

# Discover the Hawkesbury



Hawkesbury Visitor Information



# A WARM WELCOME

The Hawkesbury region is a hidden gem at Sydney's doorstep. It has beautiful rural vistas, historic towns, magnificent rivers and more national parks than any other part of Sydney.

For the visitor there is much to do – if you are just visiting for the day or have a long weekend – you will find lots of ideas to plan your time in this guide. From relaxing drives along quiet country roads, getting immersed in local history, hunting out fabulous farm produce or exploring the local markets and shops you will find it here.

Before you arrive check out [www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au](http://www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au) to see What's On in the area. There are always special events, festivals and free activities going on.

*Enjoy your visit!*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Hawkesbury is predominantly situated on Dharug Country and includes Darkinjung Country in the Colo Heights and St Albans areas.

Hawkesbury City Council recognises and acknowledges the Dharug and Darkinjung Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

We also recognise that Country is an all-encompassing term for Dharug and Darkinjung People containing complex ideas about law, place, custom, language, spiritual belief, cultural practice, family and identity.

Hawkesbury City Council pays respect to all Dharug and Darkinjung Elders past and present and acknowledges their continuing contribution to the life of this City and the region.

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### Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre

Ham Common (opposite the Richmond RAAF Base)  
328 Hawkesbury Valley Way, Richmond NSW 2753  
[www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au](http://www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au)  
Phone: (02) 4560 4620  
Email: [discover@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:discover@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



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FRONT COVER: Vale of Avoca Lookout, Grose Vale  
Photo Credit: Destination NSW

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# HAWKESBURY RIVER FACTS

The Hawkesbury River is approximately 120km long and begins at Yarramundi where the Nepean and Grose Rivers meet.

The Aboriginal name for the Hawkesbury River is Dyarubbin, which is believed to mean wide, deep water'.

Governor Phillip first explored the Hawkesbury in 1789.

The highest recorded flood was in June 1867 when the river rose 19 metres above its normal level at Windsor.

There are four free vehicular ferries along the river that connect local communities.

## DISTANCES TO WINDSOR

Sydney .... 57km

Parramatta .... 32km

Penrith .... 22km

Gosford .... 90km

Katoomba .... 62km

Lithgow .... 89km

Singleton .... 185km





# Discover the Hawkesbury

## FOUR IDEAS TO PLAN YOUR DAY

### Day 1

#### FOOTHILLS, FRUIT AND GARDENS

From Richmond, head west stopping at the quaint rural village of **Kurrajong** and enjoy a coffee at one of the many cafés.

Continue along Bells Line of Road, stopping at **Bellbird Lookout** at Kurrajong Heights for amazing views back to Sydney.

Drive through Bilpin, stopping at any of the orchards selling local produce. Many farms have pick-your-own fruit when it is in season. Local cider tastings are also on offer at **Bilpin Cider** and **Hillbilly Cider**. Pretty **Wildwood Garden** opens seasonally. Check our online 'What's On' event list for opening details.

At Mount Tomah, stop at the **Blue Mountains Botanic Garden** for stunning views and wander through the magnificent cold climate garden. Make sure you see the Wollemi pines here.

Continue west, turning off the road to **Mount Wilson**. In autumn be stunned as the leaves change colour and in spring be delighted at the flowers in bloom.







## Day 2

### RIVER SETTLERS AND CONVICTS

Visit **Hawkesbury Regional Museum** in Windsor for a fabulous overview of the area's river history.

Cross the Hawkesbury River at Windsor Bridge and head to Wilberforce, following Sackville Road and crossing the river again on the **Sackville Ferry**.

Continue via Maroota to the tiny village of **Wisemans Ferry** settled by Solomon Wiseman in the 1830s. Drop into historic Wisemans Ferry Hotel, established in 1827.

Cross the river at Wisemans Ferry and drive towards St Albans. Stretch your legs on one of Australia's heritage treasures – the **Great North Road Convict Trail**.

