

# Major Ceremonial Events in UOW History

## 1951

Start of the Wollongong Division of the New South Wales University of Technology (which became UNSW)

## 1961

Wollongong Division becomes Wollongong University College (WUC)

## 1963

**March 29th**  
First WUC Graduation ceremony held  
*Early ceremonies were held in the open air in the 'Central Square' (what is now the eastern end of campus)*

## 1976

**June 11th**  
First UOW Graduation ceremony held at the Wollongong Town Hall. Justice Robert Hope formally installed as UOW's First Chancellor

## 1981

**May 8th**  
Honorary Doctor of Letters conferred on Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Michael Birt at the Graduation ceremony

## 1991

**February 19th**  
Official opening ceremony for the Faculty of Law. Honorary Doctor of Laws conferred on Chancellor Hope at this same ceremony

## 1994

**October 7th**  
Honorary Doctor of Letters conferred on Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken McKinnon at the Graduation ceremony

## 2009

**December 18th**  
Honorary Doctor of Letters conferred on former Chancellor Michael Codd at the Graduation ceremony

## 2011

University celebrates its 60th anniversary

**December 16th**  
Honorary Doctor of Science conferred on Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton at the Graduation ceremony

### 1950's & 60's

### 1970's

### 1980's

### 1990's

### 2000's

### 2010's

## 1962

**March 1st**  
Official opening ceremony for the Wollongong University College

## 1975

Establishment of the autonomous University of Wollongong

**May 2nd**  
Final WUC Graduation ceremony held at the Wollongong Town Hall

## 1977

Graduation ceremonies held on campus in the new Union Hall  
*(Ceremonies moved to the new Gymnasium as student numbers grew in later years, then back to the new larger University Hall where they are still held today)*

## 1989

**December 8th**  
In a special graduation ceremony, Doctor of Letters honorary degrees were conferred on three past Prime Ministers  
*(Sir John Gorton, Mr Gough Whitlam & Mr Michael Somare)*

## 1993

**April 2nd**  
Official opening ceremony for the Graham Park Campus at Berry (predecessor to Shoalhaven Campus)

## 1996

**April 6th**  
First UOW Dubai Graduation ceremony held

## 2007

**January 29th**  
Official ceremony held to welcome first student cohort at the Graduate School of Medicine

## 2011

**December 20th**  
First fully separate graduation ceremony held for Shoalhaven