Having heard about the myriad of publications produced about Cook’s achievements, I will now talk to you about the manuscript record of Cook’s most famous voyage held here at the Library. I know the write up for this talk intimated that I would be talking beyond the voyage of the *Endeavour*, but you wouldn’t get to hear anyone else today if I tried to cover his two other voyages and the related material at the National Library and elsewhere!

The purchase of the *Endeavour* journal of James Cook in 1923 has been one of the most significant acquisitions made by the National Library of Australia. Following Cook’s death in 1779, the *Endeavour* journal is thought to have been held by his wife Elizabeth. There is no record of the journal’s movements following Elizabeth Cook’s death in 1835 until its appearance in 1923, when it was offered for auction by its owners the Bolckow family of Yorkshire. The family were unable to explain how they came to hold the journal. It had apparently been in the family’s library since the 1850s purchased by a family member, but from whom and in what circumstances was unknown.

The story behind the acquisition of the *Endeavour* Journal of James Cook illustrates the Library’s emerging role as a National Library at the time. The Mitchell Library in Sydney had been interested in acquiring the journal since its discovery by the Bolckow family in 1922, the year before it was offered by Sothebys for auction. The Mitchell’s claims to the journal were based upon the considerable collection that Library had already amassed on early European-Australian history. Anxious that the journal would fetch more than it was able to pay, the Trustees of the Mitchell approached the Commonwealth Government for a financial contribution towards the purchase. At this point the Interim Commonwealth Parliamentary Librarian, Arthur Wadsworth, telegraphed the Mitchell to reassure it that the Commonwealth Library would not be bidding. Despite this reassurance, though Wadsworth’s assistant (and later successor) Kenneth Binns, was intent upon the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library acquiring the journal.

On 21 March 1923 the Australian government purchased the *Endeavour* journal for £5000 for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library. Prime Minister Bruce had telegraphed the High Commissioner in London a day earlier to instruct the Mitchell Library’s Chief Librarian, already in England in anticipation of the auction, to bid on behalf of the Commonwealth. The Mitchell Library accepted this upon the understanding that it would be the custodian of the journal until such time that the Commonwealth Government had a suitable repository, a National Library.

Upon arrival in Australia the journal was exhibited in Queens Hall, Melbourne, for a month after which it was taken to the Mitchell Library and held for four years, before it was brought to Canberra.

The journal covers the three-year voyage of the His Majesty’s Bark *Endeavour* from 27 May 1768 to 12 July 1771, when it circumnavigated the globe officially in the name of scientific advancement. The flatbottomed former Yorkshire collier and its crew of 94 men were sent out by the Admiralty of King George III to observe the Transit of Venus (an astronomical phenomenon) - from the South Seas location—King George’s Island amongst the Society Islands (today called Tahiti). James Cook’s status was promoted from Master to 1st Lieutenant for the voyage – he wasn’t actually a Captain yet.
However on the 30 July 1768 an unofficial reason for the voyage was documented and conveyed to Cook by the Lords of the Admiralty. In the Secret Instructions Cook was directed to search between Tahiti and New Zealand for ‘a Continent or Land of great extent’, which may ‘redound greatly to the Honour of this Nation as a Maritime Power, as well as to the Dignity of the Crown of Great Britain, and may tend greatly to the advancement of the Trade and Navigation thereof’.

This is Cook’s letterbook purchased by the Library at the 1923 auction with the Journal. In one sense it is an official record, though the Admiralty rarely asked that they be returned by captains. It was Cook’s clerk Richard Orton who had the job of copying all inward and outward correspondence prior to the voyage—mostly documenting supplies and staffing of the ship. The Secret Instructions appear at the back of it and have been written up well into the voyage—an indication of the very secret nature of the instructions—and possibly after the search for the great south land had taken place.

Apart from the standard British Admiralty crew for a sailing ship—officers, midshipmen and supernumeraries—also on board were a group of civilians led by the very wealthy 25-year-old naturalist, Joseph Banks. With the enthusiasm of the Enlightenment firing them, Banks and his team of scientists, artists and servants collected and began recording botany and, to a lesser extent, zoology discovered in the various lands visited during the voyage. The scientists also noted further details of an anthropological nature about the peoples and cultures they met.

