

D7 William Phillip Bluett (1871 – 1968)

History William Phillip Bluett owned “Koorabri” station in the Brindabella Mountains near Canberra. Prior to becoming a grazier he worked in Sydney as a journalist and real estate agent. His interests included a gold mining syndicate at Brindabella, local history and trout fishing. W.P. Bluett died in July 1968 aged 97.

The deposit includes references to rural life during the Depression and to moves to form a new state, Monaro, in south-eastern NSW.

Record Summary Correspondence 1912 – 59; Diaries 1916, 1940 – 1, 1947; Newspaper Cuttings 1923 – 34; Journal Articles by Bluett; Maps.

Date 1884 - 1960.

Quantity 41 cm.

Access Available for reference.

Accessioned 18 December 1973.

Listed 19 January 1978.

RAAM No. 15662.

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List of Series

- 1 Correspondence.
- 2 Diaries.
- 3 Account Book.
- 4 Newspaper cuttings.
- 5 Articles by W.P. Bluett.
- 6 Printed material.
- 7 Sundry documents.
- 8 Photographs.
- 9 Maps.

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1 Correspondence 1912 – 59.

Letters to and from W.P. Bluett on various subjects mostly relating to his property at Brindabella, NSW.

1 Broken Cart Mining Syndicate 1912 – 16

W. P. Bluett was a shareholder in a syndicate which operated a gold mine on the Goodradigbee River at Brindabella. The file also contains rough minutes of meetings of the syndicate.

2 Land Tenure. 1914 – 15

Draft copies of letters sent by W.P. Bluett regarding the acquisition of more grazing land.

3 Land Rates. 1921 – 44

Notices of rates payable on property owned or leased by W. P. Bluett at Burra and Brindabella. The file contains letters from the Yarrawlumla Shire Clerk relating to the payment of land rates.

4 Brindabella Road. 1928 – 40. 1959.

Correspondence between W.P. Bluett and the Yarrawlumla Shire Council regarding repairs to the road through Brindabella. Letters concerning a proposed tourist road from Kiandra to Canberra through Brindabella.

5 Monara New State. 1931

Letters and a map concerning the secession of part of south-eastern New South Wales to form a new state, Monaro, with its capital at Queanbeyan.

6 Goodradigbee Gold Field. 1931-33.

Sketch map and letters relating to a proposal by W.P. Bluett to resume prospecting in the Goodradigbee field. The file includes Department of Mines instructions for the construction of a gold washing cradle and information for inexperienced prospectors.

7 Yarrawlumla Shire Elections. 1934, 1937.

Letters from election candidates seeking the support of W.P. Bluett.

8 Telephone Services. 1939, 1959.

Correspondence relating to the initial installation of telephone services to W.P. Bluett's homestead and to interference caused by high-voltage powerlines.

9 "Koorabri" Subdivision. 1943-49.

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Letters, agreements and memoranda concerning the proposed sale of part of the "Koorabri" homestead block to N. Taylor, Chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries.

10 Miscellaneous correspondence. 1939-59.

2 Diaries. 1916-47. Diaries kept by W.P. Bluett recording daily events particularly rainfall.

1 1916.

2 1940.

3 1941.

4 1947.

3 Account Book. 1913-15.

Account Book indicating wages and stores paid to farm hands employed on W.P. Bluett's properties at Little Burra and Yarrawluma. Entries give the date on which each hand was hired and the agency through which he was hired.

1 1913-15.

4 Newspaper Cuttings. 1923-70.

1 1923-25. Local historical articles and items of state and national importance such as the Bellbird Colliery explosion.

2 1928-32. Land, settlement, primary production and migration.

3 1929. R.E. Byrd's Antarctic expedition..

4 1929. Crash of, and search for, the "Southern Cross" in Northern Australia.

5 1929-31. General cuttings including Kingsford-Smith's Pacific flight and the loss of the airship "Italia" over the North Pole.

6 1932-34. Cuttings relating to the Monaro area of N.S.W. and to the Royal Family.

7 1935-60. Trout fishing, including cuttings on W.P. Bluett as an authority on trout.

8 1964-70. Articles relating to Brindababella Valley.

5 Articles by W.P. Bluett.

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- 1 "Country Land Values" reprinted from The Shire and Municipal Record. 1 Jul 1908.
- 2 Manuscript genealogies of the Broughton and Delves families.
- 3 Typescript account of William Broughton of the N.S.W. Commissariat Department 1790-1818.
- 4 "The Birds of Brindabella" - 8 page typescript dated 12 Oct 1933.
- 5 "My Recollections of Cobb & Co." - 5 page typescript draft with manuscript corrections and 6 page final copy (first page is missing).
- 6 "The Bad Dingo or Native Dog" - 6 page typescript.
- 7 Note book containing background notes for various topics researched by W.P. Bluett.

6 Printed Material.

- 1 The Southern Visitations of Bishop Broughton 1837-1852 issued to celebrate the centenary of Broughton's arrival in Australia in 1836.
- 2 Daley, C. Canberra Nomenclature - address given to The Canberra and District Historical Society 31 Oct 1958.
- 3 Wardle, P. Some New Light on the Rev. Pierce Galliard Smith as Revealed by the de Salis Letters - address given to The Canberra and District Historical Society 28 Jun 1960.
- 4 Pages 3 and 4 of an article on the goldfields of south-eastern New South Wales.
- 5 The Shire and Municipal Record. 28 Apr 1944 - recording the death of A. R. Bluett.
- 6 The Shire and Municipal Record. 28 May 1944 - A.R. Bluett Memorial Fund.
- 7 "Beauty Spots Around Sydney." Supplement to The Sunday Herald, 30 Apr 1950.
- 8 Canberra - A City of Flowers. 1937.
- 9 Eggs and Honey. Anthony Horden and Sons catalogue. 1911-12.
- 12 Penfold, A. Eucalyptus - The Essence of Australia 1930.

7 Sundry Documents.

- 1 Certificate of Title dated 20 Oct 1884 for a block of land at Mittagong, N.S.W.
- 2 Lists of Aboriginal place names and their meaning compiled for The Anthropological Society of Australasia by various police officers in Queensland. 1900.

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- 3 Prospectus of the lacmalac Gold Mining Company, Tumut N.S.W. 1913.
- 4 Prospectus of Bulolo Gold Dredging limited, New Guinea. 1929.
- 5 Commonwealth Savings Bank, depositor's pass book for the Queanbeyan, Canberra and district Chamber of Commerce. 1933-46.
- 6 Safe custody receipts for Treasury Bonds purchased by W.P. Bluett. 1947, 1956.
- 7 Wagga Agricultural College and experiment Station, official opening programme. 1949.
- 8 Miner's Right issued to J.A. Bluett. 12 Jan 1950.

8 Photographs.9 Maps.

- 1 Parish of Googong.
- 2 Parish of Venterman.
- 3 Trace maps of part of the parishes of Tabbita and Bingar.
- 4 Composite map showing the Brindabella Dingo Association territory.
- 5 Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme – Yanco Area.
- 6 Tourist map – Federal Capital Territory.
- 7 Moorelands Estate Subdivision, Queanbeyan - poster/plan advertising sale.
- 8 Lanyon Subdivision near Queanbeyan - poster\plan advertising sale.
- 9 Sketch of house block at "Koorabri", Brindabella.
- 10 Sketch of leaseholds held by W.P. Bluett at Brindabella.
- 11 Technical plan - possibly for a reinforced concrete water tank.