

Hawkesbury Historical Society

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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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: Tyler Dehn

Jnr Vice President: Cheryl Ballantyne

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

Ted Brill, 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

2026 MEETINGS

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 INC. TAKES NO
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OR THE
AUTHENTICITY OF ARTICLES OR ANY STATEMENTS
EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Hawkesbury Historical Society General Meeting &

Alan Aldrich Memorial

Saturday, 22 August 2026 – 2pm

to be held at

St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall

25 W Market Street, Richmond

Parking is available next door

Come along and celebrate the
momentous occasion of the Society's

70th Anniversary Celebration 1956 - 2026

Special Guests will include:

Mayor Les Sheather, Hawkesbury City Council
and Mrs Michelle Sheather

Wendy Sledge – Previous Mayor & HHS Patron

A series of short presentations will be given by:

Mayor Les Sheather

Wendy Sledge

Carol and Graham Edds

Michelle Nichols OAM

Peta Sharpley

Dr Cheryl Ballantyne

Judy Newland

Dr Jan Barkley-Jack

Followed by our

Birthday cake celebration!

Alan Aldrich Memorial



Hawkesbury Historical Society is proud to remember the outstanding achievements of Alan Aldrich and this year, with 2026 being the 70th Anniversary of the Hawkesbury Historical Society, it has been decided that the **celebrations** for this significant occasion replace the usual Alan Aldrich Memorial

Lecture, and instead **be dedicated to the memory of Alan Aldrich.**

Alan joined our Society in the 1990s and at that time volunteered to help with the refurbishment of displays in the Society's old Museum. The artefacts were solely housed in what is now known as 'Howe House' in Thompson Square, Windsor. His practical skills as a retired Design Draftsman were put to good use to modernise the Indigenous display near the entry. Alan remained a volunteer at the new Regional Museum when the care of our artefacts was handed to Hawkesbury City Council and then housed in the new purpose built adjunct to 'Howe House'.

Alan was a valued President of the Society when he held the role for three years from October 2010 to October 2013. He had long held interest in Australian History and loved to research. When he became President in October 2010, he organised small research group sessions at the Library.

Alan wrote articles for the various Newsletters and Journals and was a major contributor to our very first Journal in 2006, with an article entitled 'The Hawkesbury Museum and Information Centre', a piece which traced to the roots of the Hawkesbury Historical Society's setting up their Museum in 'Howe House' and its eventful journey through the 1960s. In our Journal's special bicentenary issue in 2010 when the district and the History and Heritage Societies marked the 200th anniversary of Lachlan Macquarie's governorship, Alan contributed several in-depth articles.

Alan married Ruth in 1969, and their daughter, Karen, was born in 1974, but Alan's life was dramatically changed just four years later when after a car accident, he found himself a paraplegic. As usual, Alan's view was to just get on with his life. He did additional TAFE courses in electronics, web design and IT. He was fiercely independent and he managed his own recovery and activities, including his mobility. It was important to Alan to stay active and one of Alan's greatest contributions to the Hawkesbury district then followed from his well-known advocacy for disabled access to all community facilities. Alan was Vice-Chair of the Hawkesbury City Council Access Committee where he kept the Council well-focussed on the important work of ensuring those with disabilities were catered for in Hawkesbury, carrying out the ongoing research of planned improvements personally.

Alan had a deep and caring nature and certainly many passions. Not only the Hawkesbury Historical Society, but the whole Hawkesbury district and beyond, were much the better for knowing Alan. Alan is definitely missed.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

August 2026

A big hello to all,

The Hawkesbury Historical Society Committee and others are extremely busy preparing for our 70th birthday party! It will be lots of fun, so I hope you have all marked the 22 August as a very special meeting for 2026 and are able to come and celebrate with us.

The cake is ordered, the slides are in hand, with special thanks to Rebecca McRae and Kim Alderton for their photo contributions, in addition to those from the 1970s and 1980s which I hold. We have very few photos relating to the period 1956 until 1973 when I joined, so if by any chance you miraculously have photos from that era- or special occasion photos from previous excursions etc.- please get them to me ASAP.

Mayor Les Sheather, and his wife Michelle, have accepted our invitation, and since Les was part of the HHS and HCC joint re-enactment of the 1989 200th anniversary of Governor Phillip rowing up the river, we look forward to his sharing memories of the event with us, as well as the pair cutting the cake.

Carol and Graham Edds have agreed to give a short insight into our connection with the Court House refurbishment; Wendy Sledge who was Mayor during the 1994 European 200 celebrations, which Michelle, Ted Books and I helped organise, and several others, including myself, will share our memories of many of the activities we have proudly held over the 70 years.

In addition, I am happy to announce that, thanks to Jan Readford's usual enthusiasm and talent, our new edition of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Journal is well underway, hopefully to be ready to launch in September 2026. It contains around 80 articles members wrote for the *Hawkesbury Gazette* newspaper several years ago, which are interesting biographies and other information which had not been previously published. As well, there is the section on 70 activities initiated by the Society over 70 years, well-illustrated with photos of our excursion groups, book launches and dinners. Many of those featured in the photos, and in the nine biographies of all the presidents we have had over the years, have passed on now, so it is good to keep them in our memory.

1956, our first year of existence, is a particularly interesting year generally in international and Australian history, and mostly one of hope; with the main events internationally being the Suez crisis, reminiscent of today's problems, the Hungarian Revolution, which I remember very well for my class in school a year or two later welcomed Hungarian refugees, and I became particularly friendly with one young girl. Film star Grace Kelly married Ranier, Prince of Monaco, the first Eurovision Song Competition was held in Switzerland, and the first interfaith dialogue between Christians, Jews and Muslims took place in Morocco. Moreover, the hard disk drive was invented by the IBM team in 1956.

