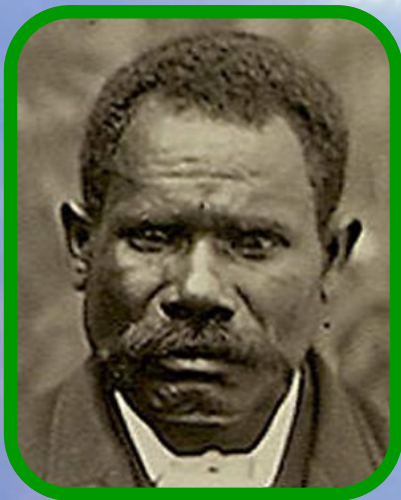


CUTTING THE CANE

The early years of the sugar cane industry at Cudgen.

By Deborah Wallace



JACK₁



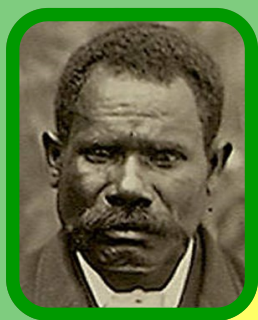
FRANK₂

This is the story of when the sugar cane industry was introduced to Cudgen in the Tweed Shire.

In the space of thirty years there was a lot of change. Not just to the environment, but to the people too.

Jack is a labourer and Frank is a farmer.

This is their story of what life was like working in the sugar industry in the late 1800's.



Hello, my name is Jack Watego.
I am a South Sea Islander. I am
nearly 50 years old now, but
have lived in Australia since I
was thirteen.

I have worked for many years as a
labourer cutting sugar cane in the
Tweed area. It is hard work, but it is
all that I know.

I am not allowed to do that work
anymore. Maybe I might get some
work cutting cedar trees down south
near Byron Bay.

It is 1912 now and a lot has changed
for the South Sea Islanders who were
brought to Australia to work in the
sugar industry.

This is my story of cutting cane for
the past 35 years.

Planting the
sugar cane.³



Hoeing to keep
the weeds away.⁴



Harvesting the
sugar cane.⁵





G'day, I'm Frank McDonald.

I'm an Australian. I was born in the Tweed Valley and I have lived here my whole life. I'm getting on a bit now, nearly 50.

I'm a farmer. I've worked in the sugar industry since it was introduced to the Tweed and will continue to do so for the rest of my life.

It's hard work growing sugar, but I've been fortunate. I have made some good money over the years and this has helped me to live a pretty good life.

A lot has changed over the years since sugar growing was introduced. And there will be more changes I expect.

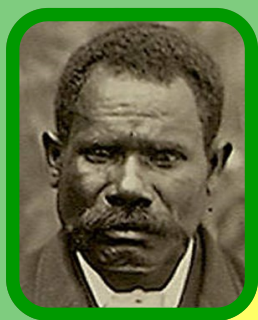
It's 1912 now and we only have one sugar Mill left in the Tweed.

This is my story of the past thirty odd years working in the sugar industry.

Harvesting the sugar cane.⁶



Preparing for another day of work.⁷



I was thirteen when I was brought to Australia. I was fishing one day in my canoe and a ship came. The men on the ship offered me beads and tomahawks if I came on their ship. So I did. I went to have a look at the offerings in the hull of the ship. Then they put the hatch down. It was then that I knew that I was trapped. There were others in the hull too.

We sailed for many days. Some people got very sick. Some died. When the boat moored, I was in a different country. They gave me a shirt, some pants, a hat and a blanket. Then I was sent straight to a farm. I found out that I was in Bundaberg, Australia.

On the farm I met other South Sea Islanders. They came from many different islands. Some were from the New Hebrides like me. Others came from New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Fiji. Many of them told me how they were tricked to get on the ships. Some were in their canoes trying to trade goods, and the white men smashed their canoes and pulled them on board, before locking them away. I found out that this had been happening for many years.

Working on the farm was hard. We had to clear the land for the white land owner. I just knew him as boss. He called us all Kanaka. (It is a Polynesian word meaning 'boy', but it is a term that we don't like). When we were working in the field an overseer would be on a horse with a stock whip. I didn't like the whip, so I made sure that I worked hard.

I found out that I was supposed to be on a contract. It meant that I was only supposed to work here for three years. Each year I would earn six pounds. That was the minimum wage. I was supposed to be paid at the end of my three years, before going home. When my three years was finished, nothing happened. I didn't get any money and I wasn't going home.



The slaver ship called the May.

