

Hawkesbury Historical Society Newsletter

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Address: The Secretary PO Box 293, Windsor NSW 2756

T: 02 4578 2443 **E:** secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com

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

Meetings: 4th Thursday, alternate months, 7.30pm-10pm

Hugh Williams Room at the Museum in Baker Street, Windsor

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

Patron: Ted Books

Office Bearers 2018/2019:

President: Ian Jack

Snr Vice President: Ted Brill Jnr Vice President: Jan Barkley-Jack

Secretary: Neville Dehn Treasurer: Heather Gillard

Public Officer: Neville Dehn Social Co-ordinator: [Vacant]

Publicity Officer: [Vacant]

Hon Curator HHS Collection: Carol Carruthers/ Rebecca Turnbull

Newsletter Editor: Jan Readford

Web Administrator: Dick Gillard

Bookshop Manager: Heather Gillard

Hon Auditor: [Vacant]

Committee members: Sean Flavin, Ellen Jordan, Rebecca Turnbull

HHS Collection Committee: Carol Carruthers, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Director – Kath von Witt, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Curator – Rebecca Turnbull

Publications Committee: Jan Barkley-Jack, Jan Readford and Ellen Jordan

MEETINGS

Saturday, 24 August 2019 – 2:00pm
Thursday, 24 October 2019 - 7:30pm **AGM**

Hugh Williams Room
HAWKESBURY REGIONAL MUSEUM
Baker Street, Windsor

CONTENTS

- ♦ Speakers: Kath von Witt and Alan Leek.....1
- ♦ Dates for the Calendar2
- ♦ 2019 Dr ReX Stubbs OAM Symposium2
- ♦ Arts Project Seeks Reflections on the River2
- ♦ The Copeland Village Settlement at Currency Creek.....4
- ♦ Riverstone War Memorial – Can you Help?.....8
- ♦ Ongoing Works of Ornamental Pond9
- ♦ Hawkesbury Heritage Study – Seeking Information10
- ♦ A Boy from Pitt Town11
- ♦ Did you know?.....12

General Meeting

of the Hawkesbury Historical Society

Saturday, 24 August 2019 – 2pm

Hugh Williams Room, Hawkesbury Regional Museum,
Baker Street, Windsor

Speaker: Kath von Witt

Topic: Museum Activities Update

Kath von Witt, the Hawkesbury Regional Museum and Gallery Director, will provide an update on the Museum's current activities and future plans.



and, in addition...

Speaker: Alan Leek

Topic: Whirlpool V C Committee



Alan Leek will present background information on Frederick Whirlpool V C, and provide an update on the Whirlpool Committee's activities

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

Saturday, 31 August 2019

2019 Rex Stubbs Symposium
See more information below.



Thursday, 24 October 2019

HHS Annual General Meeting
Speaker: Alex Pugh

MEDIA RELEASE

6 July 2019

ARTS PROJECT SEEKS REFLECTIONS ON THE RIVER

An exciting new arts project, "11 Stories from the River" would like to record your stories, experiences or knowledge about the Hawkesbury River in the Windsor area. Stories may be part of an innovative audio walk along the river at Windsor.

Devised by Hawkesbury based composer Oonagh Sherrard, the project has been funded by Create NSW to develop music, imagery and record stories inspired by the river.

"It's an opportunity to reflect on this mighty river, the geological heart of our area."

If you know of a story about the river you would like to tell, or one that you think needs telling, please email Oonagh at 11storiesfromtheriver@gmail.com or call on 0416 239 745. From May till August this year, a small recording booth (pictured) was sited in the Hawkesbury Regional Museum where the community were invited to leave recordings of their stories.

Stories recorded for the project will be held in the Local Oral History Collection at Hawkesbury Library. They may also be included in the downloadable story trail or an exhibition held at the Museum when the project is launched in 2020/21. School groups will also have input when stories are workshopped with students at Brewongle Environment Education Centre, Windsor Public School and Windsor High later in the year.