Particularly in Australia, I remember that on September 16 that year, television commenced broadcasting! I remember this well, as my father instantly brought home a TV, which was so novel, that I think I was the first person I knew who had one in their living room. It was so new we would sit and look at the station identification patterns with great interest, waiting for the one or two stations broadcasting to begin, for 24-hour broadcasts were unthought of. The reason my father bought the television that year was because Australia was hosting the summer Olympics in Melbourne in November, marking the first games ever held in the southern hemisphere, and they were to be televised! I know of no other impulse buying of his, other than the TV- even our first car did not materialise until I was 14 years old.

My personal recollection of 1956 was Elvis Presley's rise and Doris Day's big hit of Que Sera, Sera. Most of you may not even know what song that was, I fear.

And most importantly Hawkesbury Historical Society was formed. See you at the party.

Dr Jan Barkley-Jack
President

CONTENTS

- ♦ Notice of August 2026 General Meeting, Alan Aldrich Memorial & 70th Anniversary Celebration1
- ♦ Alan Aldrich Memorial2
- ♦ Presidents Report.....2
- ♦ Getting to know Hawkesbury Historical Society Members: Cheryl Ballantyne.....3
- ♦ Tebbutts Observatory Event.....4
- ♦ Alexander Simpson of Wilberforce.....7
- ♦ Frank Vindin of the Australian Stock Bank Richmond..8
- ♦ The Public-Spirited Brinsley Hall..... 10
- ♦ New Digitising Space at Hawkesbury Library..... 15
- ♦ BOOKS - Hawkesbury Historical Society 16

Getting to know Hawkesbury Historical Society's Members

This new feature of our newsletter, introduced in our February 2026 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.

This month, it is Cheryl Ballantyne that we wish to feature.



Cheryl's interest in history started when her father first told her the story of her great grandfather, a child convict from Northern Ireland, who came to New South Wales on the *Captain Cook* in 1830. After receiving his ticket of leave he became a mounted policeman in the southern part of the colony. Cheryl has spent many hours researching his life in Australia and tracing his family history in County Armagh, including visiting cemeteries there in search of ancestors' graves.

Cheryl's adult life has been spent in Sydney, working in public education until 2015 and, over the last ten years, doing freelance work as an academic writer, editor and teacher. Cheryl lives at Wilberforce in a house that was built by Arthur Greentree, great grandson of one of the village's original settlers. In recent years, researching the history of the house and discovering more about its former inhabitants has become a particular passion.

The rich heritage of the Hawkesbury was one reason for Cheryl's move here in 2011 and she soon became involved in the campaign to save Thompson Square and the historic Windsor Bridge. In 2018, along with two others, Cheryl founded the Defenders of Thompson Square, a community group dedicated to promoting and protecting the heritage of Windsor. Over a number of years, the Defenders of Thompson Square and Hawkesbury Historical Society have developed a close and productive working relationship. Among their joint activities has been the presentation of bi-monthly tours of historic St Matthew's Anglican church, its belltower and cemetery, helping to share the area's rich history with the wider community.

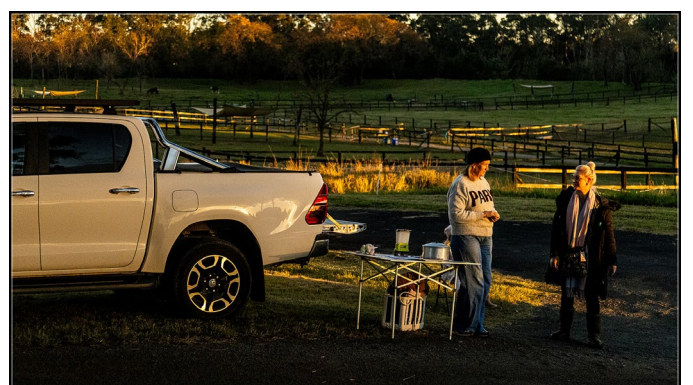
Cheryl been a member of Hawkesbury Historical Society for about three years and became Junior Vice President at the most recent Annual General Meeting. She is also the Deputy Chair of the National Trust Hawkesbury Branch Committee, the Chair of Defenders of Thompson Square, and a member of the Hawkesbury City Council Heritage Committee. Through these roles, Cheryl combines her longstanding interest in history with a commitment to preserving and sharing the remarkable history of the Hawkesbury.

TEBBUTTS OBSERVATORY EVENT

25 July 2026

Our Tebbutt's event once again was a tremendous success with a fun time had by all in attendance. The weather was chilly but clear for viewing. We had ten telescopes in action so there was plenty of opportunity to see the planets available on the night. John Tebbutt graciously gave tours of the Observatory buildings.

A huge thank you to all who were involved: Sean Flavin and his fellow astronomers from the Sydney Astronomy Group who manned ten telescopes on the night giving everyone plenty of opportunity to view the available planets and stars; Peta Sharpley who coordinated the bookings for 90 attendees (a record number of adults and children) plus the clean up at the Observatory beforehand; those members who participated in the cleanup (Neville Dehn, Rod Hartas, Gae and John Parmenter, Peta Sharpley, Keith Friend and John Tebbutt) on Thursday, 23 July 2026 prior to the event; our photographer Keith Friend; and to all those who worked as volunteers (Neville Dehn, Rod Hartas, Rebecca and Vaughan McRae, Peta Sharpley, Kathy Layton, Janice Hart, Jackie Cavallaro, Gae and John Parmenter, Ted and Sue Brill) on the evening, providing supper items including the urn, extra chairs, parking attendants, ticket collection and more.







