

Bowen Downs Archive

Bowen Downs is located close to Aramac in Central Queensland. It is one of the stations established by the Scottish-Australian Company.

William Landsborough and Nathaniel Buchanan made the initial exploration over this area of country. Landsborough recognised its quality for raising sheep. He was prepared to apply for a licence, but did not have the capital to stock the land immediately as was required by the Land Act. The Scottish-Australian Company provided the capital for the venture.

Buchanan was the first manager. He set out from Sydney in 1861 and explored overland from Bowen Downs to Port Denison, discovering a viable route for men and stock by 1862.

The station was made up of 26 runs, Bowen Downs, Betawong, Crossmoor, Horsedale, Bramville, Bangall, Balang, Pickwick, Goshen, Budgeragar, Gemini, Rayban, Dunculla, Oatway, Cornwall, Coreena, Corinda, Emu Plains, Rainsby, Plains (another), and Acacia Downs. The Bowen Downs run was made the head station, as it was centrally situated. Several outstations were established on good watering places by 1863.

This collection was donated by the Aramac Shire Council in 1977. It consists of diaries from 1885 through to 1971, and the accounts books from as early as 1869 to the 1950s.

Name Index. Index of the personal names which appear in the records.

Archive Location: 24-32, 36, 79R-80L

Series Listing

Diaries, 1885 - 1971 (Bowen Downs managers, Bowen Downs overseers, Barcoorah, Bore 16)

Cash Books, 1870 - 1959 (Bowen Downs, Eastmere, Champion)

Day Books, 1972 - 1947 (Bowen Downs)

Stores Books, 1921 - 1931 (Bowen Downs, Champion)

Journals, 1869 - 1961 (Bowen Downs, Eastmere, Champion, Saltern Creek)

Ledgers - Subsidiary, 1907 - 1952 (Bowen Downs, Eastmere)

General Ledgers, 1867 - 1945

Shearers/Washers Ledgers, 1876 - 1912 (Bowen Downs)

Men's Ledgers, 1872 - 1948 (Bowen Downs)

Miscellaneous Records, 1880 - 1955 (Bowen Downs, Eastmere, Saltern Creek)

Aramac Shire Council records, 1942 - 1956

Graziers' Association of Central and North Queensland, 1888 - 1952 (Minutes, Circulars, Reports, Correspondence, Miscellaneous papers and Publications, C & N Monthly Bulletin Publication of the Graziers' Association)

Detailed Listing

Diaries

Bowen Downs Managers

BD/1 1885	BD/2 1886	BD/3 1889	BD/4 1890
BD/5 1894	BD/6 1898	BD/7 1899	BD/8 1903
BD/9 1905	BD/10 1906	BD/11 1907	BD/12 1908
BD/13 1909	BD/14 1910	BD/15 1911	BD/16 1913
BD/17 1914	ED/18 1915	BD/19 1916	BD/20 1917
BD/21 1918	BD/22 1919	BD/23 1920	BD/24 1921
BD/25 1922	BD/26 1923	BD/27 1924	BD/28 1925
BD/29 1926	BD/30 1927	BD/31 1928	BD/32 1929
BD/33 1930	BD/34 1931	BD/35 1932	BD/36 1933
BD/37 1934	BD/38 1935	BD/39 1939	BD/40 1940
BD/41 1942	BD/42 1943	BD/43 1944	BD/44 1945
BD/45 1946	BD/46 1947	BD/47 1948	BD/48 1949
BD/49 1950	BD/50 1951	BD/51 1952	BD/52 1953
BD/53 1954	BD/54 1955	BD/55 1957	BD/56 1958
BD/57 1959	BD/58 1960	BD/59 1961	BD/60 1962
BD/61 1963	BD/62 1964	BD/63 1965	BD/64 1966

