

## Wagga Wagga students first in the state to experience new immersive learning program

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Students in Wagga Wagga will see history come to life when the State Library of NSW brings a new collection of rare historical artefacts out of the archives and into the classrooms as part of the *FAR Out! Treasures to the Bush* initiative.

According to State Librarian Dr Caroline Butler-Bowdon: “The Library’s *FAR Out!* program is specifically designed for students in regional areas to enhance the teaching of history through interaction with original collection materials.”

“Five schools in Wagga Wagga, with over 400 students and their teachers, will be the lucky first in the state to see a special selection of artefacts up close and participate in fun and engaging learning activities,” she says.

From 18 to 21 March, members of the Learning Services team will bring props, costumes, and even a story of a stowaway to immerse students in hands-on activities that explore the navigators who mapped the Australian coastline.

Students will also get the chance to engage with priceless treasures from the Library’s collection, including:

- A pocket globe from 1754, showing early European mapping of Australia, that fits into the palm of your hand;
- The journal of Dutch navigator Willem Corneliszoon Schouten from 1619, with an account of his search for the ‘Southern Land’;
- A map from 1703 of the voyage to New Holland by William Dampier, a navigator and naturalist who became the first Englishman to explore parts of what is today Australia; and
- A word list from the Wagga Wagga district (1899–1903) detailing First Nations place names for the local area.

“When we take artefacts and manuscripts to schools in rural and regional NSW, we see students engage and interact with history in ways they will never forget,” said Pauline Fitzgerald, the State Library’s Head of Learning. “The way students and teachers connect with these stories is powerful and transformative.”

For more information about the State Library’s Learning services and programs, visit [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning)

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