Alexander Simpson of Wilberforce

By Cathy McHardy

After a voyage of four months, the ship *Parland* carrying almost 290 free passengers arrived in Sydney Cove on 3 October 1838. On board were Ebenezer Simpson, his wife Sarah and family of 5 children, who were assisted immigrants under a NSW government scheme which subsidised the fares of suitably qualified tradesmen and women deemed necessary for the future development of the colony.

Ebenezer and his eldest son Alexander, both curriers by trade, were engaged to work at the Parramatta tanning works operated by Mr. Wright. Wages were to be paid by the volume of work completed, but at least rations were included in the agreement. The specialist job of the currier was to apply the dressing, colouring and finishing processes to the tanned hide producing a smooth, even and supple fabric ready for manufacture. As soon as funds permitted, Ebenezer was able to embark upon a business in his own right establishing the firm of 'E Simpson Tanner and Currier' in Camden in about 1843.

Also sailing aboard the *Parland* was Jane Rebecca McCammon, a dressmaker from County Tyrone aged 17 years, who was engaged on reaching the colony by Mrs. Kemp of Campbelltown. The chance, on board meeting of Jane and twenty-one-year-old Alexander Simpson, prospered into a life-long marriage of over sixty years producing a large family of twelve children, all of whom survived into adulthood.

Initially working for his father at the Camden works, Alexander was ambitious and sought new opportunities for his family in other districts. In April 1861, the partnership between father and son was dissolved, and Alexander relocated his family to the Hawkesbury district. By 1864, he had opened a shop in George Road, Wilberforce near the corner of Hanover Street, and in June the same year, he took on the role of Wilberforce Postmaster operating the office from his shop

premises. This weatherboard, general store with large display windows, was later operated by C H Phillips and then by George Dunstan.

Alexander was actively involved in local affairs. In February 1877, together with other residents, he petitioned the NSW government for the provision of a public school for the town. Although his children were too old to attend by the time the school opened in 1880, he maintained his interest as secretary of the local school's board. Alexander was also interested in the politics of the day and was a supporter of Alexander Bowman in his bid for election to NSW parliament in 1880, moving a motion of support at a public meeting at Wilberforce.



General store operated by C H Phillips c. 1890s formerly by Alexander Simpson. Courtesy Hawkesbury Library Service.

The Simpsons were staunch members of the Wesleyan Church and actively participated in church community events such as tea meetings. Alexander also represented the district at the church conference and was a lay-preacher and superintendent of the Sunday-School. A special tea meeting was held in their honour prior to departing the Hawkesbury district.

After selling the shop and residence and handing over the post office duties in Wilberforce to his son, Louis Henry, Alexander and his wife Jane moved to the Casino area in northern NSW in 1890, where several of their sons had settled and established thriving businesses. The couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1900, at a large family gathering in Casino. Alexander passed away aged 87 years, in May 1903, and his wife Jane in 1912, aged 91. ■

Frank Vindin of the Australian Joint Stock Bank Richmond

By Cathy McHardy

Newcomer to the town of Richmond, Frank Vindin was appointed to open a new branch of the Australian Joint Stock (AJS) Bank in 1888. In the days when bank managers were held in high esteem by the community they served, Vindin soon became immersed in the social and business fabric of the town where he hoped to raise and educate his family. He involved himself in numerous community organisations including the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association, Richmond School of Arts, and Hawkesbury Benevolent Society, and his popularity crossed boundaries of class and denomination.

Francis James Vindin born in West Maitland NSW, was a son of George Vindin, a partner in the large West Maitland merchant and flour milling business Solomon, Vindin & Company. His mother, Emma Vindin, had a strong Hawkesbury connection, being the daughter of early Hawkesbury settler Benjamin Singleton who built several water-powered grain mills, first on Wheeney Creek near Kurrajong and later in the Wisemans Ferry area. Vindin was educated in West Maitland and commenced his working life in the local AJS Bank. Soon after his marriage in 1888 to Charlotte Morrice (nee Kemp) he was transferred to Richmond.



Eltham, 317 Windsor Street Richmond.
Photo: Cathy McHardy, 2013.

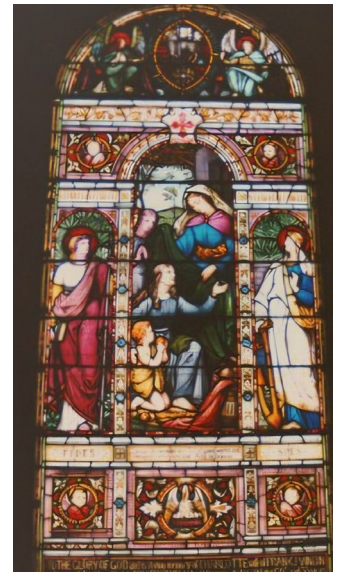
Charlotte Morrice, born 1863, was the youngest daughter of Rev Frederick Richard Kemp and Emma Gall who were married in Sydney in 1856. Charlotte was first married in Queanbeyan, NSW

in 1884 to James Osborne Morrice, whose family were early settlers in the Bowral District. Morrice died at Warooma near Marulan in April 1885.

The building, now known as 'Eltham', at 317 Windsor Street was purchased from Andrew Town for the purpose of setting up the new branch by Francis Adams, General Manager of the AJS Bank. Originally the Union Inn, operated by Thomas Eather, this building served many purposes over the years including a saddlery operated by George Guest and a doctor's surgery.

