

MEDIA RELEASE

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History Here film making project funded

Seniors and teenagers will work together to make films about exciting moments from the Orange region's history.

The *History Here* project has attracted \$25,350 from the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage's Community Youth and Seniors Heritage Grants 2016-2017.

The Arts OutWest project, led by author and literacy consultant Paul Stafford, will pair students from Canobolas and Molong high schools with heritage-minded seniors. The students will interview seniors - sourced through the Orange District Historical Society - to create film-scripts and music score for five short films.

The project builds on the Orange City Council's 2015 heritage project *Villages of the Heart*, coordinated by Paul Stafford. Paul's recent books 'You're History, Mate!' (Australian history, non-fiction, Random House), 'Ned Kelly's Helmet' (published 1998) and sequel 'Captain Flinders' Map' (fiction, New Holland, 2016) aim to revivify Australian history for students through highlighting the most exciting historical events.

"The Orange region has been home to some startlingly significant events in Australia's history, both indigenous and European," Mr Stafford said. "*History Here* will identify, extract and expand upon the most interesting and entertaining elements of Orange region's history, draft this material into short films scripts, and film and edit to create short films."

Paul Stafford will deliver workshops in interviewing and writing. Students will learn techniques in using source materials, combining these with their own research to create compelling historical scripts.

"The seniors will essentially become both the source material themselves and the script consultants," Mr Stafford said.

The scripts will be performed by drama students and edited by university students studying film/ media. Students will also work with local composer and musician Miles Wright to create an original score for the project, with each school contributing their own interpretation of the score.

Some of the ideas to be canvassed will include the life of Yuranigh (Sir Thomas Mitchell's Wiradjuri guide), the discovery of gold at Ophir in 1851 and Reverend Samuel Marsden's Molong-based sheep raising initiative to rival John Macarthur and rewrite the history books.

"Students don't have a large connection with the region's history. *History Here* aims to change that lack of awareness through connecting youth with seniors and highlighting the value of using historical events as the foundation for creative output," Mr Stafford said.

The project begins September 2016. The films will be shot in November before being edited and then publically screened at Amusu Cinema Molong in December 2016 and as part of the Orange Youth Arts Festival in 2017.