HISTORICAL TIMELINE - COCKATOO ISLAND

Cockatoo Island is in Sydney Harbour and includes UNESCO heritage listing for the convict precinct & some shipyard buildings. With a rich and colourful past, the island has been home to a convict gaol, reformatory school for girls, and dockyard. The following is a timeline covering key events.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE - COCKATOO ISLAND	
Pre 1788	The island connects to the waterways and homelands of the Wallumedegal, Wangal, Cammeraygal and Gadigal peoples. During the 60,000 years leading to European settlement, the island was a meeting place for these groups. They have the Dharug language in common and, in Dharug, Cockatoo Island is known as Wareamah.
1839-1850	In 1839 the Governor of the colony of New South Wales, Sir George Gipps, chose Cockatoo Island, named after the sulphur-crested cockatoos that frequented the island, as the site of a new penal establishment to alleviate overcrowding on Norfolk Island. Convicts were put to work building prison barracks, a military guardhouse and official residences using sandstone quarried on site. Convicts also dug out grain silos, first used for grain storage and then as tanks to collect drinking water.
1850-1870	Fitzroy Dock and a workshop are built by prisoners to service Royal Navy and other ships.
1870-1880	Prison is closed - Prisoners relocate to Darlinghurst Gaol.
1880-1888	The island is used for an Industrial School for Girls and a reformatory for boys. The ship, Vernon, is anchored nearby to train wayward and orphaned boys.
1888-1908	The island again accommodates prisoners.
	Maritime History
1870	Shipbuilding began on Cockatoo Island (CI).
1880-1900	Shipbuilding and repair activities expand steadily and Sutherland Dock is completed. The island reverts back to a gaol from 1888 to 1908 due to overcrowding elsewhere.
1913	CI becomes the Commonwealth Naval Dockyard and Australia builds its first steel warship on the island.
1913-1914	Slipway constructed to launch the bigger naval ships built on the island.
1930-1945	The Island becomes the major shipbuilding and dockyard facility for the South West Pacific in WWII following the fall of Singapore. Merchant ships and luxury liners were converted to troop transport, stores and hospital ships.
1945-1965	Additional buildings are constructed for shipbuilding and repair. The refit of T-Class submarines occurs. The Navy destroyers, *HMAS Voyager* and *HMAS Vampire*, are built.
1965-1992	The Island's work includes service and refit of Oberon Class submarines and construction of HMAS *Success,* the largest naval vessel built in Australia. HMAS *Orian* was the last submarine refitted at Cockatoo Island. The dockyard closes in 1992, machinery is sold off, and about 40 buildings and several wharves are demolished.
2001 - 2007	CI lay dormant for a decade until the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust assumed management of the island and embarked on major restoration works. After extensive remediation works, CI was opened to the public in 2007. The Harbour Trust continues to actively rehabilitate the island.
2010	Cockatoo Island, together with 10 other historic convict sites in Australia, is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
Present	Harbour Trust continues to manage and rehabilitate the site and provides access, tours, accommodation and events to the public

Table 1: Historical Timeline Cockatoo Island