

Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser – 5 August 1873

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page17628457>

It appears that the alarm raised at St.

Helena on Tuesday was caused by two aboriginal convicts rushing from the gang in which they were working, and concealing themselves in a clump of cane. They would not answer to the repeated calls of the warders, so that the "alarm" was given and a search for the fugitives commenced. The gangs at work in the fields and in the boiling-house were marched to their quarters, and the whole force at the disposal of the Superintendent, Mr. McDonald, was directed to the capture of the runaways, Watches were also set to prevent them escaping from the island. Up to last night, however, no intelligence had been received at the Brisbane Police-office of the capture of the escapees. The men are named Sandy and Johnny respectively, the former undergoing a life sentence for a criminal assault on a woman on the Gympie road to Maryborough, and the latter a sentence of seven years' penal servitude for abetting in the crime. It has transpired that on Monday night the two aboriginals informed another prisoner of their intention to bolt, stating that they intended to hide in the cane until night, and then swim from the island to the main land. It is not unlikely they have succeeded in their design, unless the

sharks have interfered to prevent it being
carried to a successful issue. — Courier.