

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP MEETING NEWS

Wednesday 12 November 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>

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HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP ~ MEETING DATES ~ 2025	
12 November	DEBORAH HALLAM ~ How they lived: timber homes of our early settlers
10 December	Show & Tell plus Christmas party
No meeting in January, first meeting of 2026 – Wednesday 11 February 2026	

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

Margaret Catchpole news

Our friends, Robyn and Penelope Sharpe have advised us of some news about Margaret Catchpole. Their UK friend Anthony Cobbold, 2X great nephew of Rev. Richard Cobbold who wrote 'The History of Margaret Catchpole, a Suffolk Girl' and a direct descendant of John Cobbold whose horse Margaret stole! He has advised of the display at Suffolk Archives, Ipswich **UK - Behind Bars: Suffolk's Criminal Past, 24 October 2025 - 17 January 2026.** 'Suffolk Legend' Margaret Catchpole headlines the exhibition that showcases her original letters, on loan from the National Library of Australia and State Library of NSW and on display in the UK for the first time!



The Cobbold Family History Trust (CFHT) preserves the archive of the Cobbold family, and includes the largest archive of Margaret Catchpole memorabilia. The CFHT is now looked after by Lord Henry Cobbold at Knebworth House, Hertfordshire. Both Anthony and Knebworth are keen to promote and protect the legend of Margaret Catchpole and are aware of her historical importance to Australia. You can find more about it online at <https://www.ipswich.co.uk/articles/criminal-or-trailblazer-margaret-catchpoles-story-returns-to-suffolk> and <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQpT-YiiQTO/>

EVENTS

ONLINE: Passionate Photographer: Frank Rodda 1862-1933

Wednesday 26 November 6-7pm

Step back into 1890s Hawkesbury and uncover the remarkable story of local photographer Frank Harvey Rodda (1862–1933). Join Local History Librarian, Michelle Nichols, for a presentation exploring Rodda's life, his passion for capturing people and places of the Hawkesbury, and the lasting legacy of his work. Illustrated with examples of his historic photographs. Cost is \$5 -book via Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/3uhbv228>



A selection of Rodda's historic photographs are currently on display at the Central Library, Windsor at 300 George Street during Library opening hours.

Open Day: Western Sydney Records Centre – 161 O'Connell Street, Kingswood 2747

Saturday 22 November 10am–4pm

Come and explore some of the treasures of Museums of History NSW on Dharug Country as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Western Sydney Records Centre, home of the vast State Archives Collection. See the collection up close, hear from experts on a range of fascinating topics, take a behind-the-scenes tour, and enjoy family friendly workshops and activities with delicious food available to purchase on the day. The open day is a rare opportunity to step inside the heart of the state archives and discover the largest collection of records relating to the history of NSW and the lives of its people. See brochure for list of tours, workshops, stallholders and activities. This is a FREE event. Register now at <https://my.mhnsww.au/276920>

Connect and Learn: Digital Skills for Adults

Wednesday 26 November ~ 10.30am-12noon

Join us at the library to level up your digital skills, meet new people, and have some fun while learning. Discover Ancestry, Find My Past, British Newspaper Archives and Trove. This is a free session.

Book via Eventbrite <https://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com>



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.

Second World War service records online

WWII Army service records in Series B883 and B884 have been digitised. These are free to view and download. Use the NameSearch tab to find an individual member.

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/NameSearch.aspx>

Purchase post-1858 wills in England & Wales before 17 November 2025

Looking for post-1858 wills in England & Wales? Order your copies now as of Monday, 17 November 2025, fees will increase from £1.50 to £16!

<https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate>

Confirming Multiple dates of births

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RriT9muDY8k>

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

NEXT MEETING

Show & Tell plus Christmas party

Wednesday 10 December 10-11.15am

Interested to see what treasures family historians hold? Come along to the Show & Tell meeting, with the Hawkesbury Family History Group next month. This is one of our popular meetings of the year where a range of family heirlooms are shown. Items may include historical photos, diaries or letters. You can just come along and enjoy the treasures, or you can bring along your favourite family history item. This meeting will not be available via Zoom. This is the last meeting for 2025 and a reminder there is no meeting in January. **Save the date for Wednesday 11 February 2026.** Anyone interested in family and local history is welcome to attend, it's free and no need to book.

Hawkesbury Central Library | 300 George Street, Windsor