

LACHLAN MACQUARIE RESOURCES

HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

Gov Lachlan Macquarie 1761-1824

Lachlan Macquarie was selected to replace William Bligh as the fifth Governor of NSW. Born in Ulva Scotland in 1761, Macquarie joined the British army, serving in the American colonies and India, rising through the ranks. He married Jane Jarvis but she died in 1796 shortly after the marriage and Macquarie was heartbroken. He then went on and served in Egypt and India and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the 73rd Regiment in 1805. He returned briefly to Britain in 1807 to wed a distant relative, Elizabeth Henrietta Campbell. Arriving in Sydney in December of 1809, he commenced in office on the 1 January 1810. Under the influence of Macquarie's management skills the colony prospered. His vision was for a free community, working in conjunction with the penal colony. He implemented an unrivalled public works agenda, establishing infrastructure, financial systems and improving existing services such as roads.

In the Hawkesbury

Under Macquarie's leadership the Hawkesbury thrived. He visited the district on his first tour and recorded in his journal on the 6 December 1810: *"After dinner I christened the new townships...I gave the name of Windsor to the town intended to be erected in the district of the Green Hills...the township in the Richmond district I have named Richmond..."* the district reminded Macquarie of those towns in England, whilst Castlereagh, Pitt Town and Wilberforce were named after English statesmen. These localities, chiefly Windsor and Richmond, became more permanent with streets, town square, public buildings and dedicated burial grounds. In 1810 a group of settlers sent a letter to Macquarie congratulating him on his leadership and improvements. It was published in the *Sydney Gazette* newspaper with Macquarie's reply. He was *"much pleased with the sentiments"* of the letter and assured them that the Hawkesbury would *"always be an object of the greatest interest"* to him.

Despite his success, there were some difficulties with Macquarie's leadership. Political pressure led to an enquiry into the state of affairs of the colony and the Bigge Report concluded that a

free and penal society could co-exist but with tighter controls on convict management.

In recent years, his once enlightened views about Aboriginal peoples have been revised and challenged.

Macquarie resigned as of 1 December 1821 and returned to England in 1822. Prior to his departure, Macquarie visited the Hawkesbury with his successor Brisbane. They inspected the new Greenway St. Matthew's Church as well as other public buildings in Windsor and the local inhabitants presented Macquarie with a public address which commended his administration. They requested Macquarie sit for a portrait and flattered, he agreed. The painting was completed in England and returned to Windsor and has hung in the Windsor Court House since the 1820s. Macquarie died in 1824 in London and is buried on his estate Jarvisfield on Mull located off the coast of Scotland. The family vault where Macquarie is buried is now cared for by the National Trust of Australia.

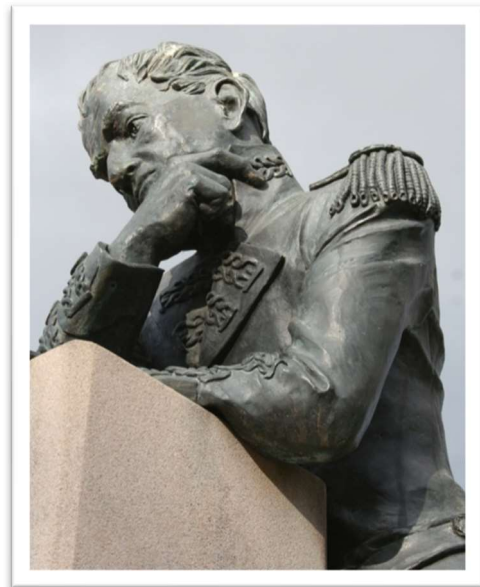


Photo: During the 1994 Hawkesbury celebrations (200 years of European settlement) a sculpture of Macquarie [pictured] was commissioned for McQuade Park in his memory and created by the late sculptor, Frederic Chepeaux (1945-1994).

Indigenous policies

In 1816, in an attempt to control the conflict between settlers and Aboriginal people, Governor Lachlan Macquarie directed a military raid take place. Soldiers were commanded to retaliate, punish or capture any Aboriginal people they encountered in the areas around the Hawkesbury, Nepean and Liverpool districts. His instructions were to offer Aboriginal groups encountered, the opportunity to surrender, and to only fire on those resisting. With the knowledge that innocent people would be affected, revenge was swift. In the Appin area, at least 14 men, women and children were brutally killed. Locally, a number of raids were held in the Hawkesbury, some led by William Cox.

Following the raids, Macquarie's instructions were published in the Sydney Gazette 4 May 1816. Read the Proclamation here <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2176637> The events were downplayed, and it was reported that only "several Natives have been unavoidably killed and wounded" and this was because they had not surrendered. Macquarie's report to the British Government was restrained as well, with few accounts surviving. See also 'The Appin Massacre' entry by Grace Karskens in the Dictionary of Sydney website at https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/appin_massacre

Macquarie Resources

Hawkesbury City Library has varied resources available to research the life and period of Lachlan Macquarie 1761-1824. Materials include facsimiles of original documents such as his journal and correspondence available on microfilm to published books, newspapers and websites.

During the period he governed, NSW was a period of great advancement in public building and infrastructure. Not only the Macquarie Towns established, a number of buildings were planned and constructed in the Hawkesbury including the Macquarie Arms, St. Matthew's Church of England, Windsor Court House and the Wilberforce schoolhouse. These can be searched in local histories on the shelves in the 994.42 section and in the Pamphlet file.

