HAWKESBURY MAPS & LAND
HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

Hawkesbury History

This area was originally inhabited by the Darug and Darkinjung Aboriginal tribes. They called the river Dyarubbin and it was a vital source of food and transport. Governor Phillip explored the local area in search of suitable agricultural land in 1789 and he discovered and named the Hawkesbury River after Baron Hawkesbury. Although it was Phillip's plan to eventually locate a new settlement on the Hawkesbury, it was Lt.-Gov. Major Francis Grose who established on the banks of the Hawkesbury 22 settlers (emancipated convicts) on 30-acre farms. The fertile plains quickly produced crops which the colony needed. This region also played a significant role in the early development of the colony of NSW. Governor Macquarie toured the district in 1810 and named the Five Towns: Richmond, Wilberforce, Pitt Town, Castlereagh and Windsor (previously known as Green Hills). Macquarie is also introduced town planning to the area and surveyed and established streets, schools, cemeteries and places to worship.

The area features sections of world heritage, the Hawkesbury, Colo, Grose and Macdonald Rivers and a number of exceptional natural features.

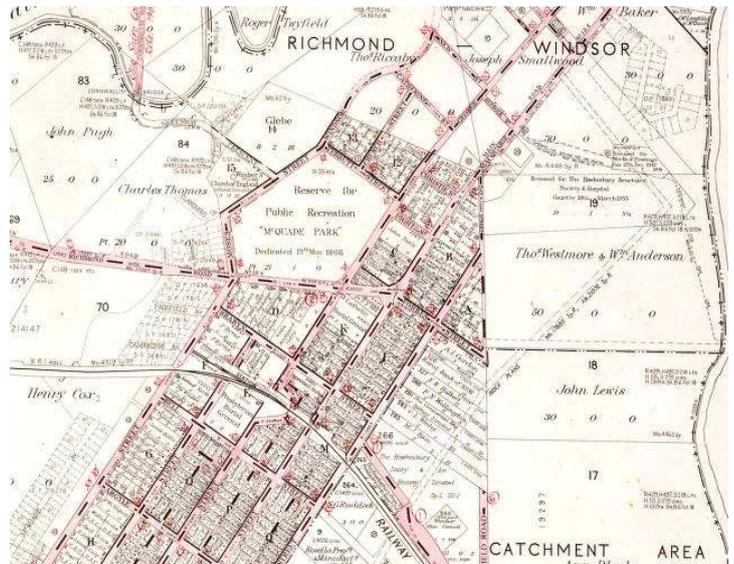## About the Local Studies Collection

The Local Studies Collection at Hawkesbury Library contains a variety of materials, historical and current, available for research. Items in the Local Studies Collection are not for loan.

Maps

Maps are an interesting source of information for researchers and students. Studying maps can be very helpful, looking at the landscape and land settlement, can be productive.

The map collection forms part of the Local Studies Collection of Hawkesbury Library Service and is housed in the Map Cabinet and is divided into six subjects areas, then in numerical order. A listing of the holdings of historical and parish maps is held in the map cabinet. Check the online catalogue https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/ for more details. The subject headings and call numbers are as follows:

RLM C Council planning maps
RLM E Environment & geographical maps
RLM H Historical maps
RLM M Miscellaneous - Outside the district
RLM P Parish maps
RLM T Topographical & contour maps

Parish maps

Parish maps form part of the early land recording system and provide the key to early ownership. The name listed on the map is the person who was first granted, or acquired, the property. Local parish and town maps for the Hawkesbury and surrounding LGAs are held in the map cabinet in the drawers marked Parish maps. Use the catalogue to search for specific maps https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/ Parish maps for New South Wales can be viewed free online via the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) at https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/ To find out more about Parish maps read their guide at https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Parish-and-Historical-Maps The Historical Land Records Viewer is provided by NSW Land Registry Services, previously known as the Lands Titles Office (LTO). Check the Land and Property Information (LPI) Historical Parish Maps fact sheet for more information http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm

Counties

There are three counties in the Hawkesbury Local Government area (LGA): Cumberland, Cook and Northumberland. Within each of these, are Parishes.

