

MACLEAN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



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Our Society meets on the first Tuesday of every month in our meeting room at the Museum at 9.30 am.



JOURNAL OF MACLEAN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

CLARENCE RIVER ADVOCATE

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STONE COTTAGE and MUSEUM
Corner Wharf and Grafton Streets
Maclean

(Location address only- see inside for postal address)

Open 1-4 Wednesdays and Saturdays

10-4 Fridays

Other times by appointment



MACLEAN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Patrons.....Mrs E H McSwan OAM and Mr. John Wells
President..... Edith Dobbin OAM
Vice Presidents.....Carolyn Cameron and Bob Carr
Secretary..... Margaret Switzer
Assistant Secretary.....
Treasurer..... Colin Wood
Research Officers..... Yvonne Johnson, Margaret Switzer.
Recorder..... Carolyn Cameron
Public Officer..... Tony Snape
Roster..... Yvonne Johnson
Publicity..... Margaret Switzer
Journal Editor..... Carolyn Cameron
Computer Group..... Nancy Weir, Carolyn Cameron, Bob Carr
Management Committee Executive plus Peg Hawkes and Ruth Snape

EDITORIAL

VALE RUTH McAULAY

GOODBYE COLIN AND PAM

OCT— DEC. 1917 in AUSTRALIA

100 YEARS AGO

INTERESTING DONATIONS

GILLESPIE FAMILY

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

A NEW ACQUISITION

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

*All correspondence to be addressed to: The Secretary
 Maclean District Historical Society
 PO Box 257 Maclean 2463
 Phone: (02) 66453416 Fax: (02) 66453416
 Website: <http://www.macleanhistorical.org.au>
 Email: museum@macleanhistorical.org.au*



Maclean District Historical Society Inc.

Publications for Sale

Maclean, The First Fifty Years 1862-1912 by E.H.McSwan.....\$20.00
Maclean and the Scottish Connection by E.H.McSwan.....\$20.00
Discovery and Settlement of the Lower Clarence by E.H.McSwan..\$6.00
Lower Clarence Cemetery List.....\$15.00
History of Education on the Lower Clarence
Maclean by E.H.McSwan.....\$15.00
 (This book is the history of Early Maclean - Primary, District Rural and
 Intermediate High School to 1961)
Past Schools by M.Switzer.....\$15.00
 (Schools in the district that are now closed)
High School by E.H.McSwan.....\$20.00
 (From 1961 onwards)
Clarence River Sugar Industry- A Tour among the Mills
 compiled by Ruth McAulay.....\$15.00
The Fishing Industry, Lower Clarence-The Early Years by Yvonne John-
 son.....\$20.00
Ferries of the Lower Clarence by D Towner and E.H.McSwan-
 book.....\$10.00
 CD.....\$10.00
 Book and CD.....\$15.00
Shark Creek Tales.....\$7.00
Champions in Sport.....\$5.00
Ford Family History.....\$10.00
Amateur Dramatics- Maclean to 1962.....\$10.00
Brooms Head Revisited.....book.....\$15.00
 CD\$10.00
Maclean to the Reef -and Back.....\$8.00
1909 Electoral Roll (Maclean only).....\$5.00
1919 Electoral Roll (Maclean only).....\$5.00
Old Remedies, Household Hints and Recipes.....\$5.00
Wings Over Calliope.....\$15.00
From Cane Fields to Battlefields.....\$25
Maclean Brass Band.....Yvonne Johnson/Bob Carr.....\$15
Clarence Valley Volunteers (WW1).....\$30
Rivers, Rowing, Racing and Regattas.....Carolyn Cameron.....\$25

(POSTAGE EXTRA)

History will be kind to me for I intend to write it- (Winston Churchill)

