



USING THE LOCAL STUDIES COLLECTION

HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

About the Local Studies Collection

The Local Studies Collection at Hawkesbury Library was established in the 1980s to collect and care for, material relevant to the Hawkesbury community. There is a variety of materials, historical and current, available for research. Items in the Local Studies Collection are not for loan but borrowing copies of some popular items are available to loan in non-fiction. This leaflet is to assist researchers use the Local Studies Collection, particularly directed for those using the collection for the first time, and to let you know what is unique, how to access and the types of material available. This may help plan your library visits and help make your research productive. Overleaf is a list of the types of materials you may access. Check the online catalogue for more details <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/catalogue> or try our Fact Sheets on various topics.



Planning a visit to the Local Studies Collection

If you have limited time, your visit can be made more productive, by planning ahead. Check our series of fact sheets to see what is held, bearing in mind that much of the material available in the Local Studies Collection is neither indexed nor available to access via the internet. Therefore putting your ancestor into context and thinking about information that may have survived about them, can be helpful. Wherever possible, a personal visit to our library is recommended as the best way to further research. If you are planning to visit from some distance, contacting the Local History Librarian prior can be beneficial, email is preferred history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or by phone 02 4560 4466.

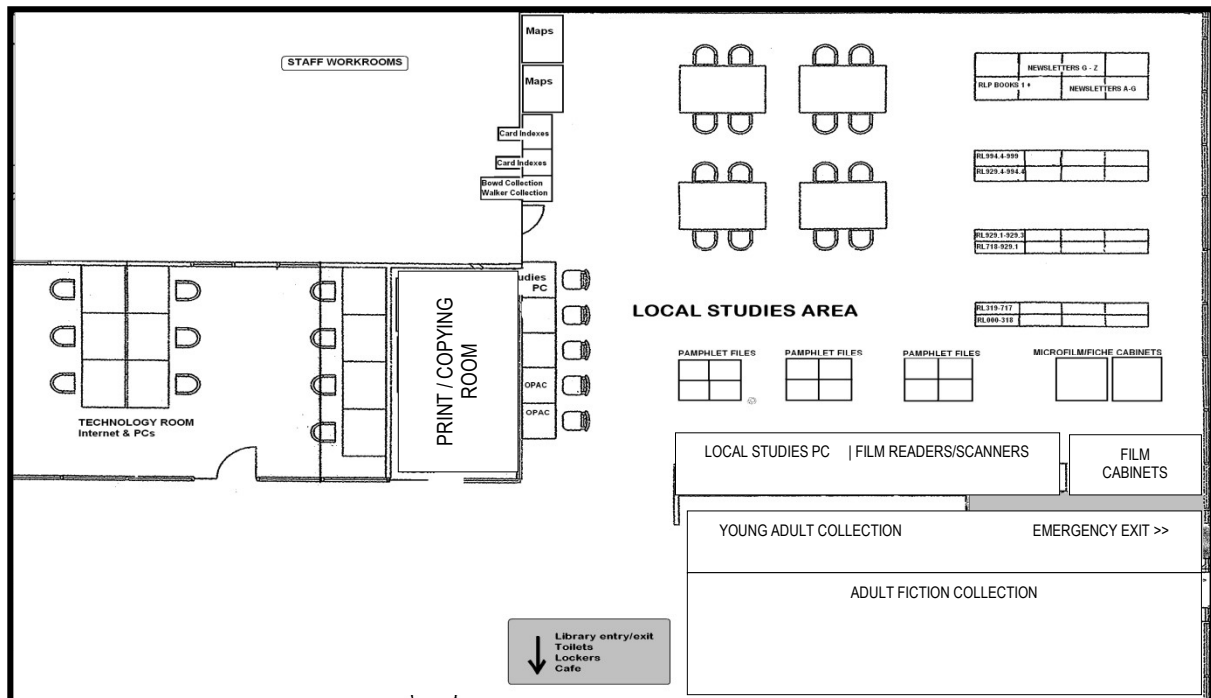


Diagram showing the layout of the Local Studies area



LOCAL STUDIES MATERIALS

Published books

Books relating to the Hawkesbury district on local history, architecture, local families, genealogy 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 scanned and catalogued and can be accessed via our catalogue online <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/Gallery.aspx>



Macquarie Arms Hotel, Hawkesbury Library Service

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.

