



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. The collection is suitable for those wishing to conduct local history research and family history research. 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. Following is a list of the types of materials you may access plus suggestions for additional information.



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 or phone 02 4560 4466.

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

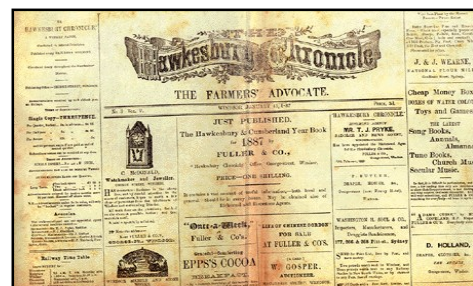
The library has a large collection of images relating to the Hawkesbury district. Most of these images have been digitised and indexed. Images can be viewed via the catalogue or specifically the Images database <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/Gallery.aspx>. The Library is always seeking 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 19th - 21st centuries have been digitised and available to access for free on **TROVE** via the National Library of Australia website <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>. The *Windsor Express*, the earliest newspaper, dates from 1843 and the longest running, *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* dates from 1888. This site provides digitised copies of Australian newspapers, transcriptions and easily searchable. (Also held on microfilm.) We also hold contemporary newspapers upto present. Check catalogue. The Library also has subscriptions to the SMH Archives 1955-1996 and the 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 access. Free wi-fi is also available throughout the Library for those with their own devices. The library also holds a large quantity of electronic resources relating to family history which can be accessed on PCs in the Local Studies Collection.

Microfiche/film

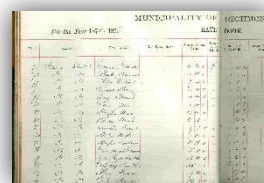
A lot of historical material is still available on microfilm/fiche including church registers, indexes, electoral rolls, publican licences and land grants. The Genealogical Research Kit from the State Archives is held as well as the *Arndell Index to Hawkesbury Pioneers* and also the *Mutch Index*.

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 from three councils which were amalgamated. Windsor (1871), Richmond (1872) and (Colo 1906). Minute and Rate books and some correspondence from these councils in the 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.

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.

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

Useful Online Resources

Website and address	Brief details
HAWKESBURY PEOPLE & PLACES https://www.hawkesbury.org/	Hawkesbury People and Places 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.
HAWKESBURY ON THE NET http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/	Hawkesbury On the Net is an ongoing voluntary project to transcribe, photograph & map local Hawkesbury cemeteries includes Church registers, Lists Registers, Memorials & Monuments plus Claim a Convict .
AUSTALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY https://adb.anu.edu.au/	The Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB) is Australia's distinguished dictionary of national biography. Published by the National Centre of Biography at the Australian National University, also includes Obituaries Australia; People Australia; Indigenous Australia; Women Australia & Labour Australia .

<p>HISTORICAL LANDS RECORDS VIEWER (NSW) https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/</p>	<p>The Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) provides online access to NSW historical land and property records, including parish maps, plans, titles and registers. Read guide https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Historical-Records-Online Other guides https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Searching-Guides and also Fact Sheets https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Fact-Sheets</p>
<p>GEOGRAPHIC NAMES BOARD https://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/</p>	<p>Use the Geographic Names Board to find Parish names and other information.</p>
<p>DICTIONARY OF SYDNEY https://home.dictionaryofsydney.org/</p>	<p>The Dictionary Of Sydney (DoS) 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.</p>
<p>RYERSON INDEX https://www.ryersonindex.org/</p>	<p>The Ryerson Index is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. Dates range from 1803 to current newspapers.</p>
<p>DYARUBBIN: MAPPING ABORIGINAL HISTORY CULTURE & STORIES OF THE HAWKESBURY RIVER https://portal.spatial.nsw.gov.au/portal/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=82ae77e1d24140e48a1bc06f70f74269#</p>	<p>Dyarubbin Mapping is a story map of the Darug and Darkinjung Country and the Hawkesbury. It is a result of the Real Secret River: Dyarubbin Research project led by Professor Grace Karskens with and other specialists. Site is an overview of Dyarubbin, its Aboriginal place names, history, archaeology and geography.</p>
<p>BOOKS ONLINE NSW ARCHAEOLOGY ONLINE - GREY LITERATURE ARCHIVE https://nswaol.library.usyd.edu.au/</p>	<p>NSW Archaeology Online: Grey Literature Archive is a digital archive of information about NSW archaeology and cultural places, a partnership between University of Sydney & Archaeology of Sydney Research Group. Includes previously unpublished material created <2000s in hard-copy format plus 2000s+ archaeological field surveys, excavations and heritage assessment projects.</p>
<p>PROJECT GUTENBERG AUSTRALIA http://gutenberg.net.au/</p>	<p>Project Gutenberg Australia 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 https://www.gutenberg.org/</p>
<p>HISTORICAL RECORDS OF AUSTRALIA https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-442186184?searchTerm=historical%20records%20of%20australia</p>	<p>Historical Records of Australia (HRA) 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.</p>
<p>HISTORIC HANSARD https://historichansard.net/</p>	<p>Historic Hansard is a search engine that searches Hansard House of Reps 1901-1980 and Senate 1901-1980.</p>
<p>NSW PARLIAMENT FORMER MEMBERS https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/formermembers/pages/former-members-index.aspx</p>	<p>Former members A-Z Biographies of NSW Parliament.</p>
<p>TROVE – IMAGES, NEWSPAPERS etc https://trove.nla.gov.au/</p>	<p>Trove 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.</p>
<p>STATE LIBRARY OF NSW www.sl.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>The State Library of NSW, includes Mitchell Library, is the oldest library in Australia. See eResources https://eresources.sl.nsw.gov.au/ Your library at home https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/your-library-home & Subdivision plans https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/significant-collections/subdivision-plans</p>
<p>STATE RECORDS www.records.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>State Archives has a vast collection of historical material dating back to the European settlement of Australia. Records relate to the running of the state plus records relating to land, shipping, probate, wills and much more. Indexes https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/indexes-a-z A-Z Guides are useful https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/research-a-z</p>
<p>NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA www.naa.gov.au</p>	<p>The National Archives of Australia 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.</p>
<p>FIND MY PAST www.findmypast.com.au</p>	<p>Find My Past (FMP) was established in 2003 and is a popular genealogy service with billions of searchable records includes electoral rolls and NSW wills. Available when onsite at Hawkesbury Library.</p>
<p>ANCESTRY https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/</p>	<p>Ancestry.com is the largest genealogy-based company in world, popular for family history but includes many resources for local history research. Popular datasets include passenger lists, convict records, electoral rolls & NSW Colonial Secretary's records. Available when onsite at Hawkesbury Library.</p>

Major Repositories

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

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*

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 <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/about-our-collections/eresources-collection> which includes the SMH archives 1955-1990 .

Prepared by the Local History Librarian & updated 18/10/2021

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
<http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library>
<http://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary>

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