HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS
HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

Information located from newspapers is often unique and not found in other sources. Newspapers are an important source for both local and family history research. The first newspaper established in Australia was the *Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser* which commenced in March 1803.

Historical background on local newspapers

Although a number of newspapers have been published in the Hawkesbury district throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, not all have survived. Despite the area being settled by Europeans from 1794, the first known permanent newspaper in the Hawkesbury district was the *Windsor Express* published between 1843 and 1844. Prior to this, Hawkesbury inhabitants relied on the Sydney newspapers (such as the *Sydney Gazette* and *Sydney Morning Herald*) to keep them abreast of events. The *Hawkesbury Courier* appeared during 1844-1846, *Windsor Telegraph* in 1850, followed by the *Windsor Review* in 1857. There were no newspaper for nearly a decade and then the *Windsor Advertiser* was established in 1860 for a short period. Only incomplete copies of the *Windsor Express* and *Hawkesbury Courier* have survived.

During the 1870s-1880s there were a number of significant newspapers produced including the *Hawkesbury Times* 1870s-1874 (the offices were burnt down during the Great Fire in Windsor in 1874, so no copies seem to have survived); *The Australian: Windsor & Richmond Advertiser* 1873-1899; the *Hawkesbury Chronicle* 1881-1888 & the *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 1888 (produced today as the *Hawkesbury Gazette*) The *Hawkesbury Advocate* was short-lived appearing from 1899-1900. The other substantial newspaper was the *Hawkesbury Herald* which appeared between 1902 and 1944 when it was incorporated with the Gazette. The *Hawkesbury Courier* (a free paper) commenced in 1932 but was taken over by the Gazette in 1934. Some 20th century newspapers include the *Hawkesbury Nepean Review* 1972-1976 which became *Macquarie Towns Review* 1977-1982, *Hawkesbury Independent* magazine 1995-2007 and *Hawkesbury Weekender* 2008-2009. The *Hawkesbury District Independent* 2010+ and the Hawkesbury Gazette (previously the *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*) still operate.

What can you find?

Obituaries can reveal information about the deceased's life and achievements. Births, marriages and death notices are also useful, particularly for family history research. Social history, opinions and debates of the time can also be located. Other things that may be found:

- Legal information such as court cases
- Shipping news including arrivals & departures
- Land records
- Businesses & advertisements
- Places - Local news & social activities
- Images
- War & conflict as well as military information
- Transport
- Recreation & leisure
- Background information of a particular place & time
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The Local Studies Collection holds Hawkesbury newspapers that have survived and remain in existence today, as well as some general newspapers. For additional information and confirm titles and holdings, check our Library's online catalogue at http://catalogue.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/amlibweb/

Trove

Hosted by the National Library of Australia you can search newspapers and access the original digitised copy and transcript online for free. Established in 2009, the Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program covers 1803 to 1955 and much more. This is an excellent resource and includes city and regional papers for all over Australia. Includes *Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney Gazette, Argus* and is being updated and added to regularly http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper

Searching on Trove

Trove is fairly simple to use with a basic search and advanced search for more options. Start off with a keyword in the simple search box. Be general and not too specific and then you can refine using categories such as State, Title, Decade, Illustrated or Word Count. Advanced techniques using phrase and exact text searching are also available. You can also search one particular title if necessary but try not to narrow your search as it is amazing to see how many newspapers reported on events not in their local area. You may find something about the Hawkesbury area in an Adelaide or Broken Hill newspaper.

From Trove, you can view text of an article or the actual article from a newspaper. Trove allows the public to correct text and add keywords. You can save articles or print them. It also provides ready-made citations. Trove has some useful hints on how to make the most of your searches available, see http://help.nla.gov.au/trove/using-trove/digitised-newspapers/searching-in-newspapers
For more information about Trove, see our Fact Sheet titled RESEARCHING ON TROVE

Hawkesbury newspapers online for free

Hawkesbury Library supported the digitisation project of the following newspapers from our collection and these are available to access for free online at as part of the Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program on Trove http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper

- Australian: Windsor, Richmond & Hawkesbury Advertiser 1873 - 1899 (Incomplete)
- Hawkesbury Advocate 1899 - 1900 (Incomplete)
- Hawkesbury Chronicle 1881 - 1888 (Incomplete)
- Hawkesbury Courier 1844 - 1846
- Hawkesbury Gazette *see* Windsor & Richmond Gazette
- Hawkesbury Herald 1902-1904, 1923-1924 & 1937-1945 (Incomplete)
- Windsor & Richmond Gazette (Hawkesbury Gazette) 1888-1965
- Windsor Express 1843 - 1844 (Incomplete)

Hawkesbury newspapers on microfilm

Local newspapers, listed above and available on Trove, are still accessible in our library on microfilm. Trove normally only provides access to papers up to 1955. Newspapers after 1955 are also available to view. Microfilm copies are also available to view at the State Library of NSW and National Library of Australia and sometimes available through your own library via Inter Library Loan. Current issues of newspapers (dating after 1955) including: *Hawkesbury Courier, Hawkesbury District Independent, Hawkesbury Gazette* (previously *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*), *Hawkesbury Independent* 1995-2007, Hawkesbury Nepean Review 1972 – 1976, *Macquarie Towns Review* 1977 – 1982, plus *Hawkesbury Way* and *Northern News* are also held.

