

## History Here film project screening

**Short films about Orange region's history, made by primary school students collaborating with local seniors, will be screened at the Amusu Theatre in Manildra on Saturday 10 June at 2pm.**

*History Here* paired students from Borenore Public School, Mullion Creek Public School, Spring Hill Public School, Cudal Public School and Manildra Public School with heritage-minded seniors. The students interviewed the seniors for inspiration for their film-scripts. The students also helped write a music score and performed the stories on camera.

"Students were excited and enthused by the realisation that interesting, dramatic and significant events occurred where they live," Paul Stafford said.

The five short films cover local stories:

- Mullion Creek Public School - The Story of Ophir Joe (an early discoverer of big gold at Ophir, as opposed to Hargraves' few specks).
- Borenore Public School – The story of Frank Rusconi, discoverer of marble at Borenore (described as the best in the world).
- Cudal Public School - The story of Max Hazleton, founder of Hazleton Airlines (which beget Rex) who survived a crash in the bush in the Cox River Catchment, sustaining no injuries apart from a broken watch) and wandered starving for 6 days through wild canyons.
- Manildra Public School - story of Allan Tom who founded Amusu Theatre (the oldest continuous running in Australia).
- Spring Hill Public School did an interpretation of the Man from Ironbark. "The link according to Principal McAnulty is that Banjo Paterson is buried down the road, so they own him," Paul Stafford said.

During five-day long workshops delivered by Paul Stafford at each school, students learnt techniques in using source materials, combining these with their own research - including talking to seniors - to create a set of compelling historical scripts. The stories were filmed on the final day of the workshop.

Students were asked to engage at least one senior citizen in their personal research of the event (grandparent, neighbour, family friend) and ask that person about their memories of that or other incidents in the district. "The seniors in the project essentially became both the source material themselves and the script consultants," Mr Stafford said.

Students also worked 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. Vince Lovecchio (Canobolas Rural Technology High School) assisted with the editing, alongside David Antioch, previously a student of Molong Central School, now studying at the University of Wollongong.

The June 10 screening at AMUSU Cinema in Manildra is free and everyone is welcome. There'll be finger food and live music by composer Miles Wright. The films will also be screened as part of the Orange Youth Arts Festival in 2017.

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