

[A montage of objects, photographs and letters showcasing the library's collection.]

[Lost & Found - Australia's hidden treasures]

[Warren Brown strolls through an archive filled with old pictures.]

[WARREN BROWN]

0:14 – 0:26 Captain James Cook gets a lot of credit for being the first European to stumble upon the east coast of Australia. But he didn't get here in 1770 by accident. In fact, he might not have made it at all if it wasn't...

[Warren pulls out a yellowed old map showing parts of the Australian coastline, covered in faint lines and Latin script.]

[WARREN BROWN]

0:30 – 0:47 ..for this. This is one of the charts Cook used to find his way, a sort of incomplete GPS to what was then only known as New Holland. It was made by Dutch explorer Abel Tasman about 130 years before Cook.

[A portrait of Abel Tasman.]

[WARREN BROWN]

0:47 – 1:31 What makes it unique is that it shows both of Tasman's epic voyages - the famous journey around the south of Australia and his lesser-known exploration of the north. This is Abel Tasman's attempt to solve a puzzle, and that is what was happening in the Southern Hemisphere. See, it was not many years before that people in the Northern Hemisphere believed it was impossible to cross the Equator. You went through an area called the Torrid Zone, an inferno of a place. It was like sailing through hell, where you would be burned alive. So even though Tasman had shown it was safe to cross the Equator into the Southern Hemisphere, and his map is a wonderful depiction of what was going on, there's still that degree of superstition. And you can see it here, with the depiction of scary monsters.

[Two small illustrations on the map depict fanciful whale-like creatures.]

[WARREN BROWN]

1:34 – 1:52 For nearly 300 years, this incredibly important piece of Australia's history was lost to our shores. And the story of how it was found and returned to this part of the world involves the most eclectic cast of characters you could imagine - Bonaparte, 'Breaker' Morant, and the very feisty Daisy Bates.

[A series of black-and-white photographs depicting those mentioned. A re-enactment then shows a woman in early 20th-century dress seated at a writing desk inside a tent, leafing through a book.]

[WARREN BROWN]

1:59 – 2:12 In the early 1900s, Daisy discovered in a traveller's journal that the map was in the possession of Prince Roland Bonaparte, the great-nephew of Emperor Napoleon himself, and that he'd promised to gift the map to Australia when he died.

[The woman begins to write, using a nib pen and ink.]

[WARREN BROWN]

2:15 – 2:22 So in 1926, Daisy wrote a letter to the State Library of New South Wales urging them to claim it.

[WOMAN]

2:23 – 2:37 "Would it not be worth the while of the authorities at the library to enquire and, if possible, obtain possession of something peculiarly Australian and, no doubt, valuable?
Yours faithfully, Mrs Daisy M Bates."

[WARREN BROWN]

2:40 – 3:03 Now, Daisy was no shrinking violet. She married 'Breaker' Morant, of all people, but it didn't last - they'd split up within a month. But then she married someone else and then she married someone else, all the while still married to the Breaker. But after a while, she got shot of the lot of them, and she set herself up as a self-appointed protector of Aborigines on the edge of the Nullarbor Plain. As you do.

[Views of a modern-day room at the library.]

[WARREN BROWN]

3:07 – 3:17 And the letter she sent off from the desert set off a daisy chain of events that led to William Herbert Ifould, head of the Mitchell Library at the State Library of New South Wales.

[Warren speaking to Paul Brunton, senior curator, in the Mitchell Library.]

[PAUL BRUNTON]

3:17 – 3:33 The information he had from Daisy Bates was actually 23 years old. So most people, today and then, would have written a polite note back to Daisy Bates, thanking them for their information, and then filing the letter. But not Ifould.

[A re-enactment of Ifould seated at a desk, writing a letter of inquiry on a typewriter.]

[PAUL BRUNTON]

3:33 – 3:56 He was like a terrier. He must pursue it. And he found out, of course, that Prince Roland Bonaparte had died. He then used diplomatic contacts to track down his daughter and then asked about the map. He was operating on a hunch. If you wait for documented fact, you miss out on the goodies. And, like a detective, he tracked down his quarry.

[Warren Brown, still in the library, speaks directly to the camera.]

[WARREN BROWN]

4:00 – 4:21 So now it gets...weird. The map is now in the possession of Prince Bonaparte's daughter Marie Bonaparte, who happens to be a sex maniac. I kid you not. She even has an unspeakable operation to increase her sexual fulfilment, but it doesn't work. So who does she go and see? Sigmund bloody Freud.

[A photograph of Sigmund Freud, next to a photograph of Marie Bonaparte.]

[WARREN BROWN]

4:21 – 4:38 They become best mates. She helps him escape the Nazis. Bonaparte then gifts the map to Australia and everyone lives happily ever after. Seven years after Daisy Bates first wrote her letter, the map finally arrived in Australia.

[PAUL BRUNTON]

4:38 – 5:01 It would have been like looking on the face of Tutankhamen when they found the tomb. Here was this incredibly important map that showed Tasman's charting of the north coast of Australia, one of the few documents that does that. And so he would have been delighted that he'd captured it for Australia. And here it is, for all time.

[WARREN BROWN]

5:02 – 5:17 And nothing says more about what the Tasman Map means for William Herbert Ifould and the Mitchell Library than this. It's a stunning marble mosaic map, commissioned by Ifould himself, right here on the floor of the main entrance to the library.

[Warren walks into the library's main entrance and stands over a large reproduction of the Tasman map on the marble floor.]

[WARREN BROWN]

5:19 – 5:21 And I reckon it'll never get lost again.

[Additional archive materials courtesy of - Blue Mountains City Library, State Library of Victoria, Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.]

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