

Hawkesbury Historical Society

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Address: The Secretary PO Box 293, Windsor NSW 2756
T: 0410 498 944 E: secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com

Website: www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: facebook.com/hawkesburyhistoricalsociety

Aim: Hawkesbury Historical Society aims to encourage and preserve the history of the Hawkesbury

Meetings: 4th Thursday, alternate months, 7.30pm-10pm, except June and August - 2pm. Venue – St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall, 25W Market Street, Richmond.

Open to: People interested in the preservation of the history of the Hawkesbury, new members welcome.

Patron: Wendy Sledge

Office Bearers 2025/2026

President: Jan Barkley-Jack
Alternate President: Rebecca McRae
Snr Vice President: Ted Brill
Jnr Vice President: Tyler Dehn
Secretary & Facebook Administrator: Peta Sharpley
Public Officer: Neville Dehn
Treasurer: Rodney Hartas
Newsletter Editor: Jan Readford
Web Administrator: Tyler Dehn
Bookshop Manager: Kathy Layton

Committee members

Cheryl Ballantyne, Neville Dehn, Janice Hart, Jan Readford and Oonagh Sherrard

HHS Collection Committee

Jan Barkley-Jack

Publications Committee

Michael Christie, Jan Barkley-Jack, Cathy McHardy, Rebecca McRae and Jan Readford
(To be confirmed)

2026 MEETINGS

Thursday, 23 April – 7.30pm

Saturday, 27th June – 2.00pm

Saturday, 22 August – 2.00pm

Thursday, 22 October – 7.30pm AGM

St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall
25 West Market Street, Richmond

Hawkesbury Historical Society General Meeting

Thursday, 23 April 2026 – 7.30pm

to be held at

St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall

25 W Market Street, Richmond

Parking is available next door.

Speaker: Dr Jan Barkley-Jack

Topic: Early Hawkesbury settlers with itchy feet: how the humble moved from Mulgrave Place and the changes it made to this district

As most small properties were fully cultivated and well-populated by sheep and cattle by late 1810 when Governor Lachlan Macquarie first visited the Hawkesbury district, it was obvious that farms in newer areas on the Cumberland Plain were filling, so eyes continued to turn beyond the coastal plain that confined the settlements.

At Hawkesbury, in particular, what a fascination the 'stately and o'er topping grandeur' of the mountains^[1] to the west held for young and old amongst the ordinary settlers, for their ribbon of haze was an ever-present backdrop to the constrained farms. Even more tantalising was the possibility of fertile lands lying beyond.

'Champaign country' Macquarie called it in 1815 after the mountains were crossed and he and wife Elizabeth visited the western lands for the first time. The governor announced that the value of its pure stream amid plains was 'not...by any means exaggerated'. He added:



[1] W. C. Wentworth, *A statistical, historical, and political description of the colony of New South Wales*, 2nd ed., 1820, G. and W.B. Whittaker, London, p. 24.

The mechanics and settlers, of whatever description, who may be hereafter permitted to form permanent residences...will have...rich and fertile soil...^[2]

Yet that was initially a hollow promise for settlers from humble beginnings, like all those in Mulgrave Place from ex-convict and poor free arrival backgrounds, even into the second generation, for they continued to be forbidden the new lands for another three years. Even then the strictly regimented regimes they faced limited them. Benjamin Singleton almost reached the Hunter Valley in his explorations, and John Howe and his parties reached the Hunter River soon after, yet many of the rich denied the legality of the legitimate Hawkesbury grants given there.

You may be surprised when you hear who were the very first brave, but unexpected and humble initiators from the Hawkesbury farms to venture beyond the Cumberland Plain and how they fared-as well as how they were chosen. Their story is of more than hard work and courage, for it is also one of leadership and initiative, especially in the ways the settlers endeavoured to keep in touch with their families who stayed in the Hawkesbury. Unlike the rich and entitled gentlemen who soon bought vast parcels of land and stocked them with cattle herds, those from the poorer beginnings gradually bought land and built stock numbers while many like the Bowman brothers became large pastoralists in the Hunter whilst still living in Mulgrave Place.

Getting to know Hawkesbury Historical Society's Members

This new feature of our newsletter, introduced to coincide with the Society's 70th birthday year, is intended to showcase our various members and their personal special memories, some about the Hawkesbury, some the Society, some not. It commenced in our February 2026 issue with the initiator, Arthur Cooper.

This month, it is Jan Readford, a member of the Hawkesbury Historical Society since 2006. Jan has been the Editor for the Society's bi-monthly newsletter since 2010, and is a contributor to, and the Editor of, the Society's Journal's, No.2 – *Lachlan Macquarie* and the No.3 – *Hawkesbury's Personalities*, including the Society's booklet: *The Hawkesbury: A Handy History* created in 2021 to allow as many people as possible, of all ages, to know about the Hawkesbury area in New South Wales. Jan was also instrumental in the reprint of Doug Bowd's books: *Macquarie Country* and *Hawkesbury Journey*.



^[2] *Sydney Gazette*, 10 June 1815; *Historical Records of Australia [HRA]*, La Trobe University, online, , Series 1, Vol. 8, p. 574, 24 June 1815, vol. 9, p. 115, 18 April 1816.

A long-term member of the Society of Australian Genealogists, Nepean Family History Society and the Historic Houses Trust, Jan is also a descendant of First Fleeter, Ann Forbes (*Prince of Wales*).

After a career spanning more than 30 years in executive administration in the private sector, she came to the Hawkesbury in 2005 to take up an executive administration position with Hawkesbury City Council for the next 18 years.

Now retired, Jan's interest in research into local, Australian and international history, has led her to find many more of her early family connections in the Hawkesbury.

Australian Produce
HAWKESBURY COLLEGE
CHEESE
EQUAL TO BEST CANADIAN

London, April 2. — Some of the cheese made at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, brought by the Arcadia, is pronounced to be equal to the best Canadian. Others were too crumbly in texture. The sizes of all the cheeses were unsuitable for the English Market. They ought to weigh from 60lb to 70lb each.

The butter by the Oruba has been landed in good condition generally, though the temperature was a few degrees too high.

London, April 2. — The last lot of the rabbits by the Moari King has been sold at 7d each.

Some of the rabbits brought by the Ballarat were very mouldy.

Australian Produce, *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), 3 April 1895, p. 4, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article108095317>

Retrieved 12 April 2015 by Alan Aldrich

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April 2026

Hi everyone,

Our special 70th birthday celebrations for 2026 have begun. Congratulations to all who came to a very successful and enjoyable 70th luncheon celebration last month. Mayor Les Sheather and his wife Michelle were present, which as I pointed out was a generous and fitting beginning to our celebrations because our first President, and the organiser of the public meeting which initiated the formation of Hawkesbury Historical Society in September 1956, was Vic Gillespie, Mayor of Windsor at that time. Councillor Peter Ryan, who is helping in our search for a minder of our two historical guns, was also a very welcome guest.

The 'Peek into the Past' event at the home of Wendy and Rob Sledge in The Terrace Windsor will also have been held by the time you are reading this news bulletin. It is not only an attempt to showcase the variety in the district's past but also to connect the Society's collection in the Hawkesbury Regional Museum with the Windsor business community.