Under Vindin's successful management the bank soon outgrew its location and in 1892 the branch relocated to the former Post Office Hotel site on the corner of Windsor and West Markets Streets. In 1895, Frank Vindin purchased the old bank premises for £800. He commissioned alterations in keeping with a family home rather than commercial premises, such as the replacement of the two shop windows at the front by a fashionable bay window.

In contrast to his successful professional career, his private life was marred by tragedy. Charlotte suffered from poor health for many years, enduring several stillbirths as well as the loss of two infants before their second birthday. Unhappily, Charlotte died at the age of 33 years on 28 October 1897 and was buried in St Peter's Cemetery. One of the three stained glass windows in St Peter's Church in Windsor Street was dedicated in her memory in February 1899.



Charlotte Vindin's stained glass window in St. Peter's.
Photo M. Nichols, 1988

In her birthplace Port Macquarie, a memorial in Port Macquarie Historic Cemetery commemorates her death in Richmond. Inscribed on her father's headstone are the words 'To the memory of Charlotte, Beloved daughter of the Rev. Frederick and Emma Kemp, who died at Richmond NSW, who died 28 October 1897 aged 33 years'.

Only one child survived from the marriage, a daughter Maud Kemp, born in Richmond in 1895 who married Jack Sanderson in 1916 in Chatswood NSW. Maud lived with Jack for many years in Barwon Vale near Walgett, NSW and died in Dubbo aged 88 years in August 1983.

Frank Vindin remained in Richmond until 1900 when he was transferred to the bank's Albury branch.



Grave in St Peter's Cemetery Richmond.
Photo: Cathy McHardy, 2015.

He married Isabela Wyatt (a relation of James Morrice) in 1901, but after only six months of marriage he died suddenly at the age of 39 years, due to septicaemia following a surgical operation. His casket was conveyed by train back to the town that he loved. The funeral arrangements were made by Walter Carter Pty Ltd. The entry in the Funeral Book for Sunday 24 August 1901 noted the arrangements that were made:

‘Met Melbourne Express at Redfern and received lead and oak coffin containing the body of Mr. W.J. Vindin from Albury, removed it in our hearse to Rev. H.C. Vindin's, and at night after service took it into church (St. Stephens) and on Monday

morning 26th removed it to Redfern Station for Richmond Church of England Cemetery’.

He was buried alongside his first wife Charlotte and their children in St Peter's Cemetery, Windsor Street, Richmond.

References:

- Research and image courtesy of Stuart Cameron
- NSW Indexes to Births, Deaths & Marriages – www.bdm.nsw.gov.au
- Cape Banks Family History Society Inc – Index to Walter Carter Pty Ltd Funeral Books <http://capebanks.org.au/>
- Australian Cemeteries Index for Port Macquarie Historic Cemetery - <http://austcemindex.com/cemetery?cemid=387>
- *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* 18 Feb 1899 p 12 - Vindin window at St Peter's Church
- *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* 26 August 1901 – Obituary Frank Vindin
- Primary Application No. 7613 for 317 Windsor Street Richmond
- *Reminiscences of Richmond* – Sam Boughton
- Charlotte Vindin's stained glass window at Richmond http://hawkesburyheritage.blogspot.com.au/2013/07/charlotte-vindins-stained-glass-window_10.html



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Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 26 June 1925 (Trove)

Hawkesbury Library Service

The public-spirited Brinsley Hall

By Michelle Nichols

The Hawkesbury district has been represented in the NSW Parliament by some remarkable individuals over the years, with some serving lengthy terms. An integral part of the local district, what drove these gentlemen to represent the inhabitants of the Hawkesbury?



BRINSLEY HALL J.P.

from *Hawkesbury Advocate*, 22 Dec 1899 p. 5.

One notable representative was Brinsley Hall who represented as the Member of Hawkesbury between 1901 and 1917. He spent most of his life in the Hawkesbury and “practically his whole life in some activity designed for the [Hawkesbury] for its advancement, directly or indirectly.” Experienced in pastoral and agricultural pursuits, Brinsley was a respectable sportsman, having played both football and cricket, and in the past had even been an

amateur jockey.¹ As a young man he had travelled over most of Australia and later spent time in New Zealand but considered “the Hawkesbury second to no place in Australia”.²

Hall was descended from one of the pioneering families of the Hawkesbury, George and Mary Hall. George accompanied by his wife Mary Smith and four children, Elizabeth, George Smith, William and John on the ‘Coromandel’ in 1802 from England to the colony of NSW as free settlers. They joined the families of Johnston, Howe, Davison, Turnbull, Mein, Stubbs and Johnstone, and together journeyed to the opposite end of the world looking for a better life. In 1803, the families settled at Portland Head and together with members of seven other families in the area, constructed Ebenezer Church in 1809.

William Smith Hall, born in 1819, was the son of George Smith and Frances Grono, grandson of pioneers George and Mary. William was educated at the school which operated from Ebenezer Church and then managed several properties out west, on behalf of two of his uncles. He married Elizabeth Fleming, his first cousin, in Singleton in 1848 and had eight children including Brinsley who was born 26 October 1861³ on the Macdonald River near St Albans.

