

5 August 2010

Talking about Lachlan, an influential Governor

Shoalhaven City Libraries will host a special talk on the most influential Governor of NSW, Lachlan Macquarie on 26 August.

Governor Macquarie took up his commission as fifth governor of the colony of New South Wales on 1 January 1810. From the outset, it is clear he regarded the colony not merely a penal settlement, but as a community that was destined for something much greater. His vision for the colony encompassed ideas of virtue, prosperity, deconstruction of faction in society, reform, exploration, building and town development on a scale grander than anything undertaken before him.

Shoalhaven Libraries Nowra will hold a special discussion on the life and work of Lachlan Macquarie on 26 August. A Curator from the State Library will present some of Governor Macquarie's papers and documents from his life. The achievements of the Macquarie era will be highlighted through examination of a selection of unique historic documents and artefacts.

Manager Community and Library Services Noela Lim said: "Lachlan Macquarie's heritage is astounding. As a Governor Lachlan gave prominence not just to building the fledgling colony but to the policy of emancipation of convicts and how they could reform a system of a 'fair go' in the penal colony," Ms Lim said.

He also instigated a rigorous program of public works including schools, churches, roads, bridges, a new hospital and the first courthouse. He established the first bank, an independent newspaper and introduced the first system of coinage. Lachlan's vision extended beyond Sydney; he also instigated various explorations to discover new land for agriculture and settlement, proclaiming various townships along the way. Macquarie firmly believed these ventures were the first steps toward improving not only the country, but the prospects of its citizens.

What: Extending the Boundaries – the achievements of Lachlan Macquarie

Where: Shoalhaven Libraries Nowra, 10 Berry St, Nowra

When: 10.30am Thursday 26 August 2010

For further information on the talk, contact Council's Library Services on (02) 4429 3710.

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