It was one of the ships used to bring South Sea Islanders to Australia.⁸

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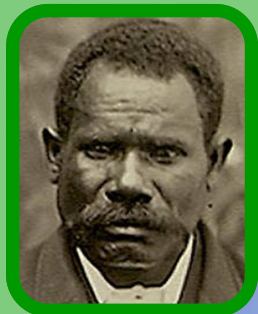
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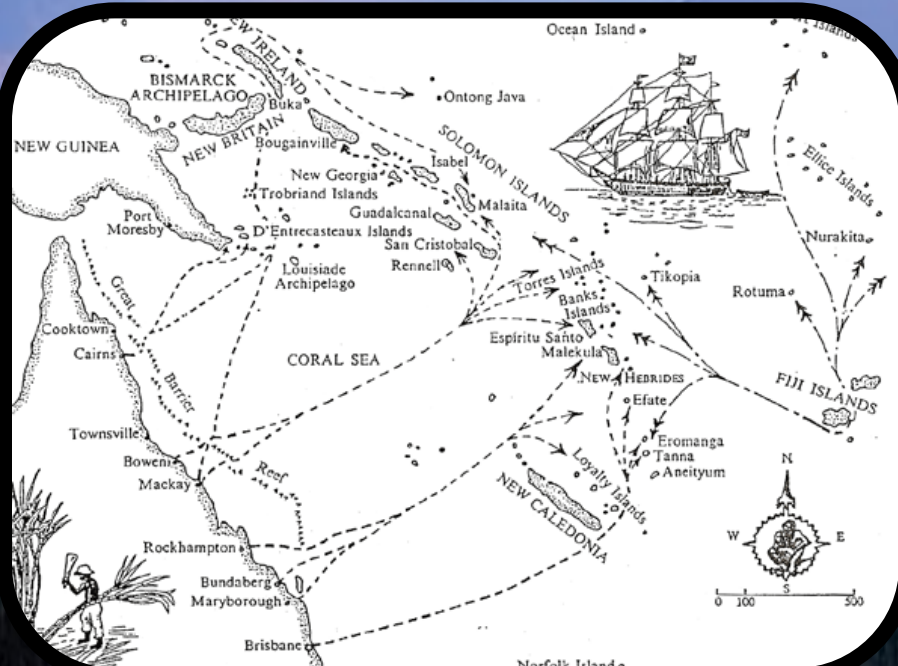
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South Sea Islander labourers on board a ship.⁹



The main routes that the ships used to bring South Sea Islanders to Australia. Jack was brought from New Hebrides.¹⁰



Two slave ships moored at Bundaberg.¹¹
L: Helena R: May



I was first introduced to sugar cane while working for Mr. Michael Guilfoyle and his sons, John and William. Mr. Guilfoyle owned 600 acres of land at Cudgen,

where he grew sugar and established a tropical nursery. I helped out in the nursery.

Mr. Guilfoyle grew date palms, oranges, bananas, pineapples, mangoes and camellias. On the rest of the plantation Mr. Guilfoyle planted forty-one different types of sugar cane. Some of the better varieties were supplied to the other farmers in the Tweed.

Over time I saw the landscape change around the Tweed. There were new farmers to the district. They were using Kanakas to clear the land so they could grow sugar cane too. The Kanakas were crossing the border from Queensland to work here. They are more suited to working on the land, compared to us. They were cheap labour and could put up with working in the hot sun all day.



Michael Guilfoyle

Michael Guilfoyle cleared the land at Cudgen to create the districts first sugar plantation.¹²

William Guilfoyle assisted his father.

He became a respected nurseryman and was appointed the Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens in 1873.¹³



William Guilfoyle

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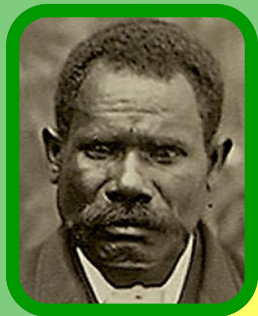
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It was in 1880 that the laws changed in Queensland. The government brought in the Pacific Islanders Labourers Act. An inspector came to the farm to see our living conditions and to check that we were being paid. If any of us had been there for three years, we were given the choice of going home or staying for another three years.

I didn't want to stay anymore, but I was afraid that I wouldn't be returned to my home. I had heard stories of Islanders leaving on the ships to go home, but they never got there. They just dropped them off further up North. Staying was not good either. Living on the farm was harsh. Food rations were short, we had poor shelter and there was no medical help when someone got sick. Many Islanders died when I worked on that farm.

I heard that in the south a new mill had opened and it was better working there. So I decided to go to the Tweed and see if I could find work there. When I arrived I found work with William Julius on his sugar can farm in Cudgen.



South Sea Islanders standing in front of the sugar cane.^{14, 15}



1875

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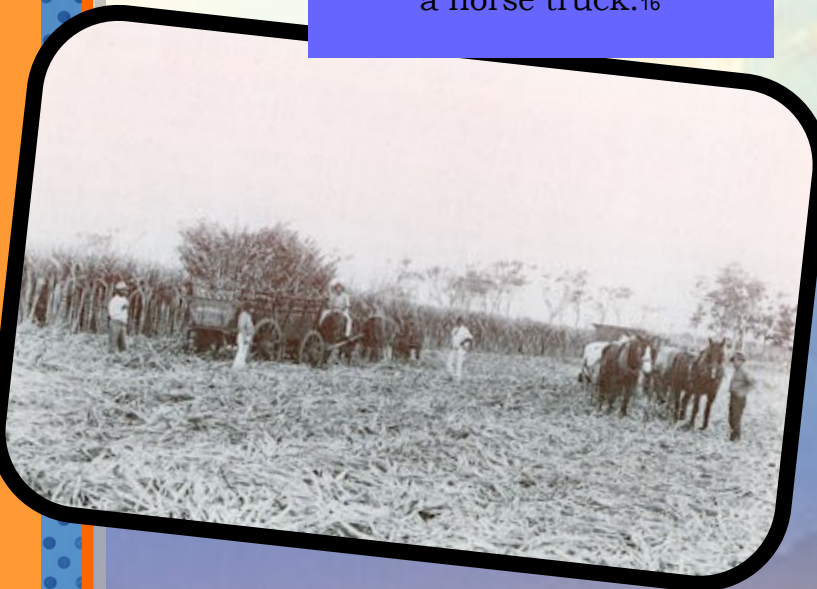
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By 1880 two sugar mills started operating in the Tweed Valley. One was built by the C.S.R. (Colonial Sugar Refining) Company at Condong. The other one was built by William W. Julius at Cudgen. Mr. Julius had a lot of experience in the sugar cane industry. He had worked for many years in the West Indies, before moving to Australia. He started growing cane on the Macleay River down south, but it was too cold for growing there. So Mr. Julius moved to Cudgen by purchasing land from Harry Clark to grow sugar cane and build his mill. I started working for Mr. Julius as a foreman in the mill. It was really busy at this time. Mr. Julius had about 500 men working for him in the mill and on the plantation. There were some women who worked for him, but not many. Most of the workers were the Kanakas and they had come from up North from the cane fields up there.