Wendy Sledge, as many of you will remember, was the Mayor of Hawkesbury in 1994 for the celebrations of the 200th Anniversary of European settlement in this district and today is the Patron of Hawkesbury Historical Society. 'Peek into the Past' is always a fascinating venture into previous eras and the research needed to find out the mysteries of this old house have been quite rewarding, as the Sledges own a cache of original documents from which we are able to get the ongoing title to the allotment. This title trace unexpectedly showed connection to several families with roots in Cornwallis. The Upton, Norris and Mellish families bought or inherited the house for 65 years! Overall, the European transition of the land from part of the 20 acres granted to ex-convict, Chief Constable Thomas Rickaby forward to today showed that this lot mirrors the urban development of Windsor and surrounding districts as a whole. The land was given to Rickaby and his long-time partner Catherine Smith to allow them to live on ground higher than their Cornwallis farm and on which to run their Coach and Horses inn. It passed through several hands until the wealthy widow, Maria Cope, bought it and offered it for further subdivision, promoting her vision of fashioning the track that became known as The Terrace into Hawkesbury's first high status area for the wealthy. Finally, the land became a product of yet further subdivision into the small, town allotment of today.

Hawkesbury politician, William Walker, was one who chose to build his genteel home of Crescentville there amongst other affluent owners in the middle period of The Terrace's evolution and built the present house at no. 74 The Terrace in 1864.

The Society has also been out and about promoting accurate history in the district in other ways too. Peta Sharpley has held a very successful walking tour of Richmond, as you can see from the photographs, for the Richmond Evergreens Society following on from our policy of conducting tours for paying groups on request. Previously, on 1 March, I gave a lecture at a Defenders of Thompson Square event organised to remember and fathom the true facts convict Cunningham being hung from the steps of the Government Store on the present corner of Bridge and George Streets in Windsor. It came after the defeat of the Irish convicts who rebelled in 1804 and lost a battle with the military in a bid to escape their imprisonment.

Looking forward, in May we are organising a drive tour to the seven most iconic sites relating to our history within the Hawkesbury, so more details of that at the meeting in April.

It is with regret that I have to announce that Amy Way and Erin Wilkins, who were to be the speakers at our April meeting, are unavoidably unable to do so because of illness. We will rebook them for next year as the work they did on the archaeology of the Dargin Cave near Lithgow is a source of interest to us.

Instead, I will speak about the interesting and very unexpected facts that came out of my recent detailed research into just how Hawkesbury settlers expanded their property ownership beyond the Hawkesbury Valley and beyond the Cumberland Plain. They went west to Bathurst, south to the Southern Highlands and north into the Hunter Valley from 1818. The human interest in all this expansion into new areas is heart warming as parents who remained in the Hawkesbury sought to keep in touch with their grown children who were moving away. There was no mail service so links formed between the distant areas through the travellers and the drovers who undertook to deliver letters and items to families back in the Hawkesbury Valley. This was despite not knowing the families personally, though they had known of them of course for many years, and despite the delivery taking them out of their way. In this the Cupitt and Izzard families were instrumental, with Ellen Cupitt marrying drover Johnny Izzard and living on the summit of Bulga. Travellers like Toby Ryan, who recorded their experiences, as well as drovers from the Cobcroft family, like Richard and his nephew Enoch, will be at the centre of those stories.

I look forward to seeing you all in person at our April General Meeting at the Uniting Church Hall in West Market Street, Richmond on 23 April.

Dr Jan Barkley-Jack

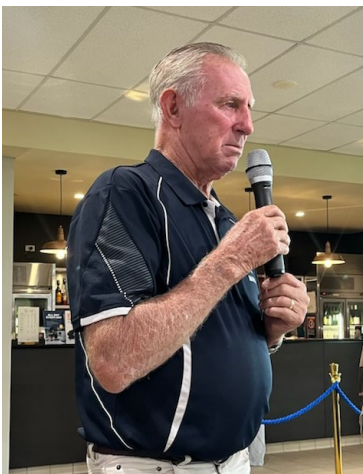
President

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES IT'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

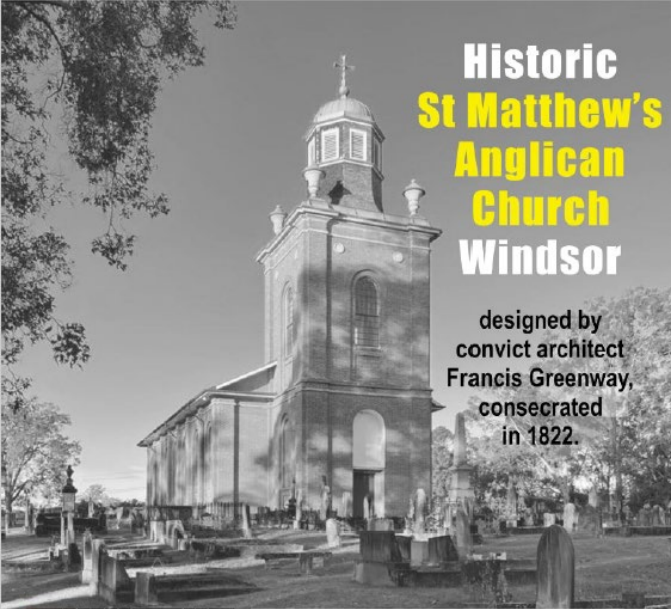
On Sunday, 29 March 2026, a luncheon was held at Lynwood Golf Club, Pitt Town to celebrate the momentous occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Hawkesbury Historical Society. There were 30 people in attendance.

The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Les Sheather, on behalf of Hawkesbury City Council, congratulated the Society for its dedication and work to preserve the history of the Hawkesbury since its beginnings in 1956. Councillor Peter Ryan, also in attendance, acknowledged the significance of the occasion.

Society President, Dr Jan Barkley-Jack welcomed all the members in attendance and advised that the Society will celebrate its 70th Anniversary throughout the year with many events and celebrations planned.



**HAPPY 70TH
ANNIVERSARY!!**
Hawkesbury
Historical Society



**Historic
St Matthew's
Anglican
Church
Windsor**

designed by
convict architect
Francis Greenway,
consecrated
in 1822.



TOURS

Defenders of Thompson Square, in collaboration with St Matthew's Anglican Church and the Hawkesbury Historical Society, is offering guided tours of the church, belltower and cemetery at 5 Moses Street, Windsor

2026 Sundays 1 - 3 pm
Dates: 26 April, 28 June, 30 August, 25 October

Cost: \$50 per person for a 2 hour tour comprising of church, belltower and cemetery.

Age: Restricted to persons 18+ years of age.

Tours of St Matthew's Anglican Church, belltower and cemetery

For bookings and details:

www.defendersofthompsonsquareinc.com/defenders-tours

Maximum of ten participants per tour and one tour only offered on each advertised date.

Cancellations with refund:

For cancellations and refunds please email defenderstours@gmail.com at least 5 days before the tour date. If we cancel a tour we will offer you a refund or a place in the next advertised tour date.

Cancellations with no refund:

If you request to cancel the booking less than 5 days before the tour, we will not be able to offer a refund.

Extreme weather:

If extreme weather events (heat, heavy rain, flood, fire) are predicted, we will cancel and provide refunds.

Light rain or drizzle:

Please dress accordingly. We may cancel the outdoor component of the tour and provide a partial refund.

Recommended clothing, footwear and bags:

Please wear comfortable clothes and enclosed rubber-soled shoes, suitable for walking on uneven ground and narrow stairs. No large bags please.

