HRH the Duke of Gloucester visited Bathurst on Saturday 13 October 1945, shortly after WWII ended. He was welcomed by Prime Minister Ben Chifley.

Bathurst was abuzz on 12 February 1954 when Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip visited Bathurst during their Royal Australian Tour. Preparations had taken months.

Shops on the Royal Cavalcade route in Durham, George, William and Keppel Streets decorated their stores. Flags, colourful bunting and a portrait of Her Majesty had been attached to the front of Western Stores. It was estimated that special trains had brought some 10,000 extra spectators to the City.

Dressed in his Mayoral robes, Mayor Alan Morse welcomed the Royal couple to Bathurst on the official dais in front of the Bathurst Court House in Russell Street.

Stores in Bathurst closed their doors with staff receiving a special ‘Royal Holiday’ for the day. Residents and visitors dressed in their best clothes (ladies with gloves and hats and gents in suits and hats) and along with thousands of children they lined all the street and vantage points along the route. Special ‘Welcome’ gates were erected on the Great Western Road near the Bathurst Showground. The Royal guests stopped off at the Showground where local and district school children had assembled to see them.
Bathurst celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Municipality of Bathurst in 2012. Gazetted on 13 November 1862, Bathurst could now elect its first Council and Mayor.

Bathurst was first settled in 1815, but it wasn’t until 20 March 1885 that it was declared a City in the NSW Government Gazette.

The local Ladies Committee held a meeting on 27 May 1887 to discuss ideas for a memorial to commemorate Queen Victoria’s Jubilee. They agreed on a fountain and ordered one from England at a cost of £130-40. Councillors granted permission for the fountain to be installed in the middle of Russell Street in front of the Court House.

On 30 November 1887, Mrs Machattie handed over the Queen Victoria’s Jubilee Memorial Fountain to Council on behalf of the Committee.

The People’s Federation Convention was held in the School of Arts building in Howick Street in November 1896. Dr Machattie, President of the Convention, welcomed delegates.

The site of the new Federal capital had not been determined before Federation. Some of the key requirements were centrality, accessibility and the capacity for impregnable defence. Bathurst formed a committee and proposed Vittoria between Bathurst and Orange to be the location of the nation’s new capital city. Bathurst’s population was then 9,223.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) visited Bathurst in 1920. Travelling on the Royal train as part of his Australian tour, hundreds of local school children welcomed him to Bathurst. He later abdicated to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson and became the Duke of Windsor.

Council Chambers proved far too small for the visit by Lieutenant Ray Parer and his co-pilot Lieutenant John C McIntosh.

The men, who were participating in the Great Air Race between England and Australia, were afforded a civic reception on 27 August 1920. The two airmen arrived in Dr Harris’ car to be met by the Mayor, Alderman F Havenhand.

Lieutenant Parer had attended St Stanislaus College and had been invited by the Vincentian Fathers to fly in during their race. A dinner was arranged at the college in their honour with many old-boys attending.

On several occasions Bathurst Council organised ‘Back to Bathurst’ activities to encourage former residents back to Bathurst to celebrate milestones and consider returning to live.

The ‘Back to Bathurst Week 1924’ was held from 23 February to 1 March 1924. Mr J Beddie, Mayor of Bathurst, was the President of a committee of 29 men who organised the week.

All sorts of activities and functions took place, including a Children’s Parade, Garden competition, sports at the Showground, a Bathurst Turf Club race meeting, an evening at the Grand Continental with the Combined Schools Choir and a Ball at the Masonic Hall. A large ‘Welcome’ arch was built in William Street.