About two years after Mr. Julius opened his mill, he went into partnership with two Victorians. They were John Robb and J.J. Casey. Mr. Robb was very wealthy. He was a railway contractor and was connected with building and banking companies. When the partnership started Mr. Julius and Mr. Robb extended their lands, by including the lands owned by the Guilfoyle family. It was during this time that the sugar industry really developed in the Tweed. You need a lot of labour to grow and harvest sugar cane. This was why Mr. Julius hired the Kanakas. They were cheap labour and hard working. They also came with experience from working in the fields and mills up North.

Loading the sugar cane onto a horse truck.¹⁶



South Sea Islander women were also brought to Australia to work in the cane fields.¹⁷

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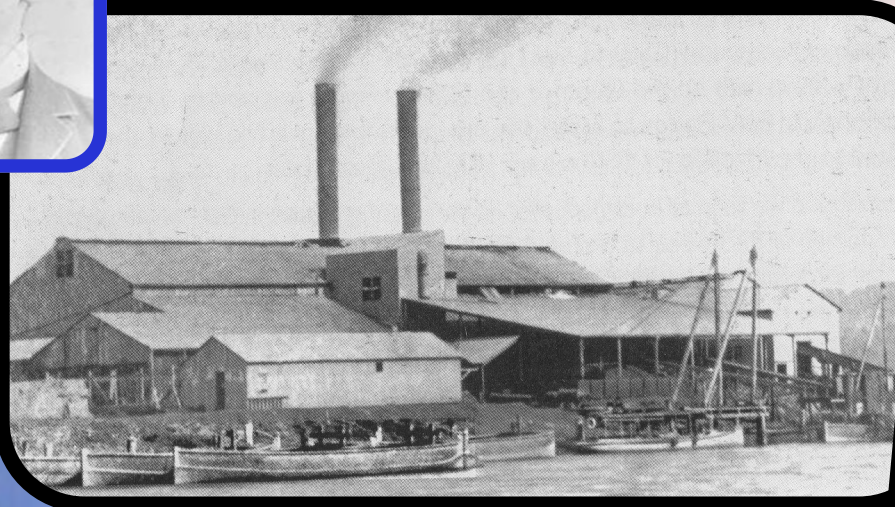
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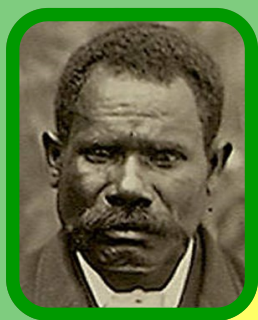
The Condong Sugar Mill.
It is still in operation today.¹⁸



Loading the sugar cane onto the horse truck.
It would then be taken to the tramline.¹⁹



Robb built a system of tramlines to connect the
cane fields to the mill and Chinderah Wharf.²⁰



Working for Mr. Julius was better than up north. It was still hard work, but now I got fed, I had a bed to sleep on and I got paid. At first we had to clear and grub the land. With the stones we built walls. They are still there now. Then we planted the sugar cane. We worked together in groups of about 7 or 8 men. I spoke some English now, so I was made a ganger (boss) of our group. Mr. Julius allotted each gang a piece of land of about ten acres to look after. We were given cooking utensils, beds, tents and poles. We also had a man who cooked our meals. Some of the men in my gang were married. I got married too in 1887 to a local Aboriginal woman.

Working in the cane fields was hot most days. We used a special knife to cut the cane. It had a long handle and a long, narrow blade. The blade had to be sharpened often. Keeping it sharp meant we could cut through the cane better. We had to cut the cane down low to the ground. This is where most of the sugar is in the stalk. We had to be careful with our knives, as they would become slippery with all the sweat on our hands. If it slipped you could cut yourself or the man next to you. We also had to watch out for deadly snakes. The cane fields had lots of rats in them, so there were lots of snakes. Every now and then I would come across a snake. I had to kill it quick. If I had been bitten, I would probably have died. Every now and then I would hear of an Islander dying from a snake bite.



The South Sea Islanders had to clear the land before any sugar cane was planted.²¹



This cane cutters knife was similar to the ones used by the South Sea Islanders to cut cane.²²

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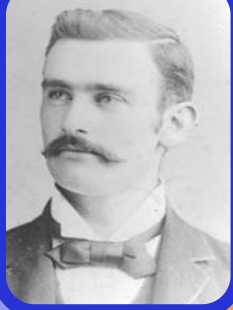
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Times were getting a bit tough around this time. The price of sugar had fallen and there was growing pressure from the governments about the labour that was being used on the sugar plantations. Up in Queensland they tried to bring in a ban that stopped anymore importation of the Kanakas. The labour unions were saying that the Islanders were depriving the white men of work. But that didn't hold for too long. The plantation owners, including Mr. Julius and Mr. Robb, needed to still have access to the cheap labour. So the government postponed the ban in Queensland, but some Kanakas continued to make their way south to us in the Tweed.