Drive to the village of **St Albans** surrounded by amazing wilderness. Drop into historic Settlers Arms Inn, established in 1836. It was used by the stagecoaches travelling between Sydney and Newcastle in the 19th century.





## Day 3

### EXPLORING THE PAST

Start at **Hawkesbury Regional Museum** in Windsor and learn about the area's rich history.

Cross the river at Windsor and head to Wilberforce then onto **Ebenezer Church**, Australia's oldest church built in 1809.

Fancy tasting a **local wine**? Historic Tizzana Winery, Jubilee Vineyard and Bull Ridge Estate (open on weekends) are just around the corner and produce award winning wines.

Visit the remarkable **Australiana Pioneer Village** and historic **Rose Cottage** in Wilberforce (open on Sundays). You will get a fascinating glimpse of how people lived and worked over 100 years ago.



Photo Credit: Destination NSW



## Day 4

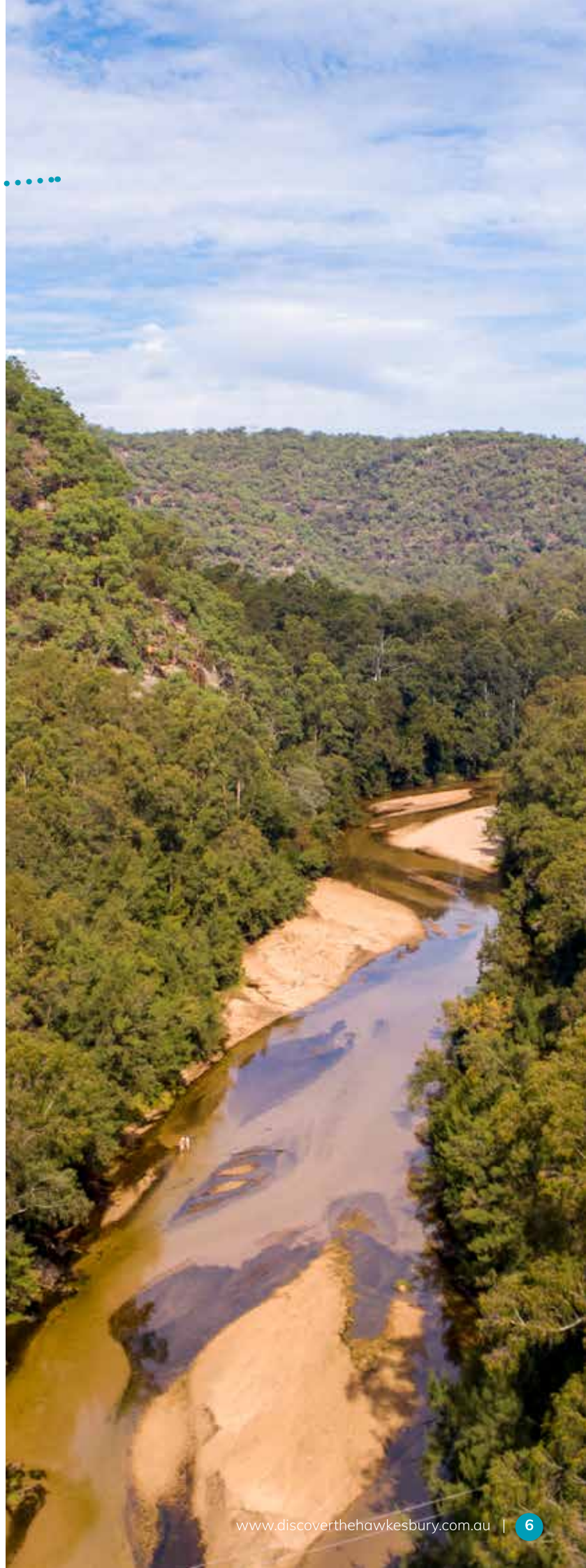
### WILD WOLLEMI

Fill up your car, take a picnic, grab a backpack and get adventurous! Head west over the Hawkesbury River following rural backroads to the remote **Wheeny Creek** camping and picnic area.

