

## Industries, Agriculture and Farming

The European settlers of the Manning Valley experimented with producing a wide range of agricultural products, including sugar cane, arrowroot and maize. Maize was the early cash crop of the Manning; used to feed the settlers as well as their pigs, chicken, cattle and horses. Cornhusks were also used as bedding for livestock, and stuffing for mattresses. Maize competitions were well supported at local and regional agricultural shows.



The dairying sub section of Wingham Museum includes a steam boiler pump, decommissioned from HMAS Australia and adapted for use at Wingham Butter Works. It also includes butter churns, coolers and separators, butter pats and a roller. Butter produced in the Manning Valley was of such high quality that it was salted and exported to England.



Timber was another major enterprise in the early history of the Manning Valley. By 1907, some 28 mills were operating throughout the Manning producing hardwood for domestic purposes as-well-as piers, bridges and railway sleepers. The timber of NSW had achieved a worldwide reputation for its great size, strength and durability and by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the mills of the Mid-North Coast were exporting timber all over the world.

Wingham Museum has an impressive collection of axes, saws, augers and other timber working tools and equipment – including a two-man chain saw that draws interest from many visitors connected to the timber industry (see below). It also has an equally impressive collection of artefacts associated with timber transported by bullocks, tramlines and trucks.





A number of small models are also on display at the Museum; the model pit saw made by Rae Duff in 1970, the timber logging truck made by Rae McBriarty and the working sawmill made by Dudley Timms in 1996 interpret various aspects of the timber industry.