There were more farmers starting up in the Tweed at this time. Although the price of sugar had dropped in price a bit, it was still a good industry to be in. Most of the farmers sent their sugar to the Condong Mill. But the Cudgen mill was still busy, as Mr. Julius and Mr. Robb owned so much land. Mr. Robb also started constructing a tramway system at this time. To get to the tram lines the labourers would load up a horse truck and this would be hauled to the main tram line. At the tramline a small cane engine was waiting with lots of carts. The sugar would be loaded on the carts and brought down to the mill. This made the process more efficient.



Unloading the sugar cane from the horse truck onto the cane train.²³



The sugar cane was loaded onto carts and taken by small cane trains to the Cudgen Mill.²⁴

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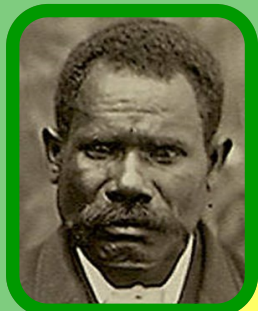
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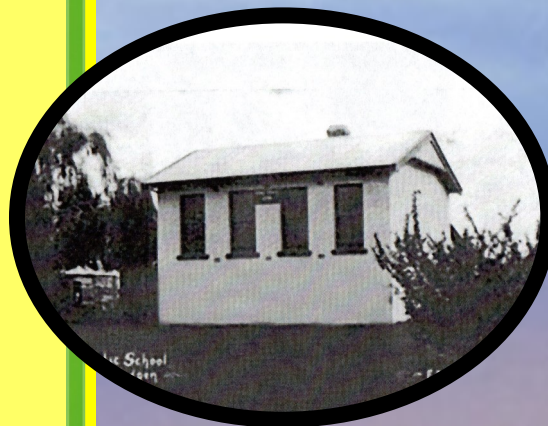


In 1892 Mr. Julius left the Tweed. It was harder getting a good price for sugar. Lots of people were out of work. I was lucky. I was a hard worker and my English was better. The Mill became known as Robb's Mill and I worked with Mr. McDonald. I worked with him in the Mill sometimes. But mostly I still cut the sugar cane. During the sugar cutting season I still lived in the tent, but when there was no work I lived in my hut.

I built a hut down on the riverbank of the Tweed and lived there with my wife and children. John was born first, 1888. Then Eddie, Lily, Daisy, Peter born each year after. When they were old enough they went to the school in Cudgen. It had been built of brick and opened in 1891. Cudgen was a busy place now. There were two hotels, a store, a bakery and a butcher. We lived close to the hand ferry. We would watch the people come over from across the river. It needed two people on the handle winding it to get across. It was really slow. They would walk into Cudgen, get their supplies and walk back to the ferry. Then the long journey across the river again. It would take nearly all day just to get supplies.

All around, the land was changing. All the trees were being cut down, and there was sugar cane growing everywhere. Sometimes I would walk up high on the hill of Cudgen. Looking around, all I could see was sugar cane.

South Sea Islanders built huts to live in with their families when they were not needed to work on the farm.²⁵



The Public School at Cudgen. It replaced the original school, which was opened in 1882 at Cudgen Wharf (Chinderah).²⁶



A ferry like this was used to cross the Tweed River.²⁷

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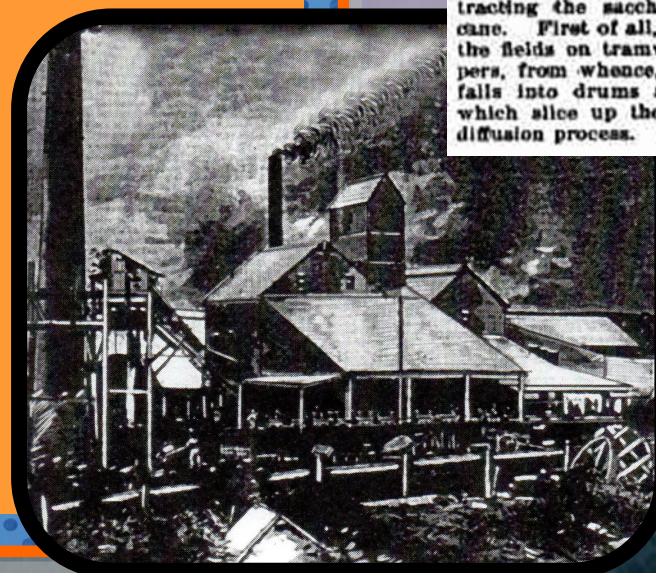
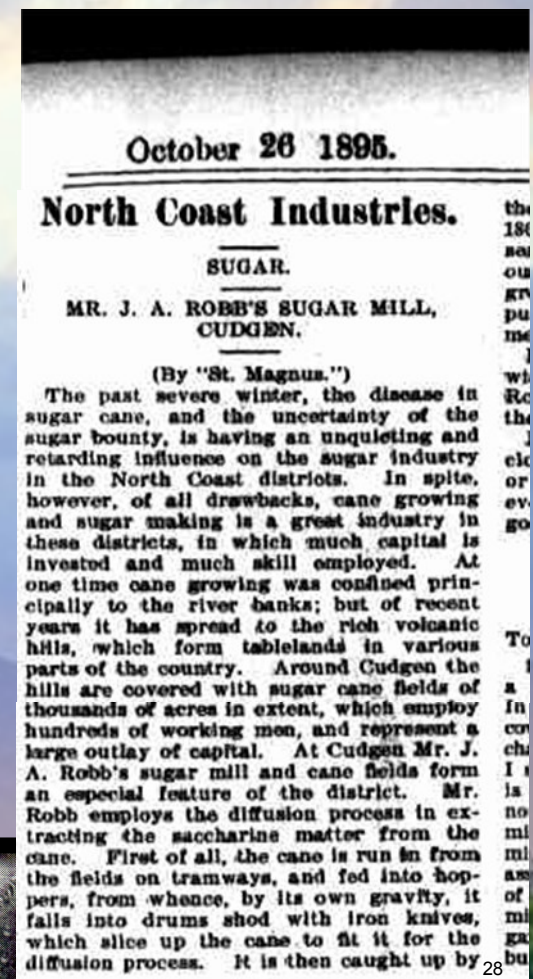
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Mr. Julius sold his part in the mill and the plantation in 1892. Mr. Robb and his company now owned it all. The recession had started to hit a lot of the smaller sugar mill operators up North and they closed. This didn't stop Mr. Robb. He kept modernising the plant. He was one of the only plants that used a new method, called the diffusion method. This involved bringing the sugar cane in from the train carts, chopping it up into little pieces and putting it into the diffusion pots. When the cane was in the pots, it was squeezed until the juice flowed out of the bottom of the pot. This was then taken through pipes where it was filtered three times. The juice was then boiled before it went into a big hopper. The hopper was then spun to separate the sugar grains. From here it was bagged, transported by train down to the Cudgen wharf, where it is sent off for sale in the markets.

