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What's your story?

# Heroes and villains: Strutt's Australia

FREE EXHIBITION  
14 JUL - 23 OCT 2016

Young explorer's trail



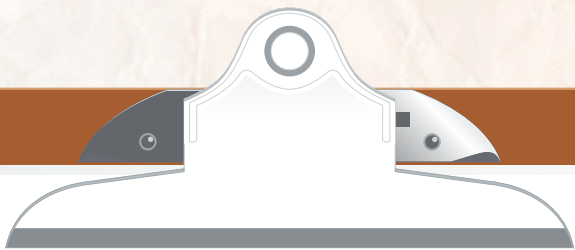
## Recording history

In the 1850s, photography had only just been invented. Photographs were not widely available as a means to record events or famous people and we rely on painters to help us imagine what life was like.



William Strutt (1825–1915) was an English-born painter who immigrated to Australia when he was 25 years old. Having studied art in Paris, he arrived in Melbourne at the beginning of an extraordinary decade, when many important historical events occurred. Strutt's paintings are a valuable resource to tell us about life in the colony of Melbourne, not long after it began.

William Strutt  
William Strutt, Mangarie Taranaki, New Zealand, 1856  
drawing, pencil and wash, National Library of Australia



✂ Imagine no photographs exist of Melbourne. How would you describe Melbourne to someone who had never been here, without using photographs?

## Hazards of the bush

Strutt's paintings depict the hardships and hazards of living in Australia, as well as the fear and amazement that the natural world generated in the colony and abroad.

Only six months after Strutt arrived, the biggest bushfire experienced by settlers in Victoria occurred. Can you find Strutt's famous *Black Thursday* painting in the exhibition? It took him three years to paint, and he kept it for 20 years before he was able to sell it.



✦ Look at the eyes of the animals and the people in the painting. What do you think they are feeling?



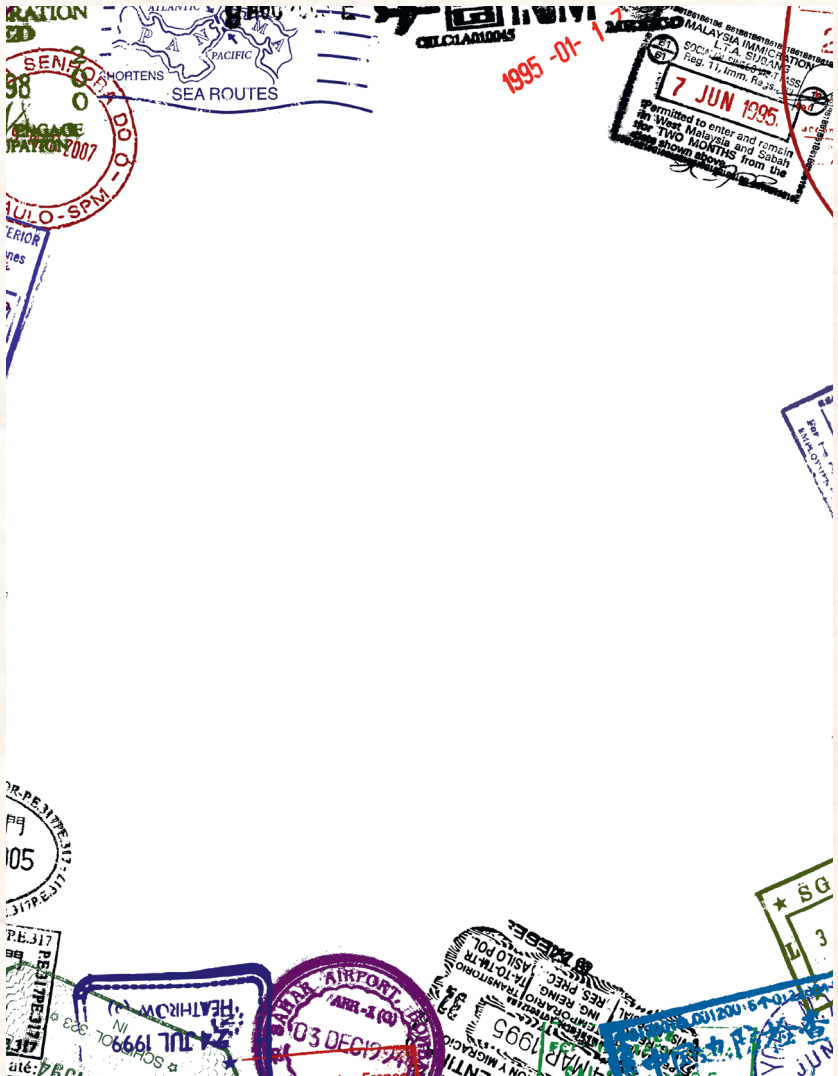
✦ Half of the painting is devoted to the sky. Why do you think Strutt did this?



✦ What sounds can you hear when you look at the painting? What is it in the painting that makes you feel like you can hear sound?

✦ How many different kinds of animals and birds can you find?

✿ What might people coming to Australia find confronting or strange about the Australian environment?

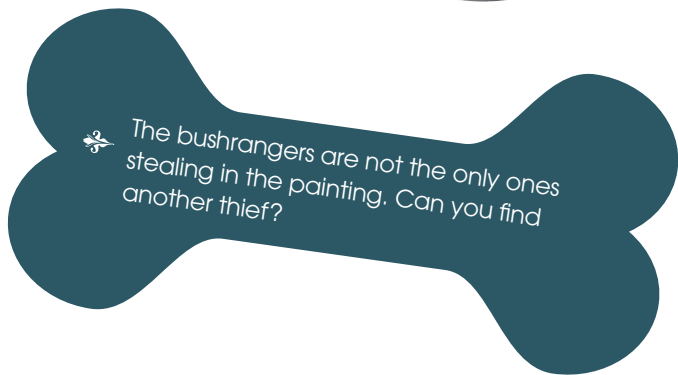


## Bushrangers!

Strutt witnessed the gold rush of the 1850s, when many people came from all around the world to try their luck on the goldfields near Ballarat. Gold also meant bushrangers! In October 1851, four mounted and armed bushrangers robbed and held hostage 17 people in Melbourne. This event inspired Strutt to paint what some believe to be his best painting – 35 years after the event. Can you find it in the exhibition?



✿ The bushrangers have taken the people's money and valuables, but what have they left behind?



✿ The bushrangers are not the only ones stealing in the painting. Can you find another thief?

✿ Which famous Victorian bushrangers are you familiar with? What was their story?

### What's your bushranger name?

When bushrangers became notorious, people gave them names that made them sound scary, such as Mad Dan Morgan, Captain Moonlite and Moondyne Joe. What would your bushranger name be? Use the puzzle below to find out. Add two names to your real first name.

Use your first initial to find your bushranger's scary name:

A: Angry	B: Bad	C: Cheeky	D: Dastardly	E: Lethal
F: Furious	G: Daring	H: Deadly	I: Lightning	J: The Jackal
K: Crafty	L: Lethal	M: Mad Dog	N: Notorious	O: Outrageous
P: Ruthless	Q: Cunning	R: Tricky	S: Sneaky	T: Terrible
U: Terrible	V: Devious	W: Wicked	X: Sassy	Y: Sly Dog
Z: Nasty				

Use your last initial to find your bushranger's new surname:

A: Governor	B: Bugg	C: Cash	D: Daley	E: Musquito
F: Donahue	G: Gilbert	H: Hall	I: Hickman	J: Douglas
K: Kelly	L: McCallum	M: McPherson	N: Cockerill	O: Jeffries
P: Morgan	Q: Kelly	R: Byrne	S: Brady	T: Thunderbolt
U: Gardiner	V: Jeffries	W: Westwood	X: Gilbert	Y: Daley
Z: Jackey				

### Did you know?

These surnames are the names of some real bushrangers. When you get home, research the bushranger with whom you share a name. Did you know that Mary Ann Bugg, Mary Cockerill and Lizzie Hickman were female bushrangers?

## Exploring the unknown

The gold rush funded a very important journey in 1860 – Burke and Wills' Victorian Exploring Expedition. The members of this group became the first non-Indigenous Australians to explore the interior of Australia. Nineteen men took horses, camels and wagons, and travelled from Melbourne in the south to the Gulf of Carpentaria in the north.

Sadly, 18 of the 19 men died, including the leader of the expedition, Robert O'Hara Burke. Strutt painted the scene of Burke's burial at Cooper's Creek, where he died.

- ❖ Can you find this flag in a painting in the exhibition?

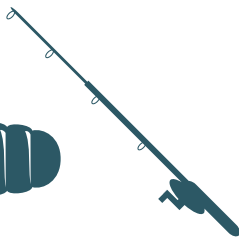


### Time for an adventure!

- ❖ Imagine that you are going on an expedition to an uncharted country you know nothing about. You will need to take some supplies with you, but you can only take what you can carry as this journey is going to be on foot! Choose five things only from the items on the next page to help you survive. Number them in order of importance. You will already be wearing good camping clothes, like a hat, a warm jumper and strong boots.

William Strutt  
*Portrait of Robert O'Hara Burke (detail), c.1860*  
watercolour, National Library of Australia





# The little wanderers

The 'little wanderers' were three children from Natimuk, in the Wimmera region of Victoria, who were lost in the bush for nine days. Everyone had almost given up hope of finding the Duff children alive when Aboriginal trackers from around the area were asked to help, and found the children within a day.

Strutt started writing and illustrating a storybook about the 'little wanderers' 12 years after the event. He would have gathered information by researching old newspapers. Can you spot some old newspaper clippings around the room?



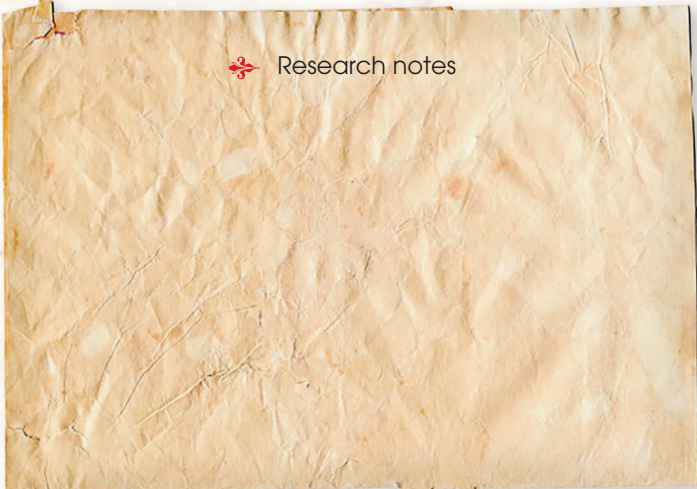
**You be the detective!**



What important or exciting information about the story can you discover?



Research notes



## Did you know?

One of the trackers who found the Duff children was Jungunjinanuke, a tribal leader, also known as Dick-a-Dick or King Richard. He was a Wotjobaluk man and his ancestors had been living in the area for thousands of years before Strutt arrived in Australia. He and two others used their knowledge of their land and skills in reading the marks left by the children to find them.

## Help the little wanderers home!

The trackers found the children had been walking in circles, not far from home. Can you complete the maze below and help the children find their way?





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