Mobility:

Please note that the tour involves climbing steep, narrow stairs with no hand rails and walking on uneven ground.

60% of all funds raised will be donated to the St Matthew's Anglican Church conservation fund.

@DefendersofThompsonSquare on facebook

A Round Trip for Tourists

The Daily Telegraph on Saturday said that "The Minister for Works will shortly pay a visit to Windsor and the Hawkesbury. He will be accompanied by the Railway Commissioners and will proceed to Brooklyn by rail and will then go as far up the river as possible, in order to ascertain how much of the channel will require to be cleared, so as to enable a passenger steamer to reach Windsor.

If it is found practicable to do this at a reasonable cost, it is proposed to use this route as a round trip for tourists. They would in that case go from Sydney to Brooklyn by rail, from Brooklyn to Windsor by steamer, and from Windsor to Sydney by train."

Mr. Bruce Smith has received a report indicating that surveys of the river are now being made. We understand that as soon as the flood water recedes, Mr. Bruce Smith will travel round to Windsor by the "General Gordon" and remain here to open the local waterworks, after which he will attend the proposed banquet, and return to Sydney by the "General Gordon" again.

A Round Trip for Tourists. (1890, March 15). *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* (NSW : 1888 - 1921), p. 7. Retrieved April 7, 2012, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article72561766> by Alan Aldrich.

BE SURE NOT TO MISS

the General Meeting for the
Hawkesbury Historical Society

and our speaker

Dr Jan Barkley-Jack

on the topic

'Early Hawkesbury settlers with itchy feet: how the humble moved from Mulgrave Place and the changes it made to this district'

Thursday, 23 April – 7.30pm

at

St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall

25W Market Street, Richmond

PARKING is available next door.

Private Donald Walter Cooke

By Carol Roberts

tall, weight 10 stone (63.5 kilograms), chest measurement 33 and a half inches (about 85 centimetres), with a dark complexion, brown eyes and dark brown hair, with a scar on the right side, religion Church of England.

Cooke had previously served two years in the 41st Infantry (Militia). He listed his mother, Mrs Mima Cooke of Terrace Road, North Richmond, as his next-of-kin, indicating his strong affiliation with the Hawkesbury. However, his mother's address is later shown as *Atherton*, Kerrs Road, Lidcombe. Donald was the youngest of seven children: Flora and Mary M. (twins born 1881 – Mary did not survive and died in 1881); Richard W. (born 1883); Kate (born 1885); James Robert (born 1887); Mary Margaret (born 1892). Although all the births are registered in the Waverley district, it appears the family moved to Freemans Reach around 1900 and resided on Conlon's Farm.

Donald Cooke's eldest sister, Flora, married Oliver James Garrad in 1903 in Redfern and in later years the Garrad family, together with their children Daniel, Archie, Oliver, Noel, Mima, Donald and Eileen, remained at Freemans Reach. Donald's sister Kate died in 1908, Richard married Katie A. Payne in West Maitland in 1906; sister Mary married Francis Badger in Granville in 1911 and brother James married Eliza Stinson in Windsor in 1913. Their father, Richard Cooke (Snr), died on 3 May 1914 and their mother, Jemima (Mima) Cooke, died on 26 April 1922. Both are buried in Waverley Cemetery.

After Donald Cooke enlisted and was transferred to the Army camp at Liverpool on 2 November 1914, he embarked at Sydney on HMAT *Seang Bee* (A48) on 11 February 1915.

The Australian War Memorial is in possession of two letters written in 1915: one from Private Donald Cooke to his mother and one from his friend, Private Frank (Francis) Bossence, also to Donald's mother. The letter from Donald Cooke to his mother was written approximately mid-February 1915 on board the *Seang Bee* on the way from Sydney to Gallipoli via Egypt while passing through either the Indonesian Islands or the Seychelles.

It reads:



Mixed collection relating to Pte Donald Walter Cooke (1338) 3 Battalion AIF, Australian War Memorial, P11550.001, <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2085784?image=2>, accessed 11 April 2026.

Donald Walter Cooke was born on 20 April 1895 to Richard and Jemima Cooke (Watson). A farmer from Terrace Road at Freemans Reach, Donald Cooke was 19 years and 6 months of age when he enlisted in the 3rd Battalion, 1st Australian Division, Australian Infantry Forces, 2nd Reinforcements on 30 October 1914 with Service Number 1338. He was described as single, 5 feet 6 and a half inches

Sunday at Sea

My Dear Mother

I am giving you a little diary of what we are doing each day. I posted a lot of letters at.....but it will only be by chance if you get them. We did not have much time to write. The sea is calm as a millpond. We caught it pretty rough just as we left Sydney. It was as funny as a circus soon after we left we went below for dinner we dine in messes 18 men in a mess and 2 men out of each mess act as orderlys and bring the meals from the cook house in big dishes, we have long tables to eat at and there is a staircase almost perpendicular down to our deck our orderly a smart little London Cockney started down the stairs with a dixie of soup singing Tipperary on the second step his foot shot from under him and down came the soup flying all over the ship and it was 1/2 an hour before he got some more when we did get it we had to hold our plates with one hand to keep them in position as when the ship rolled they would all fly down one end and most of us would go sliding after them. The ship's officers are a fine lot of fellows and our own officers are giving us a good time. We are just passing.....now and in a day or two we will reach the

Monday

We are enjoying some of the loveliest [lovliest] scenery [cenery] I have ever seen in my life we are sailing in and out a large group of small islands some are as barren as can be while others are covered with pine trees and look beautiful. The sea is still calm and we are still having cool weather. We get puddings every dinner time. Well mother I may be able to get this away tomorrow so

I remain your loving Son

Try a letter to

Pte. D Cooke No. 1338

2nd Reinforcements

3rd Battalion

On active service with AIEF

Sunday at Sea
My dear Mother
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I remain your loving Son

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Pte. D. Cooke No. 1338
2nd Reinforcements
3rd Battalion
On active service with
the AIEF

The letter from Private Frank Bossence, Service Number 1310/2310, to Mrs Mima Cooke was written on 12 May 1915 from the Gallipoli Peninsula:

Mrs Cooke

Dear Madam

Allow me to express my very deep sympathy with you in your recent sad bereavement. I refer to the death of your son Donald who while fighting with the Expeditionary Forces was killed on Wednesday April 29 at Gallipoli. We were chums so I thought it my duty to write and inform you of the manner in which he met his death. With God's help he is better off now and that thought should console you in your sorrow. We became separated after our landing in our rush to take a hill and we did not meet again until the morning of the 29th. I went round to Captain Douglas and asked had he seen Donald and he told me to wait in the trench a little further on as he (Donald) was away looking for water for the men in the firing line. I was informed that he had made several trips during the night and had procured water from a gully nearby for wounded men, also when ammunition was running short the previous night he was the first to volunteer to go for it. He had to proceed to the rear of our lines under heavy rifle and machine gun fire and returned with a box of ammunition and would have made a second trip but for being stopped by one of the Officers, as they had found a way of getting the ammunition through by the far end of the trench with much less risk. These are only a few of the good deeds he had performed (the lads in the same trench as he were never done talking of the way he worked during the first two days never thinking of his own safety, but trying to help others). Please God he is getting his reward now, as I am sure he must be. When he returned I saw that he had ten water bottles filled, from a spring he had located. Needless to say we were delighted to see each other once more, we had breakfast and then we were put to dig a trench to meet one which was coming from our old firing line and so form a communicating trench. This work