Maps

Historical, geographical, topographical and parish maps of the district are held and these are housed in our map cabinets in the Local Studies area.

Newspapers

Various Hawkesbury newspapers produced during the 19th - 21st centuries are held on microfilm and now been digitised and available to access for free with the **Australian Newspapers, 1803 to 1965** 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* now called the *Hawkesbury Gazette*, dates from 1888 on. Various titles are also held. This site provides digitised copies of newspapers from all over Australia, with transcriptions, and is searchable. The Library also has subscriptions to the SMH Archives 1955-1996 and the British Newspaper Archives.



Pamphlet file

The pamphlet file includes information such as newspaper and journal articles, ephemera, pamphlets, and particularly unpublished family histories and research. See staff to access this collection.

Newsletters and Journals

The library holds an array of newsletters and journals relating to family and local history. We also hold newsletters produced by local groups.

Electronic Resources & Databases

The Library has a subscription to the following online databases, **AncestryLibrary**, **British Newspaper Archives** and **Find My Past** for visitors to the Library. Free wireless access is also available in the Library for those with their own laptops and devices. The library holds a large quantity of electronic resources relating to family history which can be accessed via the Local Studies PC.

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 & Local Government material

A selection **community organisations** archives are kept. It is necessary to make an appointment to view these records. Minute and Rate books and some correspondence from early councils in the Hawkesbury are available on microfilm but are not indexed.

Familysearch

Familysearch is the collection managed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) Majority of records can now be viewed online at www.familysearch.org It is necessary to create a free account to access. Special material with copyright restraints can be viewed in the Library from www.familysearch.org as we are an Affiliate Library.



FAMILY HISTORY RESOURCES

There is a big demand for family history material particularly about people that lived in the Hawkesbury district. Some families have lived in the district for many years while others have only been here for a short time. Family historians are always searching for clues of their ancestors. If you have ancestors that lived in the Hawkesbury, the following material may be of interest:

- We hold a large amount of published & unpublished **family histories**. Check the catalogue to see if information about the family of interest is held. Search the catalogue <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/> for the most current listing.
- To search, we recommend using the **Keyword Search** as this searches all fields. Use the surname of interest as well as family, i.e. **COX FAMILY** as this will bring up titles from the pamphlet file as well as books. Published books on local families are located on the shelves at **RL929.20994** and the **first three letters of the family surname, i.e. RL929.20994 COX**. Check the **Research file** (located in the card indexes in the cabinets near the map cabinets) to see who else is researching a surname. New cards can be filled out & handed to staff to file.
- Check the **Church & cemetery list** Researchers can then look for baptisms, burials & marriages. Cemeteries are also included in this list. Many cemeteries and some church registers have been transcribed on <http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/index.html>
- **Indexes for Births, Deaths and Marriages** are available for online for most states. Access NSW BDM indexes here <https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search>
- Check the **Arndell Index to Hawkesbury Pioneer Families** on microfiche. Filed in the Microfiche cabinet at call no. **FICHE ARN** (This is an alphabetical index of Hawkesbury Births, Deaths & marriages)
- Check some of the **books** published on the local area and check for families in the index. These are found on the shelves at the call no. **RL994.41 - RL994.42**. Check the catalogue for specific titles, authors and subjects. The catalogue is available to use in the library or online at <http://catalogue.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/amlibweb/>
- **Census, musters & electoral rolls** are very useful. The 1828 Census and some general musters are shelved at **RL929.3944**. Only portions of the 1841, 1891 & 1901 Census have survived are available but the others have been destroyed. For more information see the Fact Sheet on **Census & Musters** or the State Records website at www.records.nsw.gov.au Some material also available on Ancestry & Find My Past (FMP)
- **Newspapers** are an excellent source of information for both local and family history. The best place to start is on TROVE Australian digitised newspapers available to access via the National Library of Australia website for free <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper> Check the Newspaper fact sheet for more information.
- Check selection of local **Wills** at **RLP BOOK 64-66**. NSW Will Books 1800-1952 are now available on FMP. You can access our free FMP subscription by visiting the Library. Indexes to Deceased Estate and Probate Packets for NSW are available to search at State Records www.records.nsw.gov.au
- **Lists** are really useful for placing a person at a certain time in a certain place. Some of these include Hawkesbury Electoral Roll 1860, Hawkesbury Landholders in 1870 - 1871, 1841 Macdonald River Census, 1880s Macdonald Valley Landholders etc., see RLP BOOK 31. Check the catalogue for more information.
- Check holdings of **Electoral rolls** on the catalogue. Also see the *NSW Electoral rolls 1842-64* at FICHE 768-79 also *NSW Electoral rolls 1903-16* at FICHE NEW, also see RLP BOOK 31. 26 & 17. **Postal directories** are also useful. Greville's PO Directory 1875-77 at RLP BOOK 56. **Sands directories** 1858-1900 at FICHE SAN and also accessible on the Local Studies PC. Ancestry and Find My Past have large collections.
- Check **Local History Resources** (overleaf) for information relating to census, wills, lists, electoral rolls and directories.

