

CREATIVE ARTS ACTIVITY

Stage 3 | Creative Arts | Making VAS3.1; VAS3.2; Appreciating VAS3.4

During the colonial period artists created illustrations to print with news stories about significant events – including bushranger robberies.

Below is a newspaper report about a bushranger robbery that took place in the Blue Mountains in March 1864.

Your task is to create an artwork that will accompany the article.

Step 1:

Read the article carefully. Note down as much detail as you can, things such as:

- how many bushrangers were there?
- what did they look like? What were they wearing?
- where and when did the robbery take place?
- what kind of weapons did they have?
- how many passengers were there?
- what actions did the bushrangers take?

Step 2:

Sketch out your proposed 'scene' on an A4 piece of paper.

- does your artwork help tell the story of what happened?

Step 3:

Once you're happy with your draft sketch, it's time to create your final artwork.

You can use paint, pencils, print-making, or anything else you'd like.

ANOTHER GREAT MAIL ROBBERY.

“Intelligence reached Sydney yesterday of the robbery of the mail at Lapstone Hill, three or four miles beyond Penrith, at about three o'clock that morning.

The coach contained seven persons besides the driver. One of the passengers was a policeman; two were females; three were Chinese men, and the seventh is said to be a digger.

The coach had arrived at the bridge on Lapstone Hill, where there is a sharp turn in the road, when three or four men made their appearance suddenly, and ordered the driver to stop and the passengers to dismount.

It was very dark at the time, and the number of highwaymen could not at first be ascertained correctly.

Most of the passengers dismounted at once, but one woman refused, and being allowed to remain in the coach, took advantage to place her money and a gold watch in one of her boots, where it escaped the search of the robbers. The horses were at once taken from the vehicle, and lashed with the driver's whip up the hill into the bush.

The passengers were ordered to stand by and not stir while this was being done. They were then searched, and from one of the Chinese men, it is said, that the large amount of £400 was, taken, as well as considerable sums from the other two; making altogether over £700.

On the other male passenger only a small sum 20 shillings or 30 shillings was found. The man made very earnest and at length successful appeals not to be robbed of all he had in the world, and was permitted to retain his money.

The policeman, who we are informed was well armed, offered no resistance, neither did the driver; and the robbers proceeded very quietly and deliberately to cut open and extract the contents of the mail bags.

The bushrangers took the lamps from the coach to enable them to inspect the contents of the letters and parcels.

The result was that they obtained a very large sum in notes and cheques making their plunder altogether amount to considerably over £1000. After securing all they thought worth taking, the letters and envelopes were scattered about in the road and the adjoining bush, and the driver and passengers set at liberty.

One of the men is described as a very tall man, wrapped in a blanket; of the second, who seized the horse's heads, not much was seen; the third was a short man with a dirty jumper.

The woman who remained in the coach states that she saw a fourth man, standing as if on sentry at a short distance off; but if this was the case, nothing of the kind was seen by the other passengers.”

Source: The Golden Age, 17 March 1864. p2. (See link [HERE](#) for unedited article on trove.com.au)