Original Material

Lachlan Macquarie papers, 1787-1824 [microform]

The main series of Lachlan Macquarie letterbooks & journals, 1787 - 1825, (34 vols.) are available on microfilm. For more information see Guide below. Shelved RLFILM CY299-CY305

Guide to the papers of Lachlan Macquarie and the Macquarie family in the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW. Shelved RL994.402 MCQ

See the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence & Papers held by State Records and indexed <https://mhns.wa.gov.au/indexes/colonial-secretary/colonial-secretarys-papers-1788-1825/>

Newspapers

Newspapers of the day hold much information about Governor Macquarie, his family and the colony. The Sydney Gazette 1803-1842 is the best source available and is available online (digitised and searchable) on the National Library of Australia Trove website at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

Books

A selection of titles focussing on Macquarie, including author and where they are shelved, are listed below. These are held in Local Studies however some are also available to borrow in Non-Fiction. Check the catalogue for more details <http://catalogue.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/>

- Lachlan Macquarie: a biography / Ritchie RL994.4020924 MCQ
- Lachlan Macquarie: his life, adventures & times / Ellis RL994.02 ELL
- Lachlan Macquarie: from Mull to Australia / by Marsden RL994.402 MAR
- Journals of His Tours in NSW & Van Diemens Land, 1810-1822 / Lachlan Macquarie RL919.44042 MCQ online at <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/all/journeys/menu.html>
- The Age of Macquarie / ed Broadbent & Hughes RL994.402 AGE
- Macquarie's World / Marjorie Barnard RL994.4092 BAR
- Elizabeth Macquarie, her life & times / Cohen RL994.4020924 COH
- The Governors of NSW 1788-2010 / ed Clune & Turner RL994.02 GOV
- Historical records of Australia RL994 HIS Also online on Trove
- Historical records of New South Wales RL994.4 NEW
- Governor Macquarie and the case for the court-house portrait / Wymark RL994.4 WYM

- History of the Macquarie Schoolhouse 1820 & St. John's Church 1859 / Wymark RL283.9441 WYM
- Evidence to the Bigge reports: NSW under Governor Macquarie / Ritchie (2 vols) RL994.02 RIT
- Report of the Commissioner of Inquiry, into the state of the colony of NSW; on the judicial establishments of NSW & VDL ...John Thomas Bigge RL994.02 BIG

For a more recent account and updated research on Macquarie and his treatment of the local Aboriginal people, see Grace Karskens book 'People of the River: Lost Worlds of Early Australia' published in 2020. RL994.42 KAR with copies also available in lending.

See also the tourist trail to view buildings constructed during the Macquarie era

[www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0011/30422/Macquarie Trail brochure print friendly.pdf](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/30422/Macquarie_Trail_brochure_print_friendly.pdf)

Other items mentioning Governor Lachlan Macquarie are local history books focussing on the Hawkesbury district shelved at RL994.42 including Hawkesbury 1794-1994; Macquarie Country; Hawkesbury Journey: Hawkesbury River history and Early Days of Windsor. Check catalogue for details <http://catalogue.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/>

Websites

- Lachlan & Elizabeth Macquarie Archive (LEMA) <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/digital/lema/>
- Journeys in Time 1809-1822 <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/all/journeys/menu.html>
(includes transcription of Lachlan Macquarie's journals which describe his tours throughout Australia plus more)
- History of Democracy 1810 to 1821 - Governor Lachlan Macquarie <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/web/common.nsf/key/HistoryGovernorLachlanMacquarie>
- Lachlan Macquarie (Macquarie University) <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/lmr/biography.html>
- Lachlan Macquarie (1762 - 1824)' by N. D. McLachlan. Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 2 <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A020162b.htm> & Elizabeth Henrietta Macquarie (1778 - 1835)' by Marjorie Barnard. Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 2 <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A020161b.htm>
- NSW Department of Education and Training about Lachlan & Elizabeth Macquarie <http://lrrpublic.cli.det.nsw.edu.au/lrrSecure/Sites/Web/macquarie2010/index.htm>
- Lachlan Macquarie - Dictionary of Sydney http://www.dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/macquarie_lachlan
- Trove (Historic Australian Newspapers 1803-1955) <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>
- Lachlan Macquarie 1761-1824 <http://www.hawkesburyhistory.org.au/articles/macquarie.html>
- Lachlan Macquarie: visionary & builder (featuring iconic documents, with transcriptions & interpretation) <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/digital-gallery/lachlan-macquarie-visionary-and-builder/lachlan-macquarie-visionary-and-builder>
- Colonial Secretary Papers, 1788-1825 (original material 1788-1825) <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/colonial-secretary/index-to-the-colonial-secretarys-papers-1788-1825/colonial-secretary-papers-1788-1825>
- Macquarie 2010 Bicentenary <http://macquarie2010.nsw.gov.au/LachlanElizabeth/References>
- Timeline <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/nswconstitution/html/3rd/bgr/gov/macquarie.html>
- Macquarie and Government House <http://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/stories/life-government-house-macquarie-era>

Images

- State Library of NSW <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au>
- Trove pictures <http://trove.nla.gov.au/picture>
- National Library of Australia <http://www.nla.gov.au/>

For additional information and confirm titles and holdings, check our Library's online catalogue at <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/>

Prepared by the Local History Librarian & updated 30/7/2023

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

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