DR **2019 Rex Stubbs** OAM

COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY DAY

Saturday 31 August 2019

9.30am-3pm

Venue: Tebbutt Room, Deerubbin Centre,
300 George Street Windsor

This year's theme is 'Bringing the past to life'

Guest speakers are:

Megan Martin, Librarian, Head of Collections & Access at Sydney Living Museums *"Building a narrative from objects"*

Christine Yeats, Historian, Archivist & President, Royal Australian Historical Society *"Publishing tips for historical societies & groups"*

The free event will also include updates on:

- Spanish Influenza Project by Michelle Nichols & Neil Renaud
- Library, Museum and Gallery's new integrated online catalogue
- Your group's projects and activities – each group invited to give a 5 minute update

Light lunch is included.

Book your FREE tickets on Eventbrite.

RSVP by Monday 26 August 2019



About the Project:

The story trail will be freely downloadable along the public areas on the river from Yarramundi to Lower Portland, centred in Windsor. "It's about bringing people to the river and enhancing their experience culturally "Stories will be part of an evocative mix of music by Oonagh Sherrard and photos by Photographer Sarah Rhodes.

The project will draw on stories from local knowledge holders WSU Scientists Dr Ian Wright and Professor Basant Maheshwari, Darug custodians Leanne Watson and Erin Wilkins and Historians Jan Barkley-Jack and Professor Grace Karskens.

As a member of Hawkesbury Council's Enhancing the Arts Working Group, Oonagh has initiated the project as a means of delivering more arts projects into the local area.

"I've lived most of my life on the tributaries of the Hawkesbury, it's a great source of inspiration for me, and this project aims to reconnect people with the river and its stories"

Why 11 Stories? The number 11 comes from geomorphologist Luna Leopold's remarkable River meandering theory where in any river the wavelength from one curve to the next is known to be 11 times the channel width.



11 Stories From The River

A Deerubbin Hawkesbury River Story Trail

A public art project sharing cultural, historic & environmental stories, music & imagery reflecting on Deerubbin the Hawkesbury River around Windsor

Downloadable to your device on the riverbank at Windsor in 2020.

We'd love to hear your stories, knowledge or experiences about the river

Stories may be included in the Story Trail, Exhibition launch or Hawkesbury City Library's Oral History Collection.

Please contact Oonagh Sherrard at 11storiesfromtheriver@gmail.com

With support from Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Hawkesbury Historical Society, Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation, Hawkesbury Environment Network, WSU Sustainability, Hawkesbury City Library, Windsor Public School, Windsor High School & Brewongle Environmental Education Centre

www.facebook.com/deerubbinhawkesburyriverstorytrail

Supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW

To keep in touch with the project please connect with us at www.facebook.com/deerubbinhawkesburyriverstorytrail or contact Oonagh Sherrard: 11storiesfromtheriver@gmail.com

of New South Wales including Bega, Bungendore, Pitt Town and Wilberforce for the re-settlement of unemployed and disadvantaged individuals and families. The resumption of part of the Wilberforce Common was notified in the Government Gazette in 1893 (4). An area of 1900 acres bounded by the Singleton Road (at that time known as the road from Howes Creek to Wilberforce), Kurmond Road (then the Wilberforce to Richmond Road) and the Old East Kurrajong and Creek Ridge Roads (then the road from Bull Ridge to Windsor) was resumed (5).

The *NSW Government Gazette* also named the members of the Board of Control who would oversee the establishment and progress of the settlement. Among those chosen to be on the board were Francis Henry Wilson J.P.; Harris Adam Grey Curry J.P.; Robert Henry De Low; William Henry Capper; Charles James Saunders; Davis Miller; Alfred Salway and Henry Charles Taylor (6). It will be noted by those who have some familiarity with Hawkesbury history than none of those named seemed to have been drawn from the local community.

The topic of the unemployment problem which faced urban areas in the colony as well as suggested solutions such as labour settlements was much discussed in the newspapers of the day. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* wasted no time in reporting on the proposed settlements which were to be established in the Hawkesbury at both Pitt Town and Wilberforce. A public meeting was called in the Australian Hall at Wilberforce to discuss the question and if necessary protests would be made to the minister concerned objecting to the re-settling of unemployed people in the district (7).

Several of the men of Wilberforce including Mr. G. Nicholls spoke to the meeting voicing their concerns regarding the settlement of "people in poor circumstances upon the land". Mr Davies believed that "a very undesirable class would be introduced into the district and that fifty percent of them would commit depredations through the place". He considered that the young men of the district should be given the opportunity to take up the land if it was to be used at all. Mr. R. Greentree "objected to the common being made a dumping ground for loafers and bad characters".