could only be done by one man at a time so we worked in reliefs. About mid-day while he was resting after a spell of digging he was hit by a bullet from a sniper on the hill opposite. I heard a moan and ran back to where Donald was and was horrified to find that he had been shot through the head. Thank God he did not suffer much pain as he died almost instantly. All that could be done was done for him but his wound was bad one and beyond human aid. It may appear like recalling and reminding you of your trouble by writing now after so long a time has elapsed but I have not had an opportunity of doing so sooner. All the papers and letters and personal belongings found on Donald were handed to Captain Douglas so they would have been forwarded to you before this. Now as a special favour I would ask you to let me have a photo of Donald if you can spare one at all. We intended having our photo taken in Egypt but we did not have time as our stay there was so short. If you could spare one I will ask you to send it to the address below and I will get it on my return, as with God's help I expect to return. I know your loss is very severe but it should console you to know your son died a heroic death and that God is rewarding him for his good works he did for those in need of his assistance before he met his untimely death. You should not worry and fret now as you will surely meet him again in a place where sorrow is unknown and be united again for all time. Again expressing my deepest sympathy believe me to be Dear Mrs Cooke sympathetically yours.

Frank Bossence 3rd Battalion AIF

Address photo if you can spare one at all to:

*Frank Bossence
Park Grove,
Burnly,
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia*

Excuse this note paper as writing material is very scarce in the trenches. FB

Gallipoli Peninsula
12-5-15

Mrs Cooke

Dear Madam

Allow me to express my very deep sympathy with you in your recent sad bereavement. Deeper to the death of your son, Donald who while fighting with the Expeditionary Force, was killed on Wednesday April 29th at Gallipoli. We were chosen so I thought it my duty to write and inform you of the manner in which he met his death. With God's help he is better off now and that thought should console you in your sorrow. We became separated after our landing in our rush to take a hill and we did not meet again until the morning of the 29th I went round to Captain Douglas and asked if he had seen Donald and he told me to wait in a trench a little further on as he (Donald) was away looking for water for the gerys in the firing line. I was informed that he had made several trips during the night and had procured water from a gully nearby for wounded men also ~~replenishing~~ ^{replenishing} ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~ammunition~~ ^{ammunition} ~~bars~~ ^{bars} ~~running out~~ ^{running out} short the previous night, he was the first to volunteer to go for it. He had to proceed to the rear of our lines under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire and returned with a box of ammunition

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Sympathetically yours
Frank Bossence 3rd Battalion
A.I.F.

Address: Katoomba if you can spare one at all to
Frank Bossence
Park Grove
Katoomba
New South Wales
Australia

Excuse this note please as writing material was very scarce in the trenches in the

Conditions on landing at Gallipoli in April 1915 are described in many letters from Australian soldiers to family and friends in Australia. Private T.W. Bowers of the 10th Battalion who was wounded at the Dardanelles on 27 April 1915, writes:

and would have made a second trip but for being stopped by one of the officers, as they had found a way of getting the ammunition through by the far end of the trench with much less risk. There are only a few of the good deeds he had performed (the lads in the same trench as he was were never doing anything of the way he worked during the first two days ~~was~~ ^{was} never thinking of his own safety, but trying to help others) Please God he is getting his reward now, as I am sure he must be. When he returned I saw that he had 10 water bottles filled, from a spring he had located. Needless to say we were delighted to see each other once more; we had breakfast and then we were put to dig a trench, to meet one what was coming from our old firing line and so form a communicating trench. This work could only be done by one man at a time so we worked in reliefs. About mid-day while he was resting, after a spell of digging he was hit by a bullet from a sniper, on a hill opposite. I heard a noise and ran back to where Donald was and was horrified to find that he had been shot through the head. Thank God he did not suffer much pain as he died almost instantly. All that could be done was done for him but his wound was a bad one and beyond human aid. It may appear like recalling and reminding you of your trouble by writing now after so long a time has elapsed but I have not had an opportunity of doing so sooner. All the papers and letters and personal belongings found on Donald were handed over to Captain Douglas, so they would have been

It was absolute hell. You cannot stretch your imagination enough to get any inkling of what it was really like. One had not time to feel afraid...when we took up our position on the Sunday morning and the schrapnel found us, it was awful. They had the range to a T. The damn stuff was just bursting over us. The man on one side of me was killed, and the man on the other side wounded...We hung on till dark, and then the worst night of my life started. We fought all night. The enemy advanced to our line in hordes. If they had come on that night there would not have been an Australian soldier alive on the Peninsula next morning. Our order was this - 'Fix bayonets, under no consideration retreat; sell your lives dearly. Remember your comrades in the rear.' Personally I thought it was the end of all things, but I was going to put up a good performance before I went out...it is said they had 20,000 men there. We had about 6,000.

Private A.H.W. Briggs, 3rd Reinforcements, 16th Battalion, 4th Australian Infantry Brigade, wrote to his mother on 24 May 1915:

I suppose you have heard about our arrival at Gaba Tepe. It was a landing none of us will forget for the rest of our lives. There are very few of our battalion left to tell the tale. As soon as we got close to the shore the Turks opened fire on us and bowled us over like nine-pins. The boys were dropping all round us, but once we got ashore things were only middling, and we gave the Turks the busiest time of their lives. You cannot imagine what it was like. We chased them up the hill with bayonets...we dug trenches and are more than holding our own.

date of death of Private Donald Walter Cooke is 25 April 1915. He is also commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey, and at Panel 35 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, as well as on the War Memorial in Richmond Park, Windsor Street, Richmond.

His name will be projected onto the exterior of the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on three occasions:

- Monday, 22 June 2026 at 2.08 am
- Saturday, 3 October 2026 at 9.02 pm
- Saturday, 26 December 2026 at 3.51 am

Private Frank Bossence had enlisted under the name Brennan in November 1914 and had embarked on the same ship as Donald Cooke. In June 1915 he signed a Statutory Declaration declaring that his real name was Bossence. His brother, Ignatius Ernest Bossence, who enlisted in 1916, was a Roman Catholic Army Chaplain assigned to the 4th Light Horse.

Frank Bossence never returned home to receive his friend's photograph from Mrs Cooke. He was declared missing in June 1915 and subsequently listed as killed in action in August of the same year.

Bossence's letter to Mrs Cooke creates a discrepancy between the date of death of Private Donald Cooke and the actual date of death as listed by the Australian War Memorial and in Army records. The letter states in two places that Cooke was killed on 29 April 1915 and this date appears on a memorial plaque to Private Donald Cooke placed on the gravestone of his parents, Richard and Jemima Cooke, in Waverley Cemetery. This could be because the headstone was more than likely carved in late 1914/early 1915 after the death of Donald's father, Richard, in 1914, with the memorial plaque added after his mother received news of Donald's death in Bossence's letter, leaving room for the addition of his mother's details at a later date. Whatever the explanation, the accepted official

D 1721 DECEASED

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 1738 Name COOKE Donald
 Unit 3rd Bn 4th Light Horse
 Joined on 30/10/14

4th Battalion

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? Donald Cooke
2. In the Parish of Bonda in or near the Town of Sydney in the County of New South Wales
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) Natural Born
4. What is your age? 19 years 6 months
5. What is your trade or calling? Farmer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? Self
7. Are you married? Single
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Mr & Mrs Jemima Cooke, The Terrace, North Richmond, N.S.W.
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge. 2 years 4 months 1st Buff (Malakia) M.C. Sec.
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No
14. (For Married Men and Widowers with children)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you either before or after embarkation during your term of service? No

I, Donald Cooke, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

* And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife three-fifths wife and children

Date 2nd Feb 1915 Donald Cooke
 Signature of person enlisted.

