

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

MEETING NEWS

Wednesday 10 September 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	
10 September	ROBERT CUNNEEN ~ Old Court House site, Lower Hawkesbury
8 October	JEFF MADSEN ~ Discover the Historical Land Records Viewer
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

Ancestry announces Document Transcription (new handwriting recognition tool)

Ancestry recently announced the launch of its new document transcription feature. It may assist deciphering precious handwritten documents to assist with your family history research. At present **Document Transcription** is only available with an Ancestry World Explorer membership or higher. <https://tinyurl.com/ydf4mw7c>

Are you prepared for what your DNA reveals?

Read the ABC article titled ‘**As ancestry tests become the norm, experts warn it's a roll of the dice in a 'high-stakes' game**’ by Ruth Barber. She discusses how more and more people are trying to “unearth their histories” however experts have warned “many people are unprepared for what they might find” – see what you think!

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-08-24/has-ancestry-testing-killed-family-secret/105560134>

NEXT MEETING

Discover the Historical Land Records Viewer

Wednesday 8 October 10-11.15am

Discover the Historical Land Records Viewer which provides free access to over 6 million digitised land records for New South Wales, dating back to the 1790s. with Jeff Madsen and how this can contribute to your family or local history research. Presented by Hawkesbury Family History Group. In person no need to book. Bookings essential if attending by Zoom

<https://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com>

EVENTS

Connect and Learn: Digital Skills for Adults

Thursday 9 October ~ 9-10:30am

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. A free session, repeated in November.

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

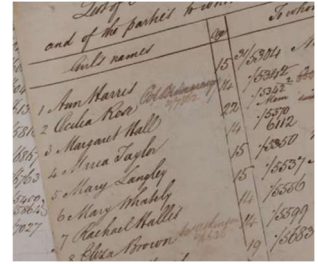


Great Migration: Irish immigration records & government schemes to NSW

Friday 17 October ~ 9.30am–4pm

A full-day seminar on Irish immigration records with talks by renowned historians and genealogists Dr Richard Reid, Dr Perry McIntyre and Dr Damian Gleeson. The talks will focus on different NSW immigration schemes and the large paper trail of official documents that they left behind. These records provide insights into both how the system worked and the experiences of those who passed through it. Original archives will be displayed and the opportunity for a behind-the-scenes tour at Kingswood. Cost \$50 - book via

<https://mhns.w.au/whats-on/events/great-migration-irish-immigration-records-and-government-schemes-to-nsw/>



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.

Tipperary Studies (*dedicated to documenting and preserving the County's rich history*)

<https://tipperarystudies.ie/genealogy/>

Ireland Genealogy Projects (IGP) Free Irish Genealogy Information

<https://www.igp-web.com/>

Filling the silences in family stories – think like a historian & uncover your family's narrative

<https://tinyurl.com/457afejj>

Irish Heritage News (round up of new records from Ireland)

<https://irishheritagenews.ie/>

Shauna Bostock-Smith is Bundjalung but was shocked to discover a convict slave trader

<https://tinyurl.com/cmkszrpk6n>

Southern Highlands Cemetery Transcriptions

(i.e. Berrima, Bowral Bundanoon, Moss Vale, Mittagong and Sutton Forest)

https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/southern_highlands/index.html

Master AI Prompts for Breakthrough Genealogy Research (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQe77lDyops>

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>