As time went on in the 1890's it was getting harder to get Kanaka labour. Getting the labour from the islands was expensive and the governments were worried that they were taking the white man's work. To protect the employment of the white Australian's the government introduced extra taxes on farmers who employed 'black' labour. They also gave farmers bonuses for employing only 'white' labour, for producing sugar. Mr. Robb didn't like this at all. He wrote to the papers demanding the government to stop the taxes and bonuses, otherwise he would close his mill. Lucky this didn't happen, as Mr. Robb's farm was too big to close, and he was one of the best producers in the district.



Cudgen Sugar Mill in operation. About 1500 tonne of sugar is produced each year for the plant.²⁹

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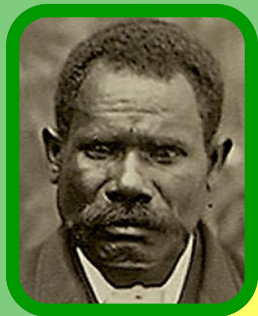
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Big changes happened in 1901. The government brought in a law called the Pacific Islanders Act. It meant that no new Pacific Islanders were to be employed in Australia. It also meant that any Islander found in Australia after 1906 was to be sent back to their island. All around me I saw my friends leave. The authorities would come and take them away and they were shipped back home.

Some were allowed to stay. I was one of them. You could stay if you had been working here for twenty years or more. Also those who had married were allowed to stay. I had my family now. This was all that I knew. Sometimes I would think about home, but not much. All around the Tweed there were less South Sea Islanders. More white men were coming to work in the sugar cane fields. But they didn't work as hard as us and lots didn't stay. They would come for a week and then disappear.

We had barracks now on the plantation to sleep in during the cutting season. We also got paid about one pound a week, if we worked hard. Sometimes when it was a bit quieter we would walk down to the beach or the creek and fish or catch crabs. Sometimes new South Sea Islanders would cross the border from up North. It still wasn't good up there on the plantations. They heard that it was better working at the Robb Mill. But many couldn't stay, because of the new law. Those that could stay, did. Mr. Robb knew how hard we worked.



It is estimated that 55 000 South Sea Islanders were brought to Australia to work in the sugar cane fields. By the end of the deportations only a few thousand were left.³⁰



South Sea Islanders would live in barracks on the plantation when it was harvesting time.³¹

1875

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Big changes happened to the industry in 1901. Australia had become a Federation. The government brought in the White Australia Policy. This meant that many of the Kanakas were sent back to the islands that they had came from. Some were allowed to stay. Not many though. This made it hard for Mr. Robb as labour became scarce.

The new policy was made so that only the white men could get work. The government didn't want the Kanakas or any other coloured races getting work. On the farms there were less Kanakas. Mr. Robb was concerned, as he wouldn't be getting his cheap labour force anymore. Although the Kanakas were now paid about one pound a week, they were still cheaper than the white workers. The white workers were paid about eight pounds a month, and that was with their rations supplied as well.

The other problem that Mr. Robb faced was that it was hard keeping the white labour force on the farm for the season. Some of the 'white' workers refused to do the 'coloured' man job. Those that would start would come for a week, get their wages and then disappear for a week or two. Some wouldn't come back at all. This made it hard to run the mill, as the farm wasn't being run efficiently. Out of the 150 white labourers who started a season, only about forty would be left at the end.

les and Victorian livers from Chicago find themselves, and made a hit that American bayonet and Melbourne, is, are being offered at the trade, with the h pork or of curing a new is stopping export, West Australia and ve been two of the outh Wales bacon-curers undersell the sister. The stocks of bacon ment are the heaviest porters of frozen bacon overlooked the rapidly apose negotiations to run Sydney with Chicago in New South Wales, and the pigs almost the Chicago order is se consignment comes of Liverpool; whereas before he fully macommon in Sydney to mature fairly at four it two months.

bacon-curer said, "I sum of £1000 to be incur on Chicago." uses in Sydney seem to ene than bacon. The is being bought by sons for husbands and is enormous. I hear ing made by cable to orders sent to Chicago

White Labour in the Cane Fields.

