Establishment of Technical Training in NSW

1825 - 1890

1825 - First proposals for a Mechanics Institute.
1833 - Sydney Mechanics School of Arts established at Pitt Street.
1865 - First technical class – mechanical drawing taught by Norman Salfe, a respected civil and mechanical engineer.
1884 - Art classes first held at Petersham and by 1889 there were 291 students enrolled.
1888 - Technical classes begin in the Kogarah School of Arts with Arithmetic, Mechanical Drawing and Engineering Writing.

1913 - 1915

Reform

1891 – 1912

From Birth to Twenty-one

1891 - Opening of first building Ultimo campus, permanent home called Sydney Technical College (STC) by Technical Education Branch of the Department of Public Instruction.
1892 - 3,858 students enrolled.
  Twenty teaching departments included: Agriculture; Mechanical Engineering; Sanitary Engineering; Civil Engineering; Applied Mechanics; Art; Architecture; Industrial and Decorative Art; Geology and Mineralogy; Sheep and Wool Training; Chemistry; Metallurgy; Commerce; Printing; Applied Mathematics; Pharmacy; Applied Physics; Domestic Economy and Cookery; Pharmacy; Dresscutting and Dressmaking; Manual Training; Electrical Engineering and Technology.
  Certificates (Full and Intermediate); Diplomas; Associateships and Fellowships established.
1893 - Technological Museum opened in Building C (the predecessor of today’s Powerhouse Museum).
1902 - Pharmacy course ends and moved to The University of Sydney.
1906 - Superintendent Turner appointed head of STC.
1907 - One year part-time course in Motor Driving offered for first time.
1910 - Correspondence course established, teaching Sanitary Law and Sanitary Engineering, First technical college correspondence course in Australia.
  September 1910, the Kogarah Trades School was opened on the site of the present Montgomery Street campus of St George College.

1914 - Trade courses offered supplementary trade instruction only. All students had to prove apprenticeship employment related to enrolled course, except for Art and Women’s Handicrafts. This reduced the number of women enrolled as they could not prove employment.
  Five year part-time diploma courses introduced with final award, Associateship of Sydney Technical College (ASTC).
  First employer Advisory Committees established to ensure courses met industry standards; including Engineering, Bootmaking, Building, Tailors’ Cutting, Printing, Electrical Engineering, Sanitary Engineering and Plumbing, Tanning, Coachmaking and Motor Car Building, Baking, and Applied Arts trades.
The wool industry consolidated its economic importance while smaller secondary industries gradually developed capacity to meet increased demand in the building, engineering and metalworking trades.

There was also demand for people to work on gas lighting, railway, water supply and drainage projects in the colony.

1922 – East Sydney Technical College opened as an annex of STC Ultimo campus (now National Art School).

1923 – A number of departments moved from Ultimo to the East Sydney campus. Women’s Handicrafts; Domestic Arts; Art Department; Sheep and Wool and Sanitation; Baking; Motor-Body Building; Aviation (Mechanics) and Modelling and Tailors’ Cutting.

1929 – 3,446 students enrolled. Holders of Diploma in Architecture entitled them for registration as architects under the Architects Act. A similar situation was put in place for Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering; Local Government Engineering; Chemical Engineering and Mining and Metallurgy.

1920s – Ship Building, Autogas Welding and Lead Burning introduced. Fellmongering and Blousemaking courses ceased.

Golden Era

1921 – 1929

1921 – New Department of Optometry established. It was the only training provider in NSW until it moved to The University of NSW in the 1950s.

1923 – Sydney Technical College Associates’ Institute formed by Associates. This played an important part in establishment of The University of NSW in 1949.

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1940s – The Art Department at East Sydney Technical College taught the only art diploma courses in NSW. Significant students included Tuckson, Olley and Warren. Over the war years correspondence courses trained 150,000 Australians and 43,000 American personnel. Part of the STC operated around the clock during World War II years.

1940 – The College operated Commonwealth Defense Training Scheme courses which operated around-the-clock. Armed service members; civilian employees and ‘normal’ student members. 37,000 service personnel and civilians were trained most at Ultimo.

1944 – All apprentices received at least part of education in daylight hours.

1949 – The University of New South Wales was born, operating in College buildings until 1963. Social Services Training Scheme assisted in the rehabilitation of people with physical disabilities.

War and Peace Revisited

1916 – 1920

1916 – Disabled ex-servicemen admitted free to STC.

1917 – Dr. R.K. Murphy introduced first course in Chemical Engineering.

1918 – Department of Repatriation established, and the Repatriation Vocational Training Scheme established with large numbers of fit ex-servicemen enrolled with wage subsidy. Introduction of preparatory classes for trade students to qualify for diploma courses (eventually becoming School of General Studies).

