Pastoralism and the Landscape:
A lower Lachlan Survey

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Volume II
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Note that the coach between Forbes and Hillston traveled on the north side of the

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Landscape category

Principal Vegetation and Soil Classes

A

Treeless plains - including Mitchell grass, saltbush and bluebush plains, stony downs and lake beds. Mostly heavy grey and brown clays and clay loams, and some texture contrast soils.

A4

River Floodplain Woodlands - open coolabah and swamp box woodlands with small Mitchell grass or saltbush plains with level of heavy soils.

B

Open low Woodlands - mulga sandhills or mulga and belah-rosewood on level with gently undulating sands, sandy loams and loams. Some dense scrub.

C

Open tall Woodlands - poplar box-white pine wilga or poplar box-ironwood mulga or gidgee-brigalow-belah-mulga on level and gently undulating loams and sandy loams. Some dense scrub.

D

Dense tall Woodlands with scrub - poplar box-white pine-wilga or poplar box-ironwood mulga or gidgee-brigalow-belah-mulga with dense timber and scrub regrowth on level and gently undulating loams and sandy loams.

E

Mallee lands - dense and open mallee scrub, often mixed with categories of B and C.

Extensive cropping
Fig. A16: Map of types of country in the Western Division of New South Wales. From the Fourth Report of the Royal Committee of Enquiry into the Western Division of New South Wales, 1983.
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*Fig. A20: Rainfall chart for Hunthawang station, 1890 - 1904. Compiled from figures in the station records, held by ANU/ABL, AML&F Co. papers, Deposit 6/53.*
The graph below shows the relationship between rainfall (--- line) and stock numbers (- - - line) in the Western Division. Stock numbers are expressed in millions of sheep plus millions of cattle x 8.

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1 Sheep : cattle ratio in N.S.W. pastoral districts 1850-1865
Based on number of head of sheep/number of head of cattle
Source: Statistical Registers of N.S.W.

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Cattle numbers × 6 to indicate relative areas utilized
*Queensland separated from New South Wales
Sources: Statistical Registers of N.S.W.; Statistical Registers of Victoria

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Fig. LS18. From the same vantage point looking east across recently cleared land.
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Fig. LS22: The silo complex with the grain elevator tower in the foreground. At the railhead at Lake Cargelligo.
Appendix B

Site Reports
Site BB : Summary

Name of Property: Booheroi
Town/district: Euabalong
LGA: Cobar
Location: Approximately 12 km from Euabalong on the Euabalong to Gunebang Road
Map: 60/39 (homestead), 66/44 (pumping station), 53/44 (shearing shed), on Kiacato 8231-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. BB1
Owner: Southern Estates. Resident Manager: Mr. Don Higgins
Sites: Homestead complex - Site BB Report 1
Shearing Shed - Site BB Report 2
Pumping Station - Site BB Report 3
Features: Huge Pumping Station (for irrigation)
Major irrigation development
Drop-log structures
Pressed-metal ceilings in homestead
Underground water tank for house rainwater supply (cement lined)

Landscape:

An important feature of the study area is the presence of a major creek which branches out from the Lachlan River on Booheroi station and rejoins the Lachlan some thirty kilometres to the south. The country enclosed between the creek and the river consists of old floodplain and the soil is either black clay or yellow loam. Consequently, this country has a much higher stocking capacity than the red soil country nearby.

In the area near the origin of the creek, on Booheroi, there are numerous swamps and gulleys which retain water for a long time after heavy rainfall or river "freshests". Thus, portion of the river section of Booheroi is subject to "natural" irrigation. This feature of the original landscape probably lead to the development of the present extensive system of irrigation works.

Booheroi is the most easterly of the properties in the study area. Situated on the north bank of the Lachlan River, Booheroi exhibits a range of land types:

(a) Near the river, large tracts of black soil plains, subject to flooding and largely cleared of timber. This is the most intensively farmed part of the property with extensive irrigation areas dating from the late 19th century.

(b) To the north is the backcountry of red soil plains, now lightly timbered with box and pine, which is the focus of free-range grazing on a large scale. No trace remains of the original saltbush cover and much clearing has occurred.

(c) Yet further from the river is a belt of light red soil plain densely covered in mallee, this is the least disturbed area, probably because of the high cost and uncertain returns of clearing such country.

