The City of Blacktown, with a population of 395,000 is one of the most populated cities within Greater Sydney. In fact 1 in 68 Australian’s live in Blacktown City. With 2.8% of the population being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and over 182 different languages spoken, it also a very multicultural city. Blacktown City Council (Blacktown’s local government) is also the biggest council in New South Wales. Equipped with a hospitals, shopping centres, thousands of jobs, multiple schools, libraries, train stations, bus stops, a metro station and most recently a university.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander History in Blacktown City

A section of Blacktown’s History
A Bit About Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander History

• Blacktown was originally occupied by the Dharug people who also occupied most of modern-day Sydney. The arrival of the Captain Cook [1770] and the first fleet in 1788 killed an estimated 90% of Dharug people through introduced diseases such as smallpox. In 1819, Governor Lachlan Macquarie (the Governor at the time) gave two Indigenous men land for their help in crossing the Blue Mountains. Prior to this date, only white men were given land.
The Native Institution

In 1823, The Native Institution (a school for Aboriginal people), moved to a site on the intersection where Richmond Road meets Rooty Hill Road North from its original location in Parramatta. The institution’s name, previously called Black Town Native Institution was equal with the stolen generation. This was a devastating time in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children when taken by white men. Ten years later in 1833, the institution closed and the road to the institution was know as Black Town Road. Today, the Blacktown Native Institution Project stands in its place, an online museum that teaches people of its history. In 1860, the railway station on the corner of Black Town Road and the railway was named Black Town Station, being shortened to Blacktown Station in 1862.
The Formation of Blacktown City

A section of Blacktown’s History
Blacktown Begins to Form

Blacktown slowly started forming after the construction of Blacktown Station. The Blacktown Post Office opened in 1862 followed by Blacktown Primary School in 1877. In 1906, Blacktown Shire was born and in 1930 electricity was introduced in town. Throughout the 1950 and 1960s, residential and industrial development occurred in Blacktown and new suburbs close by. This development lead to further formation of the town centre with Blacktown Hospital opening in 1965. Soon after Blacktown Police Station and the Blacktown Courthouse opened in 1966 followed by the Blacktown Library in 1967. Blacktown TAFE College was created in 1969 and the Westpoint Shopping Centre closely followed by the cinema in 1973.
Blacktown Public School

Blacktown Public School was the first school in Blacktown City and Blacktown's oldest surviving structure in the CBD. Opening in 1877 it was built as a Victorian style single storey building with two gables. In 1871, Blacktown had two private schools established. The government decided that two schools were too many and subsidised one. However, due to the insufficient number of students, a public school could not be established. As the population grew, the only private school became into a fully-funded public school in 1875. In 1887, the construction of the school was completed. In 1882, another classroom was added with more teachers. Additional classrooms were also added in 1915. In the late 1950s, peak numbers of up to 1,500 students were reached and in 1958 the school began to slowly decline enrolment due to other schools opening in the area. Blacktown Public School closed in 1990. A fire in 1980 destroyed many of the newer buildings created in 1915. Today, only the original building remains, housing the Blacktown Visitor Information Centre. The other buildings were demolished to make way for the expansion of Westpoint Shopping Centre.
Bibliography and Citations