Follow the windy roads along the wild ridges of the Wollemi National Park, stopping at the **Upper Colo River** camping and picnic areas.

Kayak on the stunning sandy **Colo River**. The Colo River is 86km long and cuts through the heart of the Wollemi National Park. It is a true rugged wilderness with few roads and tracks.

Drive to Colo Heights and take a bushwalk along the **Bob Turners Track** to a remote river beach deep in the wilderness. It takes about 4 hours return to do the walk.



# DISCOVER OUR HERITAGE

Whether you are interested in Indigenous culture or the history of Australia's third oldest mainland European settlement, there are many ways to learn more. The Hawkesbury Regional Museum situated in Baker Street, Windsor (free entry, open Wednesday to Monday 10am-4pm) offers both a permanent and changing program of exhibitions focussing on the Hawkesbury region's people, places and events.

## Heritage Highlight Trails

Take a stroll back in time and immerse yourself in the heritage of our two largest towns. We have eight walks in Windsor and Richmond showcasing the architectural richness of these remarkable towns, declared by Governor Macquarie in 1810.

Ranging from 30 minutes to 3 hours, trail guides are available from the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre and Hawkesbury Regional Museum or for download from [www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/heritage](http://www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/heritage)



## 11 Stories From the River Dyarubbin

### 11 AUDIO WALKS BETWEEN YARRAMUNDI & SACKVILLE: LISTEN FROM YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Underscored by original music and guided by Dharug narrators, the audio walks share stories of the river's formation, Dyarubbin's Aboriginal people and culture, colonisation and its impact, floods and farming, mining, ecology, sustainability and dams; the river as playground, waterhole and Country to care for.

Scan the QR code or visit the website:  
[www.bit.ly/11stories2022](http://www.bit.ly/11stories2022)

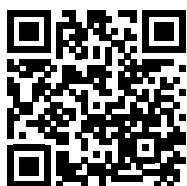






Photo Credit: Destination NSW



# DISCOVER OUR FOOD

Produce is the heart of the Hawkesbury, the region has supplied food to Aboriginal and European people for centuries. Orchards laden with fruit can be bought fresh at the farm door or from farmers' markets. Cider, honey, citrus, local preserves and vegetables full of flavour can be found in roadside stalls and taken home to enjoy with family and friends.

With fresh produce featuring so prominently it's no surprise that there is an excellent selection of restaurants, cafés and pubs in the Hawkesbury. Planning that special night out or just wanting casual, relaxed eating - you are guaranteed lots of choice. Discover a Hawkesbury venue that is perfect for you on our website [discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/taste](https://discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/taste)

Want to pick your own? Depending on the season there are opportunities to head onto farms and pick oranges, mandarins, apples, plums, peaches, tomatoes, berries and even chestnuts.

So what's in season and available right now? Looking for latest events, things to do and country style markets? Go to our comprehensive online event guide [discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/whats-on](https://discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/whats-on)



# DISCOVER OUR ARTISTS

The Hawkesbury is known for nurturing and inspiring artists and artisans and there are plenty of opportunities to visit galleries and meet them.

Following the Hawkesbury Artist and Artisans Trail is a great way to spend the weekend. Visit [www.haat.com.au](https://www.haat.com.au) for details.

A must see is the **Hawkesbury Regional Gallery**. Located in the Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor, it showcases work from regional, national and international artists. It offers a changing program of exhibitions and public programs for people of all ages (open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-4pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am-3pm. Free entry).





Photo Credit: Destination NSW



# DISCOVER OUR TOWNS

## Windsor

Windsor is a picturesque meeting place for both locals and visitors. It's the gateway to the Hawkesbury region and boasts Thompson Square, the oldest public square in Australia dating back to 1795. The square is surrounded by colonial Georgian buildings including Macquarie Arms Hotel, which was first licensed in 1815 and still provides refreshments for thirsty visitors today.

