



NSW shopping history

at a glance

1788	European settlement at Sydney Cove
1803	First commercial advertisements appear in <i>NSW Government Gazette</i>
1817	Regular currency and bank established by Governor Macquarie
1824	Anne Hordern's millinery and drapery shop established
1835	David Jones opens his first store in George Street
1854	First plate glass windows installed
1881	Sydney Arcade built
1880s – 1920s	Shopping boom in Sydney
1920s	'Art moderne' style revolutionizes shop design
1924	Woolworths opens its first chain stores
1932	Australia's first milk bar opened in Sydney
1940s – 1960s	New council by-laws lead to widespread demolition of shop verandahs, in order to modernise shopping streets and remove likely hazards to vehicular traffic.
1957	First American-style drive-in shopping centre in NSW opens at Top Ryde, six months after Australia's first shopping centre in Brisbane.
1960s – 1970s	Number of shops in central Sydney dramatically declines in favour of suburbs. Many business owners replace awnings with shop verandahs modelled on original or 'heritage' style. Anthony Hordern's department store closed
1980s – 1990s	Changing economic conditions lead to widespread closure of bank branches and government services in country areas, threatening the viability of many small shopping centres.
2000 – 2002	Introduction of goods and services tax closes many small family run shops. E-commerce becomes more popular with the ever increasing number of home computers, but concerns about the security of credit card and other personal information slow growth. Globalisation sees further expansion of American franchises in Australia.



Above left: Leo Duff's Barber Shop, Wellington
Photograph by Joy McCann, 1999.