Mr. Gordon spoke in defence of the scheme and its potential settlers saying that he "did not consider that a man, because he was without means, was bound to be a bad character". Mr. R. Buttsworth also felt that as he had been out of employment himself "he did not see why men who were in the same position should be called loafers and scoundrels". Motions to raise a deputation to confront the minister failed through want of support.

It was reported the following week (8) that although there were over sixty people in attendance very few were prepared to mount a formal protest against the scheme and the meeting erred on the side of those "many hundreds of honest and industrious men" who had found themselves to be "compulsorily idle". It was the feeling of the majority that it was the place of the more fortunate to support any provisions to improve the circumstances of those less fortunate than themselves.

Moreover newspapers of a wider readership such as the *Australian Town and Country Journal* had been sceptical about the success of such schemes citing problems such as unfair competition between settlers

who have benefited from government assistance and those who had not (9). The newspaper reported on 12 August 1893 that “the first contingent” for Wilberforce had left in July and consisted of fifteen men, three women and sixteen children and that the new settlers had been hard at work clearing their land.

The new settlers had reportedly been well treated in the district (10). They had arrived at the site with some “three or four tons of luggage” which was carted to the site by Mr. F. Linsley. Each settler provided £10 and subsidies of £15 for single men, £20 for married men £25 for men who were married with a family were provided by the government. Each settler also had two acres and a horse (11). The community was to be run along co-operative lines.

There was also much discussion in the local newspaper regarding the suitability of the land for farming practices. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* presented a negative summary of the agricultural quality of the chosen land for the settlement (12). It stated that around Currency Creek there was ‘some good land, mostly of a sandy nature’ but as the land was flood prone only “catch” (sic) crops were suitable for cultivation. Higher land according to the report was suitable for fruit growing while it would be possible for garden crops to be grown on some patches of land the pasture was poor and scanty and therefore not suitable for livestock.

Mr. John Lines had been elected as the leader of the settlement by its inhabitants. He was described as “a fine specimen of a working man, and evidently one of education and energy. The business-like way in which he bustled round with his mates indicated the fact that they had come to stay.

The men would do credit to any district, and should be heartily welcomed” (13). This accolade was a far cry from the hordes of “loafers and bad characters” which were expected by some in the local community. Along with Charles Rhodes, Lines was later appointed to the Board of Control for the village.

Many positive comments regarding the inhabitants of the Copeland Village were published in the local press of the time, however concerns such as the long term viability of the this settlement and that of Pitt Town were also prevalent. One correspondent attributed the hitherto success of the venture to the “absence of public houses” saying that a “pub”, “invariably introduces elements of discord, idle dissipation and domestic unhappiness”. This comment was attributed under the pseudonym of “Watchman” (14). The inhabitants of the village were, in the main, sober, hard working and industrious and many were members of the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army Hall at Currency Creek was completed on 14 September 1915 at a cost of about £100 and was located on the corner of Spinks Road and Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road). The building, an outpost of the Windsor Corps was designed to hold fifty people and measured about 25 x 16 x 12 feet. The trustees of the Currency Creek outpost were Mr. E. P. S. Kingham, Mr. J. Lines, Mr. E. Fry with Mr. A. H. Clements (Secretary). According to Salvation Army records, the hall was in use until 1962 (15).

In July 1893, the original Board of Control was dissolved by the Department of Lands and new members were appointed with representatives from the local

community and from amongst the settlers themselves. The new board included Bernard Conlon J.P., George Nicholls, Stephen John Dunston (senr) J.P., George S Greenwell, L. H. Simpson, John Ross and Henry Beecroft. Representatives from the labour settlement included John Lines, Charles Rhodes, Alfred Gilbert, William McMillan and William Moreland all of whom had taken up residence at the settlement (16).

Less than two years after families took up land at the Copeland Village and at Pitt Town there were reports in the newspapers of the time that the settlements had proved to be a failure. In 1895, the *Daily Telegraph* reported that the Minister for Lands, Mr. Carruthers accompanied by the local member William Morgan had inspected the Wilberforce Settlement and found very few settlers in the vicinity (17). The explanation given was that the location of the farms around the settlement was very scattered.