From the mid-1850s, William Smith Hall and his family resided in the Macdonald Valley. When he departed in 1874, he was given a send-off by the residents as a mark of respect.⁴ He was also a Magistrate for the district serving the community for over a decade. In his final years, William resided at ‘Bungool’ a residence he constructed on the family property at Cattai. When he died in

¹ BRINSLEY HALL. (1899, December 22). *Hawkesbury Advocate*, p. 5. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66368096>

² DINNER TO MR JCL FITZPATRICK (1900, February 10). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, p. 9. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85855674>

³ [NSW BDM birth ref 8662/1861; The Colony Over – Halled. p. 153]

⁴ CENTRAL MACDONALD. (1874, April 18). *Australian, Windsor, Richmond & Hawkesbury Advertiser* p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article70660224>

1894, his coffin was taken by river to Ebenezer Church followed by a flotilla of boats, one of the largest seen on the river.⁵

After the years living on the Macdonald, the family moved to Windsor, and William's fourth son Brinsley, received his education at the Windsor Grammar school and was recorded as an industrious student. After leaving school, Brinsley worked on various rural properties not only in NSW but also in Victoria and Queensland. In due course, he ended up in Wee Waa, a small rural town located on the Namoi Riverina in the New England district. Brinsley and his three brothers inherited shares in a Sydney hotel from their Uncle William. The two older brothers sold their shares to Brinsley and Norman, while Henry and Rowland, married sisters Emily and Susan McFarlane, then both selected land in the Wee Waa district and eventually became large landowners. With an interest in horses, Brinsley became involved in thoroughbreds. He advertised in the newspapers in 1882 that the noted thoroughbred horse "The Barb" was standing at the Wee Waa property of his brother Henry, known as Lilburndale. Only a limited number of mares were to be served at £5 per mare. When Brinsley and Norman eventually sold their shares in the Sydney hotel, they made over £40,000.⁶

Brinsley remained in the country as a grazier and was living there when he married. On 28 July 1885, he married Anicus Kate Stewart Gordon in Windsor. Anicus was the daughter of George Augustus Gordon, the local Clerk of Petty Sessions. After their marriage, Brinsley and Anicus lived at Wee Waa, but returned to the Hawkesbury by the time their first son, Grantley was born in 1887. On his return to the district, Brinsley continued his interest in agriculture and all things horses.⁷ Brinsley also assisted with the management

of the Hall trust. His Gt Grandfather George had accrued large tracts of land and livestock all over NSW and these were amalgamated into a complex family trust, which was supposed to expire in the 1850s. However, it took over 30 years for the trust to officially wind up, some having to be resolved in court.

Civic minded, Brinsley was appointed as a Justice of the Peace for the Windsor district in 1890. This position permitted him to sit in court and resolve petty crimes and minor civil matters. In 1898, he was one of four candidates nominated for the Hawkesbury Electoral District. Hall, the Opposition candidate, was defeated and William Morgan was re-elected for another term⁸ serving until 1901. Brinsley Hall was eventually elected in 1901 and a large crowd of his supporters "*celebrated their victory by having a 'bullock roast' at North Richmond.*"⁹ His term finished in February 1917, and although he re-contested the seat, he was soundly beaten by the Liberal candidate, Robert Bruce Walker in 1917. When the outcome was announced at the Windsor Court House, Hall spoke in his speech of his indignity and disappointment over the loss.¹⁰ Whilst in office, Windsor Council named a reserve in Pitt Town, Brinsley Park.

Between 1901 and 1912, Brinsley and his family resided in the property in Bridge Street, Windsor which had originally been constructed in the 1850s by Dr Joshua Dowe. The impressive two-storeyed building was also a girl's private school and later became Windsor Grammar School. During the time the Hall's lived in the building, it became known as Lilburndale, the same name given to the two-storeyed house by George Smith Hall in 1829. Lilburn was located in Northumberland and was in fact the name of

⁵ Obituary. (1894, August 4). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, p. 6. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66444398>

⁶ Over – Halling the Colony : George Hall pioneer. p. 149

⁷ OBITUARY. (1940, May 17). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, p. 11. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86065890>

⁸ The Election. (1898, July 23). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66438456>

⁹ THE EARLY DAYS. (1938, April 18). *Maitland Daily Mercury*, p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article131260375>

¹⁰ declaring the poll. (1917, April 20). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85881463>

the place where Mary Hall's parents resided. Mary's sister, Margaret cared for George Smith Hall, born in 1795 at Lilburn, while his parents and siblings lived in London. She reared George from a babe to his Australian departure in 1802. A Wee Waa property owned by Henry, Brinsley's brother, was also known as Lilburndale.

Due to his avid interest in agriculture, it was no wonder Brinsley was a member of the Hawkesbury District Agriculture Association, which was established in the late 1870s. As a young man, he also exhibited in the Show and had a special interest in tandem teams which were popular before cars. He also served a term as president between 1902 and 1904.¹¹ On several occasions, when he was the local representative, Hall officially opened the Hawkesbury Show.¹²

With his "inherent love of horseflesh" Brinsley was a member of the Hawkesbury Race Club from the time he was a young man.¹³ He was the Secretary for several years and was still filling the post at the time of his death.¹⁴ He had a keen interest in horse racing and was even known to race on occasions. He raced 'Quiver' in Melbourne, who went on to become a major thoroughbred broodmare.

The Hawkesbury Squadron of the NSW Lancers was formed around the time of the Boer War, with a half squadron at Windsor and Richmond. Captain Brinsley Hall and Captain R. B. Walker were in charge of Windsor, and in 1903, the Lancers became known as the Australian Light Horse. Representatives from mounted troops participated in the inaugural Prince of Wales Cup in 1906, and was won by the Hawkesbury (4th) Squadron led by Captain Brinsley Hall. The extraordinary trophy has 15kgs of silver and is over a metre wide. It is

no longer contested and is housed in a museum in Puckapunyal.¹⁵



The Hall family moved to 'Glenroy' in 1912, the splendid property (pictured above) built by Richard Cobcroft in South Windsor. Richard Cobcroft had died in 1900 and when his wife later moved to Strathfield, the property was tenanted to several occupants, including Brinsley. They remained there until the late-1930s.¹⁶

In the last few years before Brinsley's death, the couple lived at Clarendon with their unmarried daughter, Dulcie.

