police Station** established at Greenhatch Creek on Rushes Creek Road.  
 - **Durham Court Station** becomes famed as thoroughbred **Durham Shorthorn** Stud.

**1875** - **POLICEMAN'S LODGE WITH LOCKUP** constructed by T.J. Bowen in Court Street between Manilla and Namoi Streets, the first building constructed on large corner block which would later accommodate Court House (1885); Clerk of Petty Sessions Office; Police Station and residence for Officer in Charge of Police (1909); Lockup & Lockup Keeper's Residence; Police Stables and other buildings;  
 - **Charles Norris** constructs the timber **Carrier's Arms Inn** at Klori (Norris' Inn) on old Tamworth Road.

**1876** - **First Court of Petty Sessions** held at Manilla;  
 - **M.C. Mackenzie** establishes a store in Market Street at sth-east corner Namoi & Market Streets, diagonally opposite Veness' Store;  
 - First Public **School teacher** appointed.  
 - 339½ acres of **Crown land** west of Manilla is purchased for £1 per acre at **Auction** by Charles Baldwin of Durham Court.  
 - 'The Tamworth News' is critical of Govt. practice of raising ready money through auction of land rather than making it available to selectors;  
 - Several acres within the surveyed town boundary at North Manilla are sold at £8 per acre.

**1877- Public School classes established** in Union Church building in **North Manilla**;

- A Court of Enquiry under the Lands Amendment Act of 1876 is held at **Veness' Inn**.

- **£1,450 is allocated to the Roads Dept** to clear and form the road from Dead Horse Gully south of Manilla to Attunga Hill. Trees and stumps are removed from Attunga Springs to Greenhatch Creek and the way made trafficable following action by Charles Norris to fence off the unmarked road.

---

**1878 - Telegraph line** completed to Manilla;

- **Edward Done** appointed Manilla's **first resident Post-master**;

- Unsuccessful bridged causeway constructed below Rowan Street on Namoi River. Dubbed Bennett's Folly after the politician who ordered it.

---

**1879 - First brick school** built for 50 pupils with teacher's residence at **North Manilla**. Operates until c.1898, when crossing of the traffic bridge becomes too dangerous for children. Classes were likely transferred to the Mechanics Institute Hall <sup>(Manilla Express 1899)</sup> until opening of the new school in Court Street in 1901.

---

**1880 - Selection of land** around **Manilla, Halls Creek, Upper Manilla and Namoi River**, changes Manilla from a cattle station area to a closer settlement;

- **Wheat and wool** become chief industries;

- **Petition** sent to Government requests building of **high-level bridge** over the **Namoi River** at Manilla

---

**1881 – Minister for Public Works** met by Manilla deputation requesting go-ahead on traffic bridge.

---

**1882 - Hotel** licence granted to Stephen Veness for the Junction Hotel. Single story building constructed at sth-west corner Manilla & Strafford Strts by builder Coulton c.1882;

- Tender let in England for steelwork required for construction of **Manilla Bridge**.

---

**1883 - Tenders** called by NSW Government for **building of bridge over Namoi River** at Manilla;

- **Cemetery area** assigned north east of Manilla on Namoi River Road;

- Education Council sets up **Education District 79**, comprising the schools of Manilla, Barraba, Tarpoly, Upper Manilla, Keepit & Milliwindi.

- **Upper Manilla School** building replaced.

---

**1884 – GH Royce & Co** begins construction on iron bridge across Namoi River. Royce's House constructed in Manilla Street. Builder likely **T.J.Bowen**, who came to assist Royce, then went on to construct most major buildings in town.

- Government **Surveyor Lawrenson** pegs out site for **bridge foundations**.

---

**1885 - Manilla** proclaimed a **Town**;

- **Government** establishes **Pasturage Holdings**;

- **Land Amendment** Act makes land selection easier and results in influx of **free selection** in Manilla District.

- Large leases coming up for renewal create a rush for selection;

- **Upper Manilla** Postal Service and Store established - **Mary-Ann Nixon** Post-mistress;

- Timber **School of Arts** opens in Manilla Street.

---

**1886 - Court House** built by Thomas Bowen;

- **Namoi River Bridge** work completed, linking North and South Manilla.

