

Australia's Last

# RIVERBOAT POSTMAN

## Hawkesbury Happenings

Issue No. 1 April 1 2008

### Our First Issue



Hi there and welcome to the very first edition of our brand new newsletter *Hawkesbury Happenings*, a monthly information publication to let you know what is happening on or around the Lower Hawkesbury area.

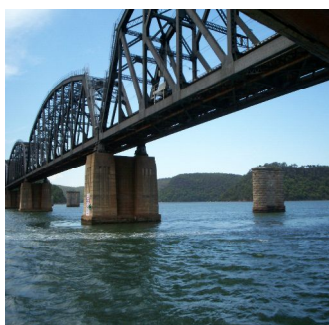
My name is Andrew and I am manager of Hawkesbury River Tourist Services P/L, operators of Hawkesbury River Ferries, Dangar Island Ferry Service and Australia's last Riverboat Postman.

For some time now I have wanted to bring out a small publication to inform our clientele about news, events and information on the history of the Hawkesbury River and the surrounding areas. A history that extends back not only to the earliest days of our own colonial past, but back through the eons of aboriginal Dreamtime.

We are intending to make *Historical Hawkesbury* (see back page) a regular

segment in each issue and this, we hope will enable your Hawkesbury River experience to be not just a once only trip, but an ongoing experience with regular insights into the way we were in years gone by.

Till next time  
Andrew Davey  
Manager  
Hawkesbury River  
Tourist Services P/L



### Cascade Gully Living up to its Name

We don't often have the pleasure of witnessing Cascade Gully in full flow; so here's a little sample of what it's capable of during a sustained spell of rainy weather.

It's not hard to see how Cascade Gully came by its name.



Cascade Gully in action during last summer's heavy rains; wreck of the *Parramatta* in the foreground.

Ferry Wharf  
Dangar Road  
Brooklyn NSW 2083

PO Box 3117  
Wamberal  
NSW 2260

Ph: (02) 9985-7566  
Fax: (02) 9985-7658

E-mail:  
hawkesburyferries@bigpond.com

www.hawkesburyriverferries.com.au



**We're on the web!**  
www.hawkesburyriverferries.com.au  
m.au

*Serving the Hawkesbury  
Since 1910*

## Like to Follow the *Historical Hawkesbury Series?*

Send us an e-mail requesting our monthly newsletter and we will send it to you each month:

**hawkesburyferries@bigpond.com**

# Hawkesbury History

## Exploration and Naming of the Hawkesbury

*The following except is from a despatch written by Governor Arthur Phillip, and forwarded to Lord Sydney in February of 1790.*

After having been several times with the boats to Broken Bay\*, in order to examine the different branches in that harbour, a river was found; but the want of provisions obliged us to return without being able to trace it to its source, which has since been done; and in the sixteen days we were then out, all those branches, which had any depth of water, were traced as far as the boats could proceed.

The river, which I named, Hawkesbury, after the Lord Hawkesbury\*\*, is laid down in the chart, from an eye-sketch made by Captain Hunter, as we rowed up it. The breadth of this river is from 300 to 800 feet, and it appears, from the soundings we had, to be navigable for the largest merchant ships, to the foot of Richmond Hill; but as the water near the head of the river, sometimes rises after very heavy rains, thirty feet above its common level, it would not be safe for ships to go so far up; but fifteen or

twenty miles below Richmond Hill, they would lay in fresh water, and perfectly safe. I speak of Richmond Hill as being the head of the river, it there growing very shallow, and dividing into two branches. The high, rocky country which forms Broken Bay, is lost as you proceed up the Hawkesbury, and the banks of the river are then covered with timber, the soil a rich light mould, and judging from the little we saw of the country, I should suppose it good land to a very considerable extent - the other branches of fresh water are shoal, but probably run many miles into the country than we could trace them with our boats. On these rivers we saw great numbers of wild ducks, and some black swans; and on the banks of the Hawkesbury, several decoys made by the natives for to catch the quail.

Richmond Hill, (near the foot of which a fall of water prevented our proceeding further with the boats), is the southern extremity of a range of hills, which, running to the northward, most probably join the mountains which lay nearly parallel to the coast, from fifty to sixty miles inland. The soil of Richmond Hill is good and it lays well for cultivation. Our prospect from the hill

was very extensive to the southward and eastward; the country appearing, from the height at which we were, to be a level, covered with timber: there is a flat six or seven miles between Richmond Hill, and a break in the mountains, which separates Lansdown and Carmarthen Hills, and in this flat I suppose the Hawkesbury continues its course; but which could not be seen for the timber that, with very few exceptions, covers the country wherever the soil is good.

\* *While passing off-shore on the 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1770 Captain Cook noted some "broken land that appear'd to form a bay".*

\*\* *Charles Jenkinson, First Earl of Liverpool and the Baron Hawkesbury.*