This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455: COOKE D

W Transferred to D

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 1328

Rank Private Name *Cooke Donald.*

Unit *3rd Battalion (2nd Repts)*

Casualty *Killed in action Gardanella M.F.C. 2806/244 date 21/5/15.*

Misc. No. *25/4/15* Killed in Action Gallipoli Peninsula *EMBS*
A, F. B. 2090A Received

DATE.	A. F. B. 103 Received	PURPORT.	REF. No.
25. 5. 15.		<i>M. C. (2) Adv & Vide (M. 337.)</i>	
28. 5. 15.		<i>3rd Lt Judd Confirmation of M.F.C. 2806/244 Vide 123/4</i>	
10. 6. 15.		<i>M. D. K. Enclaving Copy of letters & asks particulars to be supplied as asked for.</i>	
" 6. 15.		<i>Reply sent</i>	
8. 8. 15.		<i>M. Cooke, asking for certificate of death</i>	
6. 9. 15.		<i>Copy made for War Pension</i>	
24. 9. 15.		<i>Reply sent to letter dated 8. 8. 15.</i>	
5. 10. 15.		<i>M. Cooke asking if death certificate yet to hand "10/15"</i>	
11. 10. 15.		<i>Reply sent to letter dated 3/10/15</i>	
17. 11. 15.		<i>M. Cooke asking if any and how received re death of above 20/15</i>	
3. 11. 15.		<i>Reply sent letter 17/11/15</i>	
8. 12. 15.		<i>Card of Rpt of death received and handed to Rpt</i>	
CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF Cable No. <i>NEE 2103/6 vide 1230</i>			
Advice of despatch of Personal effects received - B. R. M. <i>5788</i>			
17. 2. 16.		<i>M. C. asking if effects of above have yet come to hand, for further particulars re death.</i>	
21. 2. 16.		<i>Reply sent letter 17/2/16</i>	
3. 3. 16.		<i>No address in AF B 2090 A</i>	
Advice of despatch of Personal effects received - B. R. M. <i>4/40</i>			

WAR ANNUARY INDEX

1914/15 STAR ISSUED 12287

WAR RECORD

BRITISH WAR RECORD ISSUED 13369

VICTORY MEDAL ISSUED 13309

Circular B.R.M. 46 1289 & Booklet re Graves despatched 1/12/15

Approved & acknowledged by printed card 4.5.20

LIST 20/2 To Comd 2nd M.D. B.R.M. 61 672

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, COOKE D

- National Archives of Australia, NAA: B2455, BOSSENCE F, Enlistment Papers, <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3099683>, accessed 11 April 2026.
- National Archives of Australia, NAA: B2455, BOSSENCE I E, Enlistment Papers, <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3099705>, accessed 11 April 2026.
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- Commonwealth War Graves Commission, <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/716287/donald-walter-cooke/>, accessed 11 April 2026.
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- Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour, <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1729184>, accessed 11 April 2026.
- National Archives of Australia, NAA: B2455, COOKE D, Enlistment Papers, <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3401567>, accessed 11 April 2026.

- Find a Grave Index, Donald Walter Cooke, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/249563465/donald-walter-cooke>, accessed 11 April 2026.
- 'Sell Your Lives Dearly' and 'Turks in a Corner', *The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Wednesday, 7 July 1915, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/5473715?searchTerm=donald%20walter%20cooke%20freemans%20reach>, accessed 11 April 2026.

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Windsor Memorial Gates

By Michelle Nichols

Even before the war had finished, the movement to establish monuments in local communities commenced. *“With almost two-fifths of men aged between 18 and 44 enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force, every community was touched by the war.”* Local groups were set-up to recognise *“service and sacrifice of members”* of residents serving their country in the Great War of 1914-1919.¹

One of the first memorials revealed in the Hawkesbury district was erected in April 1920. A War Memorial was erected outside the Riverstone Railway Station in *“memory of the illustrious dead of Riverstone and district”*²

There was also a special event at St. James Anglican Church as part of the centenary of the Old Schoolhouse in July 1920.³ An Honour Roll recorded 26 names with three names of soldiers that did not return: F J Carson, W S Lindsay and L O’Toole.

In July 1920, the Windsor & Richmond Gazette reported that a subscription fund was commencing and raise funds for the construction of a monument to those who served in World War One. Alderman Spinks moved the following motion:

That this council take immediate steps for the erection of a suitable memorial to the men who enlisted and fell in the recent great war from within the municipality and authorise subscription lists to be issued for public donations.

The motion was carried with £18 being raised from the aldermen at the meeting. By October 1921 an amount of over £130 had been collection but no memorial had yet been erected. The building of the memorial was in doubt and there were suggestions from some council members for the funds to go into other building projects. By 1923, funds amounting to £240 had been raised and several plans were submitted to Council. Finally, Windsor Municipal Council resolved: *“That the Council call tenders for the erection of the memorial, on the plan and specifications submitted.”*



The Foundation stone laid by R B Orchard in 1923 / Photo: M. Nichols

The foundation stone was laid in 1923 by Hon. R B Orchard however it took two years to commence. In April 1925, the Sydney Morning Herald reported:

¹ 'War Memorials' retrieved 4/4/2026 from <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/war-memorials>

² RIVERSTONE. (1920, April 9). Windsor & Richmond Gazette, p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85878532>

³ Historic Building. (1920, July 30). Windsor & Richmond Gazette, p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85878237>

A start has been made on the construction of the Windsor War Memorial, which is to take the form of memory park gates...The work is in the hands of Mr. George Andrews, of Lidcombe, and will cost over £500. The money was raised by subscription, supplemented by a donation by Council.⁴

The memorial officially opened 24 May 1925 with a march proceeding from Thompson Square to the corner of George and Tebbutt Streets. The procession included representatives from the Friendly Societies, local Fire Brigades, the Rifle Club and local Bands as well as returned soldiers from the Boer War and the First World War. The community turned out in droves as well as students, teachers and officials. The Mayor, Alderman J W Ross was in charge of the proceedings, with a prayer from Rev. J B Fulton. Politician and soldier, Sir Granville Ryrie unveiled the memorial with Rev. Norman Jenkyn dedicating it. Brigadier-General John Jackson Paine and some other officials spoke and a hymn was sung by a massed choir.

Not only the Great War 1914-1919 was commemorated on the memorial but also subsequent wars and conflicts such as World War II 1939-1945, Korea 1950-1953 and Vietnam 1965-1972.



Windsor War Memorial, 1999 / Photo: M. Nichols

Other localities including Wilberforce, Freemans Reach and Richmond constructed their own monuments as well as Rolls of Honour in many public buildings such as halls, schools and churches.

To view more information about local war memorials see Hawkesbury Memorials Monuments and Plaques Register <https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/memorial/war.html> and the New South Wales War Memorials Register <https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/>

⁴ WINDSOR WAR MEMORIAL. (1925, April 17) Sydney Morning Herald, p. 12. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16215004>

Women in the skies

By Michelle Nichols

With the onset of WW2, it was acknowledged that women would be required as an adjunct to Australia's labour force. In the previous conflict WW1, many women did volunteer work with the Australian Red Cross or raised monies for the various charities supporting the soldiers. Already employed in the field of nursing they also served as nurses with the Australian Army.