AN UNSUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT.

A representative of "The Queenslander" recently made a tour among the farmers of the Tweed. Among the estates visited was the Cudgen sugar plantation, owned by Mr. John Robb. Cudgen was purchased by Mr. Robb about ten years ago. The property contains 4800 acres, comprising chiefly volcanic ridges and valleys with deposits of alluvium on the side bordering the river. Round about the mill quite a little township has sprung up, including post and telegraph office, stores, etc. Mr. Robb cultivates 1000 acres of cane, and has leased to farmers a further 400 acres, for which he charges 1s per ton rent. In return he pays the farmers 2s per ton for the cane before it is cut. The farmers, therefore, receive 7s per ton for planting and cultivating the cane, the millowner providing labour to harvest it.

When questioned as to his experiences with white labor in his canefields, Mr. Robb emphatically stated that had the present bonus system become law twelve months prior to the time it came into force, the whole of his business would have proved, in so far as the large holdings were concerned, a farce. Continuing, Mr. Robb said that owing to there being rather a good supply of white labor last year—a fact due to the unfavourable conditions for laborers prevailing in New South Wales and Queensland, he decided to avail himself of the bonus provision of 4s per ton for cane raised solely by white labour. He soon found when the season for cutting cane came round that while the number of men available might have been sufficient, the percentage of them that were reliable enough to trust in getting the cane off and to keep the mill working to its full capacity were wholly inadequate. He commenced last year with fifty-two white cane-cutters, paid off during the season not less than 150, and finished the season with forty, thus showing how erratic that class of white labour was. Some would work for a week, and then is told the old story "they went on the spree for a week." Some averred that they would sooner be on the streets of Brisbane than do what was blackfellow's work.

Among the number, however, rejoined Mr. Robb, there were a few good men who "finished the season." These men were quite satisfied with their earnings, which amounted to from £7 to £8 per month, clear of rations. Most of the work was done by contract—namely, 2s 6d for cutting and loading the cane into trucks, with 3d per ton bonus provided a man went through the season. Any cane untrashed up to 2s per ton extra was paid to the cutters.

Mr. Robb states that he has forfeited the bonus this year as he has discovered how futile

extremely scarce here o-day's Sydney quotes

COMMERCIAL.

Monday, 7 p.m.

£5 15s, medium from seed a run on chaff.

£6 15s, Victorian £6 1d is a fraction weak to the rains at New-

n on Saturday owing he rivers, and Argentinow. Northern river or kiln dried 4s 9d to 4s 11d; Argentine 4s 10s and parcel.

), prime long, well cost, £28 to £28 10s

ard, Greentree, Casey; and 15 in the second cabin. Cargo: 950 bags of maize, 10 bags of bottles, 19 bags bones, 9 bags bark, 5 bags oysters, 11 calves, 108 cases eggs, 36 cases fish, 14 coops poultry, 6 horses, 72 hides, 32 pieces timber, 120 pigs, 181 boxes butter, 414 sleepers, and sundries.

The Lady Musgrave, for Brisbane, crossed out at 10.20 a.m. on Saturday at Ballina.

The Iolanthe has had an overhaul, and resumes running to-morrow.

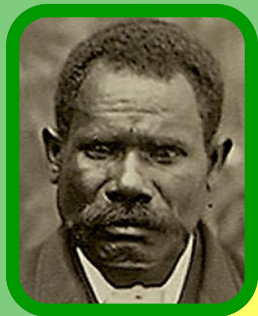
use role of teacher, a office of political 'coas would-be students from upon wild goose chase happiness, and upon bringing about by legislation in which men and women share of worldly success entitled them to, he we for the trouble it is a series of addresses. ment, he said, was on plex studies in which could engage, and the perity, of a country (the amount of knowledge to bear upon its government, government was Australia. Thousands of men—professional men, shopkeepers, and most ready to comp condition of public affairs neglected their duty toward to it, and sought to lift it to a quarterly characterizing lators to bring about things as foolish and ceter should come to the munity, the classes have answerable on account glect to assist in the public affairs."

They Utterly Neg

The proof of the association —professional shopkeepers, and other possibilities which dev citizens, is forthcoming more or less in every typical government of name, and you invariably tigation that the more experienced men of the that it is in the hands

sive residents, and the quite a corresponding wardness. This is the government to-day, as mentary government. financial affairs of the less at the mercy of no training in finance, thing about it. The confusion, and occasional alarm similar to that by London critics. No on this theme; any purposes of this collection must be as plain to tice of what goes on to need demonstration to Parliamentary and ment applies also in

