

# 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, Australia and NZ. It is a subscription-based service and information is indexed and easily searchable. Researchers can view and download original material 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 access ALL RECORD SETS from QUICK LINKS on the main page <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> You can also filter this by country i.e. Australia

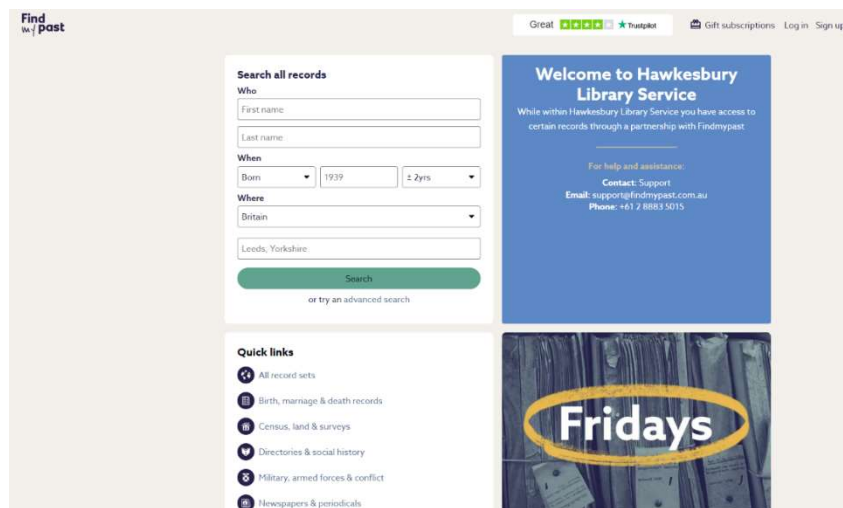
### Not included?

With our subscription, you cannot access the 1921 UK Census nor the family trees. You can search the trees but cannot view them without a personal subscription. You cannot access Find My Past from home, you must physically be in the Library.

### 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, using our FREE Wi-fi in either libraries.
- Log onto <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> and it will say **Welcome to Hawkesbury Library Service - While within Hawkesbury Library Service you have access to certain records through a partnership with Findmypast**
- For more info see Getting Started blog <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 search interface. On the left, there is a search form with fields for 'Who' (First name, Last name), 'When' (Born: 1939, ± 2yrs), and 'Where' (Britain, Leeds, Yorkshire). A 'Search' button is at the bottom of the form. Below the search form is a 'Quick links' section with icons for: All record sets, Birth, marriage & death records, Census, land & surveys, Directories & social history, Military, armed forces & conflict, and Newspapers & periodicals. On the right, there is a blue banner that reads 'Welcome to Hawkesbury Library Service' and 'While within Hawkesbury Library Service you have access to certain records through a partnership with Findmypast'. Below the banner is contact information: 'For help and assistance: Contact: Support Email: support@findmypast.com.au Phone: +61 2 8883 5015'. At the bottom right, there is a 'Fridays' logo over an image of old documents.

## Tips on searching

Like similar databases, there is more than one way to search. A basic or advanced search can be conducted.

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\*

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.

## Highlights

Some of the very useful categories are the UK Parish records, NSW Will Books and the Newspapers. For more information on how to search newspapers on Find my Past see <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/help/articles/360002826537-how-do-i-search-historical-newspapers-on-findmypast->

## 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.co.uk/help/categories/200797899-exploring-family-records> and also try <https://www.findmypast.com.au/blog/help>

Check out some of the useful Masterclasses on the Find My Past Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/findmypast>



Courtesy Hawkesbury Library Service

Prepared by Local History Librarian & updated 5/7/2023

## 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/>