---

**1889 - Methodist Church** built in Rowan Street;

- **Roman Catholic Church** built at Upper Manilla;

- **Major Drought** turns Namoi and Manilla Rivers to gravel beds;

- **Post Office** under construction cnr. Manilla & Strafford Streets;

- **First subdivision of Durham Court Station**;

- **Tamworth to Manilla Railway League** is formed at a meeting at the Caledonian Hotel in Tamworth in November.

---

**1890 - Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney** opens next door to Royce's House Manilla (south side);

- Brick **Post Office** opens nth-west cnr Manilla & Strafford Streets.

---

**1891 – Single story Royal Hotel** constructed for M.C.Mackenzie by T.J.Bowen cnr Stafford & Manilla Streets. Oliphant 1<sup>st</sup> Licencee.

---

**1893 - Survey of railway from Tamworth to Manilla**;

- **Keepit Station** taken over by **Dalgety & Co.** - comprises 33,000 acres, runs 15,000 sheep & 1000 head cattle. Later exchanged for station at Walgett.

- **Church of England** Church built and opened at sth-west corner Strafford & Namoi Streets on land donated by William Hill.

---

**1894 - Catholic Church** opened at south-east corner Court and Rowan Streets;

Harrington's garden and orchard ceases operation.

---

**1895 - Manilla Progress Association** formed;

- **John Coote Jnr** establishes imported **Devon Cattle & Lincoln Sheep Stud**.

---

**1896 - First search** for a possible site for an **irrigation scheme** on the Namoi River and a proposal put forward for a site at **Keepit**;

---

**1899 - Manilla Express** first published January 14. Likely place of 1<sup>st</sup> printery at sth-east cnr. Manilla & Court Streets;  
 - **Flour Mill** established by **Clark & Crocker**; Manilla branch of **Farmer's and Settlers Association** formed;  
 - **Tobacco** grown for commercial production - several growers and 2 large pumping plants on Manilla River;  
 - **First passenger train** carries 35 to **Tamworth Show**;  
 - applications are made for establishment of a further 3 Hotels in Manilla, one at the Railway Station, one in vicinity of Court House and the third at corner Market & Manilla Streets, the last 2 being granted.

---

**1900 - Draft petition** asks Governor of NSW to declare Manilla a Municipality;  
 - **Grain shed** built at **Manilla railway**, Farmers and Settlers Assn. pay **annual lease**;  
 - **First Public School** at North Manilla formally closes after 21 years;  
 - **New school** for 200 pupils built cnr **Court & Arthur Streets**;  
 - **Town Band** formed;  
 - **Imperial Hotel** constructed cnr Manilla & Market Streets for G.M.Oliphant;  
 - **Court House Hotel** constructed Manilla Street south;  
 - **Timber bridge** built over Manilla River at **Upper Manilla**;  
 - **School of Arts** replaced with larger hall, title changed to **Mechanics Institute**. Additional small hall built.

---

**1901 - Governor of NSW approves Incorporation** of town of **Manilla** as a **Municipality**;  
 - first **Council elected**;  
 - The Bill to build **Manilla to Barraba Railway** passes through Parliament;  
 - **Official school opening** set for January cancelled due to Queen Victoria's death. Local opening celebration held March 9.

---

**1902 - Major drought** - Sheep brought in from the Riverina for **restocking**;  
 - **First irrigation plants** installed on **Manilla River properties** enables production of **vegetables** and **tobacco** and the establishment of **dairies**;  
 - Survey begins on **Manilla-Barraba railway line**;  
 - **Manilla Flour mill** sold to **Wilson Bros & Oram**, becomes **Snowcloud Flour Mill**.

---

**1903 - Tenders called** for the building of **steel railway bridge** over the Namoi River and the construction of **piers and superstructure** for a **timber viaduct**;

---

**1904 - Presbyterian Church** (timber) built by Chapman and Byron, opens March 13 corner Court and Rowan Streets.

---

**1905 - Manilla Hospital** opens May 10;  
 - Construction begins on **Manilla Railway Viaduct**;  
 - **Electric light** first used in Manilla by Wilson and Oram in Flour Mill at northern end of Arthur Street. Residents north of Burrell Street have the advantage of early use of electricity.  
 - Manilla Municipal Council makes **first land purchase** (Strafford Street).  
 - Dalgety & Co. exchanges **Keepit Station** for Govt. owned **Euroka** station near Walgett.  
 - **Keepit station** is cut up and sold for closer settlement;  
 - A second application to set up a hotel at the Railway Station was overturned, police arguing that Manilla already has four hotels and seven boarding houses.