The following newspapers cover adjoining areas in the Hawkesbury but also have useful information about this district. The *Cumberland Mercury* 1875-1895 and *Cumberland Argus* 1888–1904 covered Parramatta and Hills district and included Hawkesbury info. *Maitland Mercury* 1843-1849 covered Maitland and the Hunter and the *Nepean Times* 1882-1921 concentrate on the Penrith area. Other newspapers accessible in the Library on microfilm include: *Australian* 1824–1848; *Australian Town & Country Journal* 1870–1886; *Sydney Gazette* 1803-1842 (1803-1811 facsimiles shelved at RL079.944 SYD) *Sydney Morning Herald* 1831-1954, 1991-2015 *Sydney Monitor* 1838–1841 and *Sydney Chronicle (Australasian Chronicle)* 1846–1848.

Hawkesbury Library is looking for missing local newspapers, e.g. *Hawkesbury Herald, The Australian* and *Hawkesbury Chronicle.* If you know the whereabouts of any copies, please advise. Contact details p. 4

Current newspapers

The only weekly newspaper, the *Hawkesbury Gazette* ceased publication in July 2023. The monthly *Hawkesbury District Independent* is still produced and kept permanently. Copies of the *Hawkesbury Gazette and Hawkesbury Courier* are kept on microfilm. General newspapers that are published and kept by the Library are as follows: The *Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph* and *The Australian* are held for one month. *The Land* is held for 3 months.

Clippings and indexes

A selection of local newspapers clippings are housed under appropriate subject headings in our Local Studies Collection pamphlet file. A card index on births, deaths, engagements and marriages is held, it is not complete but covers the 1980s-1990s.

Ryerson Index

Originally a free index of contemporary death notices and obituaries http://www.ryersonindex.org/ from Australian newspapers. The Ryerson Index created by volunteers, has extended its coverage to include from 1803 to the present. Funeral notices, probate notices and obituaries may also be included.

Obituaries Australia

Obituaries Australia is a digital repository of obituaries http://oa.anu.edu.au/ published in newspapers, as well as journals, magazines and bulletins. It has links to the Australian Dictionary of Biography http://adb.anu.edu.au/

Sydney Morning Herald Archives and Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)

The library has a subscription for the SMH Archives which covers the years 1955 to 1995. The Library holds the SMH on microfilm from 1842-1954 which is also available on Trove, and then on microfilm 1996 until 2015. The SMH Archives which covers the years 1955-1995 is available to access for free via the Eresources of the State Library of NSW site https://eresources.sl.nsw.gov.au/sydney-morning-herald-and-sun-herald-archive-1955-feb-1995 and log in using your library membership number.

British Newspaper Archive

The British Newspaper Archive (BNA) is a project between the British Library and Brightsolid with over 630 titles. Local and regional newspapers from UK and Ireland covering 1700 to 1950. Some national papers included but majority of content is 19th and 20th century. The index is free to check but costs to review articles http://britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/ Hawkesbury Library has a subscription to the British Newspaper Archive and it is free to use while visiting Windsor or Richmond libraries. It is necessary to register using your email to access. See the **BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE** fact sheet for more information.

Papers Past

Papers Past http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast is New Zealand's answer to Trove. It contains more than 4 million pages of digitised New Zealand newspapers and periodicals and covers the years 1839 to 1948 and includes over 130 titles from all regions.

Google News Archive

Established by Google, Google News Archive http://www.google.com/archivesearch is free to use and useful for historical details. A useful feature is the creation of timelines which show selected results from relevant time periods.

Overseas newspapers

Many overseas newspapers can be accessed online via the State Library of NSW and National Library of Australia for FREE via their eResources. To access newspapers available online, via State Library of NSW, go to the Eresources page https://eresources.sl.nsw.gov.au/search and log in using your library membership number. There are a number of databases covering the 1700s to 1950s.

Databases

The Library also has subscriptions to Find My Past http://www.findmypast.com.au and AncestryLibrary http://www.ancestrylibrary.com to use in the library for free. Both of these databases have datasets relating to newspapers and newspaper clippings and include overseas newspapers.

More information & Websites

There are a number of useful websites providing additional information including:

Cora Num's websites for Genealogists (Australian) http://coraweb.com.au/websites/newspapers/
List of newspapers in NSW https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_newspapers_in_New_South_Wales
List of Australian newspapers https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_newspapers_in_Australia
Online Historical Newspapers http://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/
Cyndi's list http://www.cyndislist.com/newspapers
Guide to Australian Newspapers http://www.newspapers.com.au/
Chronicling America http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/
NewspaperSG (Singapore & Malaya papers) http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/default.aspx
List of online newspaper archives https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives
Online Historical Newspapers Website https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/

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Gazette Offices in George Street Windsor circa 1900s.
Courtesy Hawkesbury Library Service

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