During WW2 Australian women were employed in the workforce in huge numbers and not only were they filling positions left empty by men enlisting but also got paid a lot less for the same work. Women worked on the land as food production and agriculture were essential. Also women were employed in "factories, shipyards, commerce and transport" and with the Australian Women's Land Army they "drove tractors, milked cows, raised poultry and pigs and harvested crops."

From the 1920s, Australian women were taking the opportunity to learn to fly, particularly from 1927 when they could apply for a pilot's licence and legally fly in Australia. Millicent Bryant was the first woman to obtain her licence from the Ministry of Defence.

Prior to WW2 the Australian Women's Flying Club and the Women's Air Training Corps (WATC) had been established where courageous women were trained as pilots or provide assistance to the RAAF. Other women were involved in the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps learning signalling and Morse Code.

The Australian War Memorial Collection has a number of images recording the Australian Women's Flying Club. ⁵ The following is a sample focussed in the Hawkesbury district.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P01857.002
Members of the Australian Women's Flying Club, Windsor, 1940
demonstrating their marching skills at a training camp beside the river. (Donor G. Caldwell)
Courtesy Australian War Memorial

Eventually the RAAF workforce shortage resulted in women being recruited. The Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) was established in 1941. At the end of the WW2, 27,000 women had served "proving that women could fulfil tasks and roles previously undertaken solely by men," with the declaration "that the RAAF could not have functioned without the vital work performed by the women's auxiliary." ⁶

⁵ Search of collection for Australian Women's Flying Club images Retrieved from <https://www.awm.gov.au/>

⁶ Through adversity to the stars; women and aviation in Australia by Dr Catie Gilchrist. Retrieved from <https://www.anzacmemorial.nsw.gov.au/content/through-adversity-stars-women-and-aviation-australia>



Australian Women's Flying Club members preparing a meal outdoors at a training camp, Windsor 1940.

Courtesy Australian War Memorial

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01857.003

Mrs Nancy Bird-Walton with Lady Wakehurst, wife of Governor of NSW in front of Squadron Leader F.C. Mackillop and Gwen Stark on an inspection of the Australian Women's Flying Club, Windsor 1940.

Courtesy Australian War Memorial



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

044624

After the war, many women did not return to their household duties but sought paid work, outside the traditional female roles. In meeting the challenges of war, they proved capable of working in whatever job they were required to do. Libby Lyons wrote in her article ANZAC Day, *In meeting the challenges of war, they proved capable of working in whatever job they were required to do.*⁷

⁷ Libby Lyons in 'ANZAC Day: remembering when women held down the fort' published 24 April 2019 and retrieved from <https://www.wgea.gov.au/newsroom/anzac-day-remembering-when-women-held-down-the-fort#:~:text=For%20the%20first%20time%2C%20women,also%20worked%20on%20the%20land.>

History Walking Tour – Richmond Evergreens Society

2 April 2026

Hawkesbury Historical Society conducted a walking tour for the Richmond Evergreens Society on 2 April 2026. Richmond Evergreens is a social group for over 60's creating meaningful connections in the community.

The tour was led by Peta Sharpley and Dr Jan Barkley-Jack with the tour including the historic buildings of West Market Street, March Street and Richmond Park.

Following the tour, a delicious morning tea of hot cross buns was enjoyed with a small treat for those attending to take home.

A great day was enjoyed by all.



All photographs were extracted from Richmond Evergreens Facebook Page.

Thank you to all our Society's tour guides, in this instance Peta Sharpley and Dr Jan Barkley-Jack, for conducting these valuable and most interesting historical tours of the Hawkesbury.

Putting the Hawkesbury on the map!

The First Farmer or Farmers in the Hawkesbury District

By CHRONOS in "Progress"

It would be interesting to know for certain who were the first settlers on the Hawkesbury River.

According to Lieutenant-Governor Grose's despatch of 29th April, 1794, there would appear to be little doubt about the matter. But, as the true history of this colony cannot be written from Governor's despatches alone, those documents and other official records must, in order to be accepted as true history, be endorsed, corrected or modified from time to time by such authoritative documents, as may crop up from other sources.

It is not too late, in many instances, to seek for and publish information that may be gathered yet awhile; and we seize this opportunity to invite those who are interested in the history of Australia to co-operate with us in rescuing from oblivion such information. For instance, in the present case, some old inhabitant of the Hawkesbury River may, perhaps, be able to furnish data that shall lead to the truth concerning the first settlers on that river. From the some- what conflicting evidence we now publish it is difficult to say who were the first settlers. The portion of Lieutenant-Governor Grose's despatch which refers to the subject runs thus: "I have settled on the banks of the Hawkesbury twenty-two settlers, who seem very much pleased with their farms. They describe the soil as particularly rich, and they inform me whatever they have planted has grown in the greatest luxuriance." Mr F B Bladen, barrister-at-law, and editor of the volume of the Historical Records of New South Wales from which we quote, adds (in explanation of the plan of the settlement given) the following note: - The accompanying plan, copied from the original which Grose forwarded to England with this despatch, gives the localities of these farmers and the names of the settlers. The part of the river on which the majority were located is now known as Pitt Beach.

The branch of the river on which farms 1, 2, 8 and 4 were situated is now known as South Creek. These were the first farms on the Hawkesbury River. Phillip was alive to the advantages of settling the rich lands of the Hawkesbury." VIDE his despatch of 17th June, 1790 (vol. i, part 2, p. 350).

The names of those "first settlers" given on the plan were: - Giles Moore, Dan Barnett, W Pawson, J Butler, T Howell, J Bous, C Williams, J Wimbow, W Snailham, J AbiteB, W Douglas, J Wright, J Fendlow, Peter Bond, J Owen, E Cunningham, R Davis, J Roberts, Thos Saunders, J Webb, J Welsted, Thos Caldwell.

Mr Bladen seems to be right when he says: "These were the first farms on the Hawkesbury River"; for his conclusion is supported by a passage in Phillip's despatch referred to in his note. The passage is as follows:

"The river Hawkesbury will, I make no doubt, offer some desirable situations, and the great advantages of a navigable river are obvious; but before a settlement can be made there, proper people to conduct it must be found, and we, must be better acquainted with the country. Settlers may be sent there hereafter, but then we must have small craft to keep up communication."

On the other hand an old resident of the Hawkesbury river who accompanied Governor Phillip on his second expedition to that river in June 1789, having taken a great fancy to a piece of land where they camped and having apprised the Governor of the fact, was told that he might "have it for a pig-run". Now the question is, did this man, whose name was apparently Peter Hibbs, take up his abode on the Hawkesbury and farm the piece of land granted to him before those "first-settlers" higher up the river? Peter Hibbs' name is not to be found on the list of the "first settlers" as given above, nor in the only other list of early settlers on the Lower Hawkesbury in which the name might be expected to be found, and in which, however, the name Sampson Hibbs occurs thus: Sampson Hibbs, private soldier in the New South Wales' corps; acres granted 25, on the river Hawkesbury, 22nd August, 1795.

