

# INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL HAWKESBURY HISTORY

## HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

### About the Local Studies Collection

The Local Studies Collection of Hawkesbury Library Service includes both historical and current material on the people, places and events that make the Hawkesbury unique. It was established in the 1980s to collect and care for material relevant to the Hawkesbury community. Items in the Local Studies Collection are not for loan but borrowing copies of some popular items are available to loan in non-fiction. This Fact Sheet outlines the type of Local History material available plus suggestions for additional information, and is part of a series of helpful guides to navigate your research in the Local Studies Collection.



Windsor Hospital 1911. Courtesy Hawkesbury Library Service.

### Planning a visit

The Local Studies Collection is available during Library opening hours. If you have limited time, your visit can be made more productive, by planning ahead. Check the online catalogue for more details and try our Fact Sheets on various topics, bearing in mind that much of the material available in the Local Studies Collection is neither indexed nor available to access online. Wherever possible, a personal visit to our library is recommended as the best way to further research. If you are planning to visit contacting the Local History Librarian beforehand can be very beneficial. Email [history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) or phone 02 4560 4466.

### Hawkesbury's history

The Hawkesbury district has a unique history dating back at least 50,000 years when the traditional owners, the Darug (or Dharug) and the Darkinjung people, occupied of this area. They lived near the waterways, due to the abundance of food and the Hawkesbury River was originally known as Dyarubbin (Deerubbin) and South Creek, Wianamatta.

European settlement began in the Hawkesbury around 1794, when farms were established near South Creek and along the various waterways with 'Dyarubbin's Aboriginal people' blocked from access. More land was granted and the region playing a significant role in the early development of agriculture and food production. By 1810 the townships of Richmond, Wilberforce, Pitt Town, Castlereagh and Windsor (previously known as Green Hills) were established. More settlement occurred, with infrastructure including court houses, hospitals, police, churches and schools introduced. Businesses, newspapers, rail services plus Local Government were also established throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as the area developed.

Today there are still a number of fine buildings surviving throughout the Hawkesbury, a reminder of the period when the area ranked as one of the major settlements outside Sydney. The area features sections of exceptional natural features including the Hawkesbury, Colo, Grose and Macdonald Rivers.

### Research

- Verify your information by using reputable sources where possible
- Both primary and secondary resources can be found in the Local Studies Collection
- Use a range of primary and secondary resources in your research
- Cite your sources
- Add context to your research
- Read local histories and reminiscences for background information

## Types of Local Studies materials

### Published books

Books relating to the Hawkesbury district on local history, architecture, local families and Australian history are available. Reports on local environmental issues are also held.

### Photographs

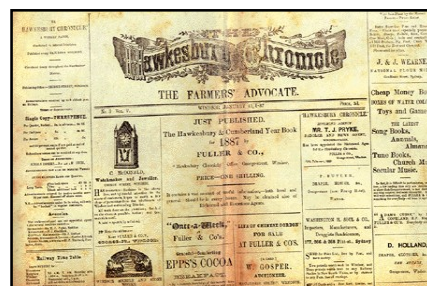
The library has a large collection of images relating to the Hawkesbury district. Most of these images have been digitised and indexed. Images can be viewed via the catalogue or specifically the Images database <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/Gallery.aspx> The Library is always seeking to add more images or moving pictures (movie, video or DVD) to the collection.

### Maps

A selection of historical, geographical, topographical and parish maps of the district are held and these are housed in our map cabinets in the Local Studies area. Check catalogue. For more details.

### Newspapers

Various Hawkesbury newspapers produced during the 1800s/1900s have been digitised and available to access for free on **TROVE** via the National Library of Australia website <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper> Including *Windsor Express*, the earliest, dating from 1843 and the longest running, *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* dates from 1888. The site provides digitised copies of Australian newspapers, transcriptions and easily searchable. (Also held on microfilm.) We also hold contemporary newspapers to present. Check catalogue. The Library also has subscriptions to SMH Archives 1955-96 and British Newspaper Archives.



Hawkesbury Chronicle newspaper, 1887.

### Pamphlet file

The pamphlet file includes information such as newspaper and journal articles, ephemera, pamphlets, and particularly unpublished family histories and research under subject headings. Check catalogue and see staff to access this collection.

### Newsletters and Journals

The library holds an array of newsletters and journals relating to local and family history. We also hold newsletters produced by local groups.

### Electronic Resources & Databases

The Library has subscriptions to **AncestryLibrary**, **British Newspaper Archives** and **Find My Past** to use within the Library. Free wi-fi is available in the Library for those with their own devices. The library also holds various history electronic resources which can be accessed on the Local Studies PCs.

### Microfilm/microfiche

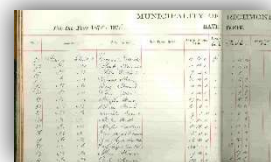
A lot of historical material is still available on film/fiche including church registers, indexes, electoral rolls, publican licences and land grants. The Genealogical Research Kit from the State Archives is held as well as the *Arndell Index to Hawkesbury Pioneers* and also the *Mutch Index*.

