

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

MEETING NEWS

Wednesday 9 July 2025

Copies of the current Hawkesbury Family History Group Meeting news sheet including archived copies can be accessed at <http://www.hfhg.hawkesbury.net.au>
Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/HawkesburyFHG & Library www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP ~ MEETING DATES ~ 2025

9 July	ANDREW REDFERN ~ Ai in family history
13 August	LILIAN MAGILL ~ Exploring the hidden gems of the City of Sydney Archives
10 September	ROBERT CUNNEEN ~ Old Court House site, Lower Hawkesbury

The Hawkesbury Family History Group meets in person and bookings not required. At present, meetings are still held via Zoom, book via Eventbrite <https://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com> or phone 4560 4460.

NEWS

ATTENTION HOBBS DESCENDANTS

The Hobbs Seal is currently on display at Central Library Windsor! Robert Hobbs arrived in the colony in 1791 as a convict. He joined the NSW Corps and raised a family of nine with Bridget Eslin, a convict who arrived in 1793. Robert lived in Pitt Town until his death in 1839. He owned 2 gold legal seals plus a gold locket, all joined with a gold ring – one is engraved with a hill, setting sun and the words “I Will Return”. These were used by Robert when sealing a letter or signing his Will – a will that was lost for 92 years after his death in 1839! It surfaced and went to court for probate in 1931, setting off a string of speculations. The publicity of the Hobbs Millions made Robert famous. No one received any money, there wasn't any, but the NSW Public Trustees kept Robert's file active and the seals in their possession, in a small cardboard box in the office safe. Following interest by a descendant, the Public Trustees Office investigated Robert's life and the so-called fortune. In 2010, the seals were given to Hawkesbury Library Service, on permanent loan at 300 George Street Windsor. View the seal in the Unusual & Unexpected Objects Display until end of August.

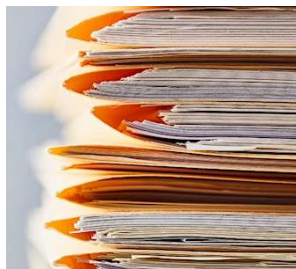


FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

August is just around the corner and it will be National Family History Month in Australia. There is no better time to delve into your research. It is the time to promote family history and encourage people to explore and research their family history. 2025 theme is **"Family History - A Lasting Legacy"** and the opening ceremony will be held on Friday 1 August at 5pm via ZOOM with a special guest speaker. Watch the AFFHO Family History Month Facebook page for announcement of speaker <https://www.facebook.com/AFFHOFamilyHistoryMonth/>



EVENTS



SUDDEN OR UNNATURAL DEATHS - NSW INQUESTS

Wednesday 16 July 6-7pm

Discover how sudden or unusual deaths in NSW may result in a Coroner's Inquest and what information can you find to assist your research.

ONLINE EVENT \$5 - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL via

<http://hawkesburylib.eventbrite.com.au/>

VIRTUAL RECORD TREASURY OF IRELAND (VRTI)

Discover the 'Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland' a research partnership hosted by Trinity College Dublin, working to reconstruct the Public Record Office of Ireland, destroyed in 1922 at the outset of the Civil War. The release of newly recovered census transcripts of Ireland is letting family history researchers to find more information with the new release of 175,000 new historical records. Read the background info then conduct your searches <https://virtualtreasury.ie/>

SURFING THE INTERNET ~ FAMILY HISTORY SITES

You may be interested in checking out the following sites. Both Windsor and Richmond libraries, provide free internet access to members, and FREE wireless for your devices.

Webinar - overview of Familysearch

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/overview-of-familysearch>

Ireland, Valuation Office Books, 1831-1856 on Familysearch

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2329951>

Victorian Petty Sessions Registers, 1858-1985 on FamilySearch.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2485052>

British Isles research on DustyDocs.com

<http://www.dustydocs.com>

Living histories – University of Newcastle

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/definerearch>

NEXT MEETING

Discover the hidden gems of City of Sydney Archives

Wednesday 13 August 10-11.15am

Researcher Lilian Magill will reveal what the extensive City of Sydney Archives holds and how you can utilise for research. Presented by Hawkesbury Family History Group. In person no need to book. Bookings essential if attending by Zoom

<http://hawkesburylib.eventbrite.com.au/>

Let us know of sites, that you have tried with (or without) success

Hawkesbury Family History Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month (except January) in the Tebbutt Room, Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor NSW 2756. Anyone interested in local and family history welcome to attend, and it is free to attend. For more information about the Hawkesbury Family History Group contact the Local History Librarian

e: history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au t: 02 4560 4466

The Local Studies Collection for all your family & local history research, is located in the Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor 2756. See <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/services/local-and-family-history-resources>