

# Media Release



## Prized Australian history heads to Gundagai and Tumut

15 February 2016

Captain Cook's shoe buckle and a rare convict letter are among the extraordinary items from the State Library's world-renowned collection heading to primary schools in Gundagai and Tumut from 22 to 24 February.

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts, Troy Grant, said that this would be the first time that these prized Australian historical items from the State Library's collection would be shown in Gundagai and Tumut.

"Over the past two years 309 schools have enjoyed the Library's popular *FAR Out!* Treasures to the Bush initiative, and I'm thrilled it is heading to Gundagai and Tumut for the first time to show primary school students these amazing items, relating to the discovery and exploration of our nation," says Mr Grant.

Over three days, State Library staff will visit five schools, giving over 600 students the opportunity to view the actual handwritten letter of NSW convict Mary Reibey, extraordinary Indigenous Australian artwork and word lists from the local area.

The tour to Gundagai and Tumut will be the State Library's 33rd *FAR Out!* tour. This is just one of the unique learning services the Library offers students and teachers, with extensive learning resources available to all on the Library's website at <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning>

"We're adding more and more riches to our new website every day, and providing remote access to our extensive heritage material through digitisation, online resources and video conferencing, but actually seeing these original and unique historic items has a special appeal!" says Dr 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 22 to 24 February 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 by Mary Reibey in 1821. Mary arrived in Sydney in 1792 as a convict and became a successful business woman;
- a sketch by Indigenous Australian artist, Tommy McRae, *Sketch of Squatters*, 1864;
- local Indigenous Australian word lists dating from 1899-1903; and
- Captain Cook's shoe buckle

All  
**GREAT**  
*stories*  
LEAD BACK *to* US.

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“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, Manager, Learning Services.

“The State Library has developed learning resources for the NSW Syllabus for the Australian curriculum. Some of the historic items we’re taking to Gundagai and Tumut 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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