### Community Archives

A selection **community organisations** archives are kept. It is necessary to make an appointment to view these records. Check the catalogue.

### Local Government material

Hawkesbury LGA is made up of 3 councils which were amalgamated. Windsor (1871), Richmond (1872) and (Colo 1906). Minutes, Rate books and some correspondence Hawkesbury are available on microfilm but are not indexed.



### Church, Cemetery and Census Records

The library holds many cemetery inscriptions and church registers. Most of the records relate to the Hawkesbury and surrounding area. Various musters and census are included in the collection.

### Special Collections

There are several Special Collections within the Local Studies Collections worth noting including William Walker Solicitor Papers, Richard Coley Masonic Lodge Archives, Richmond School of Arts Archives, J. T. Pitt Diaries 1886-1922, Windsor Speedway plus papers from local historians D. G. Bowd, Meredyth Hungerford, D. G. Gosper and Jeannie Scott. For more details see the Local Studies Fact Sheet on Special Collections [https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/85730/Special-collections.pdf](https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/85730/Special-collections.pdf)

## Oral History

Hawkesbury Voices captures the social and cultural history of the Hawkesbury through local stories and date from the mid-1980s. These interviews complement existing records held in the Local Studies Collection. Search catalogue <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/> for holdings. Some can be accessed via State Library of NSW's Amplify platform <https://amplify.gov.au/hawkesbury> where anyone can search, listen and transcribe audio oral history interviews. If you are interested in sharing your Hawkesbury memories or know someone that is, please contact the Local History Librarian.

## Useful Online Resources

Website and address	Brief details
<b>HAWKESBURY PEOPLE &amp; PLACES</b> <a href="https://www.hawkesbury.org/">https://www.hawkesbury.org/</a>	<b>Hawkesbury People and Places</b> is an ongoing project which aims to record, locate and research the places, built environment, geographical features, organisations, events and people associated with the Hawkesbury Region.
<b>HAWKESBURY ON THE NET</b> <a href="http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/">http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/</a>	<b>Hawkesbury On the Net</b> is an ongoing voluntary project transcribing, photographing and mapping local cemeteries includes <b>Church registers, Lists Registers, Memorials &amp; Monuments</b> plus <b>Claim a Convict</b> .
<b>AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY</b> <a href="https://adb.anu.edu.au/">https://adb.anu.edu.au/</a>	The <b>Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB)</b> is Australia's distinguished dictionary of national biography. Published by the National Centre of Biography at the Australian National University, also includes <b>Obituaries Australia; People Australia; Indigenous Australia; Women Australia &amp; Labour Australia</b> .
<b>HISTORICAL LANDS RECORDS VIEWER (NSW)</b> <a href="https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/">https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/</a>	The <b>Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV)</b> provides online access to NSW historical land and property records, including parish maps, plans, titles and registers. Read guide <a href="https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Historical-Records-Online">https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Historical-Records-Online</a> Other guides <a href="https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Searching-Guides">https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Searching-Guides</a> and also Fact Sheets <a href="https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Fact-Sheets">https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Fact-Sheets</a>
<b>GEOGRAPHIC NAMES BOARD</b> <a href="https://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/">https://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/</a>	Use the <b>Geographic Names Board</b> to find Parish names and other information.
<b>DICTIONARY OF SYDNEY</b> <a href="https://home.dictionaryofsydney.org/">https://home.dictionaryofsydney.org/</a>	The <b>Dictionary Of Sydney (DoS)</b> is a website that was established to tell the history of Sydney including the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains. Contains natural features, built forms, structures, events, artefacts, organisations, places and people that contributed to Sydney's story.
<b>RYERSON INDEX</b> <a href="https://www.ryersonindex.org/">https://www.ryersonindex.org/</a>	The <b>Ryerson Index</b> is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. Dates range from 1803 to current newspapers.
<b>DYARUBBIN: MAPPING ABORIGINAL HISTORY CULTURE &amp; STORIES OF THE HAWKESBURY RIVER</b> <a href="https://portal.spatial.nsw.gov.au/portal/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=82ae77e1d24140e48a1bc06f70f74269#">https://portal.spatial.nsw.gov.au/portal/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=82ae77e1d24140e48a1bc06f70f74269#</a>	<b>Dyarubbin Mapping</b> is a story map of the Darug & Darkinjung Country in the Hawkesbury, a result of the Real Secret River: Dyarubbin Research project led by Prof Grace Karskens with other specialists. Is an overview of Dyarubbin, its Aboriginal place names, history, archaeology and geography.
<b>BOOKS ONLINE</b> <b>NSW ARCHAEOLOGY ONLINE - GREY LITERATURE ARCHIVE</b> <a href="https://nswaol.library.usyd.edu.au/">https://nswaol.library.usyd.edu.au/</a>	<b>NSW Archaeology Online: Grey Literature Archive</b> is a digital archive of NSW archaeology and cultural places, a partnership between University of Sydney & Archaeology of Sydney Research Group. Includes unpublished material created pre 2000s plus 2000s+ archaeological field surveys, excavations and heritage assessment projects.
<b>PROJECT GUTENBERG AUSTRALIA</b> <a href="http://gutenberg.net.au/">http://gutenberg.net.au/</a>	<b>Project Gutenberg Australia</b> contains ebooks believed to be in public domain in Australia. Founded in 2001 where volunteers digitize and archive cultural works from Australia. See also Project Gutenberg <a href="https://www.gutenberg.org/">https://www.gutenberg.org/</a>
<b>HISTORICAL RECORDS OF AUSTRALIA</b> <a href="https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-442186184?searchTerm=historical%20records%20of%20australia">https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-442186184?searchTerm=historical%20records%20of%20australia</a>	<b>Historical Records of Australia (HRA)</b> were collected and published by the Library Committee of the Commonwealth Parliament, providing accurate publications on the history of Australia. Records begin pre-1788, prior to British settlement.
<b>HISTORIC HANSARD</b> <a href="https://historichansard.net/">https://historichansard.net/</a>	<b>Historic Hansard</b> is a search engine that searches Hansard House of Reps 1901-1980 and Senate 1901-1980.
<b>NSW PARLIAMENT FORMER MEMBERS</b> <a href="https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/formermembers/pages/former-members-index.aspx">https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/formermembers/pages/former-members-index.aspx</a>	<b>Former members A-Z</b> Biographies of NSW Parliament.
<b>TROVE – IMAGES, NEWSPAPERS etc</b> <a href="https://trove.nla.gov.au/">https://trove.nla.gov.au/</a>	<b>Trove</b> was launched in 2009 by the National Library of Australia with the aim to make finding and getting information easier. Includes access to books, newspapers, Govt Gazettes, images, maps, diaries, journals, reports and other digitized materials. One of the most useful sites in Australia.
<b>STATE LIBRARY OF NSW</b> <a href="http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au">www.sl.nsw.gov.au</a>	<b>The State Library of NSW</b> , includes Mitchell Library, is the oldest library in Australia. See <b>eResources</b> <a href="https://eresources.sl.nsw.gov.au/">https://eresources.sl.nsw.gov.au/</a> Your library at home <a href="https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/your-library-home">https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/your-library-home</a> & <b>Subdivision plans</b> <a href="https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/significant-collections/subdivision-plans">https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/significant-collections/subdivision-plans</a>
<b>NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA</b> <a href="http://www.naa.gov.au">www.naa.gov.au</a>	The <b>National Archives of Australia</b> contains records from the Commonwealth of Australia including WW1 Service Records and Post Office Records. WW2 service records are currently being digitized. Plus much more.