There is a pedestrian mall lined with historic buildings to explore, a regional museum and gallery to experience the heritage and culture of the region and on Sundays the Mall becomes home to a diverse mix of arts and crafts stallholders. Why not slow the pace right down and bring a picnic to have along the riverside either at Howe Park, Macquarie Park or Governor Phillip Park.

## Richmond

Heading west from Windsor through the avenue of mature London Plane trees you will discover the town of Richmond. Take the opportunity to relax in historic Richmond Park with a pavilion built in 1883-84 that serves as a grandstand for various sporting functions and events.

On Saturday mornings the park is home to the Richmond Good Food Market where you can sample what the local producers have to offer. There are cafes offering exceptional hospitality, stores enticing shoppers with decorator pieces, home-made handicrafts, as well as vintage and antique collectables.

And just a kilometre or so from Richmond are polo fields hosting world-class events attracting international competitions.



## Wilberforce

Wilberforce boasts a number of activities to suit families and all age groups. The Australiana Pioneer Village, set on 27 acres on the riverbank, is a historic collection of working buildings from our colonial past. See the blacksmith's sparks fly at work in the forge, eat freshly produced damper, drink billy tea, experience life and hands-on history in the working village. Listen to the bush musicians, take a horse and carriage ride or peruse specialty shops at leisure. When you visit the village, you'll see why a number of movies and TV series have been filmed here.

It is open on Sundays 10am-4pm and most Monday public holidays – entrance on Rose Street, Wilberforce.

## Ebenezer

Situated on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, Ebenezer, settled in 1803, is home to Australia's oldest church (1809) and school house (1810). The church, a popular place to visit, serves Devonshire tea and sells homemade jams. Adjacent to the church is a reserve offering the perfect opportunity to reflect on the tranquillity of the location.

The rich soils and ample water which attracted early settlers is also perfect for growing grapes. Tizzana Winery, established in 1887, has a magnificent sandstone building offering visions of Tuscany. Nearby Jubilee Vineyard Estate, originally a horse-powered mill, is also open to the public on weekends from noon.



Photo Credit: Destination NSW



## Kurrajong

Nestled in the rolling foothills of the Blue Mountains is one of the Hawkesbury's hidden treasures. Kurrajong instils a sense of timelessness and takes its name from 'Currijon', the local Aboriginal word for the string-making fibre from a species of tree found in this region.

Surrounded by farms dotted with grazing cattle and horses, passers-by will delight in the pastoral vistas leading to Kurrajong Village. Located just two minutes from the turn off on Bells Line of Road, it is the perfect location to take a break from your travels.

The quaint village has a main street lined with cafes, galleries and gift shops. It's a place popular with cyclists, car clubs, day trippers and people wanting to get away from the pressures of Sydney.



## Bilpin

Travel through the Blue Mountains on the scenic Bells Line of Road, first undertaken in 1823. Bilpin is renowned for its stone fruit and apples and when the harvest is in full swing you can pick your own.

This area of the mountain foothills also offers many opportunities to stop at cafés and fruit and vegetable stores selling seasonal fare including cider, apple pies, honey, jams and preserves. The fertile soil and climate that are perfect for fruit orchards are also ideal for gardens.

At Mount Tomah you will find the Blue Mountains Botanical Garden where you will discover a showcase of local and imported cool climate plants, surrounded by UNESCO World Heritage Area wilderness.



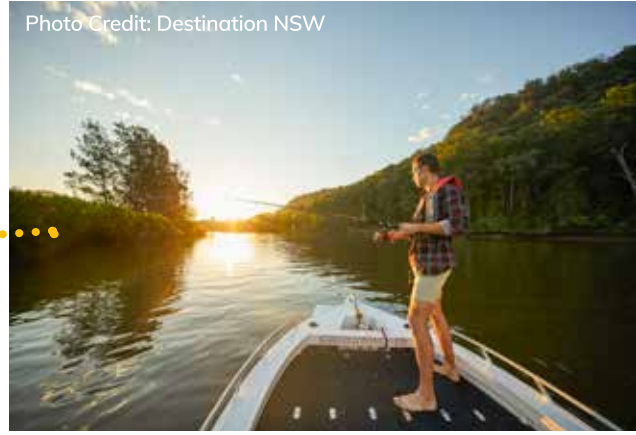


## Wisemans Ferry

Follow the winding road down to Wisemans Ferry and discover a charming and relaxed village with breathtaking river vistas. The village offers accommodation, places to eat and a gallery.

