

Steel Wings Windmill - Luke Park



Made by the Steel Wings Windmill Company of North Sydney in 1910 the windmill was originally erected at Goolgumbra Station for the owner Sir Samuel McCaughey.

It was transported by rail to Jerilderie and then taken by bullock wagons to Goolgumbra Station, 75 km north-west of Jerilderie.

Until 1947 it provided water to the Station's homestead, ram sheds, and dams along a 45 km irrigation channel system. It collapsed during a severe windstorm in 1977 and the then owners of the station, Dalgetys, offered it to Jerilderie as an historical exhibit.

Relocated to Luke Park, Jerilderie, and restored in 1979 the windmill is one of only six machines of this type ever made, and was the only one in operation throughout the world until 2004 when a second windmill was restored and erected in Taroom, Qld.

The Steel Wings windmill stands 50 feet high, has a 25ft diameter wheel, and a 24ft long tail piece. Its nose plate acts as a governor and automatically turns the machine out of high winds to save structural damage. It operates a 6" plunger on a 19" stroke, lifting 2 gallons per revolution to offset evaporation losses from the lake adjacent to the park.

Cr L J Henery

Local Historian

May 2011