
Chronology

- 1847 Members of the Society of Mary landed on Woodlark Island to establish the first mission station in New Guinea. It survived for eight years.
- 1871 Some Australian adventurers set out in the *Maria* to look for gold in New Guinea. The *Maria* was wrecked on the Queensland coast.
- 1873–4 Captain John Moresby mapped parts of the southern and north-eastern coasts.
- 1874 The Reverend William and Mrs Lawes of the London Missionary Society joined Polynesian mission teachers working in the Port Moresby area. The Lawes were the first Europeans to settle on the south coast.
- 1878 About 100 white miners prospected the Laloki and other rivers inland from Port Moresby, but found no gold.
- 1884 Britain established a Protectorate over south-east New Guinea and Germany claimed north-east New Guinea.
- 1888 In August David Whyte wrote to John Douglas, the Special Commissioner for New Guinea, to report that he and his party had found 142 ounces of gold on Sudest Island.
In September British New Guinea became a Possession of the Crown and William MacGregor became the first Administrator (later Lieutenant-Governor).
- 1889 Gold was found on Misima Island. MacGregor proclaimed the Louisiade Goldfield which included both Misima and Sudest Islands.
- 1894 James Hurley, the leader of a prospecting party, was killed on the north-east coast.
- 1895 Early in the year Lobb and Ede found gold on Woodlark Island and the Murua Goldfield was proclaimed in November. In July George Clark, the leader of a prospecting expedition, was killed on the Mambare River.

- 1896 William Simpson's party found gold on MacLaughlins Creek, a tributary of the Mambare.
- 1897 Green, Fry, Haylor, police and prisoners were killed on the Mambare.
Gold was found on the Gira.
- 1899 Gold was found on the Yodda.
Gold was found at Milne Bay.
- 1901 Pryke and Klotz found gold inland from Cloudy Bay.
- 1906 British New Guinea became the Australian Territory of Papua.
Crowe and Darling found gold on the Waria River.
- 1909 Crowe and Pryke found gold on the upper Lakekamu.
- 1914 Australian troops occupied German New Guinea.
- 1921 German New Guinea became the Australian Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
- 1923 Park and Nettleton registered claims on Koranga Creek in the Morobe District.
- 1926 Royal found gold on Edie Creek.

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