<b>STATE RECORDS</b> <a href="http://www.records.nsw.gov.au">www.records.nsw.gov.au</a>	<b>State Archives</b> has a vast collection of historical material dating back to 1780s. Records relate to running of the state plus records relating to land, shipping, probate, deceased estate, wills and much more. See indexes <a href="https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/indexes-a-z">https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/indexes-a-z</a> A-Z Guides are useful <a href="https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/research-a-z">https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/research-a-z</a>
<b>NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA</b> <a href="http://www.naa.gov.au">www.naa.gov.au</a>	The <b>National Archives of Australia</b> contains records from the Commonwealth of Australia including WW1 Service Records and Post Office Records. WW2 service records are currently being digitized. Plus much more.
<b>FIND MY PAST</b> <a href="http://www.findmypast.com.au">www.findmypast.com.au</a>	<b>Find My Past (FMP)</b> a popular genealogy service with billions of searchable records includes electoral rolls & NSW wills. Available when onsite in Library.
<b>ANCESTRY</b> <a href="https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/">https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/</a>	<b>Ancestry.com</b> a large genealogy-based company, popular for family history but includes many local history resources. Datasets include passenger lists, convict records, electoral rolls & NSW Col Sec records. Available when onsite in Library.

### Major Repositories

State Library of NSW [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)  
State Records NSW [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)  
National Library of Australia [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)  
National Archives of Australia [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)  
Royal Australian Historical Society [www.raha.org.au](http://www.raha.org.au)  
Sydney Living Museums <https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/>  
Society of Australian Genealogists [www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au)

### Local Organisations

Local historical organisations with collections include  
Hawkesbury Regional Museum <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/Museum/Default.aspx>  
Hawkesbury Historical Society <https://www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org/>  
Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society <https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>  
Riverstone & District Historical Society <https://www.riverstonehistoricalsociety.org.au>  
Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society <http://www.dlhhs.org.au>  
Convict Trail Project <https://www.convicttrail.com.au>

### eResources from home

Don't forget if you are a Library member of any public library in NSW you can access eResources from the State Library of NSW website, including the Sydney Morning Herald archives 1955-1990 at <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/about-our-collections/eresources-collection>

### Further information

View other Local Studies Fact Sheets available in the Local Studies area or online at <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/services/local-and-family-history-resources/research-guides> titles include:

- *Ancestry Library and Find My Past*
- *Community Archives and Ephemera*
- *Family history*
- *Hawkesbury Maps*
- *Historical newspapers*
- *Oral History Resources*
- *Researching WWI soldiers*
- *Scheyville*
- *Special collections*
- *Using the Local Studies Collection*

Prepared by Local History Librarian & updated 20/10/2021

### 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/>