Parishes

Cumberland County takes in a large area of the metropolitan area. The following parishes are located within the Hawkesbury LGA:

- Ham Common
- St. Matthew
- Pitt Town

Areas close by but in adjoining LGA's include:

- Castlereagh   Penrith
- Claremont   Penrith
- Londonderry   Penrith
- Cornelia   Hills
- Maroota   Hills
- Nelson   Hills
- Gidley   Blacktown
- Frederick   Hornsby
- Marramarra   Hornsby

Cook Parishes

- Bilpin
- Burralow
- Colo
- Currency
- Irvine
- Kurrajong
- Meehan
- Merroo
- Nepean
- Wheeny
- Wilberforce
- Wollemi

Northumberland Parishes

- Auburn
- Lockyer
- St Albans
- Wallambine

Historical maps

A selection of historical maps are kept. These include copies of maps from State Records and other sources as well as copies of the subdivision maps from the State Library of NSW collection. Use the catalogue https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/ to search for specific maps.

An excellent overview is contained in the publication **Macquarie's towns** written by Ian Jack shelved at RL994.42JAC which shows some of the early maps of the Five Towns.

State Records also hold a wealth of mapping material, in particular check out the **Surveyor General Sketch Books,** the **Surveyor General's Crown Plans** plus a whole lot more from their guide https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/maps-and-plans

Researching a property

Researching the history of a specific piece of land, will assist with researching a property by providing details of who owned that piece of land, from the time it was granted and past and subsequent owners. This information will usually be found in what was the Land Titles System, formerly the Land and Property Information and now the Land Registry Services in NSW. More information, check **Historical Research Searching Guides** at https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Research/Historical-Research/Searching-Guides

NSW Land Registry Services create and maintain land title records on behalf of the NSW Government. You can use their Online Portal to access land title services. To see what free searches are available via the Online Portal see https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Find-Records Some records may still have to be consulted at their office in Queens Square, Sydney or via the portal at State Records at Kingswood.

New South Wales is divided into **COUNTIES**. In the Hawkesbury there are three counties in our Local Government area (LGA). The counties are divided into PARISHES. For more information, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumberland_County,_New_South_Wales#Parishes which includes a map. Check Wikipedia for more info on counties:
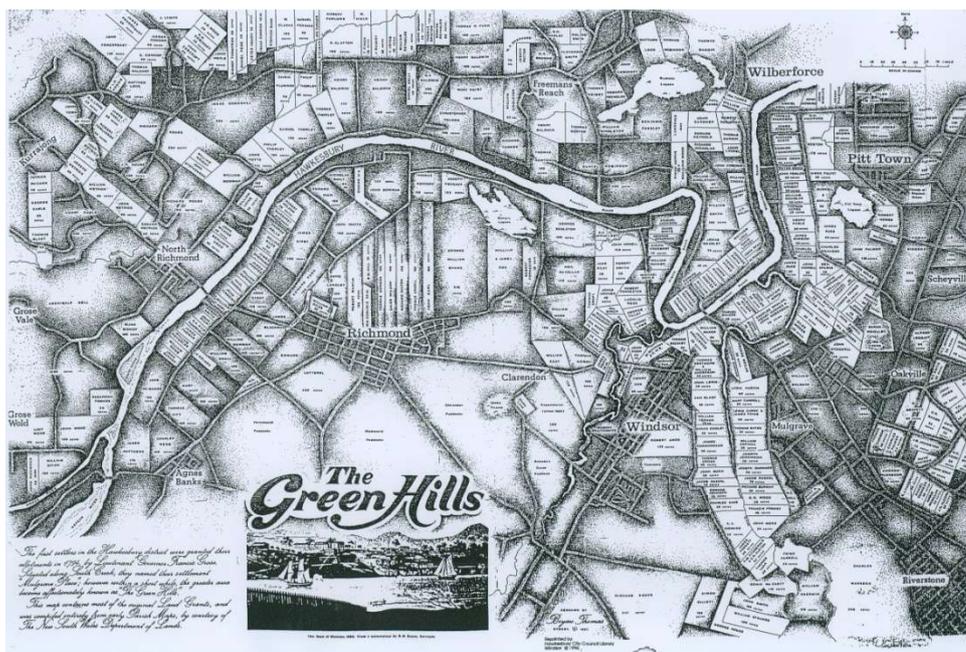
CUMBERLAND https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumberland_County,_New_South_Wales
Named in 1788 after Duke of Cumberland, later King of Hanover, by Governor Arthur Phillip.