Upon their return to England, the scientists had discovered one tenth as many plants again as were listed in Linnaeus’ catalogue of the world’s plant species, his *Genera Plantarum* of 1737. Their success during the journey inspired and became a model for later British and European scientific voyages.

The 753 pages of the journal were written by James Cook in a series of double-leaved folios—what we would call exercise books today—here is the first folio with a big stain on it! They weren’t bound into one volume until the late 19th century. *Endeavour Journal* was Cook’s private journal, not hugely different to the official journal of the voyage. It is written entirely in his own hand and includes his additions, deletions and alterations. There was an official journal kept on the voyage, but that one was written up by the clerk, signed by Cook, then handed to the Admiralty Office at the conclusion of the voyage.

Cook has written the body of the text in dark-coloured iron gall ink on hand-made laid paper. This is the first double page spread of the journal—Cook began writing his journal in the form of a log book recording information, generally on the left side of the page, under the headings *Week Days*, *Month Days*, *Winds*, *Courses*, *Distance run in Miles*, *Latitude*, *Longitude West from Greenwich*, and *Bearings at Noon*. Journal entries describing any events that occurred were then entered on the right side of the page. As the journey progresses Cook’s initial factual entries describing the state of the weather and wind, expand to include the description of events, places and peoples met, and he has also in places ‘borrowed’ from the *Endeavour journal* of Joseph Banks.

On [23 May 1770] off the east coast of Australia he writes:

‘Last Night some time in the Middle watch a very extraordinary affair happened to Mr Orton my Clerk, he having been drinking in the Evening, some Malicious person or persons in the Ship took the advantage of his being drunk and cut off all the cloaths from his back, not being satisfied with this they some time after went into his Cabbin and cut off a part of both his Ears as he lay asleep in his bedÖ’ he goes on to say that he
suspects Mr Matra one of the Midshipmen of being the perpetrator.

Cook gives us an idea of punishment meted out onboard saying:
'Vefore the present dismiss’d him from the quarter deck and suspended him from doing any duty in the ship, he being one of those gentlemen, frequently found on board Kings Ships, that can very well be spared, or to speake more planer, good for nothing.'

Cook goes on to say that he won’t repeat shipboard conjecture, writing:
'I shall say nothing about it unless I shall hereafter discover the Offenders which I shall take every method in my power to do, for I look upon such proceedings as highly dangerous in such Voyages as this and the greatest insult that could be offer’d to my authority in this Ship, as I have always been ready to hear and redress every complaint that have been made against any Person in the Ship.'

I CHOPPED THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH FOR TIME REASONS BUT FEEL FREE TO INCLUDE IF YOU HAVE ROOM

[11 June 1770 – the flap of paper]
On 11 June 1770, off the coast of what is now North Queensland the *Endeavour* ran into serious trouble when it ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef, tearing the hull of the boat. The ship was caught on coral and grinding back and forth with the action of the waves. Apparently the sailors stopped swearing, showing the dire nature of their dilemma.
The journal at this stage shows signs of Cook having been too busy to attend to his journal entries, rather it appears that he wrote the incident up later having to use the margin and a flap of paper stuck into the journal to finish the entry.
Of course, thanks to Midshipman Monkhouse’s knowledge of ‘fothering’—stretching a piece of reinforced sail across the hole in the ship’s hull—they managed to refloat the boat and limp ashore at Endeavour River (near today’s Cooktown).

[Endeavour beached at Endeavour River]

When you visit our Treasures Gallery to view the Journal, we have the Secret Instructions on display alongside it, but also another document on display – a letter addressed to Cook from Lord Morton, President of the Royal Society at the time. In this manuscript Cook is counselled that he should treat the peoples he encounters respectfully and to take particular note of the lands and resources he will witness.

And indeed when reading Cook’s entries you get a sense that Cook took these comments ‘on board’ – that there are changes in the way the man is viewing the world. As the ship left Australian waters, Cook recorded some observations of the people he met, their appearance and their way of life, making the following philosophical comment:

[23 August 1770]
‘From what I have said of the Natives of New Holland they may appear to some to be the most wretched people upon Earth, but in reality they are far more happier than we Europeans; being wholly unacquainted not only with the superfluous but the necessary Conveniencies so much sought after in Europe, they are happy in not knowing the use of any of them.’