---

**1906 - Department of Agriculture** considers possibility of storing floodwaters of the Namoi River at **Keepit**;  
 - Presbyterian Church is erected at Namoi River on land donated by J.O. & T.W. Roberts;  
 - Work on Manilla-Barraba **Railway line** commences; **Foundry** constructed by **HM Baker**.

---

**1907 - Privately owned Motor vehicles** first appear in Manilla;  
 - **1<sup>st</sup> 'Farmers' Carnival'**, forerunner of the Agricultural Show;  
 - Manilla tops market at **Sydney wool sales**; **Somerton Bridge** constructed.

---

**1908 - Tarpoly Mail Coach** Stables destroyed by fire.

---

**1910 - Major Flood**; **Upper Manilla Bridge** washed away and replaced.

---

**1908 - Manilla to Barraba Railway opens**;  
 - Manilla's **first ram sale**.

---

**1913 - Electric Light** franchise given to Faulkner-Boll Co. to supply Manilla with electricity.

---

**1908 - Manilla Municipal Council** gives franchise to **Faulkner-Boll** to supply Manilla with **electricity**  
 - **Power plant** installed Burrell & Arthur Street.  
 - **1<sup>st</sup> electricity** to Flour Mill;  
 - **Mechanics Institute** destroyed by fire and replaced.

---

**1914 - Manilla Red Cross Society** branch formed.  
 - **Mechanics Institute** re-opens.

---

**1915 - Electricity supply** comes into operation July 3<sup>rd</sup> ;  
 - **Farmers' Carnivals** are suspended due to war.

---

**1917** – Subdivision and sale of “**Southbrook**” (John Veness).

- **Manilla Municipal Council** builds and opens **Council Chambers** in Strafford Street, renting half premises to **Mandowla Shire Council**.

---

**1918** - **Council Chambers** officially opened.

---

**1920** – **Major flood**. 2<sup>nd</sup> **Upper Manilla bridge** washed away and replaced by low-level structure.

---

**1921** – **Electricity** supply becomes unsustainable;

- **Farmers' Carnival** event revived.

---

**1923** – **Water tank and electric pump** installed at river end Arthur Street.

---

**1925** – **Australian Electric Light Co.** takes over Manilla power plant.

- **Sulcor Lime & Cement Co.** agrees to become additional consumer of electricity and **Tamworth Municipal Council** agrees to **bulk supply of electricity** to Manilla.

- **Electricity Substation** built at Manilla with transformer for breaking down current from 33,000 to 415/240 voltage.

---

**1926** – **33,000 voltage transmission line** built from Tamworth to Manilla.

---

**1927** – **Electricity service opened**. Council installs a current reticulation service, replaces d.c.motors with a.c. machines;

- Manilla Branch of the **CWA - Country Women's Association** formed;

- **Harry Burrell** publishes '**The Platypus**', researched on Manilla, Namoi & MacDonald Rivers.

---

**1928** - **Halls Creek Bridge** constructed;

- **Borah Creek Bridge** Upper Manilla constructed;

- **Bog Hole Bridge** Lower Somerton Road constructed (now a causeway).

---

**1929** – **Flour Mill** destroyed by fire. Farmers agitate for building of **silos**.

---

**1930** – **Wheat silo** erected at Railway; **Agricultural Society** formed.

---

**1932** – **First Agricultural Show** held March 1-2. Council approaches NSW Government for finance for water scheme.

- **Manilla water scheme** is approved as an urgent work on a half-grant, half contribution basis.

- A.R. Macleod advocates erection of **National Wireless Station** at Manilla.

---

**1933** - **Manilla Water Supply** officially turned on from a hydrant in front of Council Chambers; **Small Weir** erected on the Namoi River to provide town swimming pool. **Chaffey Park** on the Namoi River developed.

---

**1936** - **Saleyards** removed from River Street to **North Manilla** - **VJ Byrnes** franchisee; **Greenhatch Creek Bridge** Tamworth Road constructed.

---

**1938** - **Town Clock** installed; **Low Level Bridge**, Namoi River constructed; **Carroll Gap Bridge** constructed.

---

**1940** –3<sup>rd</sup> **Upper Manilla bridge** washed away. Replaced with concrete bridge.

---

**1942** – **Record flood** in Manilla River washes away **Upper Manilla bridgeworks** during construction, results in height being raised 10 ft; **Agricultural Shows** suspended until 1945.