NORTHUMBERLAND
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northumberland_County,_New_South_Wales
Was named after Northumberland in England in 1804 by Lieutenant Charles Menzies.

COOK https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cook_County,_New_South_Wales
Named after the explorer Captain James Cook (1728-1779).

Town maps for places like Windsor and Richmond are also available. Copies of parish maps are held in the map cabinet in the Local Studies area and can also be found on Trove https://trove.nla.gov.au/ as well as the State Records website see https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/

See also the A-Z which is useful including the maps and plan guide at https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/maps-and-plans/guides

Green Hills map
Green Hills was the original name for early settlement around Windsor on the Hawkesbury River.
The map drawn from original sources showing some of the first land grants in the area.
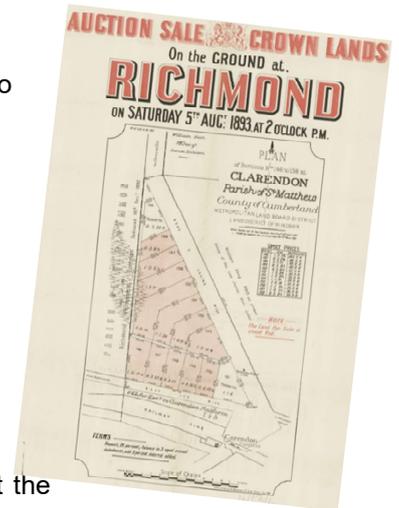Copies are available for sale at Hawkesbury Library, Windsor.

Subdivision plans

These maps are a fabulous resource. They were produced by real estates to promote the sale of new land. As well as subdivision plans, these records may include auction and sales plans and are held in our map collection, details can be accessed via the catalogue https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/ Many of these plans are copies from the huge collection held by the State Library of NSW and many of the Sydney maps (including the Hawkesbury LGA) can be accessed online. To find out more, go to https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/significant-collections/subdivision-plans and the Guide https://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/maps/subdivision_plans

Topographical and contour maps.

Topographical maps are popular and show the topography which looks at the shapes/contours of the landscape & features such as rivers, creeks, hills etc.

Other maps

A range of other maps are kept as part of the Local Studies Collection, including Council planning maps, environment, historical and geographical maps. Check the Map Cabinet and catalogue https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/ Also see the extensive collections for the State Library of NSW https://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/maps Trove https://trove.nla.gov.au/ National Library of Australia https://www.nla.gov.au/collections/what-we-collect/maps# and State Records https://mhnsw.au/archive/subjects/maps-and-plans/

Place names - Hawkesbury district

Where is Mulgrave Place or the Green Hills? Did you know that Glossodia was once called Currency Creek, Maraylya was Forrester, North Richmond was previously Enfield and South Windsor was known as Newtown? Unfortunately, the meanings of place names have not always been recorded in the past. Property names or local names have been used on official documents and maps but the mean and exact location is difficult to confirm. Newspapers, maps and electoral rolls can be inspected, also reading through some of the books published on the local area. Useful resources include:

Hawkesbury People & Places website http://www.hawkesbury.org/
Trove Newspaper & Government Gazettes https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/
Placenames of the greater Hawkesbury Region / POWELL RL919.442 POW
Municipality of Windsor - origins of names, parks and features / BOWD RL919.441 BOW
Early days of Windsor / STEELE RL994.4102 STE
A geographical dictionary or Gazetteer of NSW 1839 / WELLS RL919.4003 WEL
Government schools in NSW 1848-1983 / FLETCHER RL379.944 FLE
Lists early place names where schools were established

Other collections

State Library of NSW www.sl.nsw.gov.au
National Library of Australia www.nla.gov.au
State Records of NSW www.records.nsw.gov.au
National Archives of Australia www.naa.gov.au
NSW Land Registry Services https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/

Prepared by the Local History Librarian & updated 16/03/2023