A dedicated supporter of the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society and Hospital, Brinsley was instrumental in getting an Act passed in 1903 which enabled the Society to sell their assets if required.¹⁷ The years following, the Society disposed a number of large properties which allowed the Society to invest in improvements at the hospital, including the large-scale renovations which were completed in 1911.

¹⁵ Prince of Wales cup <http://www.lighthorse.org.au/resources/military-stories-misc/the-prince-of-wales-cup>

¹⁶ (1912, April 13). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85847192>; The Scots Concert. (1912, September 21). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, p. 12. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85850821>; OBITUARY. (1925, September 4). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85900202>; PERSONAL. (1933, February 3). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86051041>
¹⁷ (1903, September 26). *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, p. 14. Retrieved from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86219040>

¹¹ (1940, May 17). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, p. 11. Retrieved, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86065890>

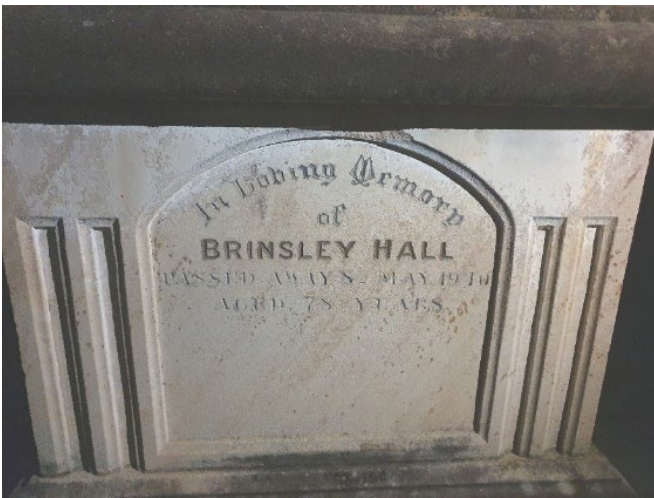
¹² Hawkesbury on Show p. 74

¹³ OBITUARY. (1940, May 17). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, p. 11. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86065890>

¹⁴ Ibid.



Vault at Ebenezer Cemetery.
Photo: M. Nichols.



Vault at Ebenezer Cemetery.
Photo: M. Nichols.

On the 8 May 1940, the public-spirited Brinsley Hall passed away in his 79th year, after a short illness in St. Luke's Hospital, Darlington. As an active member of the Lodge for many years, he was given a Masonic service, and many of the local brethren attended his funeral. Brinsley Hall was cremated at Rookwood Crematorium, and his ashes were interred in the family vault at Ebenezer Cemetery.

Anicus Hall lived to the ripe age of 89, passing away on the 10 January 1954. She too was cremated at Rookwood and interred at Ebenezer with husband, Brinsley.

OBITUARY

MR. BRINSLEY HALL

THERE are few in any community who attain such wide esteem, through pure intrinsic worth and unselfish service to their fellow men, that their passing becomes something greater than a private sorrow to family and friends, sufficient to be shared by the whole community, but such a one was the late Mr. Brinsley Hall, of Clarendon, whose long and useful life, as briefly mentioned in our last issue, drew to a peaceful close at St. Luke's Hospital, Darlington, on Wednesday morning of last week, after a brief illness, in his 79th year.

Of that select little band of public-spirited men to be found in every community, upon whom much of its progress depends and whose services are often given the most scant recognition; who are sometimes rebuffed and decried by the very people they desire most to help, but are impelled by their sense of obligation as citizens to continue giving up much of their spare time and pleasures enjoyed by others, in order to give of the service which they conceive as their duty, the late Mr. Hall has left his mark on the history of this district, and set an example which will serve as an inspiration to others who follow in his footsteps. Quiet and unassuming in all things, and gentlemanly in his dealings with others, he made lifelong friends in every walk of life, and there were few who enjoyed a more general respect which extended far beyond the bounds of this district. A native of the district, he spent practically his whole life in some activity designed for its advancement, directly or indirectly. He was one of its sons of whose being the Hawkesbury may ever be proud, and, though he is no longer in our midst, his memory shall endure so long as one representative of the generation in which he lived and had his being remains to testify to his kindness and the quality of his friendship.

Born in the Macdonald River district, deceased was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Hall, and came from early pioneering stock who were closely associated with the earliest history of the river districts. In 1885 he was married at St. Matthew's Church of England, Windsor, to Miss Anicus Gordon, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Gordon (then resident at Windsor, where the late Mr. Gordon was Clerk of Petty Sessions, and was later Police Magistrate at Deniliquin). After their marriage the couple went to live at Wee Waa for a short period, then returned to Windsor, where they had resided ever since. On his return to Windsor deceased again interested himself in agricultural pursuits—an interest which he retained throughout his life—and also assisted, through the greater portion of the 'nineties, in the management of the Hall Estates.

In 1901 the late Mr. Hall entered Parliament as representative of the Hawkesbury, and held that honored position until 1917. An indication of his capacity and the trust which his colleagues in the House reposed in him is given by the fact that for several years of that term he was a member of the Public Works Committee. He proved at all times an able representative of his constituency, holding definite views and possessing the courage to voice them, and the Hawkesbury owed much to his advocacy of its interests during that period.

His interest in agriculture and its institutions found particular outlet in his service to the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association, of which he was President for a term, and remained a member up to the time of his death. In addition he was in earlier years a constant show exhibitor, specialising particularly in tandem teams, and his exhibits in this section each year came to be one of the features of the local show in the days before motor transport spelt the decline of horse transport.

