

Rare pieces of Australian history heading to local primary schools

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Explorer Matthew Flinders' equipment list and a portrait of Bungaree, the first Australian to circumnavigate the continent with Flinders, are among the extraordinary items from the State Library's collection heading to Bega and Eden, from 20 May 2019.

According to State Librarian John Vallance, this will be the first time these rare pieces of Australian history will be shown in these regions, as part of the State Library's *FAR Out! Treasures to the Bush* initiative.

"The valuable *FAR Out!* program has reached nearly 30,000 students in regional areas across NSW. I am thrilled that 764 more primary students and their teachers from nine schools in Bega, Merimbula and Eden will get to benefit from it," Dr Vallance said.

"I am delighted that this program continues to be supported by the State Library of NSW's Foundation."

From 20 to 23 May the State Library's Learning team will run fun and interactive activities with students and teachers around a selection of landmark Australian treasures including:

- Matthew Flinders' list of equipment for his HMS *Investigator* voyage, sent to his patron Joseph Banks;
- Portrait of King Bungaree, 1829, the first Australian to circumnavigate Australia;
- 'A new terrestrial globe' by globe maker Nathaniel Hill, 1754; and
- Telescope thought to have belonged to Ludwig Leichhardt, 1842.

"The State Library of NSW is the home of Australia's history," said Megan Perry, Manager, Learning Services. "We're thrilled to be bringing a selection of historic objects from the Library's collection to this region, providing students and teachers with an opportunity to engage with our past in a very real way."

FAR Out! connects students and teachers to the amazing resources and unique learning services the State Library has to offer on site, online and in the community. In the past 10 years over 70% of NSW schools have participated in State Library learning

Media Release



With the recent launch of the Library's new John B Fairfax Learning Centre "we're providing even greater opportunities for engagement with the Library's collection, with innovative programming and using the latest technologies," said Ms Perry.

For more information about the State Library's Learning services and programs, including *FAR Out! Treasures to the Bush*, visit www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning

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