---

**1943** –4<sup>th</sup> **Upper Manilla bridge** completed.

---

**1946** - **Glen Barra Road Bridge** constructed.

---

**1947** - **Electricity supply agreement** renewed (25yrs) with Tamworth Municipal Council. New transformer supplied, reducing electricity from 33,000 to 11,000 voltage enabling electricity service to extend to boundaries of Manilla Municipality and proposed **Sewerage Works**.

---

**1948** - **Wongo Creek Bridge** constructed. NSW Government resumes land for **Keepit Dam** construction. **ABC Radio Station 2NU** opened on Tamworth Road. Council establishes electricity issuing depot and appliance shop.

---

**1949** – **Water supply to North Manilla** commenced. **Sewerage** Scheme commenced.

---

**1953** - **Manilla's Sewerage Scheme** launched; **North Manilla Park** officially opened and named **Coronation Park**.

---

**1958** - **Keepit Dam** construction enters third phase.

---

**1959** - **Mandowla Shire** merges with **Manilla Shire** Council.

---

**1960** - **Keepit Dam** completed and opened.

---

**1961** - **National Fitness Camp** opened at Keepit.

---

**1962** - The name **Manilla Ski Gardens** chosen for Lake Keepit leisure site.

---

**1964 – Major flood** inundates Manilla. Rail Bridge & Viaduct used for evacuation of residents of West Manilla across Namoi River to town.

---

**1965 - Television** comes to Manilla.

---

**1967 -** Manilla gets **2346 Postcode**; **Olympic Pool** opens.

---

**1968 - Test drillings** are carried out on probable **irrigation dam** sites at **Blue Hole on the Namoi** and at **Split Rock on the Manilla River**.

---

**1969 - Split Rock** to Manilla's north, named for Manilla District's **2<sup>nd</sup> irrigation dam site**.

---

**1973 -** Road from Tamworth through Manilla to Barraba, Bingara and Inverell via Copeton Dam named '**The Fossicker's Way**'

---

**1974 -** Automatic **telephone exchange** installed; **71 properties** in the Manilla District involved in **pioneering soil conservation project** to reduce **siltation** in Namoi River and Keepit Dam.

---

**1978 - Manilla's population** 3050.

---

**1984 -** Work starts on **Split Rock Dam**; **Fiona Coote** 14, undergoes heart transplant surgery by **Dr Victor Chang**.

---

**1986 –** **Fiona Coote** has **second heart transplant**.

---

**1987 - Split Rock Dam** begins to hold water.

---

**1988 - Split Rock Dam** Official opening. Supplied by a catchment of 166,000 hectares; storage capacity 397,000 megalitres.

---

**1991 – Road** to Hang gliding launch sites carved on western side of **Mt Borah**, jointly constructed by **Soil Conservation Service (owners of west face ) & Hang Glider fraternity**.

---

**1994 - Mt Borah east** redeveloped to accommodate private **Paraglider enterprise**, hosting local & international events.

---

**1998 - Centenary of Manilla Express**; **World Paragliding Record** 335kms Manilla to St George Q, **Godfrey Wenness**. (CurrAusRec)

---

**2000 - Tandem Paragliding** World's Longest Flight: **Open Distance** 223kms FAI observed - G.Wenness/S.Smith.

---

**2001 - Centenary** of both **Federation** of Australian States and Manilla's **Local Government**.

---

**2004 – NSW Government order** results in amalgamation of **Tamworth City Council with Manilla Shire Council and portions of Barraba, Parry and Nundle Shire Councils to form TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL**;

- **1<sup>st</sup> European Burial Place** (c.pre 1875) on Crown land adjacent to Manilla River at **North Manilla**, surveyed and fenced.

---

**2005 – 355 Committee of Tamworth Regional Council formed and called Manilla Community Development Committee.**

---

**2006 - Centenary of Manilla Railway Bridge & Viaduct** construction;

- **Manilla Tourism** Visitor Information Centre open;

---

**2007 – 100 year drought** declared. **Split Rock Dam** dries to 2%, **Keepit Dam** to 4% by March;

**10<sup>th</sup> FAI World Paragliding Championships** at Mt Borah – 41 Countries represented;

Unplanned **human endurance feat** – unprotected paraglider flight through storm cell to 9642mtr (approx32,612 feet) by **Ewa Wisnierska**, Poland/Germany.

---