BD/65 1967 BD/66 1968 BD/67 1969 BD/68 1970

BD/69 1971

Bowen Downs Overseers

BD/70 1946 BD/71 1947 BD/72 1949 BD/73 1950

BD/74 1951 BD/75 1952 BD/76 1953 BD/77 1956

BD/78 1957 BD/79 1958 BD/80 1959 BD/81 1960

BD/82 1961 BD/83 1962 BD/84 1963 BD/85 1966

BD/86 1967 BD/87 1970 BD/88 1971

Barcoorah

BD/89 1951 BD/90 1955 BD/91 1956 BD/92 1957

BD/93 1958 BD/94 1959

Bore 16

BD/95 1955 BD/96 1956 BD/97 1957 BD/98 1958

BD/99 1959 BD/100 1960 BD/101 1961 BD/102 1962

Cash Books

Bowen Downs

BD/103 1870 - 1875

BD/104 1875 - 1881

BD/105 1881 - 1887

BD/106 1887 - 1892

BD/107 1897 - 1902

BD/108 1902 - 1909

BD/109 1909 - 1915

BD/110 1915 - 1928

BD/111 1920 - 1925

BD/112 1928 - 1950

BD/113 1916 - 1950 (Petty cash book)

Eastmere

BD/114 Apr 1926 - Nov 1948

BD/115 1929 - 1931: Market balance and scour records includes quarterly balance 1943-1947

Champion

BD/116 1911 - 1929

BD/117 1929 - 1935

Day Books

Bowen Downs

BD/118 Oct 1872 - Mar 1874

BD/119 Feb 1877 - Nov 1878

BD/120 Jan 1879 - Dec 1884

BD/121 Jan 1885 - Dec 1898

BD/122 Oct 1924 - Dec 1926

BD/123 Aug 1912 - Jun 1947

Stores Books

Bowen Downs

BD/124 1921 - 1925: Ledger No.2 includes sundry accounts, Oct 1947, Aug 1949 - Dec 1949.

BD/125 1933 - 1934: Accounts.

BD/126 1939 - 1946: Accounts.

BD/127 1926 - 1929 Contractors accounts includes rough stores 1943 - 1945.

Champion

BD/128 Jul 1924 - Jun 1931: Includes rainfall Sept. 1930 - Jun 1931.

Journals

Bowen Downs

BD/129 Oct 1869 - Feb 1879

BD/130 Mar 1879 - Dec 1887

BD/131 Jan 1888 - Jun 1897

BD/132 Jul 1897 - Jun 1909

BD/133 Jul 1909 - Jul 1921

BD/134 Jul 1921 - Dec 1935 Duplication of July 1921 entries due to delay in arrival of Journal.

BD/135 Jun 1945 - Mar 1961

Eastmere

BD/136 Apr 1926 - Jun 1937

BD/137 Jun 1937 - Dec 1942

BD/138 Jun 1947 - Sept 1952

Champion

BD/139 Jul 1924 - Jun 1935

Saltern Creek

BD/140 Jul 1922 - Jul 1928

Ledgers (Subsidiary)

Bowen Downs

BD/141 Sept 1907 - Mar 1909

BD/142 Nov 1915 - May 1919

BD/143 Jul 1916 - Jul 1928

BD/144 Jul 1921 - Jul 1928

BD/145 Jan 1923 - Jun 1924

BD/146 Jul 1925 - Jul 1928

BD/147 Jan 1936 - Dec 1941

BD/148 Jan 1942 - Jun 1951

BD/149 Jul 1951 - Aug 1952

Eastmere

BD/150 Jun 1926 - Oct 1938

BD/151 Jun 1942 - Jan 1950

General Ledgers

BD/152 Apr 1867 - Mar 1873

BD/153 Apr 1873 - Apr 1879

BD/154 Mar 1877 - Mar 1880

BD/155 Mar 1879 - Dec 1887

BD/156 Jan 1888 - Jun 1892

BD/157 Jul 1892 - 1928: Includes various 1940s accounts.