The following obituary notice relating to this subject is taken: from the "Australian" of April 30, 1890:-

A "Silver Cord" of a peculiarly interesting local historical character, was loosened on the 9th instant in Sentry-box Beach, Lower Hawkesbury, where Mr Peter Hibbs, familiarly known as "Old Pete" sailed silently out of the River of Life into the greater Pacific. Mr Hibbs had attained within a few days the patriarchal age of 90 years, and had passed the whole of his long life on the river he loved so well. His father, whose Christian name was likewise Peter, was 91 at the time of his decease and claimed to be the second Englishman who set foot on Australian soil. On the famous 28th of April, 1770, he was one of the crew of the good ship "Endeavour" and when Captain Cook sent off a boat at Botany Bay with Sir Joseph, then Mr Banks, to search for water and explore the coast, Peter Hibbs was the next man to jump ashore after the distinguished naturalist. Years went by, and in January 1788. Peter found himself once more in the bay he had so often thought of during his seafaring career, this time in the capacity of bosun's mate aboard one of the Ships which composed the "first fleet"

under the command of Governor Phillip.

In June 1789, Mr Hibbs was selected as one of a picked crew, which the same Governor took upon the exploring expedition which resulted in the discovery of the Hawkesbury River, then known to the aborigines as 'Venrubbin.' (?) The Hawkesbury, it will be remembered, was so named in honor of the nobleman who, at that time, was head of the British Council of Trade and Plantations.

Upon the voyage up the river, Hibbs took a great fancy to a piece of land, now occupied by Mr Ivory, where they camped, and upon venturing to apprise Governor Phillip thereof, His Excellency jocularly told him he could have it for a pig run. The grant was afterwards ratified and Hibbs commenced his farming career. At that time "he might have had any land for the asking" as his late son phrased it, and indeed he did acquire some few other properties.

After his death, the son whose decease we chronicle to-day, by deed of gift and in various ways went through his patrimony, and like Lear in his old age, found himself at the mercy of the world. To the honor of Mr Tom Starkey, junior, whose generous nature is proverbial on the river, be it recorded, the old man never lacked care or kindness in his declining years. Mr Starkey and his estimable wife providing a home in the true sense of the word for him. He was sensible to the last, and never happier than when narrating a tale "all of the olden time."

The First Farmer or Farmers in the Hawkesbury District. (1895, February 23). Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW : 1888 - 1921), p. 7. Retrieved March 31, 2012, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66446102> Sourced by Alan Aldrich



The nose of the Royal Air Force Vickers Wellesley bomber which made a forced landing in a field near Windsor (N.S.W.) yesterday, showing two blades of the propeller buried in the ground. The machine, which led the flight from Egypt to Australia, was extensively damaged. Flight-Lieutenant Gething and his crew had remarkable escapes from injury. (By picturegram.)

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848-1954),
Tuesday 29 November 1938, page 3

RAAF CREW'S PART IN SINKING OF ENEMY TANKER

AAP and Our Own Correspondent
LONDON, Friday.

Fuller details of the 30-hour pursuit and sinking of a German tanker off Spain are contained in an Air Ministry bulletin. The tanker was first sighted out in the Atlantic at breakfast time on Tuesday by a Sunderland from an RAAF squadron. The Sunderland attacked with bombs, which straddled the tanker. The explosion sent up tall columns of water, completely obscuring the vessel. The tanker at once lost way and began to trail oil.

The pursuit was continued by other long-range aircraft of the Coastal Command. On Wednesday the chase was taken up by a Beaufort from a squadron which has frequently taken toll of enemy shipping during recent weeks. The pilot found the tanker in the afternoon and hit it with his torpedo.

Crew of the Sunderland which first attacked the tanker comprised:—Captain, Flt.-Lt. V. A. Hodgkinson, of Sydney; first pilot, Flt.-Lt. D. Vernon, Greenwich (NSW); second pilot, Flying-Officer H. D. Wright, Brookland Park (SA); navigator, Flying-Officer J. B. Jewell, Windsor (NSW); LAC's D. T. Hunter, Brewarrina (NSW); E. King, Perrey Hills (NSW); B. C. McCarthy, Sydney; and H. E. Cain, Victoria Park (WA); Sgt. A. G. Bradley, Berowra (NSW); Cpls. C. E. Macholf, Wodonga (V.); A. F. Palmer, Redland Bay (Q.).

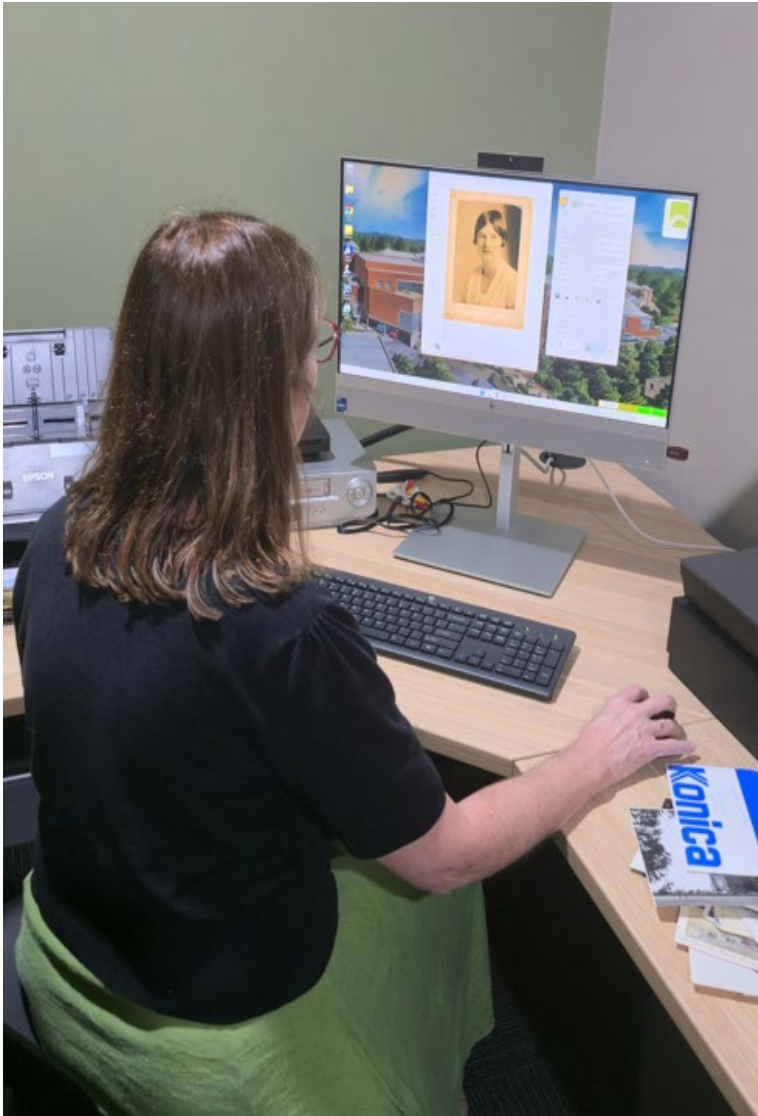
The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848-1954),
Saturday 27 December 1941, page 3

Navigating River Murray in a Skiff

WAGGA (N.S.W.), Friday. — In the motor-engined skiff, in which they propose to voyage down the Murrumbidgee and Murray rivers to Swan Hill, the Rev. L. Peacock, of Earlwood, Sydney; Mr. W. A. Coulson, principal of the Burwood High School (Sydney); and the Rev. W. T. Dyer, of Windsor (N.S.W.), arrived to-day from Gundagai (N.S.W.). The skiff is 32ft. in length and is powered with a motor of 2½-horse power, which gives it a cruising speed of approximately seven miles an hour.

