

# FIND MY PAST

## HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

### What is Find My Past?

Established in 2003, Findmypast is a popular genealogy service and includes information from the UK, Ireland and Australia. It is a subscription based service and information is indexed and easily searchable. Researchers can view and download original documents online. Hawkesbury Library Service provides free access to Find My Past at both service points, so it is necessary to pay us a visit.



### What is included?

A wide range of material is available to search, including:

- Births, deaths & marriage records
- Electoral rolls & directories
- Travel & migration records
- Military records
- UK Census records 1841 – 1911
- Newspaper & periodicals
- NSW Will Books

For a full list of what is available, for Australian and NZ records go to

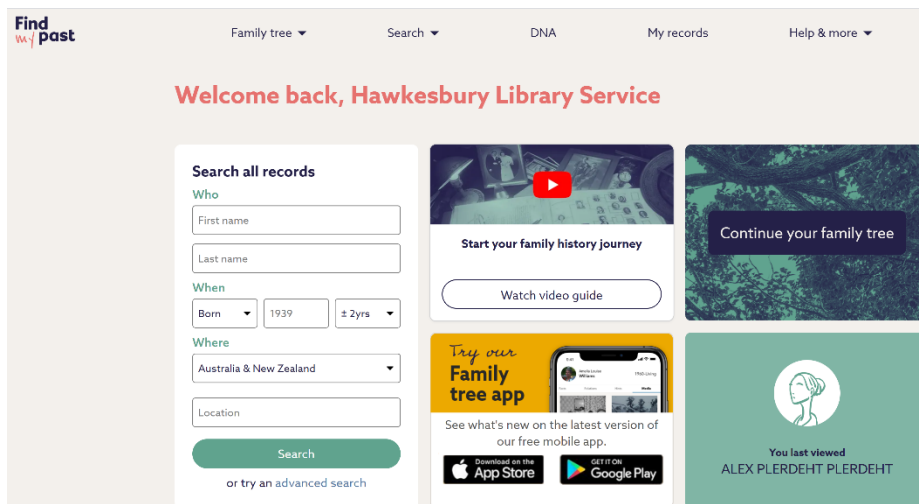
<https://www.findmypast.com.au/articles/world-records/full-list-of-australia-and-new-zealand-records>

For listing of available World records go to <https://www.findmypast.com.au/articles/world-records>

### Getting started

Hawkesbury Library subscribes to Find My Past

- It is available for Library members to use on our PCs at Windsor and Richmond libraries for FREE.
- Is available for the community to use for free, using your own laptop or device. Obtain current Wi-fi password from signs around library
- Log onto <https://www.findmypast.com.au/> and it will say **Welcome back, Hawkesbury Library Service**, see image below.
- For more information see the section at <https://www.findmypast.com.au/content/getting-started>
- Help Hub <https://www.findmypast.com.au/blog/help>



The screenshot shows the Find My Past website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Find My Past logo, a 'Family tree' dropdown, a 'Search' dropdown, 'DNA', 'My records', and 'Help & more' dropdown. Below the navigation bar, a red banner reads 'Welcome back, Hawkesbury Library Service'. The main content area is divided into several sections: a search form on the left, a video guide section, a 'Continue your family tree' section, a 'Try our Family tree app' section, and a 'You last viewed' section. The search form includes fields for 'Who' (First name, Last name), 'When' (Born, ± 2yrs), and 'Where' (Australia & New Zealand, Location). The video guide section features a play button icon and the text 'Start your family history journey' and 'Watch video guide'. The 'Continue your family tree' section has a dark blue background with a play button icon and the text 'Continue your family tree'. The 'Try our Family tree app' section features a yellow background with a play button icon and the text 'Try our Family tree app' and 'See what's new on the latest version of our free mobile app.' The 'You last viewed' section features a light green background with a play button icon and the text 'You last viewed ALEX PLERDEHT PLERDEHT'.

## Tips on searching

There is more than one way to search the various databases, by using a basic or advanced search across all databases or a specific collection.

The best search results are obtained by starting with a single name, place or subject in the First or Last Name or keyword field. You can focus your search by selecting the Country/State or Records to Search.

Try your ancestor's name or a place or subject (using the keyword field) You can narrow the search by using other search criteria i.e. Country, State, Matching Type and Record Category to Search, then click the green Search button. You can select View All Records for less specific results. You will receive many more results by searching for just a single name or other search word than if you add other information in other search fields. You can tick Exact (no variants) or Soundex (how it sounds).

Also try to search for surnames and initials only. Check variants, try the phonetic spelling. The keyword field is useful. Use a wildcard to increase the results. A wildcard can be used by typing the first three letters of the surname and add an asterisk (\*). So, for example, for John Smith you could type in John Sm\*



Courtesy Hawkesbury Library Service

By providing more information you can narrow your search. Searching is also available by a specific country or dataset. Also check out the A-Z records.

New information is added to the site often so check the site regularly.

## Advanced

Click on the Show Advanced button for an enhanced search box. This allows the researcher to narrow or broaden the search and allows searching by record type, locality, and/or date range.

## Printing & Saving

When you find something of interest, you are given the option to print, save or share. We suggest you save onto your own USB. To print follow the instructions using our Monitor Print service.

## More help?

The Help & Advice section provides a range of how-to and help documents to ensure you get the most out of Find My Past for your research. Using the records is another useful section see <http://www.findmypast.com.au/content/using-the-records> Also check the Frequently Asked Questions section <https://www.findmypast.com.au/help/index> for helpful information and also the helpful Blog articles <https://www.findmypast.com.au/blog/help> Try some of the Masterclasses on the Find My Past Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/findmypast>

Prepared by Local History Librarian & updated 14/4/2020

### Contact Information

#### ADDRESS

Hawkesbury Library Service  
Hawkesbury Central Library  
Deerubbin Centre (Ground floor)  
300 George Street  
WINDSOR NSW 2756

#### HOURS

Monday to Friday 9am-7pm  
Saturday 9am-1pm  
Sunday 2pm-5pm  
Closed Public Holidays

#### LOCAL HISTORY CONTACTS

(02) 4560 4466 or 4560 4460  
[history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)  
<http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library>  
<http://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary/>

Access the catalogue <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/>