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Come along to the free Hawkesbury Family History Group meetings, co-ordinated by the Library Service. Meetings are held in the Tebbutt Room of Hawkesbury Central Library, Deerubbin Centre at 300 George Street, Windsor every 2nd Wednesday of the month, except January.

Speakers & Meetings or eNews <http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/community/hfhg/>

Meetings are in person (no bookings required) or by Zoom.

Bookings for Zoom are essential <https://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com/>

Contact (02) 4560 4466 E: history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or

W: www.hfhg.hawkesbury.net.au for more information.



LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCES

Also check section **Family History Resources** (above) for information relating to census, wills, lists, electoral rolls and directories.

- **General books** published on the history of the local area are found on the shelves at the call no. **RL994.41** - **RL994.42**. Check the indexes if the book is indexed. Don't forget to check published family histories, particularly the indexes. These are found at **RL929.20994**.
- A good collection of **historical records** dating from European settlement is available including *Historical records of Australia* at RL994 HIS and *Historical Records of NSW 1762 - 1811* at RL994.4 HIS. A number of diaries/accounts have been reprinted which provide actual accounts. These include works by Arthur Phillip, Watkin Tench, David Collins & Captain John Hunter. *Colonial Secretary index and papers, 1788-1825* on microfilm is very useful on places and names. The index is available online at <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-online> with letters on microfilm or via Ancestry. The library has a subscription to Ancestry to access for free.
- Study local **Maps** as they provide a great deal of information about an area and its land uses. Maps to consult include topographical, geographical, Parish maps and other historical maps. Our collection of maps is located in the Map Cabinet under various subjects.
- There are several **Special Collections** within the Local Studies Collection, these include: William Walker Collection, Hawkesbury Benevolent Society Collection, the D. G. Bowd Jeannie Caroline Scott, Meredyth Hungerford plus other material bequeathed to the library.
- We have a large collection of images relating to the Hawkesbury district. Most of these images have been scanned and catalogued via our catalogue online <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/Gallery.aspx>
- **Newspapers** are an excellent source of information for both local and family history. The best place to start is on TROVE Australian digitised newspapers available to access via the National Library of Australia website for free <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper> Check the Newspaper fact sheet for more information.



OTHER REPOSITORIES

- **State Library of NSW**, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000 www.sl.nsw.gov.au ph (02) 9273 141
- **State Records**, 143 O'Connell Street, Kingswood 2747 www.records.nsw.gov.au ph (02) 9673 1788
- **National Archives of Australia**, 120 Miller Road, Chester Hill 2162 www.naa.gov.au ph (02) 9645 0110
- **Society of Australian Genealogists**, 120 Kent Street, Sydney 2000 www.sag.org.au ph (02) 9247 3953
- **National Library of Australia**, Parkes Way, Canberra 2600 www.nla.gov.au ph (02) 6262 1111

LEARN MORE

Check out the full range of Fact Sheets in this series for family and local history, available online at <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/services/local-and-family-history-resources/research-guides>

Prepared by the Local History Librarian & updated 21/8/2023

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/>