Take the opportunity to picnic along the banks of the river, or even hire a boat or kayak. Wisemans Ferry is the perfect place to catch a fish, meet up with friends and family or spend time on the river relaxing.

And while you are at Wisemans, make sure you cross the river on the ferry and check out the Great North Road Convict Trail built by convicts between 1826 and 1836. You can walk for 10 minutes or for 3 days! This road was the original route from Sydney to Newcastle.



## St Albans

About 30 minutes north of Wisemans Ferry you will come to the village of St Albans on the MacDonald River, known by the locals as 'The Forgotten Valley'. Surrounded by wilderness, it certainly gives you the feeling that nothing much has changed over the years.

The sense of history and natural beauty of the region makes St Albans the perfect destination. We recommend driving from Wisemans Ferry up Settlers Road and returning to Wisemans Ferry via St Albans Road – it's one of the prettiest drives in the area.

At certain times of the year, St Albans hosts top level mountain bike, horse endurance, folk festivals and markets.





Photo Credit: Destination NSW

# DISCOVER THE OUTDOORS

The Hawkesbury region boasts beautiful world heritage locations, impressive rivers and more national parks than any other area of Sydney. The Hawkesbury is cradled by four gigantic parks – the Blue Mountains National Park to the west, Yengo and Dharug National Parks to the north and the mighty Wollemi National Park to the north-west. These parks provide a stunning backdrop for walks and hikes.

Bushwalking takes you to unspoiled environments, allows you to connect with nature, enjoy crisp fresh air and the natural vistas.

Come and see the friendly team at the Hawkesbury Visitor Centre – they will help you get the most out of your visit. For sale in the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre you will find an extensive range of topographical maps for the area, plus locally written bushwalking guides to help you explore the region. The centre is open 7 days 9am-4pm.

## BEST LOOKOUTS IN THE HAWKESBURY

### VALE OF AVOCA LOOKOUT, GROSE VALE

Located at the end of Cabbage Tree Road this stunning, unfenced lookout gives visitors spectacular views into the Grose River wilderness.

### HAWKESBURY LOOKOUT, HAWKESBURY HEIGHTS

From Richmond turn into the Springwood Road at Agnes Banks and follow the road for 10km. After some tight bends the lookout is on the left.

### BELLBIRD LOOKOUT, KURRAJONG HEIGHTS

Located 7km west of Kurmond on the Bells Line of Road. The lookout gives extensive views over the Hawkesbury Valley and Sydney.

### STREETONS LOOKOUT, FREEMANS REACH

Located on the corner of Cliff Road and the Terrace this lookout sits high above the Hawkesbury River.

### HAWKINS LOOKOUT, WISEMANS FERRY

Located on the left hand side of the Old Northern Road, 8km past Maroota Public School, this lookout gives great views to Wisemans Ferry and the Hawkesbury.





# BILPIN'S APPLE PIE TRAIL

Bilpin's Apple Pie Trail brings together all that we love about this area. Famous for its apples and cool climate, Bilpin is a fruit lovers dream. What better way to sample the local produce than through a locally made hot apple pie. The trail heads west along the historic Bells Line of Road climbing to 600m above sea level, bringing together fresh farm produce, quirky local cafes, orchards and cider sheds.

