

Media Release



Prized Australian history heads to central west NSW

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Captain Cook's shoe buckles and rare Indigenous word lists are among the extraordinary items from the State Library's world-renowned collection heading to the central west region of NSW from 25 to 27 November 2014.

Deputy Premier of NSW Troy Grant said this would be the first time these prized Australian historical items from the State Library's collection would be shown in this area.

"Over the past two years 168 schools have enjoyed the Library's popular *Far Out! Treasures to the Bush* initiative, and I'm thrilled it is heading to Coolamon, West Wyalong, Lake Cargelligo and Goolgowi for the first time to show primary school students these amazing items, relating to the discovery and exploration of our continent and nation," Mr Grant said.

Students and teachers from 19 primary schools will be among the first in their area to view the actual handwritten letters of Mary Reibey, extraordinary Indigenous artwork and Indigenous word lists from the local area.

"We're adding more and more riches to our website every day, and providing remote access to our extensive heritage material and online resources, but seeing these original and unique historic items has a special appeal!" says NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive, Alex Byrne.

"The State Library is committed to giving regional and remote communities of NSW the opportunity to experience some of the original documents of our nation, and hopefully inspire their interest in Australian history."

From 25 to 27 November, the State Library's Learning team will run fun and interactive activities with students and teachers around a selection of landmark Australian treasures including:

- a letter written from Sydney in 1792 by convict Mary Reibey who became Australia's first business woman;
- a painting of European women by Indigenous artist Johnny Kangatong, from 1855;
- local Indigenous word lists from 1899 and 1900; and
- Captain Cook's shoe buckle.

"*Far Out!* will give students and teachers some unique insights into the history and provenance of these rare items, and also introduce them to the amazing online services and learning resources the Library has to offer," says Megan Perry, State Library Manager of Learning.

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

For interviews and publicity images, please contact:

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