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Old brick house at Roberts Creek-History/photos. (House location known, but no photos/little history)	Causley farm house Pacific Hwy (referred to Causley family)
Death certificate copies of Richard and Frances Moxham (follow-up research re Shannon/William Smith families)	Lamont family enquiry by telephone answering machine– returned call but no further action
Historical land use of Ashby region from Crown Lands Qld.– information forwarded	Angus McAulay m. Anne McKay– also William Quayle m. Sarah McAulay, and families. Farmer of Ulmarra and South Arm region 1870s onwards.
Thomas Hannah, farmer, Lawrence, m. Eliza Jane Shields– 1886 onwards.	Robert M. Boyle, mill manager; Inspector Harwood Mill 1875-77, manager Chatsworth Mill 1881. Also photos of early sugar cane industry
Thank you email from Trevor Smith re research done on Francis P. Gale and William J. Smith families of Woodford island.	Photos of early streetscapes on USB for project.
Any report of ceremony of memorial plaque 1945-1995 and planting of a tree, recently removed from McLachlan park (no records held at Museum)	George Morrison, sugar cane farmer/mill owner, Goodwood Island and Alexander Anderson of Warregah Island 1860s.
Breast plate of “King Charlie Napier of Balarobo”- enquiry if it has a National Register number (it hasn't)	Michael and Kate Neary and family of Tullymorgan farmers circa 1879-1935; history and photos of Tullymorgan; also Cornelius and Michael O'Driscoll/ Driscoll of Shark Creek 1870-1882, later Maclean.
Julian Cormick/Robert Muter/Thomas Farmer families of Tullymorgan circa early 1870s.	John and Martha Buckland family of Palmers Island, mainly fishermen; in particular sons, Charles and Frank (WW1 soldiers)
Robert Dawson and Margaret E. Campbell of Lawrence 1886	Woodford Island history of Julian Stuart– no further action.
Visitors requested a copy of family entry in an old large McAulay Bible, which was reputed to be at the museum. We only have a small bible presented to a Miss McAulay on leaving Maclean, found in a second hand shop in Sydney. No family information in this bible.	Alfred Catt and family, early settler/farmer of Ashby 1862– then Maclean 1867– town boundary Harwood Road, where he had sugar cane and a small mill. Also received small printout of Alfred Catt family early life pre 1862
Harwood Convent School information for Yamba Society	History of Harry Blair's shop, photos of early Maclean CBD and shop—built in terrace of four 1911-12
Chatsworth Island Public School 150th Anniversary in 2018– ongoing research information	Received photos of “Spec” McLennan's garage and shops at old Harwood ferry approaches– flood 1963 with bridge construction in background

Why waste your money looking into your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you– Mark Twain (so true in today's politics!)

EDITORIAL

Our museum personnel has suffered yet another blow with the death of Ruth McAulay, and the departure of our trusty Treasurer, Colin Wood and his wife, to the Gold Coast.

We wish Colin and Pam a fond farewell– and good luck for the future. You will be missed.

VALE RUTH MCAULAY

Ruth had been a member of the Maclean District Historical Society for 36 years. She was always very proud of her Scottish heritage and her family's long association with the area.

She was born in the Lower Clarence, educated at Chatsworth Island Primary School and Maclean Intermediate High School.

Ruth joined the WRAAF in 1959, transferring to the RAAF in 1977. She retired in November 1979 with the rank of Flight Sergeant. During her years of service, she was awarded the National Medal, Certificate of Outstanding Service, and after retiring, the Defence Force Service Medal, returning then to her home area.

She was a member of the Lower Clarence Scottish Association– acting as Secretary 1982/3; a member and steward at Lower Clarence Agricultural Society Shows; Foundation Treasurer of the Maclean Shire Cultural Committee and later the Clarence Valley Council's Heritage Group for which she received a State Award.

Her role as member of the Clarence Ex-Servicemen's Association was one she worked hard at – serving terms as President and Vice President. Her work in the Chatsworth area for the Bi-centenary celebrations was well known as was her long service to our society. Here she was a regular attendee at conferences and meetings,

Your lost friends are not dead, but gone before, advanced a stage or two upon that road which you must travel in the steps they trod.

serving as a Local Chapter representative to Museums Australia, endeavouring to have small local museums' work recognised and to be able to avail themselves of more support and information.