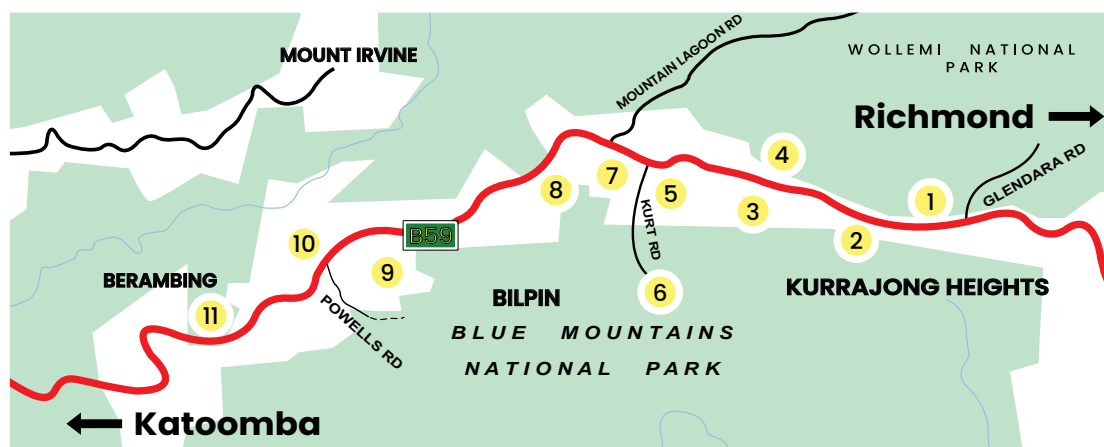
Bilpin is only a 35-minute drive from Richmond and just over an hour from Parramatta.

*Stay for the weekend!*

There is so much to explore in apple country, so get inspired in Bilpin. Stay a while and get all the up to date information to plan your trip at [discoverthehawkesbury.com.au](http://discoverthehawkesbury.com.au)



Photo Credit: Destination NSW



## HILLBILLY CIDER

2230 Bells Line of Road  
Bilpin 2758  
(02) 4567 0965  
[hillbillycider.com.au](http://hillbillycider.com.au)

Try their full range of locally made , internationally award-winning ciders, including ciders that are only available on site.

Chill out in the sunshine overlooking the orchard, plenty of grassed area for the kids to run around.

Freshly made wood fired pizzas available. Log fire inside for those cooler months.

Dogs welcome.

## BILPIN CIDER

2369 Bells Line of Road,  
Bilpin 2758  
1300 245 746  
[bilpincider.com](http://bilpincider.com)

Try 12 varieties including a large range of non-alcoholic cider. Each cider has its own distinct style and has been created to appeal to different tastes. On weekends, there is a great food offering which includes coffee, apple pies, burgers and a choice of picnic hampers (including quality cold cuts and premium cheeses). Visitors can stroll through the grounds and visit the friendly animals.

Dogs welcome.

Before your visit we recommend that you check with the opening hours of individual businesses.



# WAKE UP IN THE HAWKESBURY

When you stay in the Hawkesbury you'll always be welcomed warmly. From luxury accommodation, comfortable motels, houseboats, caravan parks, character filled B&Bs or tent sites beside the river - we have it all. Whatever your budget, you will find something that's right, and we have a comprehensive listing of places that accept your pets.

[www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/stay](http://www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/stay)

## Major Annual Events

- Savour the Flavour (Spring)
- Hawkesbury Canoe Classic (Spring)
- Clarendon Classic Machinery Truck & Hobby Show (Spring)
  - Australia Day on the Hawkesbury (Summer)
  - Light Up Windsor (Summer)
- Hawkesbury Agricultural Show (Autumn)
  - St Albans Folk Festival (Autumn)
  - All Holden Day (Winter)
  - Hawkesbury Fest (Winter)
- Winterfest Sydney Medieval Fair (Winter)

## What's On

There are always special events, festivals and free activities going on in the Hawkesbury.

From world class horse and polo events, farm open days, art and hobby shows you will always find something to do.

Check out

[www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au](http://www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au)  
to see 'What's On' in the area.