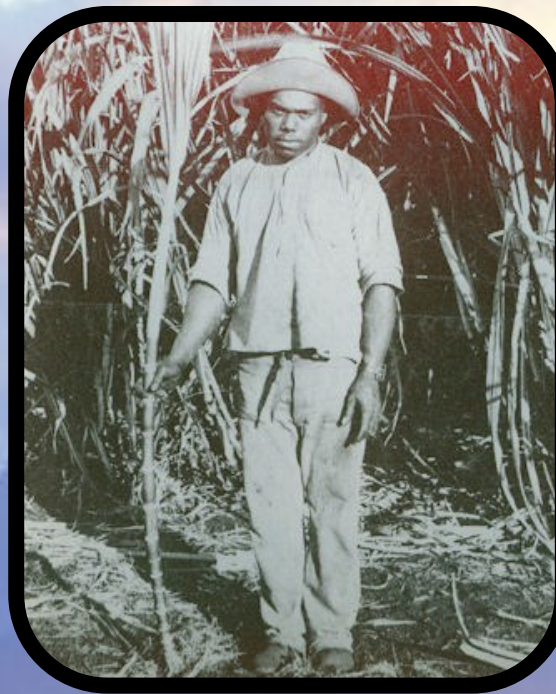
An article from 1903. It is discussing the Robb Mill and how the employment of 'white' labour has not been successful.³²



It's 1912 now and I don't work in the sugar industry anymore. The government brought in more laws in 1909. This meant that I was prohibited from being employed in the sugar industry. It has been hard trying to get a job in other industry's too. The Unions don't like it. They say that I am taking a 'white' man's work

I have heard that I might be able to get some work felling scrub down south. It will be hard work down there too I expect. I will go down there with my family and see. Although I didn't ask to be a cane cutter, it is all that I know. The South Sea Islanders have sacrificed so much over the years to get the sugar industry going, it is sad to see that we are not a part of that anymore.

Thank you for listening to my story.



A South Sea Islander holding a stalk of sugar cane.³³

Some South Sea Islanders found work felling scrub once they were prohibited from working in the sugar industry.³⁴



1875

1880

1885

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It's now 1912. Mr. Robb died a few months back. The Cudgen Mill, which was the pride and glory of the district, was sold last year to the CSR mob.

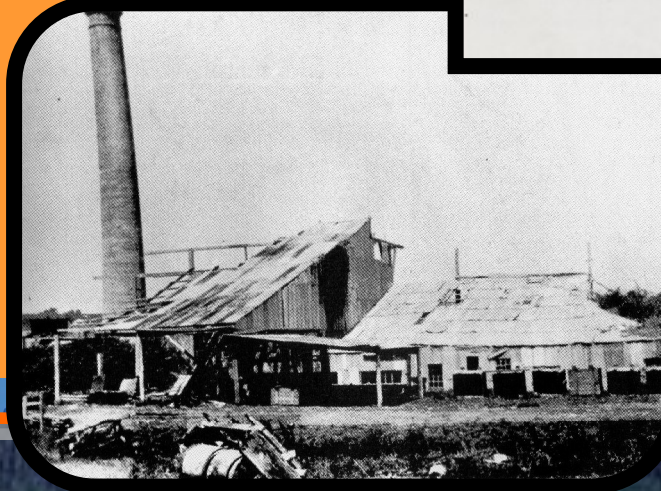
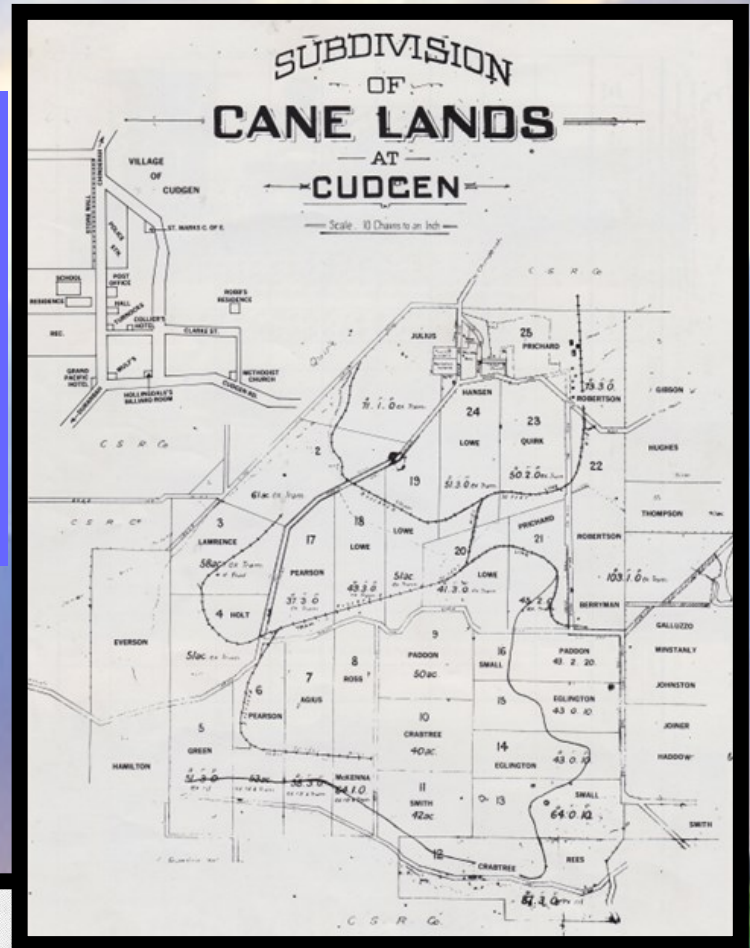
They are talking about moving all of Robb's machinery down to the Condong Mill next month. It was sad to see the smoke stop billowing from the big chimney.