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848-1954),
Saturday 4 January 1936, page 22

NEW DIGITISING SPACE OPEN AT HAWKESBURY LIBRARY



Do you have bundles of holiday snaps, Christmas get togethers or boxes of old family photos that you would like to have in a digital format?

Get excited, Hawkesbury Library Service's brand new technology hub, with digitising equipment, is now available at the Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor.

The Digitisation Studio will be available for Library members to book and it is absolutely free.

Equipment includes a professional flatbed scanner, a multi-scanner for 6x4 prints plus a slide scanner, all aimed at improving technological and digital opportunities for all ages. There is also equipment which may be used to digitally convert videos, cassettes and DVDs.

Instructions are provided and the space can be booked for up to 2 hours during our opening hours with your Hawkesbury Library card. To make an appointment phone (02) 4560 4460.

If you are not a member, it is free to join. Pop in or join via our website:

<https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library>

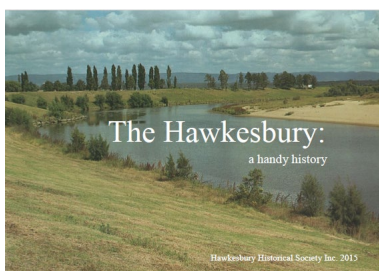
This new space was made possible through grant funding from the NSW Government under the Public Library Infrastructure Grant program.

Michelle Nichols

Local History Librarian | Hawkesbury City Council

One of the many
Hawkesbury characters
featured in
the Society's booklet:

**The Hawkesbury:
a handy hint**



Hawkesbury Library Service





Hawkesbury Historical Society Bookshop

located in the Hawkesbury Regional Museum
8 Baker Street, Windsor NSW 2756

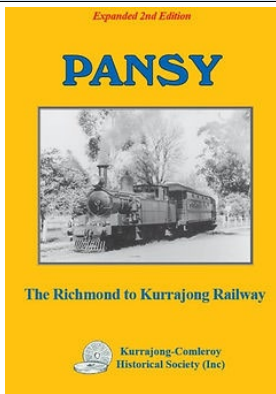
The Hawkesbury Historical Society has an interesting variety of books in our Bookshop with an emphasis on people in earlier times in the Hawkesbury and nearby Nepean and Blue Mountains areas.

The books can be purchased directly from the Museum Bookshop in the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Windsor or online: www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org

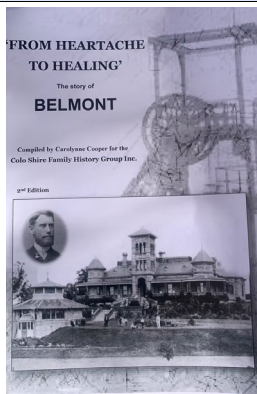
You may also like to visit the **Museum** which houses the Society's collection.

See the new bookshop area where you can sit comfortably and access our books

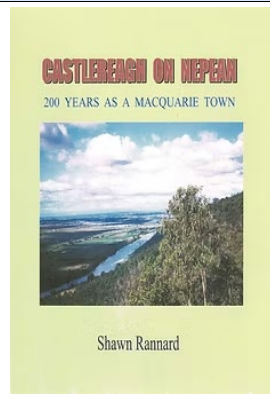
A preview for each book is available via the link on each book or on the Society website:
www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org



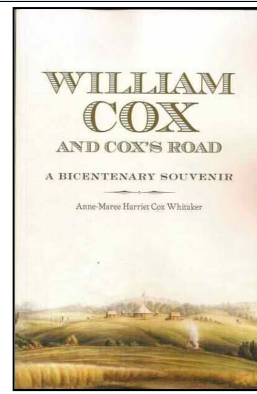
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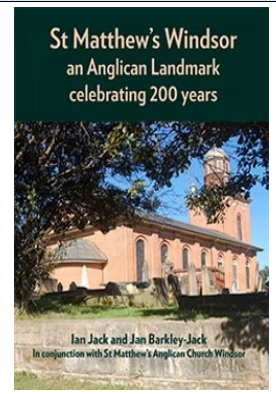
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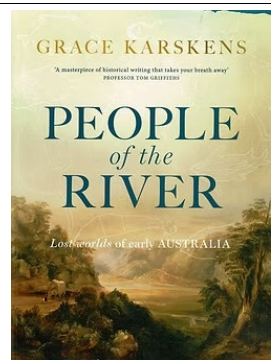
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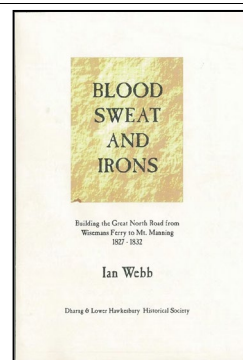
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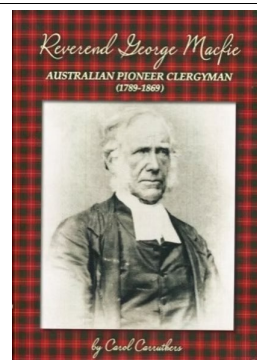
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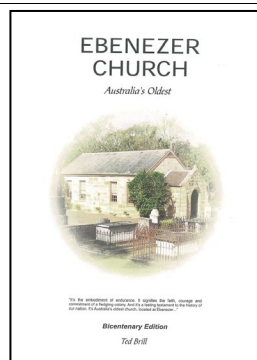
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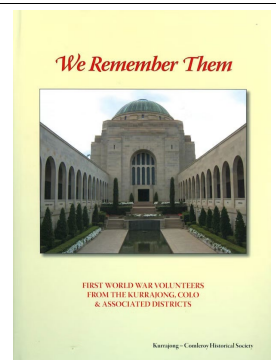
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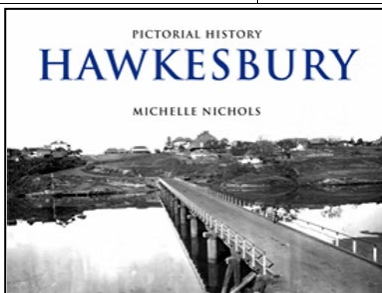
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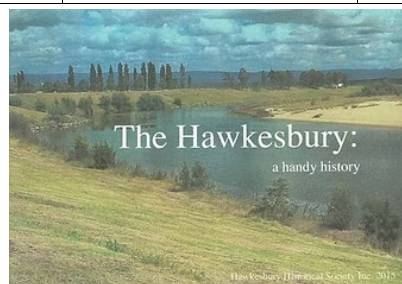
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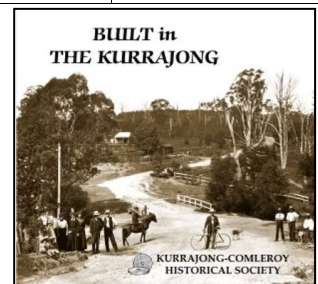
\$35



\$25



\$7



\$20

The above titles are just some of the books currently on offer in the Bookshop.
Further titles will be included in future issues of this newsletter.

Please visit the Society's Bookshop in the Museum or check out what's available online at:
www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org

Happy Reading!