

## Prized Australian history heads to Wagga Wagga

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Captain Cook's shoe buckle and a rare convict letter are among the extraordinary items from the State Library of NSW's world-renowned collection heading to primary schools in Wagga Wagga from 13 to 15 September.

Deputy Premier of NSW Troy Grant said that the State Library's valuable *FAR Out! Treasures to the Bush* initiative has reached 24,054 students in regional areas.

"In the past four years 381 schools have enjoyed the Library's popular *FAR Out!* regional outreach program, and I'm thrilled that even more students in Wagga Wagga will get to experience some amazing items related to the European discovery and exploration of our nation," Mr Grant said.

The *FAR Out!* program is just one of the unique learning experiences the Library offers students and teachers, with extensive online services and learning resources available to all on the Library's website at [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning)

"Providing access to the State Library's \$3.15 billion collection is a key part of the Library's mission, and thanks to NSW Government support we've been able to digitise and provide online access to 5.7 million objects in the past four years," said acting NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive, Lucy Milne.

"The *FAR Out!* program is another way in which the Library provides access to the collection, by giving school children in the remotest parts of the state the chance to see original and unique historical items first-hand," Ms Milne said.

From 13 to 15 September the State Library's Learning team will run fun and interactive sessions with students and teachers around a selection of landmark Australian treasures including:

- a letter written by convict Mary Reibey in 1821 who became Australia's first business woman;

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- a sketch by Indigenous Australian artist, Tommy McRae, *Sketch of Squatters*, 1864;
- local Indigenous Australian word lists from 1899-1903; and
- Captain Cook's shoe buckle.

"The State Library is the home of Australia's history and taking artefacts and manuscripts to schools in rural and regional NSW allows students and teachers to connect with our past in a very real way," said Megan Perry, Learning Manager.

"The State Library has developed learning resources for the NSW Syllabus for the Australian curriculum. Some of the historic items we're taking to Wagga Wagga will be part of our contribution to that national initiative, demonstrating the significance of the Library to the understanding of our national story," said Ms Perry.

For more information about *FAR Out! Treasures to the Bush*, please contact Learning Services, State Library of NSW, on (02) 9273 1778 or [learning.library@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:learning.library@sl.nsw.gov.au).

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