Aged 19, Archibald McLachlan joined the 1st Light Horse Field Ambulance in August 1914. He had only enrolled at the College the previous year so was only half way through his studies. He was born in 1895 at Maclean on the Clarence River in northern NSW and had studied at Hurlstone Agricultural High School prior to entering HAC. He died in hospital at Heliopolis, Egypt, suffering kidney disease on 1 June 1915 and is buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery.