An understanding of land and place through exploration and discovery has produced a variety of responses and fostered the development of different relationships with the Illawarra. From the first Aboriginal exploration and settlement some 60,000 years ago, the land has seen European surveying and scientific expeditions into the unknown, artists in search of picturesque landscapes, and tourists seeking a scenic kind of wilderness. All have produced remarkable images and writings and increased our knowledge of this region.

In this exhibition the UOW Library showcases its restored 1789 edition of “Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay: with an account of the establishment of the colonies of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island” and two recently acquired 19th Century Eugene von Guerard prints, as well as works on loan from the Wollongong Art Gallery.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH 12 NOON, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12

Margie Jantti, Director, Library Services
Paul Brunton, Emeritus Curator at the State Library of New South Wales

SPECIAL TOPIC PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday November 19, 12.30-1.30 Early Explorers Dr Joseph Davis
Getting down into Illawarra by land proved well-nigh impossible for at least 20 years after 1788. It was only when Australian-born white children such as Hamilton Hume let themselves be guided by Aboriginal people that land-access to our long and narrow escarpment plain became possible.

Wednesday November 26, 12.30-1.30 Aboriginal Explorers Jade Kennedy
Exploring aspects of local Aboriginal society and culture prior to European settlement.

Wednesday December 3, 12.30-1.30 Discovery of the Koala Georgina Element & Michael Organ
An account of the scientific discovery of the koala at Mt Kembla in 1803, including a short film presentation.

Tuesday December 9, 12.30-1.30 The Artist’s Quest and the Illawarra Karen Manton
Discover the background to Eugene von Guerard’s visit to the Illawarra in 1859, providing context for the works that were created depicting the region during this time.

Friday December 12, 12.30-1.30 Phillip Book Restoration Barbara Schmelzer
After studies in bookbinding at the Stuttgart Bookbinding College, Barbara trained to become a Master Bookbinder at the Alois Senefelder School in Munich, and has won numerous awards for her fine binding and commercial work. Barbara will share the journey of her work to restore UOW Library’s Phillip book.