[sketches of aborigines]
Now having given you a sense of the three key manuscript treasures in the National Library’s collection – I should touch on the artistic record from the *Endeavour* voyage. Unfortunately we do not hold these visual records – upon his return to London, Banks employed a group of artists to finish the artistic works of Parkinson who had died on the return leg of the voyage. Parkinson had been so overworked and overwhelmed by the sheer mass of new life forms encountered that many of his drawings were only partly finished. Plates were etched for future publication of the botanical specimens, though this did not happen until the early 20th century.

And here are some examples of the artworks produced on the voyage:
[A woman of Tierra del Fuego by Alexander Buchan]
[a Chief Mourner from the Society Islands, by ‘the artist of the chief mourner’ thought to be Tupaia, a Tahitian who joined the crew]
Today the over 900 botanical and 300 zoological sketches and paintings from the voyage are held in the Natural History Museum in London. The lesser number of sketches and paintings of the peoples and cultures met en route are held by the British Library. And the numerous charts, maps and coastal profiles produced are today retained by the Public Record Office.

When you visit the Treasures Gallery you will also notice that we have some artefacts relating to Cook his family on display – designs for his coat of arms, a silver salver from his home, and his walking stick.

And, I'll leave you with an image of a manuscript map in the Library’s collection from an earlier time in Cook’s career in 1762 – when he was mapping the Newfoundland coastline during Summer, returning to his wife Elizabeth in England during winter.

I’m sure John will now fill us in on a whole lot more about what Cook was really brilliant at – his mapping work!

Thank you
James Cooks’ journal, or holograph journal, was the basis for three further journals written up during the voyage by Cook’s clerk Richard Orton—they are held in the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Australia—the Public Record Office, London, England—and another by an anonymous author held by the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England. The British Admiralty required that Navy ships keep a journal, log, surveys and coastal profiles, and that copies also be made of those documents and returned to England at stages during a voyage to keep the Admiralty informed of a ship’s progress. Cook sent back a copy of his journal to date from Rio dated ?—and then there was no word for Ö. Years during which time the Admiralty assumed the worst had happened.

[Cook’s *Endeavour* journal was published 1773, together with the journals of Joseph Banks and earlier Pacific explorers in a volume edited by John Hawkesworth. *An Account of the Voyages Undertaken in by the order of His present Majesty, for Making Discoveries in the Southern Hemisphere, and Successively Performed by Commodore Byron, Captain Wallis, Captain Carteret, and Captain Cook* became one of the most popular works of the eighteenth century being reprinted in its first year, with Irish, American and translations in European languages following closely. It was the single most popular work in the Bristol Library between 1773 and 1784, being borrowed 201 times. (By comparison Hume’s *History of England* was borrowed 180 times, and Fielding’s *Miscellanies* 120 times.) It was the principal source for late eighteenth-century ideas about Tahiti and its astonishing people, about the fierce Maori of New Zealand, and about the seemingly primitive Aboriginal people of Australia.

However Cook was unhappy with the Hawkesworth edition of his journal. In order to convey the immediacy of the navigators’ experiences, Hawkesworth followed a controversial editorial method retaining a single authorial ‘I’ throughout. He altered or omitted from the original text, shifted paragraphs and added thoughts of his own. Cook was particularly unhappy that most of the navigational detail had been removed, making the journal practically useless for other mariners. As a result, the Admiralty allowed Cook to publish, and receive all proceeds from the journal of his second voyage, with the editorial assistance of Dr John Douglas, Canon of Windsor. Cook was happy with the collaboration, later writing to Douglas that ‘I shall always have a due sense of the favors you have done.’]

[As English spelling had not been systematized at the time of Cook’s voyage, his spelling can at times be phonetic, reflecting his strong Yorkshire accent.

James Cook was born to a Yorkshire farming family, had attended school studying at the behest of his father’s employer Thomas Skottowe until he was 13. He then worked on the farm that his father managed until he was 17, when he became an apprentice shopkeeper in the seaport of Staithes. Eighteen months later he gained a three-year apprenticeship in the merchant navy with John Walker who owned a small fleet of vessels in the coal trade.

