Stage 2 – History Unit – Bathurst 200 Years

2015

Bathurst 200 Years

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Introduction:

Bathurst is acknowledged as Australia’s oldest inland settlement. The settlement and future town of Bathurst was proclaimed by Governor Macquarie on 7 May 1815 after Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth successfully found a way across the Blue Mountains, surveyor George Evans explored the banks of the Macquarie River and William Cox oversaw the construction of a road from Sydney to the site Evans had selected for a new settlement.

In 2015 Bathurst celebrates not only the bicentenary of its proclamation but also the evolution of the community over the past 200 years, from the traditional Wiradjuri people to the current day. This bicentennial year provides a wonderful opportunity for school students to engage with their community and its stories and to participate in community events to create a greater understanding of the story of Bathurst and to enjoy this unique event.

_Bathurst 200 Years_ is a series of suggested activities designed to provide a framework from which teachers can develop their own units of work. It was created by local primary teachers for Stage 2, however, it can be readily adapted to other stages. The information covered is considered to be key bicentennial understandings for all students. It utilises resources that are located at [http://www.bathurst200.com.au/resources/education](http://www.bathurst200.com.au/resources/education) including a detailed Bathurst timeline and a list of excursions, events, exhibitions, performances and competitions that will be of interest to schools. Additional resources are also listed below.

Relevant Syllabus Outcomes:

HT2-1 Identifies celebrations and commemorations of significance in Australia and the world

HT2-2 Describes and explains how significant individuals, groups and events contributed to changes in the local community over time

HT2-3 Describes people, events and actions related to world exploration and its effects

HT2-4 Describes and explains effects of British colonisation in Australia

HT2-5 Applies skills of historical inquiry and communication

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<th>Teaching/Learning Activities</th>
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<td><strong>1.</strong> <em>Introduction – Bathurst 200 Years</em></td>
<td>Bathurst200 website resources:</td>
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<td>• Discuss with students the significance of this year as being 200 years since the proclamation of Bathurst. Why are we celebrating? Complete a KWL chart for the classroom.</td>
<td>• Bathurst Timeline</td>
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<td>• Revisit the story of the early colony and the challenges posed by the Blue Mountains, how they were crossed and the events leading to Governor Macquarie arriving on the banks of the</td>
<td>• Excursions, Exhibitions, Events and Competitions for Schools</td>
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1. **Macquarie River** to proclaim the site of a new settlement, Bathurst.

- Research explorers Blaxland, Wentworth, Lawson, Evans, Cox and significant Aboriginal people who were integral to assisting them crossing the mountains (NB. *A Moment in Time* exhibition 28 April – 17 May tells this story)
- Research the name of Bathurst – who was it named after and why.
- View important websites that students will be exposed to throughout the year and explain that they will be utilising various websites on computers and iPads to research/create videos etc. Develop a calendar of events the school will be involved in during 2015.
- Plan your participation in community events and competitions including:
  - Bathurst Remembers YouTube Competition
  - Snapshots Photographic Competition (entries to be submitted by 30 March)
  - Bathurst People in Time: a Peoplescape (nominations close 28 February and figures should be completed by 30 March)

2. **Our School**

- Look at evidence of the past and how it tells about earlier times. Make a collection of artefacts related to your school eg. Chalk, chalk board, old milk bottles, ink wells, ink pens, old reading books, school cases, desks and tables, slate etc. Who used them? How were they used? What replaces them in modern schools?
- Invite someone who is familiar with some of the items from their own school days into the classroom to tell of their school days. How are your school days the same and different?
- Develop a timeline of the artefacts, photograph them and display them with photos of their modern counterparts.
- Visit the oldest building or artefact in your school. Visit the most modern section of the school and do a comparison/contrast.
- Study the roles of people in schools at different times: Teachers, principals, administration, students, local families. How many teachers? Male or female? How did they travel to school? How many students? Discuss in terms of the following:
  - A long time ago....
  - Then and now ..... 
  - Now and then....
  - Old and new...
  - Tomorrow ....
- Gather old recounts and photos of your school from the local community and collate into a book to record the story of your school
- Students imagine they are a student from earlier times and write a recount about their school day.
- Role play what students use to do in an older style school. Conduct and olden days school day

Create:
- Timeline Proforma
- Old days/Modern days comparison Proforma

Artefacts
| with students in costume.  
Create a list of Living Legends associated with your school or a Peoplescape of significant people. Invite your Living Legends to the school for a celebration. |

| 3. The Wiradjuri People  
The Wiradjuri people are the traditional people of the land on which Bathurst has developed. Locate The Wiradjuri Nation on the Aboriginal Nations map and relate to where we live. Display in classroom.  
How did Aboriginal children learn? What was their classroom? Who were their teachers?  
Invite a local Aboriginal person to visit students to explain traditional Wiradjuri lifestyle; how children were taught and the games they played; tell a story relevant to the Bathurst area.  
Learn a traditional Aboriginal game.  
The story of Wuhloo is one such story. It tells how the place we know as Mount Panorama was formed (see below)  
Learn about the significance of the following sites: Mt Panorama (Wuhloo story and the current proposal for dual naming; present use of the area); the Macquarie River (Wambool), Windradyne’s gravesite.  
Learn some words from the Wiradjuri language. Create an illustrated Wiradjuri dictionary  
Aboriginal Cultural Tour (significant sites including Mount Panorama, River, Windradyne’s grave etc)  
| Bathurst200 website resources:  
- Bathurst Timeline  
- Wiradjuri Nation  
Books:  
*My Mob* from Big Mob Books for Little Fellas  
Cathy Freeman story from Big Mob Books for Little Fellas  
Maps:  
Aboriginal Nations  
AECG Local Representatives  

**The story of Wuhloo**  
Long ago, back in the Dreamtime, there were two brothers who fell in love with the same girl (migga). But she only picked one of them to marry.  
This made the other brother very jealous of his brother so he challenged him to a spear throwing contest over 100 yards. On the day of the event the brother who was jealous planned to kill his brother and run away with his wife. So they stood on a flat ground (buri) and began throwing their spears at the target.  
Without warning the jealous brother threw a spear which hit his brother in the back and as he fell to the ground his blood began to rush onto the ground (dagun).  
Suddenly the ground began to tremble and shake. Big cracks opened up in the Earth fire and rocks started to come out of it. Much of the Earth pushed itself upwards as more and more molten rock and lava came out from the bowels of the Earth. That mountain, Wuhloo, which is known today as Mount Panorama, is only 8kilometers from the Wambool River. Wuhloo is a very old volcano which my great, great ………………………………… great grandfather witnessed erupting when he was a young boy.  

As told by John Bugg, Wirrirai. Aboriginal Elder. |  
### Macquarie River (Wambool)

- The Macquarie River links the Wiradjuri and European stories. It is of key importance to the Wiradjuri people, the reason for the siting of Bathurst and site of conflicts between the two peoples.
- Revise the importance to the Wiradjuri people from the earlier visit and excursion.
- Read the extract from the diary of George Evans and his record of the first sighting of Aboriginal people by a European in the Bathurst area.
- Research the significance of the flagstaff and the site of the first colonial settlement (see *A Delightful Spot Heritage Trail*).
- Research the fascinating history associated with the Macquarie River: the early settlement (the river was the physical divide between government and free settlers for over 15 years); Ralf Entwhistle and the event that led to him becoming a bushranger (Ribbon Gang); Martial Law as the result of an incident on the river flats; crossings, floods and bridges ...
- Visit the site: view the new flagstaff; visit Old Government Cottage; undertake *A Delightful Spot* Heritage walk; participate in the Colonial Fair on 7 May .......
- Visit exhibitions to gain greater insight into the early days of Bathurst: *Reflections: 200 years of Women’s Fashions 1815-2015* 2-9 May; *Snapshots in Time* photographic exhibition: 11-17 May; Bathurst People in Time: a Peoplescape 3-17 May. NB. All exhibitions are free.
- Create an annotated, illustrated map of the first settlement area. Note changes over time.
- From your visit to the river and the images you have seen from various periods of time, consider the changes to the river: its uses, vegetation, the size, flood plains, fauna, the taking away of the willows etc. Develop a chart that makes comparisons over different periods of time. Consider the sustainability of current practices.

### Central Bathurst – The Town Square

- King’s Parade is the only remaining part of the original concept for a town square which would have been bounded by Howick, William, Russell and George Streets. It is the site of key monuments including Bathurst’s War Memorial Carillon. Research the role of Bathurstians in war and the construction of the war memorial in the years following WW1.
- Bathurst District Historical Society will be holding the *ANZACs at Gallipoli* exhibition in its museum during April (check their website for details).
- Many of Bathurst’s civic and historical buildings are located in the area bounded by Howick, William Keppel and George Streets. Explore this area and learn about Bathurst’s history through these buildings.
- Bathurst wasn’t settled until the town was surveyed and designed by James Byrn Richards and the legacy of the wide streets and uniform blocks are the result. Examine maps of Bathurst over the years and observe how the design changed.
- Streets are often named after significant people. Identify some of Bathurst’s streets that are named after people associated with the early development of Bathurst and research the person and their significance to Bathurst.
- Imagine you are the founder of Bathurst – create a design of your new town. How would your design be different

6. **Significant Buildings**
- Buildings tell a lot about early times. Identify a significant building or buildings in Bathurst or in your immediate local community and discuss what it tells about the past. What are the visual clues?
- Research the story of the building and the people who have been associated with it.
- Photograph the building and write a report about its history
- Conduct a debate about heritage buildings: whether or not they should be kept or removed. Select a particular building as your focus or debate in general terms.

7. **Machattie Park**
- Read *Fergus – Searching for Clara* and undertake activities from the Teaching/Learning Activities (designed for Stage 1 but readily adaptable to other stages)
- Visit the park (details for organisation of tours in Excursions etc and activities in Fergus Teaching/Learning Activities)
- Machattie Park features many memorials to significant Bathurstians. Go on a memorial walk to identify the memorial and the person. Take photos of the memorials and research the significance of each of the people.

8. **Bushrangers**
- Bushrangers visited Bathurst and the Ribbon Gang was hanged in the centre of town. Research the Ribbon Gang and Ben Hall and record their significance to Bathurst in an illustrated mindmap
- Visit some of the significant sites in the bushranging story eg. sites in Bathurst, Abercrombie Caves where the Ribbon Gang hid

**Bathurst200 website resources:**
- [Excursions, Exhibitions, Events and Competitions for Schools](http://bushrangers.abercrombiecaves.com/)
- Write your own historical narrative based on the information you have discovered about the bushrangers, Bathurst and district at the time. Create a digital story using iPads – apps include; Tellagami, Toontastic, My Story, Book Creator, PicCollage, ChatterKid, PuppetPals etc.

**iPad Apps:**
Tellagami, Toontastic, My Story, Book Creator, PicCollage, ChatterKid, PuppetPals iMovie, Moviemaker,

| 9. | **Let’s Celebrate!**  
- The people of Bathurst are celebrating the bicentenary in many ways. Participate in some of the organised events  
- Create your own bicentennial celebration. |