She served a period as our President, during which time she co-ordinated visiting exhibitions held at our museum. Two booklets were also produced by her during her time with us – one on Shipping, and another called “A Tour Among the Mills” which was the story of small and individually owned sugar mills around the district in the early days of the sugar industry. Before her death she was heavily involved in helping with the production of our newest publication “ Rivers, Rowing, Racing and Regattas” which outlines the story of the early days of rowing on the Lower Clarence, providing information and photos for the publication. She had previously compiled information of the RSL, Show Society, Chatsworth Island families, Scottish Association, among others. These compilations help us in our recording and disseminating of local knowledge.

Ruth will be sorely missed.



The comfort of having a friend may be taken away, but not that of having had one.

An important accoutrement for any ‘sneezing’ Scotsman was his ‘sneeshin miln’. These objects are now known to collectors as snuff-mulls, due to the Scottish pronunciation of the word mill. Snuff-mulls were made of a ram’s horn, the point of which was heated and curled into a tight scroll to keep it from rubbing a hole in the pocket. The exterior of the horn was sometimes left naturally rough, but more often was polished smooth. The rims of most horns were fitted with pewter, silver or more rarely, gold hardware at the rim which provided the hinge for a cover typically made of horn, and a thumbpiece for opening the mull

There are a number of instances in which a table snuff-mull was made from a single ram’s horn which retained its natural curl or a pair ram’s horns with pewter or silver mounts, including ornamented caps over the pointed end of the horns.

Our snuff mull is a polished ram’s horn mull, with curved point, embellished with silver plaques.

DID YOU KNOW?

A sneeze can travel up to 160 km /hour; the spray can travel two metres.

A single sneeze can produce up to 40,000 droplets.

Your eyes close automatically when you sneeze.

It was once thought your heart stopped with a sneeze– not so, but it can skip a beat.

You can’t sneeze while asleep.

If you “miss” a sneeze, some people can induce one by looking at a light bulb (but not directly at the sun, which can ruin your eyes)

A NEW ACQUISITION - A SCOTTISH MULL

The Society has recently purchased a Scottish Mull. This is a snuff box. This can be explained in the following.....

The Scottish perspective of snuffing ...

The practice of snuffing in Scotland began more than a hundred years earlier than it did in England. Scotsmen and women were taking snuff from the late sixteenth century, originally for its medicinal properties. The use of snuff was supposed to cure such ills as tooth-ache, catarrh, and "naughty breath." But snuff at this time contained no tobacco. Rather, it was made of the dried and powdered leaves of the *Achillea ptarmica* plant, a member of the yarrow family. It was generally known as sneezewort by the 1590s, and the act of taking a pinch of the herb was 'sneezing.' By the decade of the Regency, the snuff taken by most Scotsmen and women had begun to be of the tobacco variety.

It seems that the most popular type of snuff throughout Scotland was that known as high-dried or high-toast snuff which was made of tobacco that was dried for longer periods in higher temperatures, almost to the point of burning. It was not typically flavoured or perfumed as many snuff varieties were, since it had its own unique flavour. This snuff was extremely strong and not for the novice snuffer. Many Scotsmen prided themselves on their ability to take this very strong unflavoured type of snuff.

Distrust camels—and anyone else who can go a week without a drink! (Scottish saying)

GOODBYE, COLIN AND PAM

We are losing our trusty Treasurer, Colin Wood and his wife, Pam, in the near future.

We thank them both for the dedication and involvement that they have shown and we will miss them both.

Good luck for the future, Colin and Pam, we wish you well (and thank you for a job well done!)



WHAT EVERY NOT - FOR - PROFIT VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION WISHES THEY HAD IN THE BANK!