After completing his apprenticeship as merchant seaman, Cook worked in the Baltic trade, was promoted to mate (officer-in-charge-of-navigation), and in 1755 took command of the *Friendship*. However within a month Cook volunteered for the Royal Navy as an able-bodied seaman, joining the *Eagle* as master’s mate, and the opportunity to further his navigation skills. In 1757 Cook received his master’s warrant, and though deemed worthy of a lieutenant’s commission by his commanding officer Captain Hugh Palliser, he was required by the Navy to perform six years’ service for such a rank.

In 1758, Cook was appointed to the *Pembroke*, a part of Admiral Boscawen’s fleet carrying 14,000 troops to attack the French at Louisburg, Cape Breton Island, Canada. Following the surrender of that town to the English, the
Pembroke joined other ships patrolling the mouth of the St Lawrence river. It seems that this was his moment to shine amongst his peers gaining an excellent reputation for his navigational and mapping skills.

Cook’s successful charting of the notorious section of the river called the Traverse in the St Lawrence River allowed the British Fleet comprising 200 ships to sail up the river and took its first Canadian colony Quebec from the unprepared French. For his efforts, Cook received a special payment of £50 for his work. Cook then served as master on board the Northumberland producing charts of the Canadian coastline.

In 1762 Cook returned to England and married Elizabeth Batts. Then for the following four years he surveyed the coasts of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia during the summer months, and returned to England to spend the winter months working on his charts.

In 1766 Cook observed an eclipse of the sun from Burgeo Island and sent his observations to the Royal Society. As a result of his experiences of astronomical observation and obvious skill in navigation and cartography, Cook was appointed leader of an expedition to observe the transit of Venus from Tahiti organised by the Royal Society, in association with the Navy Board and funded by King George III. The Admiralty were less interested in astronomical observation than in the opportunity such a voyage offered for the secret exploration of the south-west of the South Sea (Pacific) for the Great South Land—Terra Australis Incognita. When the expedition returned in July 1771, the transit of Venus had been observed, an unprecedented number of botanical and zoological specimens collected, and though no Great South Land had been found, New Zealand and the east coast of New Holland (Australia) had been charted and claimed for King George III. On 14 July 1772 Cook sailed from Plymouth in the Resolution with the Adventure (commanded by Tobias Furneaux) ‘to perfect the discoveries that had been begun in the last voyage’. The expedition crossed the Atlantic Circle, explored New Zealand, visited Tahiti (taking on board a young man called Omai), discovered the Hervey Islands and visited the Friendly Islands (Tonga).

Following these discoveries the Adventure returned to England, after crew members were lost to local Maori, having completed the first circumnavigation of the globe from west to east. The Resolution continued on to discover Easter Island, Norfolk Island, New Caledonia and laid the myth of the Great South Land to rest after extensive exploration of the area. The Resolution returned to England on 30 July 1775. On 7 March 1776 Cook was admitted to the Royal Society for his success in defeating scurvy amongst his crew during his voyages and his paper on nutrition aboard the Resolution was awarded the prestigious Copley Medal, judged to be the best experimental research of the year. Elizabeth accepted the award however, as Cook had left on a third voyage in 1776 to search for a Pacific entrance to the legendary Northwest Passage between the Atlantic and Pacific, believed to lie north of Canada. The voyage was also publicised as one to return Omai to Tahiti. On 12 July 1776 the Resolution left Plymouth commanded by Cook, and the Discovery commanded by Charles Clerke. Though unsuccessful in finding a northwest passage, the expedition did discover the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) on 18 January 1778. This voyage was however characterised by violence. Cook meted out increasingly severe punishments to indigenous peoples following the theft of various articles whilst at the Friendly Islands (Tonga), St George’s Island (Tahiti) and the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii). And on 14 February 1779 Cook and four marines were killed on the beach at Kealakekua Bay while seeking the return of the Discovery’s large cutter. Following Cook’s death, Charles Clerke transferred to the Resolution and took command of the expedition, with Lieutenant John Gore taking command of the Adventure. Following the death of Charles Clerke from tuberculosis, Lieutenant John King took command of the Adventure and both ships returned to England arriving on 4 October 1780. Little is known of James Cook’s private life, as Elizabeth destroyed his papers and letters shortly before her death, apparently in fulfilment of Cook’s wishes.]