# MARKETS FOR ALL

## BILPIN MARKETS

Every Saturday, 10am-noon  
Bilpin District Hall, Bells Line of Road, Bilpin

## LIONS CLUB RICHMOND MARKETS

2nd Saturday of every month, 8am-1.30pm  
Hawkesbury Showground, Racecourse Road, Clarendon

## RICHMOND GOOD FOOD MARKET

Saturday mornings 8am-1pm  
Richmond Park, March Street, Richmond

## WINDSOR MALL CRAFT MARKETS

Every Sunday, 8.30am-4pm  
Windsor Mall between Baker & Fitzgerald St, Windsor

Shopping at our local country style markets offers a chance to buy unique handmade goods and fresh produce direct from artisans, producers and growers. Engaging with locals allows you to hear the stories behind their creations making each purchase more meaningful.

Go to [discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/whats-on](http://discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/whats-on) for more information on other specialty markets, fetes and fairs.



# WILD CAT CONSERVATION CENTRE

Established in 2016 under the leadership of Director Ben Britton, the Wild Cat Conservation Centre stands proudly in Wilberforce, as a pioneering force in understanding and protecting smaller wild cat species.

Just under an hour's journey northwest of Sydney, the wild cat centre is an oasis for conservation efforts focused on wild cats from around the globe. Notably, they proudly run the only conservation breeding program for Clouded Leopards and Cheetahs in Sydney.

Visitors to the centre can learn about their conservation breeding, rewilding programs and research efforts to conserve these smaller though enigmatic wild cat species. Joining them you become a vital part of the mission to safeguard these remarkable creatures!

Book a private tour. Every tour is fully guided and personalised! Walk on their savanna, the largest cheetah habitat in Australia! No noise, no crowds, just you and the wild cats, get closer than ever before! Or join the clouded leopards for a unique twilight experience!

This once in a lifetime experience provides the perfect opportunity for visitors to learn about conservation efforts and how to help protect the wild cats. \*age limits apply

For more information and online bookings:  
**[wildcatcentre.org.au](http://wildcatcentre.org.au)**



## *Get Involved*

The Wild Cat Centre is not government funded, they rely largely on donations, sponsorships and the support of the community.

The Wild Cat Conservation Foundation is a not for profit organisation and a deductible gift recipient. Every donation is tax deductible in Australia.



# RAAF CONNECTIONS

## HISTORY OF THE RAAF AT RICHMOND

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) acquired the area on Hawkesbury Valley Way and formed its second base, RAAF Base Richmond in 1925. It was an ideal location, being close to road and rail links and within flying distance of the sea to allow for cooperation with the Navy. There were also some basic existing aviation facilities still there from World War I.

During World War II, the Richmond base trained paratroopers and housed many women in the WAAAF. Following WWII, the RAAF intensified work in military aviation transport. In the late 1950s the first of the Caribous and Hercules planes appeared at Richmond. These and later models aided the moving of troops and cargo during conflicts as well as civilian disasters.

## THE RAAF TODAY

Today RAAF Base Richmond retains its strong links to the air-transport role, housing No. 37 Squadron (with its C-130J Hercules and No. 35 Squadron (with the C-27J Spartan). The base is like a small town with its own facilities for personnel including housing, shops, clubs and recreation facilities.

The main aircraft at RAAF Richmond is the C-130J Hercules, which can carry up to 20 tonnes of cargo or approximately 100 passengers. The C-27J Spartan, is a frontline airlifter getting personnel and cargo where no other transport aircraft can physically land.

A number of Air Force aircraft also frequently use RAAF Base Richmond, including the C-17A Globemaster and the KA350 King Air transport aircraft, the AP-3C Orion and E-7A Wedgetail surveillance aircraft.

Also in recent years the NSW Rural Fire Service has had a DC-10 Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) and a Hercules C-130 water bomber based at Richmond during summer to respond to bushfires around the state. The VLAT can hold 44,000 litres of fire retardant whilst the Hercules can carry 15,000 litres of water.

*'Plane Spotting'*

is a popular pastime along Hawkesbury Valley Way, Richmond for both locals and visitors alike.

How many planes can you spot?



# RICHMOND



# WINDSOR