BD/158 Jan 1893 - Jan 1897

BD/159 Jun 1922 - Jul 1928

BD/160 Jul 1928 - Jun 1945

Shearers/Washers Ledgers

Bowen Downs

BD/161 Sept 1876 - Sept 1878

BD/162 Index to BD/161

BD/163 Jun 1879 - Sept 1879

BD/164 Jul 1880 - Sept 1880

BD/165 Aug 1882 - Sept 1883

BD/166 Jul 1884 - Dec 1886

BD/167 Jan 1889 - Dec 1892: Includes permanent staff at Reedy Creek for six months ending 30/6/1907.

BD/168 Jan 1893 - Jun 1898

BD/169 Jul 1898 - Nov 1906

BD/170 Sep 1909 - Oct 1912: Includes index.

Men's Ledgers

Bowen Downs

BD/171 Oct 1872 - Sept 1873

BD/172 Index to BD/171

BD/173 Oct 1873 - Feb 1875

BD/174 Apr 1875 - Mar 1876: Includes index and 12 page addenda.

BD/175 Apr 1876 - Sept 1876

BD/176 Index to BD/175

BD/177 Oct 1876 - Sept 1877: Includes index.

BD/178 Oct 1877 - Mar 1878: Includes index.

BD/179 Apr 1878 - Sept 1878

BD/180 Oct 1878 - Mar 1879: Includes index.

BD/181 Apr 1879 - Mar 1880: Includes index.

BD/182 Apr 1880 - Mar 1881 Includes index.

BD/183 Oct 1881 - Mar 1883

BD/184 Apr 1883 - Mar 1885

BD/185 Apr 1885 - Mar 1886

BD/186 Index to BD/185

BD/187 Apr 1886 - Jun 1892

BD/188 Index to BD/187

BD/189 Jul 1889 - Jun 1892

BD/190 Jul 1892 - Dec 1898: Includes a statement of expenses incurred over Bowen Downs poisoning outrage 1895. See page 506.

BD/191 Index to BD/190

BD/192 Jan 1899 - Jun 1907

BD/193 Index to BD/192

BD/194 Jul 1907 - Jun 1919.

BD/195 Index to BD/194

BD/196 Jul 1907 - Sept 1925: Casual

BD/197 Jul 1919 - Jun 1929

BD/198 Jul 1930 - Apr 1948: Includes index.

Miscellaneous Records

Bowen Downs - Wages and Labour returns

BD/199 1880 - 1889

BD/200 1889 - 1896

Ration Books

BD/231 Jul 1897 - Jun 1909

BD/202 Jul 1909 - Sept 1925

Time Book

BD/203 Jan 1930 - Jan 1947

Improvements

BD/204 May 1897 - May 1927

BD/205 Jun 1930 - Mar 1940: Mainly Eastmere, Barcoorah and Champion entries

Drilling Log

BD/206 1956 - 1957

Invoice Book

BD/207 Jan 1925 - Jun 1928

Stock Books

BD/208 Horse receipt book Jan 1882 - Jan 1914

BD/209 Return of sheep: Jun 1907 - Sept 1912

BD/210 Return of stock: Mar 1926 - Jun 1946

BD/211 Stud returns: Sept 1939 - Sept 1948

BD/212 Stud records: 1938 - 1952

BD/213 Stud records: May 1954 - Oct 1955

BD/214 Specification of dip: Aug 1921 — Dec 1926

Stores Account

BD/215 Feb 1871 Sept 1872: Includes index. Jul 1890 - Nov 1890

BD/216 Jul 1890 - Nov 1890

Eastmere

BD/217 Wages ledger Jul 1934 - Jun

BD/218 Rations accounts: Jun 1941 - Jun 1946

BD/219 Improvements: 1940 - 1941

BD/220 Return of stock: Sept 1928 - Dec 1941

Saltern Creek

BD/221 Time Book Jul 1920 - Jul 1928

BD/222 Station returns: Mar 1913 - Jun 1928

BD/223 Shed wool book Sept 1925 - May 1928

BD/224 Stores accounts Jan 1905 - Jun 1928

Letter Books

BD/225 Feb 1901 - Jan 1.935

BD/226 Mar 1906 - Mar 1929

BD/227 Oct 1917 - Dec 1917

BD/228 Nov 1918 - Feb 1927

BD/229 Nov 1934 - Mar 1936

Correspondence

BD/230 1898: 16 letters, Mss & typescript, (Envelope) 49p.