Every ending means a new beginning

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1917 IN AUSTRALIA

Oct: Coalfields strike ends. Anzac forces take part in the assault on Broodseinde ridge and on Passchendaele. Transcontinental railway completed. (First train runs 22 Oct; official opening 12 Nov.) Collapse of strike by seamen and wharf labourers. Australian Light Horsemen, commanded by General Harry Chauvel, attack and capture Beersheba.

Nov: Hughes announces that another conscription referendum is to be held. German place names in SA changed by act of Parliament. Qld Premier T. J. Ryan speaks at an anti-conscription rally; his speech is censored in the press. (He repeats his speech in parliament three days later; censors seize Hansard copies next day. He repeats his speech outside parliament following a challenge from Hughes to do so; he and his deputy, E. G. Theodore, are charged with breaches of the War Precautions Act. Charges dropped at trial, 6 Dec.) Hughes is hit by an egg while addressing a conscription rally at Warwick, Qld. (Angered by the lack of response from the Queensland police, he forms the Commonwealth Police Force on 12 Dec; disbanded in 1921.)

Dec: Second conscription referendum held; conscription again rejected. Holden's Motor Body Builders establishes a factory in Adelaide.

Historians describe 1917 as the worst year of the war. It surely was. Australia's casualties totalled 76,836 dead and wounded. The 40,000 dead from 1917 comprised two-thirds of all Australian dead in WWI and 40 per cent of all Australian war dead, ever. October 1917, with 6,400 lost, was the worst single month.

Three years into the four-year war, the end seemed further away than ever.

Only the dead have seen the end of war.-George Santayana

The book (Book 1) tells of rowing on the river (concentrating mainly on the Lower River) from the very early beginnings until 1945 when rowing took place at Grafton, South Grafton, Ulmarra, Brushgrove, Lawrence, Maclean, Palmers Island, Harwood Island, Chatsworth Island, Iluka, and even at Yamba before 1900.

Book 2 from 1946– present will follow in a year or two. These would be copied and returned and duly acknowledged.

The aim is to provide as many photographs as possible in Book 2.



Signing copies of the book

A writer died and was given the option of going to heaven or hell.

She decided to check out each place first. As the writer descended into the fiery pits, she saw row upon row of writers chained to their desks in a steaming sweatshop. As they worked, they were repeatedly whipped with thorny lashes.

"Oh my," said the writer. "Let me see heaven now."

A few moments later, as she ascended into heaven, she saw rows of writers, chained to their desks in a steaming sweatshop. As they worked, they, too, were whipped with thorny lashes.

"Wait a minute," said the writer. "This is just as bad as hell!"

"Oh no, it's not," replied an unseen voice. "Here, your work gets published."

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

Our new publication “Rivers, Racing, Rowing and Regattas” Book 1 was launched in the grounds of our museum on 25th November. Elizabeth Smith for the Yaegyl Council performed the Welcome to Country, with Kerry McLeay singing in language.

MDHS Patron and the Society’s inaugural member, Mrs Lin McSwan attended along with members of rowing clubs and other society members. The cake, kindly donated by Tony and Ruth Snape, was cut by author Carolyn Cameron and guest speaker, Islay Lee. Islay represented Australia at two Olympics– Montreal 1976 and Moscow 1980.

Mr Lex Essex also gave an insight into rowing, sharing some of his memories. Morning tea was served and visitors were invited to view the Stone Cottage and Museum.

The book is now available for purchase at our museum, or by emailing museum@macleanhistory.org.au. We will then give our BSB information and advise of postage.

Book 2 will also tell of the people involved– so if you have photos, stories etc. of anyone who rowed from Harwood, Iluka or Maclean in the period 1946– 2017, we would love to see them.

You know you are a rower when... You only recognise your friends from behind.

You know you are a rower when... Every time you sit on a chair, you wonder why it doesn’t slide back and forth.

You know you are a rower when... breakfast always takes precedence over showering after practice.

