

## Bowen Downs Station 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: 24-27, 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
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#### ***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
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#### ***Invoice Book***

BD/207	Jan 1925 - Jun 1928
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#### ***Stock Books***

BD/208	Horse receipt book Jan 1882 - Jan 1914
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- 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