

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP MEETING NEWS

Wednesday 8 April 2026

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 ~ 2026	
8 April	Richard Ridge ~ opening a Surprise Package ~ Louise Wilson
13 May	Michelle Nichols ~ Transforming Hawkesbury history
10 June	Melinda Hulbert ~ Unravelling the lives of my Hawkesbury Ancestors [Hulbert & Rutter] - a journey of discovery, family stories & lessons

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.

EVENTS

Researching places not just people [online]

Wednesday 22 April 2026 (6-7pm)

Are you researching someone and looking for more information? Where did they live? Enhance your skills for researching places to enrich your knowledge for putting people into a historical landscape and context. Suitable for local and family historians.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL VIA EVENTBRITE <https://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com> - \$10

Sackville & Wilberforce Cemetery Tour

Thursday 7 May (10-12pm) &

Saturday 16 May (9-11am)

Discover two of the Hawkesbury's historic cemeteries at Sackville and Wilberforce. Visit the headstones of former convict Matthew Everingham, who drowned in 1817 & Captain Manning who operated boats along the river plus many more, revealing the interesting and tragic stories of the past. Tour details on booking ticket.

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The 'Old Registers' ~ now online

The Registers of Assignments and Other Legal Instruments 1794–1824 also known as the 'Old Registers', are now online to access via the State Archives Collection. Originally made available on DVD back in 2008, the copies of the registers with Lois Sabine's index were very popular. They have been digitised and released online in partnership with the Office of the Registrar General. Check them out here <https://mhns.wa.gov.au/indexes/land/the-old-register/>



Hawkesbury Cross Farm. Assignment. NRS-5604-2-1, Old Register No 1 – p.15, Entry 75

The 'Old Register' are actually nine volumes covering 1802 to 1824, with entries backdated to 1794 and is more than just land transactions. They record personal agreements, disputes and financial arrangements and much more. This is a fantastic resource and one all researchers of colonial history should review. The Registers are *"an invaluable record for researching early colonial NSW and has been inscribed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register."*

State Records website state the Registers contain:

In addition to land transactions, domestic legal matters were also entered. They included affidavits, agreements, appointment of guardians, arbitration bonds, assignments, bills of sale, bonds of all types, a confession, deeds of different kinds including gifts and trusts, disputes, marriage agreements and separations, a secret method of treating New Zealand flax [not disclosed], general warrants, letters or powers of attorney, sales of horses and stock, promissory notes, whaling, sealing, shipping, marques of war wills and writs of fieri facias. The latter writ was a judicial writ which commanded a Sheriff or Provost Marshal to take and sell enough property from the person who lost a law suit, to satisfy the debt owed by the judgement.

The Royal Australian Historical Society will be announcing shortly, a workshop on the registers in conjunction with State Records, with Carol Liston on how to use the registers for local and family history research. In the meantime check this interesting article by Carol Liston <https://mhnsw.au/articles/colonial-social-life-in-old-registers-1-9/>

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.

Irish Genealogy

<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/>

Dyarubbin: Mapping Aboriginal history, culture and stories of the Hawkesbury River

<https://portal.spatial.nsw.gov.au/portal/apps/MapSeries/index.html>

Hawkesbury People & Places

<https://www.hawkesbury.org/>

Australian Cemeteries Index

<https://www.austcemindex.com/>

New newspapers released on Trove

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/announcement/2025/12/15/welcome-public-domain>

Asylum records (NSW) webinar [State records]

<https://mhnsw.au/webinars/asylum-records-nsw/>

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