I had finished with Mr. Robb back in 1906. I had saved enough to start my own farm. It's still in the Cudgen area. I get my cane taken down to the Condong Mill for processing. The Islander's aren't allowed to work for us anymore. Lots have gone. It looks different now out on the cane fields. What was once an industry full of the Kanaka labour, now is 'white' labour.

Maybe they might be back one day. They were hard workers. But life goes on and there is sugar to be harvested.

Thanks for listening to my yarn.

When the Robb Mill was sold to CSR in 1911 the land was subdivided into approximately 40 acre lots. These were then sold to farmers.³⁵



The Robb Mill at Cudgen. After the machinery was removed, the rest of the Mill was left to fall into a state of disrepair.³⁶

TEACHERS NOTES

STAGE: The text has been written for Stage 3 students

TEXT TYPE: Factual Recount

The two main characters are imaginative characterisations based on evidence gathered.

SUMMARY:

This text portrays the two different perspectives of men working in the sugar cane industry from 1875 to 1912. The first perspective is based on a South Sea Islander man, named Jack. His recount describes the journey of being taken from his island to work in the sugar cane fields of Australia. The second perspective is based on an Anglo-Australian man, named Frank. The two perspectives portray the different cultures involved in the early years of the sugar cane industry.

Other characters mentioned in the book are based on actual characters from the era. Historical references made include dates, photographs, newspaper articles and maps. The pictorial references assist students in understanding the different perspectives of working in the sugar industry.

THE SIGNIFICANCE:

The early years of the sugar cane industry at Cudgen saw significant changes to the environment and the people that worked in it. Prior to its introduction the Tweed Shire was predominately covered in scrub. As the land started to be cleared farmers would experiment with growing different crops, including coffee, tobacco, cotton and even opium.

Michael Guilfoyle was one of the pioneering farmers that introduced sugar cane growing to Cudgen. He experimented with different types of sugar cane and supplied the more promising ones to other farmers in the region.

William Julius had vast experience of working in the sugar cane industry and moved to the Cudgen area when attempts to grow sugar further south failed. Julius built the Cudgen sugar mill, which would be a main supplier of sugar for the next 31 years. Julius was also one of the first farmers to introduce South Sea Islander labour to the Tweed Shire. He brought approximately 500 South Sea Islanders from the cane fields in Queensland, as they were already experienced cane cutters and sugar mill workers.

Julius went into partnership with Robb, who in turn expanded operations and modernised the farming practices and sugar mill at Cudgen. Robb was an advocate for keeping the South Sea Islanders in work when the new Federal Government made changes with their White Australia Policy Act.

The text shows the different perspectives of how the two cultures were treated and portrayed during this period of time.

The text also highlights the impacts that the government of the time had on the sugar cane industry.

TEACHERS NOTES

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- Why were the South Sea Islanders considered more suitable to work the land compared to others?
- Why was the Pacific Islanders Labourers Act put into place in 1880? Who did it benefit?
- Why did some of the South Sea Islanders travel south to work in the cane fields at Cudgen?
- What is the ideal climate for growing sugar cane?
- Why did Robb want to keep the South Sea Islanders working for him? Was he successful? For how long?
- What were some of the changes in Jack's working and living conditions?
- Why did the price of sugar drop in the 1890's?
- Why did the cane farmers bring South Sea Islanders to work in the cane fields, instead of other labour forces?

USEFUL CONNECTIONS WITH H.I.S.E. SYLLABUS

- Change and Continuity: CCS3.1
– Explains the significance of particular people, groups, places, actions and events in the past in developing Australian identities and heritage.
- Cultures: CUS3.3
– Describes different cultural influences and their contribution to Australian identities.
- Environments: ENS3.6
– Explains how various beliefs and practices influence the ways in which people interact with, change and value their environment.
- Social Systems and Structures: SSS3.8
– Explains the structures, roles, responsibilities and decision-making processes of State and Federal governments and explains why Australians value fairness and socially just principles.

SUGGESTED LESSON IDEAS FOR H.I.S.E.

- Create a timeline of how sugar cane is made from 1900 to present times (include workers, transport, harvesting and processing).
- Visit the Condong sugar mill to observe how sugar is processed in modern times.
- Compare the changes in transport, needed to gather supplies in the Tweed, from the time period and today.
- Evaluate the White Australia Policy and the impact it had on minority groups in the time period.
- Create a map of where sugar cane is grown in the Tweed/ Australia/World. Discuss why it is grown in these areas.
- Investigate the changes that occurred to the sugar industry once the South Sea Islanders were prohibited from working in the fields.

SUGGESTED LESSON IDEAS FOR OTHER KLA's

- **ENGLISH:** Produce a literary recount of a child's life in the time period, based on the pictures and narrative in the book.
- Write a 'letter to the editor' based in 1908, justifying why South Sea Islanders should be allowed to work in the cane fields.
- **MATHS:** Calculate the distance Jack travelled from New Hebrides (Vanuatu) to the Tweed. How long would it take to travel by boat/train/foot/horse compared to today.
- **SCIENCE:** Design a model of a sugar cane harvester or a sugar cane processing plant using renewable resources.
- **PDHPE:** Identify the use of sugar in modern diets and discuss the effects of not following daily intake recommendations.
- **CREATIVE ARTS:** Create a diorama of one of the shelters that one of the characters lived in i.e. Tent, barracks, hut, house.
- Perform a role play of a day living and working in the cane fields.

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