

SCHEYVILLE

HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

Background History

The place known as Scheyville has an interesting background. In 1804 Governor King set aside large tracts of land on the Cumberland Plain to be used as common land for settlers to graze stock. Several were established in the Hawkesbury including Nelson Common, an area of 2,288 hectares which became known as Pitt Town Common. In the early 1890s the Pitt Town Co-operative Labour Settlement was set up on 930 hectares of part of Pitt Town Common. It was established to assist families and to provide an alternative form of employment during the 1890s depression but disbanded a few years later. In 1896 the Casual Labour Farm was set up on the site to house unemployed men who worked for their keep. The object of the farm was *"...to enable men who could not obtain employment...to put in a few weeks of comparatively light labour under wholesome conditions."* It had closed by 1910.



Group photograph of immigrant boys and farm workers at Scheyville Training Farm, c.1926 NRS 5529.
Courtesy State Records

The Government Agricultural Training Farm was established outside of Pitt Town in 1910. Young British boys, sponsored as part of the Dreadnought Scheme, were sent to Australia to learn agricultural skills so they could work on rural properties. Many of these were sent to Scheyville, named after **Francis William Schey 1857-1913**, politician, union leader and public servant who established the farm. The farm cultivated an assortment of crops and students learnt various aspects of farming including shearing, sawmilling, dairying, blacksmithing, saddlery and wheelwrighting. It closed in the 1930s. During World War 2, Scheyville was occupied by the Army for various purposes. It was also used by the 1st Parachute Battalion and several artillery units. After the war when large numbers of migrants arrived in Australia, Scheyville became a Migrant Accommodation Centre in 1949 closing in 1964.

The Officer Training Unit was housed at Scheyville as part of the National Service scheme which began in 1964. It was established in 1965 and operated until the scheme was abolished in 1972. During the 1960s parts of the Scheyville estate were auctioned off as residential blocks. From 1977 Hawkesbury Agricultural College, now the Western Sydney University, leased the site for five years using it as an over flow for the Richmond campus. During the 1980s there were proposals for the site which included a prison complex, an airport, rubbish tip and residential development. In 1996 the Scheyville National Park covering over 920 hectares was established to conserve the fragile environment of this area as well as a number of the remaining buildings. Eventually the locality surrounding the original training farm became known as Scheyville and was officially recognized by the Geographical Names Board in 1974.

Historical Material

TITLE	SHELVED
<i>The government agricultural training farm at Scheyville, near Pitt Town, NSW, sometimes called the "Dreadnought" farm</i> by W.F. Schey	RL994.42 SCH
<i>Historical context and discussion paper Scheyville, NSW</i> by Wendy Thorp	RL307.14 (158)
<i>A history of Scheyville</i> / Rex & Linda Stubbs	RL994.41 STU
<i>The Scheyville experience: Officer Training Unit Scheyville: 1965-1973</i> by Roger Donnelly	RL959.7043 DON
<i>The dreadnought boys</i> by Geoffrey Sherington	RL305.821094 SHE
<i>Dreadnought Trust records, 1909-39.</i> Shelved Microfilm CY1165 held State Library of NSW see details https://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110095114	RLFILM A41
Scheyville in <i>Hawkesbury 1794-1994</i> pp.146-7 by J. Barkley & M. Nichols	RL994.42 BAR
<i>These also came: more stories of the Dreadnought Boys</i> by Olwen King	RL305.821094 KIN

Other material

Other types of material available about the Scheyville site include pamphlets, newspapers, oral histories and Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) as follows:

REPORTS, DRAFT REPORTS & ASSESSMENTS check catalogue https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/ for exact details	Shelved at
Archaeological Assessment Scheyville former officer training camp : report for Hawkesbury City Council / Wendy Thorp	RL307.14 (231)
Archaeological study of the Scheyville development area at Scheyville NSW / Mary Dallas and Kerri Navin	RL307.14 (89)
Conservation plan for Scheyville site former "Officer training camp" / Edds & Associates for Hawkesbury City Council	RL307.14 (160)
Draft assessment of Crown land at Scheyville / Department of Conservation & Land Management	RL307.14 (176)
Geotechnical assessments & Urban capability studies Scheyville development Dept of Housing Hawkesbury Council etc	RL307.14 (90, 227, 245)
Preliminary report to Department of Housing on Scheyville release / John G. Nelson Pty Ltd.	RL307.14 (232)
Proposed amendments to Scheyville National Park& Pitt Town Nature Reserve plan of management / NSW NPWS	RL333.783099442 SCH
Report to Department of Housing on estimated lot yield from Scheyville release / John G Nelson Pty Ltd.	RL307.14 (234)
Scheyville : a Macquarie town for the 21st century / by Berkhout Planning and Development, Woodhead Australia	RL307.14 (280)
Scheyville : a new generation Macquarie Town for todays families / McKenzie Land Planning Services ...	RL307.14 (229)
Scheyville development area : final report / Prepared by Kinhill Engineers Pty Ltd.	RL307.14 (86)
Scheyville draft local environmental plan : a new generation Macquarie Town / Hawkesbury City Council.	RL307.14 (170)
Scheyville development area preliminary structure plan / for Department of Housing & HCC Wellings Smith & Byrnes	RL307.14 (306)
Scheyville development area : proposal development outline concept design for drainage system & stormwater / Kinhill	RL307.14 (156)
Scheyville development area social plan report / R. Johnston.	RL307.14 (88)
Scheyville Development Area Transportation Environments & Access Study : draft report 1990 / by Stapleton & Hallam	RL307.14 (230)
Study of retail needs: Scheyville development area / prepared for Hawkesbury City Council [by] Retail Surveys Australia.	RL307.14 (157)
Scheyville transportation environments & access study / by Stapleton & Hallam for Hawkesbury City Council.	RL307.14 (159)
Scheyville Hawkesbury : preliminary structure plan for Scheyville / a submission by DEM Planning & Urban Design.	RL307.14 (228)
Scheyville development water cycle management reports (various volumes)	RL307.14 (155-6, 243-244, 246-250)
Scheyville water supply, sewerage, re-use, sewage treatment plants & effluent systems (various volumes)	RL307.14 (235, 251- 254)
Scheyville National Park and Pitt Town Nature Reserve : plan of management / NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.	RL333.783099442 SCH
Scheyville natural habitat study / prepared by Kinhill Engineers; prepared Dept. of Housing, Hawkesbury City Council.	RL307.14 (87)
Scheyville reserve & wilderness [videorecording]	RLV333.783099442 SCH

Pamphlets

These include clippings, notes etc under heading such as Scheyville, Scheyville National Park, Scheyville prison, Scheyville redevelopment, all filed RLP SCH. See also the Pitt Town Casual Labour Farm filed at RLP PIT. Filed in locked filing cabinet, ask staff.

Oral history

The Library has an interview with *Canon Harold Rawson* who spent his youth at Government Agricultural Training Farm. See Oral History interview at RLO 040 RAW. The Oral History collection of the National Library of Australia also has interviews of Drednought boys and other migrants who came to Australia between 1901-1939 www.nla.gov.au

Harold Rawson spent his youth at Scheyville
Hawkesbury City Library, 1994



Newspapers

Check newspapers on TROVE <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> for references covering 1800s-1960s such as Pitt Town Common, Pitt Town Co-operative Labour Settlement, Government Agricultural Training Farm and Scheyville.

Websites

- Scheyville Training Farm photographs c.1926 NRS 5529. Held by State Records https://records-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1ebnd1/ADLIB_RNSW112527199
- Australian Drednought Boys blog <https://thedrednoughtboys.blogspot.com/>
- NSW Archaeology Online – use keyword Scheyville for digital copies of Scheyville material <http://nswaol.library.usyd.edu.au/index.jsp>
- Field of Memories online exhibition on Scheyville <http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/fieldsOfMemories/index-2.html>
- 'William Francis Schey (1857 - 1913)' Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 11, pp 535-536 <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A110549b.htm>
- Drednought scheme and child migration in Australia http://www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/publications/research_guides/guides/childmig/introduction.htm & www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/publications/research_guides/guides/childmig/pages/chapter3/b.htm
- ABC Landline article <http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2008/s2394445.htm>
- Scheyville National Park <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/Scheyville-National-Park>

More information

Drednought Association - records, 1890-1997. Held by the State Library of NSW www.sl.nsw.gov.au <http://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/item/itemDetailPaged.aspx?itemID=153054>

The Drednought Association ceased in 2018, after 45 years. Their records are now held by Alstonville Plateau Historical Society, PO Box 65 Alstonville NSW 2477 W www.aphsmuseum.org.au E info@aphsmuseum.org.au

Scheyville National Park W www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/ E npws.cumberland@environment.nsw.gov.au

Prepared by Local History Librarian & updated 26/8/2021

Contact Information

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HOURS

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

LOCAL HISTORY CONTACTS

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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/>