The late Mr. Hall's inherent love of horse-flesh also found expression in his almost lifelong association with the Hawkesbury Race Club. He had been a member of that body since his early youth, and there was none more closely associated with its history and development. Some years ago he was appointed secretary of the club, which position he held at the time of his death, and the manner in which he discharged his duties in that capacity had earned him the respect and appreciation of the whole sporting fraternity with whom he regularly came in contact. He was a member of Tattersall's Club, and at one time raced a noted performer, the Quiver, on lease, winning several important engagements with her in Melbourne.

OBITUARY

Windsor & Richmond Gazette
(1940, May 17). p. 11.

Retrieved from

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86065890>

BE SURE NOT TO MISS

the Society's

70th Anniversary Celebrations

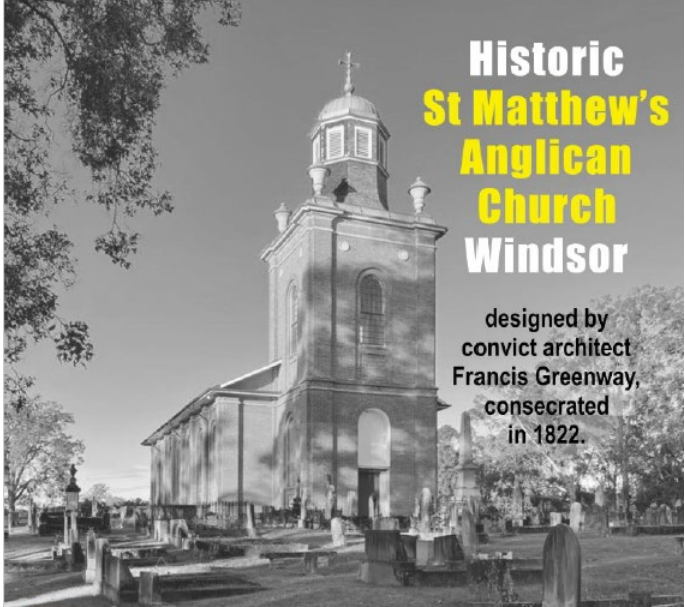
to be held

Saturday, 22 August 2026

at

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

Parking is available next door



**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.

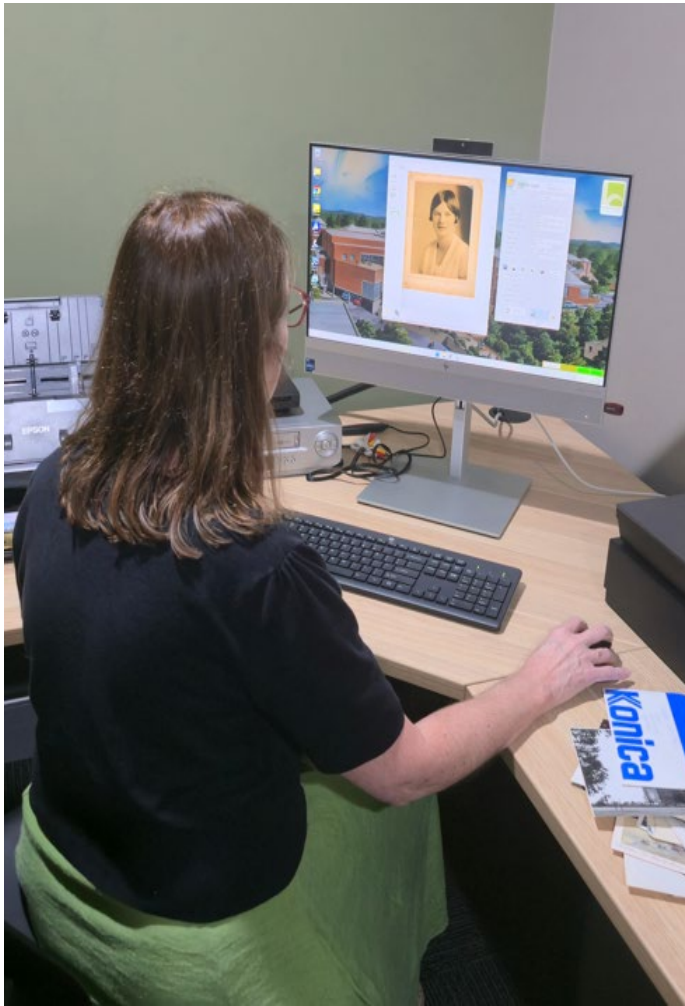
Mobility:

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

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?

Hawkesbury Library Service's new technology hub, with digitising equipment, is available to use at the Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor.

The Digitisation Studio is 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

Mr Tebbutt, F.R.A.S., has kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall during the recent storm, as recorded at Windsor Observatory:—July 18, 9h. a.m., 2 497 inches; July 19, 9h. a.m., 2 876 inches; July 20, 9h. a.m., 0 595 inches. Total, 5 968 inches.

Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 23 July 1910 (Trove)
 Hawkesbury Library Service



Interested in writing about your Hawkesbury ancestor?

Do you have a Hawkesbury ancestor? Would you like to include a short story about them in the Hawkesbury Historical Society newsletter? Then we would like to hear from you. Your story needs only to be around one page. The inclusion of a photograph will enhance your story, so a photograph of your ancestor, a wedding photograph, family grave or even the house they lived in with your story will be great. Perhaps you have some hidden away story about the Hawkesbury, or you know a friend who would really like to share their history or story.