100 YEARS AGO

October:

THE MOST successful and enjoyable social function (*of the war period*) took place in the school grounds at Palmers’ Channel ... A glorious moonlit night caused a splendid attendance and at least 360 people sat down and ate till they could eat no more ... their only regret was that they did not live in Roman times so they might manage to begin once more.

WAR CHEST DAY is to be celebrated at Maclean on Saturday next, when a special effort will be made to raise funds. A special feature of the celebrations will be a fancy dress cricket match, to be played on Cameron’s oval, and old cricketers and others prepared to take part in this function are requested to get in touch with Mr C. V. Jones at the Daily Examiner Office, Maclean.

THERE WAS a good attendance (*at Tyndale*) at the Monthly meeting of the F. and S. Association (*Farmers and Settlers*) recently. Matters in connection with the sugar industry were discussed at length. The C.S.R. Co. cane cutting gangs have been operating freely on the South Arm. All frosted cane has been cut without any loss to the grower. One-year old cane in most cases shows signs of reviving after the frost... and the present season’s planting promises to be fairly extensive.

THE SUDDEN rush of summer weather should draw attention to the need of taking measures against mosquitoes ... fountains, ponds and water holes must be treated either by covering them with a film of kerosene, draining them each week or stocking them with mosquito-destroying fish.

Campers: Nature’s way of feeding mosquitoes.

THE memorial tablet, which is being erected in the Methodist Church, Maclean, in honour of the members who have fallen at the front, is to be unveiled on Sunday next, when a special service is to be held. The tablet bears the names of Lieut. C. B. Kelly, Lance-Corporal H. McDermid, Privates W. and G. Davis and A. Gilbert.

November:

HARRY ***** was charged with having in his possession ... half a bushel of oysters reasonably believed to have been stolen. The defendant pleaded guilty through Mr Lobban ... A fine of £2 and 6/- costs, in default of one month, was imposed.

MR J. F. SHAUMANN of Yamba has been advised that his son, Gunner F. H. Schaumann, has been wounded and Mr H. Barrett, teller of the Maclean branch of the Australia Bank of Commerce, was informed yesterday that his brother Private Norman Barrett, had been killed in action.

MR D. CAMERON, secretary of the Maclean Fishermen's Union, has been advised by Mr D. G. Stead, general manager of the State Trawling Industry, that the Maclean depot will be in full working order by early in January.

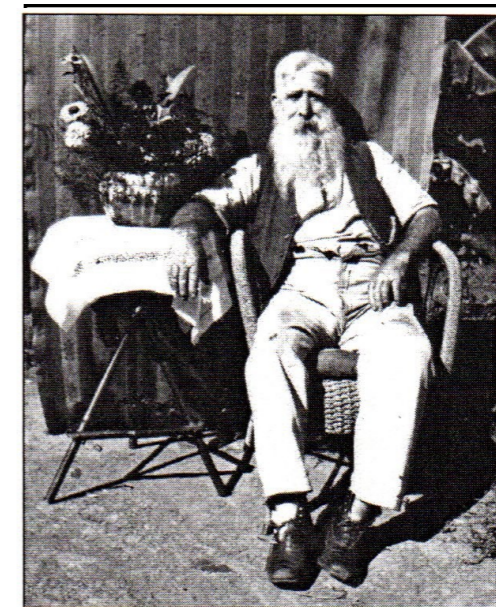
December:

MR HAROLD GALE, of Maclean, had the misfortune to have his car burnt on Saturday night, about a mile from Yamba. General regret is expressed at Mr Gale's loss, as he is a popular figure here and is always so prompt in bringing anyone in a case of sickness.

There was a fight at the seafood restaurant yesterday— two fish got battered!



Rebecca and Daughter, Eliza (born Lawrence) outside the farm house, Roberts Creek circa 1895



Grandfather Gillespie circa 1924

A knock came at the farmhouse door and the farmer's little boy answered it. The man at the door spoke: 'I have come to enquire about the donkey for sale.' Boy (Shouting into kitchen): 'Da, you're wanted.'