1919 – Class sizes reduced due to pneumonia influenza epidemic.

1930 – 1939

1930s – Depression restricted funding for further education.

1931 – Day Commercial School opened (Business Studies).

1932 – New Department of Optometry established. It was the only training provider in NSW until it moved to The University of NSW in the 1950s.

1933 – Sydney Technical College Associates’ Institute formed by Associates. This played an important part in establishment of The University of NSW in 1949.

1936 – First Principal, Herbert J. Swain appointed. First Vocational Guidance and Welfare Officer appointed (Mr J. Weeden).

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Sydney Technical College was created to ensure best technical education practice. What was noted in 1909 can so easily be applied to Sydney Institute in 2011...

"Thus it can justly be said of the College teaching that, though honouring the past, and showing what has been done in days gone by, every endeavour is made to keep abreast of the world’s progress."

1960 - First presentation of educational series broadcast on Sydney television and full daylight training began for trade apprentices.

1962 - Introduction of computer courses. First graduates from Commercial Floristry.

1965 - NSW Institute of Technology (eventually becoming the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) in 1988) opened offices at Ultimo.

1966 - First computer (IBM 1401) installed at the College.

1967 - Division of Library Services established. First stage of Randwick College opened with Commerce and Accountancy, Stenography and Secretarial Studies, Hairdressing and Fashion, as well as Introductory Art.

1971 - NSW Institute of Technology separates from STC eventually becoming UTS. Employment Training Scheme for Persons Displaced by Technology and Change. First educational assistance to the unemployed since the 1930s Depression.

1974 - First program to enrol Aboriginal students with males in Engineering Trades and females in Home Science.

1975 - 39,526 students enrolled. Aboriginal students enrolled in Industrial Skills course.

1977 - First Basic Education teachers and Adult Literacy officers appointed.

1978 - First Aboriginal Courses Coordinator appointed.

1950 – 1959

Rethinking the System

1951 - Most diploma courses transferred to new University of NSW. First commercial courses conducted in employers’ work places. Establishment of Men’s Hairdressing classes.

1953 - Introduction of Ladies Hairdressing three year course. The only legal training provider legally allowed to deliver hairdressing courses.

1956 - First international student enrolled under the Colombo Plan for Asian students.

1959 - 24,271 students enrolled. 15 Schools at the College: Agriculture and Horticulture; Applied Science; Automotive Engineering; Building; Commerce; Applied Electricity; Footwear; General Studies; Graphic Arts; Hairdressing; Management; Marine Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Navigation; Tanning.

1960 - 1980

Nearly Transformed

1981 – 1990

TAFE is born

1982 - Establishment of Women’s Coordination Unit. Childcare centres were introduced in larger colleges.

1984 - Eora Centre, was founded by Robert Merritt (Aboriginal playwright, director and screenwriter).

1985 - New trade course in Beauty Culture begins.

1988 - College staff and students involved in Bicentenary activities including construction of the Tom Thumb and replica of captain’s gig for the James Craig.
1991 – Restructure under Minister Terry Metherell, Administrative fees for courses were introduced.
Enmore College opened offering Interior Design courses.

1992 – TAFE restructure leads to STC renamed Sydney Institute of Technology.

1997 – 50,000 students enrolled.
Ultimo specialist facilities opened in Vehicle Technology Centre, Educational Technology Access Centre, Graphic Arts, Business, Marine Centre, Engineering Skills Centre, English Language Centre, Food Technology, Textiles, Biomedical.
Study areas included Aboriginal Studies, Arts and Media, Building and Construction, Business Studies, Engineering Services, General Education and Access, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Personal and Community Services, Rural and Mining, Tourism and Hospitality, Transport.

1999 – Involved in a range of training programs contribution to preparation of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. 1,500 volunteers trained at Ultimo.

Beyond Scott

1991 – 1999

2000 – 2011

Turn of the Century


2001 – Partnerships developed with Bakers Delight – Sydney Institute built purpose built facility to train apprentices and franchisees. Partnership with ABC – Frontline management training.

2003 – Careers Connect, a free online student employment service launched.

2006 – Degree Express program enables students to gain credit transfer to university degrees reducing time and cost of completion.

2007 – First student international exchange programs begin.

2008 – 59,538 students enrolled.

2011 – The Sustainable Hydraulic Trade Centre opens, worth $6.4m giving students to learn green building skills with a focus on hydraulic trades.

Sydney Institute launches its first TAFE NSW bachelor degree and offers over 800 different courses, including 3D Animation and Digital Effects, Business Management, Civil and Structural Engineering, Fashion, Hospitality, Laboratory Science, Photography, Surveying and Spatial Information Services and Vehicle Repair.