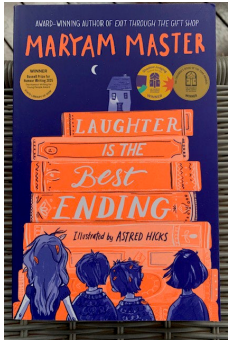
If so, please forward your story and information including photographs, addressed to the Editor, Jan Readford, to either jan54@bigpond.com or post them to: The Secretary, PO Box 293, Windsor NSW 2756.

BOOKS

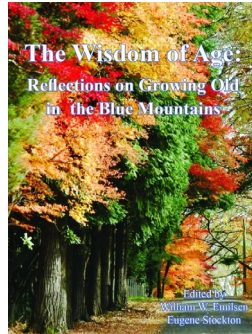
Hawkesbury Historical Society

The Hawkesbury Historical Society has an interesting variety of books for sale. There is an emphasis on people in earlier times in the Hawkesbury and nearby Nepean and Blue Mountains areas.

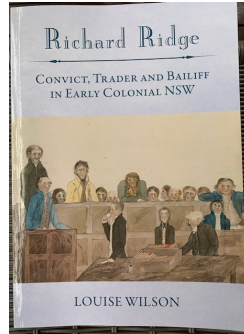
See a preview via the links for the following selections.



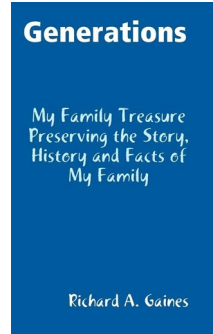
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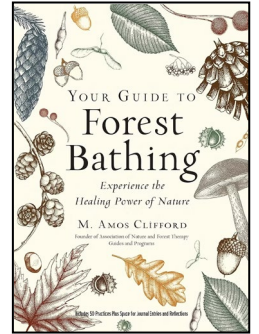
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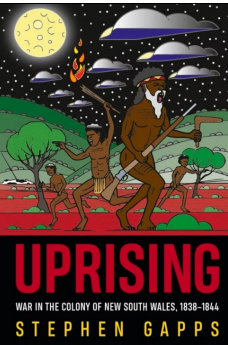
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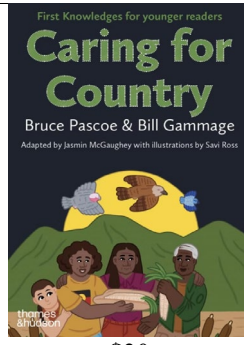
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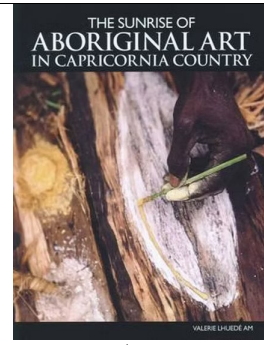
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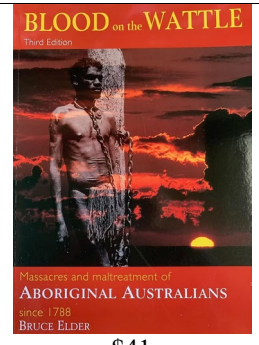
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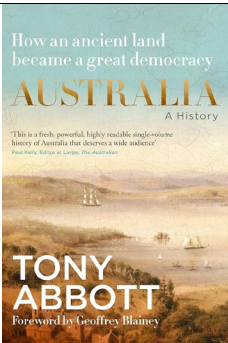
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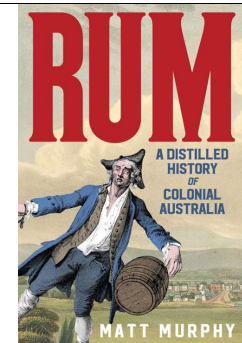
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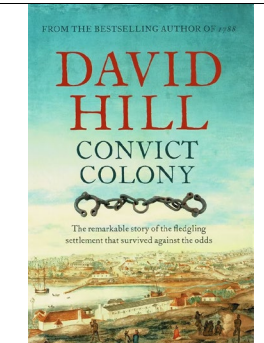
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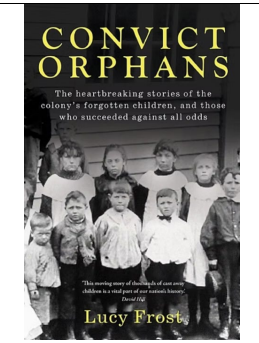
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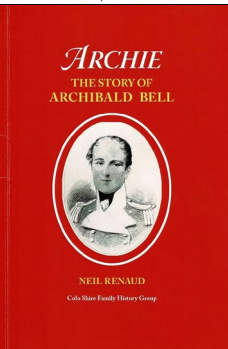
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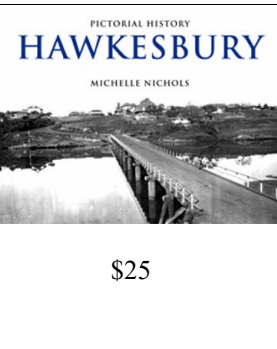
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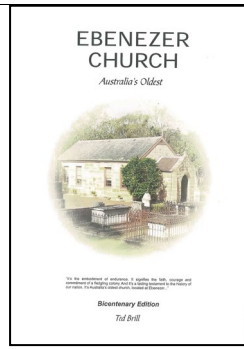
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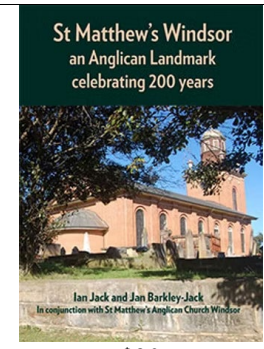
\$25



\$25



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\$30



\$45

Please visit the Society's Bookshop in the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, 8 Baker Street, Windsor or online at: www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org

Happy Reading!