

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE COLLECTION

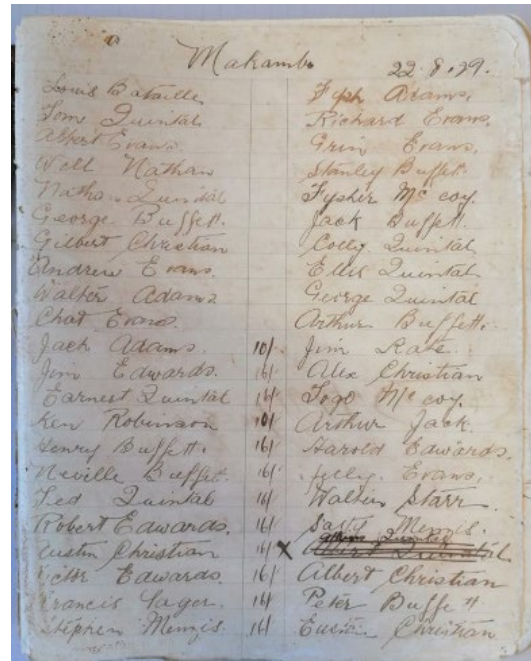
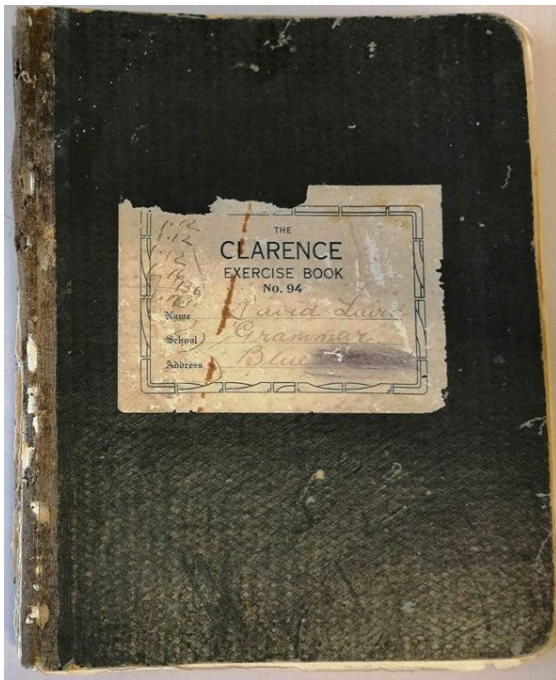


Image 1: NIM23033 Front cover and first page of shipping accounts book for SS Mokambo, SS Marsina and MV Maui Pomre

This week's interesting item is on loan from Jeanine Snell and looks like a normal exercise book. Its owner's name, David Laird, is even beautifully scrawled on the front page. However on opening the front page it becomes clear this was a working account book for lighterage. Half of the book's pages are full of local men's names who worked the ships arriving to Norfolk Island between August 1929 and June 1930.

This was more than a decade before the airport was constructed on Norfolk Island and ships were the only way to deliver cargo and supplies to islands such as Norfolk. Three ships are recorded arriving during this ten month period making a total of 39 trips. The SS *Makambo*, a Burns Philp & Co steamship, was a regular sight in Norfolk waters and she was the most frequent visitor during this period. However the other two ships, the SS *Marsina* (another Burns Philp ship) and the *Maui Pomre* visited multiple times as well. In total the *Makambo* visited 24 times, the *Marsina* ten times and the *Maui Pomre* visited five times before June 1930. The Kingston pier was used just four more times than Cascade showing both piers were equally relied upon depending upon the weather.

Boat hire for offloading the ship was also noted with whaling companies No.1 and No.3 often renting their boats and Louis Bataille, Tom Quintal and Albert Evans also paid for boat hire. Expenses ranged from 18 to 106 pounds depending upon time to offload and total workforce required. Passengers are mentioned in one entry showing the small boats were also ferrying people and their luggage to and from the steamships.

The following names were listed as working the SS *Makambo* on the 22nd August 1929. Louis Bataille, Tom Quintal, Albert Evans, Will Nathan, Nathan Quintal, George Buffett, Gilbert Christian, Andrew Evans, Walter Adams, Jim Edwards, Earnest Quintal, Ken Robinson, Henry Buffett, Neville Buffett, Ted Quintal, Robert Edwards, Austin Christian, Victor Edwards, Francis Yager, Stephen Menzies, Joseph(?) Adams, Richard Evans, Grin Evans, Stanley Buffett, Fysher McCoy, Jack Buffett, Cocly(?) Quintal, Ellis Quintal, George Buffett, Arthur Buffett, Jim Rake, Alex Christian, Iogo McCoy, Arthur Jack, Harold Edwards, Fecky Evans, Walter Starr, Satty Menzies, Arthur Quintal, Albert Christian, Peter Buffett, Eustace Christian.

Pay seemed to vary depending upon the ship. On the 22nd entry some men have 10 or 16 shillings written beside their names, however the next ship men only seemed to be earning 4 shillings. One time in June 1930, men working the *Makambo* ship earned 2 pounds but only 11 shillings for working the *Marsina* ten days later.

If you would like to view this item and its other names listed or any of the other shipping related holdings in the Norfolk Island Museum Trust collection please feel free to ring 23788 or email us at info@museums.gov.nf to organize a time.

Bethany Holland
Collections Officer

17/07/21