GILLESPIE FAMILY (James and Rebecca)

James Edward Gillespie was born on 27 November 1847, Freeman's Reach, Hawksbury River, eldest son of Peter Gillespie and Mary O'Neil. Rebecca was the seventh child of John and Margaret Vaughan (nee Lynch) of Swan Reach on the Hunter, born 17 October 1845, Morpeth. At the time of their marriage, Rebeca was living at home with her parents and James was working on a farm at Swan Reach. They married on 19 February 1866 and after the birth of their first child, they travelled overland by bullock wagon to the Clarence River, where they settled at South Grafton, where James worked as a farm hand and stockman. Another child (James Edward Jr. was born in 1868 when the father's occupation was given as "splitter". They soon made the journey downriver to Woodford Island, settling at Roberts Creek on Portion 148, Parish of Woodford. The property ran from Duck Creek, east of Elbow Creek with Roberts Creek running through the farm. The house (with many changes) was still standing in 2007. Here they operated a dairy with small crops as a side line.

James also worked for Small's Sugar Mill, South Arm, Woodford Island and also for the Belmore Mill at Ulmarra until he became better established. Rebecca was a well known midwife to local families and after attending one confinement she developed pneumonia. Her daughter, Sarah Landrigan, of Palmers Island, nursed her through her illness, passing away only weeks after the death of her mother in 1909, leaving a husband and eight children ranging in age from 18 months to 12 years. Her mother was 63 when she died. Her husband, James, lived on the farm until his death on 8 May 1926.

Q: Why did the farmer feed his cows money? A: Because he wanted rich milk.

CHATSWORTH During the past week we have had some very heavy storms, also on Monday very heavy hail fell, causing damage to a large area of crops. At Mr McRae's residence it pierced a water-tank.

A **PUBLIC MEETING** was held here on the 28th inst. At the instigation of Mr Alex. Anderson, who received correspondence from the secretary of the Lower Clarence Recruiting Referendum League, when it was decided to form a branch at Chatsworth.

YAMBA HAS quite a holiday appearance at the present time. Holiday seekers are daily arriving, some by motor-car, others by boat, and others again with their goods, etc. on the old-time dray, and all looking forward to a real good time in the surf.

AT SMITH'S HOTEL, Yamba, on Boxing Day, Messrs Munro and Smith will sell 13 3/4 acres of oyster leases situated at Palmers' Island on behalf of Messrs. J. and J. E. Marsh.

THE PRESIDENT (*of the Harwood Shire Council*) intimated that he had been approached by the clerk with regard to the Shire Hall being used for anti-conscription meetings, and he had informed the clerk that rent would have to be paid, as he did not consider the opposition to conscription patriotic.



Patriot: the person who can holler the loudest without knowing what he is hollering about.
(Mark Twain)

INTERESTING NEW DONATIONS

Barry Dwarte has given us several new and interesting donations- below is a photo of several net mending needles used by fishermen on the river in mending their trawl nets.



We were also given plans for trawlers built on the river, and a photo of a wheel, which caused Bob Carr to do some research to find out more about it. It was labelled "CROWN WHEEL " with picture as shown over the page.

He tracked down the following information:

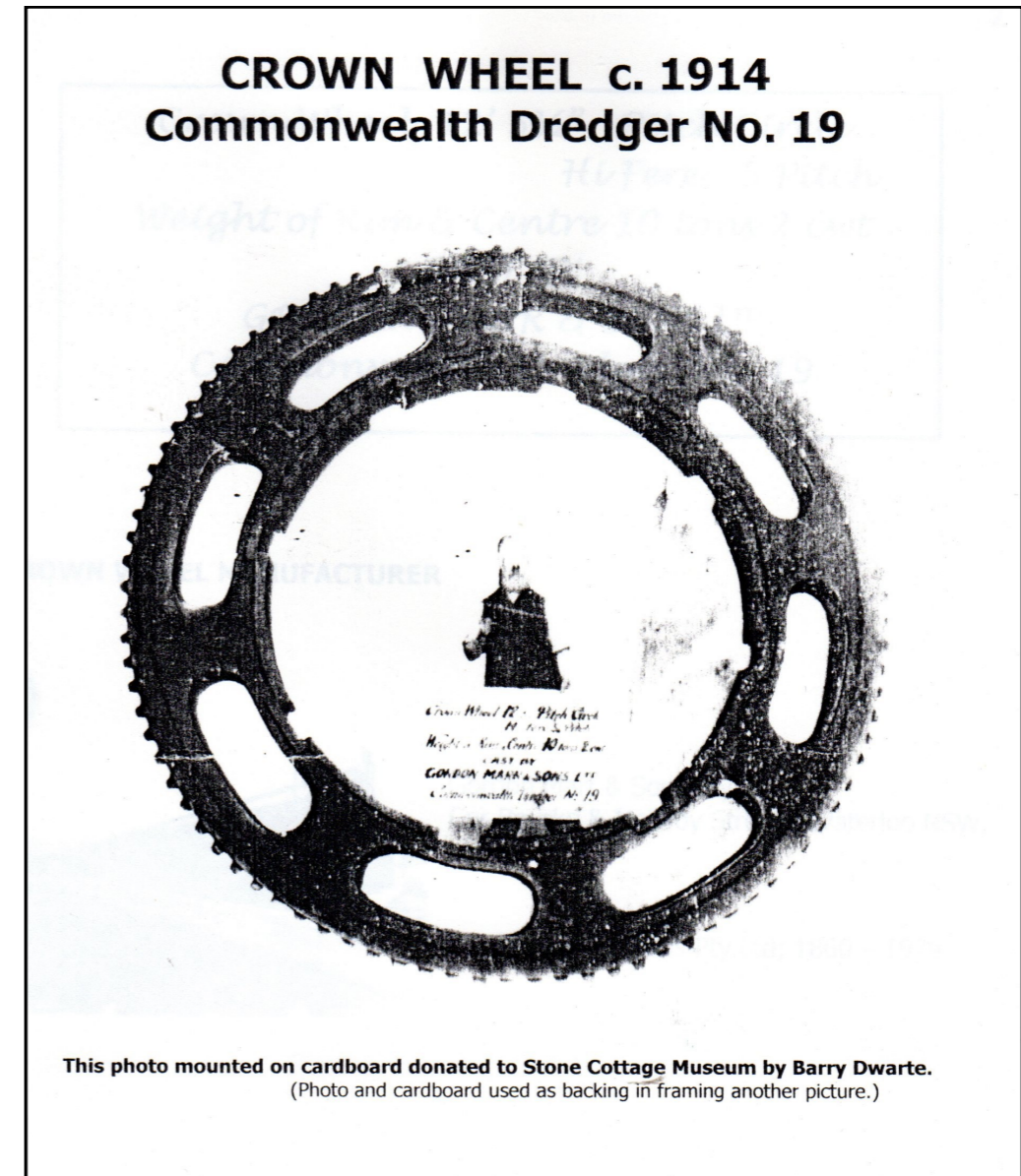
The wheel was cast by Gordon Marr and Sons Pty Ltd, Waterloo circa 1914 and used on Commonwealth Dredger No. 19.

The dredger, HMA Dredge No. 19 was a steel bucket dredge launched in Sydney in 1914. The vessel itself was built at Cockatoo Island, for the Commonwealth Navigation Department by Poole

Q: Why didn't Noah do much fishing on the ark?

A: He had only two worms

& Steel, Shipbuilders, Balmain and Adelaide. The Crown Wheel itself was 12 ft 5 .5 in (pitch circle) with weight of rim and centre equalling 10tons 2cwt.



These are a great addition to our Fishing and Boat collection.
Thank you, Barry.

The man who rows the boat seldom has time to rock it. Bill Copeland