BD/231 1902: 11 letters, 2 telegrams, Mss. 13p. Circular re Statistics of Queensland. Typescript. 1p (Envelope) 14p.

BD/232 1903: 32 letters & memoranda, 6 telegrams, Mss. (Envelope) 48p.

BD/233 Reference re G. Colless, 30/7/1936. Typescript. (Envelope) 1p.

BD/234 Cemetery account, 1936. Mss. (Envelope) 1p.

BD/235 Letter to the sub-agent, National Service office, Aramac from J.T. Williams with attached copies of references, 11/7/1944. Mss. (Envelope) 4p.

Aramac Shire Council Records

Correspondence

BD/236 1942: Typescript, (Envelope) 3p.

BD/237 1943: Typescript, (Envelope) 11p.

BD/238 1944: Typescript, (Envelope) 4p

BD/239 1946: Typescript, (Envelope) 10p.

BD/240 1947: Typescript, (Envelope) 45p.

BD/241 1948: Typescript, (Envelope) 75p.

BD/242 1949: Typescript, (Envelope) 11p.

BD/243 1952: Typescript, (Envelope) 47p.

BD/244 1953: Typescript, (Envelope) 28p.

BD/245 1954: Typescript, (Envelope) 9p.

BD/246 1955: Typescript, (Envelope) 2p.

BD/247 1956: Typescript, (Envelope) 1p.

BD/248 Miscellaneous undated pages. Mss. and typescript. 16p. Section of map of Bowen Downs. Mss. 1p. (Envelope) 17p. 24/10/1951. Typescript, 8p.

Graziers' Association of Central and North Queensland

Minutes

Executive Sub-Committee

BD/249 29/7/1951: Typescript, 4p.

BD/250 24/10/1951: Typescript, 2p.

Executive Committee

BD/251 24/10/1951: Typescript, 4p

BD/252 Supplementary agenda to BD/251. Includes minutes of special general meeting of members. Typescript, 3p.

BD/253 16/11/1951: Typescript, 3p.

BD/254 11/12/1951: Typescript, 3p.

Executive Council

BD/255 14/8/1951: Includes index. Typescript, 29p.

BD/256 27/11/1951: Includes index. Typescript, 49p.

BD/257 19/2/1952: Includes index. Typescript, 48p.

Annual Conference of Delegates

BD/258 19/4/1951: Typescript, 15p.

BD/259 17/4/1952: Typescript, 7p.

Bowen Downs Branch

BD/260 5/9/1936 - 6/2/1948 (Minute book) Mss. and typescript.

BD/261 3/4/1948 - 30/10/1965 (Minute book) Mss. and typescript.

Circulars

BD/262 To: Sheep Members and Registered Shearing Contractors re award rates for plessing 7/6/1951. Typescript, 1p.

BD/263 To: All Members re special general meeting 24/10/1951. Typescript, 1 p.

BD/264 To: All Members re income tax deductions - schedule of weekly instalments for general employees, 29/10/1951. Typescript, 1p.

BD/265 Duplicate of BD/264.

BD/266 To: All Members and Registered Shearing Contractors re basic wage increases — pastoral awards 29/10/1951. Typescript, 1p.

BD/267 General circular re firefighting equipment 1/11/1951. Typescript, 1 p.

BD/268 To: All Members re 1952/53 assessment and levy 15/1/1952. Typescript, 1p.

BD/269 To: Sheep Branches re shearing industry matters 4/2/1952. Typescript, 1 p.

BD/270 To: Sheep - Owner Members re shearing industry matters 4/2/1952. Typescript, 1p.

BD/271 To: All Members re opposition to revaluation of the Australian pound. 11/3/1952, Typescript. 3p.

Reports

BD/272 Report presented to the Executive council Meeting by the Shearing Industry Committee 1418/19-51 Typescript, 1p.

BD/273 Report submitted to the Executive Committee by the Industrial Organiser 24/10/1951. Typescript, 2p.

BD/274 Report to the Executive Committee from the Cattle Committee 24/10/1951. Annotated typescript, 2p.

BD/275 Duplicate of BD/274. Not annotated.

Correspondence

BD/276 Letter to R.M. McKenzie, Caber Feidh from the District Secretary 7/2/1951. Typescript, 1p.

BD/277 Letter to Miss Clarke, Secretary, Graziers' Association, Longreach from the District Secretary 7/8/1951. Typescript, 1p.

BD/278 Letter to the President, Bowen Downs Branch from J. McEwen, Minister for Commerce and Agriculture 13/8/1951. Typescript, 1 p.

BD/279 Letter to R. McKenzie, Caber Feidh, from the District Secretary 11/10/1951. Typescript, 1p.

BD/280 Letter to unidentified recipient from the District Secretary 13/11/1951. Typescript, 1p.

BD/281 Letter to C. Leslie from the Acting Secretary 21/1/1952. Typescript, 1p.

BD/282 Letter to the Secretary, Longreach from the District Secretary 31/1/1952. Typescript, 1p.

BD/283 Letter to the Secretary, Bowen Downs Branch from R. McKenzie, Caber Feidh 11/2/1952. Mss. 1p.

BD/284 Letter to C. Leslie, Bowen Downs from the Acting Secretary 4/2/1932.
Typescript, 1p.

Miscellaneous Papers and Publications

BD/285 Receipt dated 15/12/1951 from the Scottish Australian Co. Ltd. Typescript, 1p.

BD/286 Melbourne Cup Sweep Draw 1951. Typescript list with handwritten draw of horses, 1p.

BD/287 Bowen Downs list of members, n.d. Typescript, 1p.

BD/288 Article based on a Report submitted by the Town Clerk of Unley, S.A. to his Council, n.d., Typescript, 1 p.

C&N Monthly Bulletin Publication of the Graziers' Association. Typescript.

BD/289 June 1951

BD/290 July 1951

BD/291 August 1951

BD/292 September 1951

BD/293 October 1951

BD/294 November 1951

BD/295 January 1952

BD/296 February 1952

BD/297 Duplicate of BD/296

BD/298 March 1952

BD/299 April 1952

BD/300 Blueprint of unidentified homestead submitted to Aramac Shire Council. Mss.
1p.

BD/301 Dr. Bradfield's Scheme for Watering Inland Queensland. Reprint from the Longreach Leader 31/12/1951. Typescript, 1p.

BD/302 Fieldhouse, Arthur. The Students Elementary Commercial Book-Keeping. 35th edition. London. Simpkin, Marshal, 1927.

BD/303 Beale, Stephen. Profitable Poultry Keeping. London. Routledge, 1883.

BD/304 Vigars, Francis Ernest. Station Book - Keeping. 4th edition. Sydney. Brooks, n.d.

BD/305 Queensland Brands Directory for 1888.

BD/306 Letter to Miss M. Mays, James Cook University of North Queensland, from Mrs Ivy Wilson, Charters Towers, 4/3/79. Contains information re life on Bowen Downs as a housemaid. Mss. 4p.

Archive Location

Box 1 BD/1 - BD/6

Box 2 BD/7 - BD/12

Box 3 BD/13 - BD/21

Box 4 BD/22 - BD/28

Box 5 BD/29 - BD/36

Box 6 BD/37 - BD/46

Box 7 BD/47 - BD/6L

Box 8 BD/62 - BD/76

Box 9 BD/77 - BD/85

Box 10 BD/86 - BD/102

Box 11 BD/225 - BD/229

Box 12 BD/230 - BD/275

Box 13 BD/276 - BD/306