Mr Carruthers was not impressed with the quality of the soil at either settlement and it was reported the following day that the minister had stated that a mistake had been made to select these areas of land for labour settlements (18). There was much criticism in the newspapers of the time regarding the rationale behind the establishment of the labour settlements, the quality of land resumed and the calibre of the chosen settlers. No further settlements were established in the Hawkesbury area but others were established in other parts of New South Wales until the act was repealed in 1902.

The NSW Crown Lands Acts of 1895 established several new types of land tenure including homestead selection. As a result of this act much of the land set aside for the Wilberforce Labour Settlement was designated as a homestead selection area. Under the

terms of the act, homestead selection portions could be occupied by paying an annual rental of 1.25% of the capital value of the block which increased to 2.5% after the first six years of occupation (19). In 1917, legislation was passed by the New South Wales Government to enable those occupying land under the former Labour Settlement Scheme to convert the tenure to homestead selection, then into conditional purchases and therefore freehold under later Crowns Lands Acts (20).

Many of the families who had taken up the opportunity provided by the labour settlement scheme stayed on at Currency Creek and the community grew and developed, successfully petitioning the government for the provision of facilities and services such as a public school, post office and telephone service. By 1925, families such as Lines, Rhodes, Gregory, Edwards, Izzard, Smith, Hayes, Shepherd, Atkins, Case, Salt, Argent, Becroft, Popplewell, Fotheringham, Schmidlin, Rutter, Carr, Rissler, Fry, Tredoux, Cullen, Gordon, Geake, Hutchison, Greentree, Kingham, Mole and Jabour were well established in the area and their many descendants still live in the Hawkesbury District today (21). The social experiment which was the Copeland Village did not fail, for a strong and resilient community was forged from the assortment of individuals and families who chose to make Currency Creek their home in 1893.

References:

1. *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Available online:
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A030429b.htm>
2. *HRA Series 1 Vol V*. King to Hobart, 11 August 1804, pp. 91, 92.
3. H. Proudfoot. *The Hawkesbury: A structural history*. Hawkesbury City Council: Windsor, 1987. p. 69.
4. *NSW Government Gazette*. 21 July 1893, p 5641.

5. *Australian Town and Country Journal*. 19 August 1893.
6. *NSW Government Gazette*. 21 July 1893, p 5777.
7. *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 1 July 1893, p 4.
8. *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 8 July 1893, p 1.
9. *Australian Town and Country Journal*. 29 July 1893.
10. *Australian Town and Country Journal*. 12 August 1893
11. *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 29 July 1893, p 4.
12. *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 22 July 1893, p 4.
13. *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 5 August 1893, p 5.
14. *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 26 August 1893, p 10.
15. *Salvation Army Archives*
16. *NSW Government Gazette*. 13 October 1893.
17. *Daily Telegraph*. 11 January 1895.
18. *Daily Telegraph*. 12 January 1895.
19. *Directions to those desirous of availing themselves of the provisions of the homestead selection and settlement clauses of the Crown Lands Acts*. Department of Lands: Sydney, 1906.
20. *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 2 November 1917.
21. Parish of Wilberforce County of Cook, 6th Edn, 13 June 1925.



Do you know anyone who maybe researching these families and may be able to assist? Please contact the Society by email rivercenotaph@gmail.com by 10 September 2019.

WWII

George Frederick GRANGER

KOREA

Patrick GREEN

FIRST WORLD WAR

Cyrus CLOUT

Oroya FORSSBERG

Alfred Joseph OUVRIER

Robert RANKINE

John Thomas ROBBINS

William Eric SMITH

Norman WILSON

RIVERSTONE WAR MEMORIAL – CAN YOU HELP?

Riverstone War Memorial turns 100 this November and **Riverstone & District Historical Society** is researching the history of the monument as well as the names of the people recorded on it. It was unveiled on Saturday 8 November 1919 by Robert Bruce Walker M.L.A. [Photo right courtesy Riverstone & District Historical Society] The monument was designed and erected by George Cook from Kingsley and Co. monumental works in Windsor. The monument has been renovated several times with new additions including panels for World War 2 and Korea.

As part of the project the group are seeking photographs or video of the war memorial which stands in front of Riverstone Railway Station. What can you do? Please look through your photo collection and those of your parents and grandparents, even partial views of the monument will assist. They are also looking for photographs of the following men:



Often the men sent photos of themselves to family and friends. In this case a local, Pte Cruickshank was providing details of where people could write to him, as news from home was much valued.

Source: Rumery family collection.



Sunday, 18 August 2019



Ongoing works of ornamental pond

What was once a waterhole for the livestock of local farmers in the late 1800s is now an ornamental pond under restoration by Hawkesbury City Council. The works are being funded by a Heritage Capital Works grant of \$50,000 from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage as well as Council funding.

The current work on the ornamental pond at McQuade Park*, located on the corner of Hawkesbury Valley Way and George Street, Windsor, includes repairing the pond wall to its original shape.

The pond's shape and central island was designed by Peter Spooner in 1970 to commemorate the bicentenary celebrations of Captain Cook's voyage to Australia in 1770. This transformation of the swampy pond area to a hard edged freeform pond is indicative of the late response to modernism in park and garden design in Australia. It was this new design that saved the pond, the much loved nineteenth-century feature of the Park, from all attempts over the years to fill it in or to securely enclose it.

The project will also incorporate indigenous wetland plantings to improve the pond's water quality, the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Barry Calvert explained.

"This work will enhance the south western corner of the park with a passive recreational focus by planting additional shade trees, with the tree placements also creating visual connections to the pond," the Mayor said.

"Council's contractors are now working on the island wall, with the sandstone wall section set to commence this week, Councillor Calvert said.

"As part of the current pond works, the whole outer block wall of the pond has been rebuilt. The wall is now being core filled for structural integrity.

"A second bridge is also being installed and the pathway connection will soon be excavated and then concreted towards the end of the project," Councillor Calvert added.

The ornamental pond, with its water lilies and a small island in the centre with a pedestrian bridge, has remained a popular feature of the park. Since its creation, the pond has often been the backdrop for wedding and school formal photography while other community members frequently use the wider park area for picnics, fitness and recreation.

About the Park

As a green asset, the park offers a great deal of potential for the community as a freely accessible open space. The park itself is of State Heritage Significance because it is an outstanding and rare feature of Governor Macquarie's concept of a planned country

town in 1810. It is a rare example of the town planning of Governor Macquarie, as a surviving central urban reserve.

Since its creation in 1811, the culturally significant park has been used for sport, amenity and leisure, including cricket, football, bicycle races, tennis and even a parade ground for Windsor Volunteers and Richmond RAAF. Later on, a bowling club was formed from part of the park and, in 1938, a building for the Country Women's Association was placed on land that was originally part of the park.

The location of the park next to the church and cemetery reserve in 1811 still gives St Matthew's Anglican church, one of Australia's iconic religious buildings, a dignified and spacious setting, complementing the church's view over the farming flats to the north-west.

* Background to the name of McQuade/Windsor Park

Governor Macquarie called the reserve The Great Square in 1811. However, before Windsor Municipal Council was given formal ownership of the land, it decided to name the reserve McQuade Park. John McQuade was mayor of the municipality in 1872. He was an ambitious local magistrate, but his father had been a transportee, who as an emancipist had established an inn in Windsor close to the Square, on the corner of Tebbutt and George Streets. John himself had built a fine house, Auburn Villa, at Moses Street just across from the reserve. His brother, William McQuade senior, lived close by in the old William Cox house of Fairfield. On 6 June 1872, the Councillors voted to name the reserve after John McQuade and transmitted their decision to the Department of Lands, which still controlled the reserve. At the same time, the Council fenced the reserve for the first time in 1872, with a few seats for the public soon donated by individuals such as the mayor (Council Minute Book, 1872-1875, 45-46). The Council also established a Park Committee.

On 16 April 1873, the Council rescinded the motion of the previous June meeting and renamed the area Windsor Park. But the Department of Lands refused to accept this change and wrote to the Council saying that the name would remain McQuade Park. In August the Council debated the issue again and, by the casting vote of the new mayor (no friend of John McQuade), decided to abide by the name Windsor Park.

