

**NEWSFRONT**

# Mawson adventures to follow on Twitter

**BRUCE MOUNSTER**

IF polar explorer Sir Douglas Mawson was setting out to explore Antarctica's King George V Land today, he would be using Twitter.

Now, 100 years later, his diary entries are being tweeted as if the intrepid explorer was just leaving for the icy continent.

Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions club president Ingrid McGaughey said she was sure that, given the chance, Mawson would have readily lashed a Twitter-enabled laptop to his sledge.

"Getting information out to the media was vital for funding support," Ms McGaughey said.

Mawson had to settle for the hottest new gadget available in 1911-13 – a radio.

He set up the first wireless link between Antarctica and the rest of the world from his Cape Denison base, via a repeater station on a

Macquarie Island mountain top.

Ms McGaughey said ANARE club members – Australia's past and present Antarctic expeditioners – were tickled by the idea they could follow their hero Douglas Mawson using Twitter.

Mawson was a prolific diary writer and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has set up a Douglas Mawson Twitter feed, broadcasting entries from exactly 100 years ago.

Anyone who is Twitter-literate will be able to follow Mawson – at this stage, he is still loading his ship in London – all the way, via Hobart, to the Ninnis Glacier, where colleague Belgrave Ninnis, six of the best dogs, most of the party's rations and its tent were lost down a crevasse.

"It's a nice way of getting the story out to the younger generation," Ms McGaughey said.

Get involved at @DouglasMawson on Twitter.com

[mounsterb@news.net.au](mailto:mounsterb@news.net.au)



**TWEET:** Ingrid McGaughey with Mawson tweets at the Bernacchi statue, Victoria Dock. Picture: KIM EISZELE