In 1874 the reserve was granted formally to the Council, while John McQuade was again mayor. On his casting vote, the rescission motion of August 1873 was itself rescinded. The Council restored the name McQuade Park and erected a signpost with the new name painted in gold letters. This was promptly vandalised and on 6 March 1878, when William Walker, the local solicitor and politician, was mayor, the Council voted to restore the name Windsor Park, so technically the name of the reserve is Windsor Park.

Since the land was now owned in freehold by the Council, the Department of Lands did not enter into the controversy (Council Minute Books, 1872-1875, 53, 98, 108-109, 203; 1875-1879, 277; Bowd, Macquarie Country, 178).

* Information from:

1. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and
2. The McQuade (Windsor) Park Conservation Management Plan



What was once a waterhole for livestock of local farmers in the late 1800s is now an ornamental pond under restoration by Hawkesbury City Council.

Hawkesbury Heritage Study – seeking information

Hawkesbury City Council has recently commenced preparation of a **Hawkesbury Heritage Study** which includes a review and update of the Heritage Inventory that was previously undertaken in 1988. The **Hawkesbury Heritage Study** is being undertaken to include a list of places and items valued by the community to protect for future generations. These places and items are evidence of the rich and unique history of the local government area. The project is funded by Council, with assistance through a grant from the **NSW Office of Environment & Heritage** via the **Heritage Near Me Program**.

Council would like to hear from you with your information, photos or other relevant documentation to help us connect the Hawkesbury community to its heritage.



Hawkesbury Heritage Study
Connecting the Community with its Heritage

**Help us capture the
Heritage of the
Hawkesbury**

- Aboriginal Heritage
- Early European Settlement
- Macquarie Towns
- Agricultural/Rural Heritage
- Post World War II

Details: www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or visit
<https://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/>

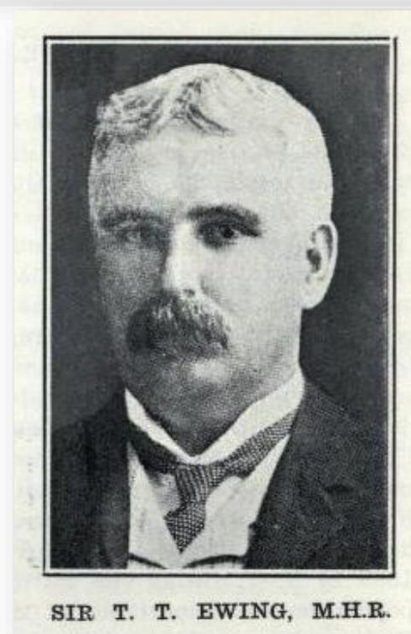
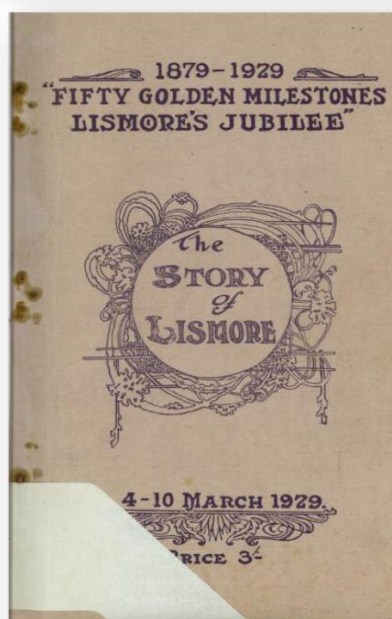



Follow this link to the online form <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/media/forms/hawkesbury-community-based-heritage-study>

A Boy from Pitt Town

Sir Thomas Thomson EWING. M.H.R.

Sir Thomas Thomson Ewing was a native of Pitt Town, Hawkesbury River, New South Wales, and came here as a young surveyor in 1880. He was elected to the State Assembly in 1885, and sat until 1901, when Federation was accomplished and he was elected to the first Federal Parliament. He held office under Mr. Alfred Deakin as Minister for Home Affairs and Defence 1906-1907, 1907-1908. He was knighted in 1908. He was possessed of great natural ability, was a splendid speaker, with personal gifts of no mean order. He came into public life at a most opportune time for us. The railway from Lismore to Murwillumbah is his monument. He was a great man, and to him this district owes much. He died on September 16th, 1920.



The above text, cover and picture were copied from the booklet
"The Story of Lismore" ~ 50 Yr Jubilee ~ March 1929 ~ Price 3 Shillings

Travelling west out of Casino, NSW, along the Bruxner Highway you come to Tabulum.
Crossing over the Clarence River you 'turn left' onto 'Plains Stations Road'.
Heading south you eventually arrive at "EWINGAR" overlooking the Clarence Valley ~ it equals The Grose Valley.
I wonder if our young man from The Hawkesbury, a surveyor, Thomas Ewing named it? I can find no evidence.
The area was originally a 2,500 acre cattle station, later divided into 100 acre lots (complete with feral cattle)
~ It's more than worth the drive ~

*created by Mrs Debra Wayland of Kurmond,
in the interest of preserving and encouraging, "The History of The Hawkesbury" and the wonderful people it continues to produce.
June 2018 - there is no copyright

I stumbled across this info last year, about Mr Ewing when researching my fraternal family lineage who were Pioneers on The Northern NSW Rivers...and thought it may be a worthwhile snippet 'preserving' and sharing with Hawkesbury stories perhaps.

As an aside...

On my maternal line, I am (one of many) 3rd Great Granddaughters of Richard White, b. Manchester, Eng, 1806 - d. Windsor, 27 Sept 1885, buried in St Matthews Anglican Windsor.

He transported on the vessel NORFOLK in 1825.

1828 Census advises Richard was assigned to a *Mr Johnston ~ at Portland Head as a Labourer.

Richard married his first wife Catherine Field in 1833. Catherine, along with her 2 sisters Margaret and Elizabeth, and their widowed mother Mary, were all 'residents' of Parramatta Womens Factory... at different times.

Their story is used in talks at The Factory, as an example of 'family reunions' - for want of a better descriptive, where families committed crimes to try and join their children, siblings, partners in the colony. It's not clear if they actually 'met up' as their dates at the factory are different.

Catherine died in childbirth to John Patrick in 1859, my 2nd Grt Grandfather.

Richard then re married in 1861 to Catherine Jane Perry - they had 5 sons. His 2nd wife Catherine Jane is buried with him... and strangely enough one of their daughters-in-law!

To date, I can find no evidence of where Catherine Field, his 1st wife (and my 3rd Grt Grandmother) is buried. ... we all have a story ;)

With kind regards

Debra Wayland

m: 0414 800 481

Did you know?

Windsor and Richmond Gazette: (NSW: 1888 – 1954) – Saturday, 26 September 1891

The Hawkesbury River

Mr. A. Bowman has supplied us with particulars regarding distances and depths on the Hawkesbury River from actual survey, commencing at Windsor Bridge and ending at Sackville Wharf, a distance of 19 miles :—

Windsor Bridge to Pitt Town Wharf	4¼ miles
Great Cattai Creek,	7½"
Little Cattai Creek,	10¼"
Sackville Wharf	19"

Vessels drawing 7ft 6in can reach within 10 miles of the Windsor Bridge. Vessels drawing 5 feet can reach within 5 miles. This if, of course, at extreme low water. Rise and Fall of Spring Tides.

Sackville	4'8
Great Cattai Creek	4'1
Pitt Town Wharf	4'0
Windsor	3'3

The greatest depth of water obtained between Sackville Wharf and Windsor is 100 feet at low water, and this is opposite the Sackville Church of England, or Mud Island (so-called). The residents on the River differ very much re these distances, and this should fix once and for ever the correct ones, as the information is obtained from a reliable source.

N.S.W. 4½ million loan floated. That knocks our neighbours out—for they could not get a miserable million covered. Land is booming at Wentworthville, purchases being made at £60 an acre. The Public School land cost the Government £100 an acre, and £280 an acre was asked for a six-acre block. A company has bought 58 acres near the station for the sum of £1900.

Christie Murray blithers on in the "Contemporary" until he ejects this:—"Australians endure many performances which would not be thought tolerable in England. "Mrs. Maud Ballington Booth, Chief of the Salvation Army Staff in America, recently performed the marriage ceremony between Staff Captain Ida Harris and Adjutant Winchell. This is the first time on record that a woman has been known to tie the nuptial knot.

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