B1
Summary BB

Photographs: Figs. BB2 to BB31
Diagrams: Figs. BB32 to BB36

Published Sources:

   This Journal is difficult to find in many libraries, but a complete set is held at the Australian National University, Archives of Business and Labour, in Canberra.
2. NSWGG, 11 July 1885
   *Listed as Booberoi, Pastoral Holding No. 179, with area:*
   Leasehold: 61,899 acres. Rent £ 322.7.10 (1.25d. per acre).
   Resumed: 60,512 acres. Licence £ 204.17.2. (£2.3.4. per acre)
   *Holder: Alexander Thomas Haley*

3. Report of the Royal Commission to enquire into the Condition of the Crown Tenants in the Western Division of New South Wales, 1901.
   Part 11, Page 852.
   Return showing Name of Owner and Number of Stock on each Holding in the Sheep District of Condoblin.

Unpublished Sources:

2. Oral sources, both at Booberoi and in local community. See Notes for details.
3. Some 20th century station books held on Booberoi.
Site BB: Report 1

Name: Booberoi Homestead Complex
District: Euabalong
LGA: Cobar
Location: Approximately 12 km from Euabalong, on the Euabalong to Gunebang Road
Map: 60/39 on the Kiacatoo 8231-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. BB1
Photographs: Figs. BB2 to BB7
Diagrams: Fig. BB32
Date of Site Visit: 5 January 1982

Recording Circumstances:
Following telephone conversations with the resident manager, Mr. Don Higgins, a site inspection was arranged. Mr. Higgins, Mrs. Higgins and several station employees first showed us around the homestead and garden, but they were unable to supply definite dating information. Mr. Higgins is from a local family and spent most of his childhood on Booberoi when his father was the manager, and so has considerable local knowledge. The recorders were able to confirm that the property has been run by a series of managers for many years, which is consistent with the relative simplicity of the homestead. There is no local tradition of a remembered social life centered on the house. For many years Booberoi was owned by F.W. Hughes, who also owned properties near Hay and Denilequin and several wool processing plants (1).

Detailed recording of the homestead was outside the scope of the survey. The aim of the visit was to determine the approximate date of the complex, to record the style, form and scope of the complex and its role in the life of the station as a whole. The informants were very co-operative and supplied as much information as they had available. Mr. Higgins accompanied the recorders throughout the process of measuring and photographing the structures, giving explanations about function and background where known. He also pointed out the site of the now-demolished workmen’s living quarters and the traces of an old Chinese garden. Permission was given to visit the other Booberoi sites independently. The woolshed and the pumping station were recorded on subsequent days and are discussed in Reports 2 and 3 following (this site).

Structures:
The main standing structures on 5 January 1982 at the Booberoi Homestead are shown in Fig. BB32. They included:
- weatherboard homestead
- underground water tank
- small cottage
- jackaroo’s quarters
- office

B3
staff housing block
meat house
modern farm and machinery sheds
stables
old sheds (parts of original drop-log elements remaining)
various unidentified small footings

**HOMESTEAD**

Booberoi has passed through the hands of a series of owners. They include Mr. Robert Smith and Co. who owned it until 1880 and used it as a cattle run with “about 7,000 head of cattle” (as reported in the article in *The Australasian Pastoralists Review*¹). It was then acquired by Mr. Alexander Thomas Haley, son of Cornelius Sharpe Haley who arrived in Sydney in 1838 and soon took up runs in Victoria. Later it was held by Mr. F.W. Hughes who also owned properties near Denilequin and was also involved in wool processing.

At the site inspection, the manager was not able to supply precise dates for the construction of the buildings, but he was aware of various changes that have occurred this century. In particular, the survival of a small room behind the house which is thought to be the original kitchen suggests that an earlier house may have been demolished to make way for the current wooden structure.

The article in “The Pastoral Homes of Australia” series in *The Pastoralists Review*, claims that “the homestead was originally erected sixty years ago, but Mr. Haley has improved and enlarged it considerably”². No details are given but a photograph in the article shows the present three-gabled structure.

Pressed metal ceilings in some rooms of the house indicate a date in the early 1900’s for at least part of the structure, which is consistent with construction or renovation at this time.

The large underground water-tank is unusual in the area, the only others known being at Hyandra (Site HY Report 1) and Brotheroney (Site BY Report 1). Remains of drop-log construction in some sheds probably date from the early years of occupation.

The Booberoi Homestead Complex is not as extensive as several others in the survey, in particular Uabba, Hunthawang and Merri Merrigal, probably reflecting the less centralised work-patterns on this property, where much activity is focused in the area of the pumping station and irrigation cultivation.

The shearsers huts near the shearing shed were also used throughout the year for housing other workers, particularly casual and seasonal employees. Moreover, the property is near enough to Euabalong to allow daily commuting by some workers, so housing was not provided for all the employees. The complex has the usual elements of sheds, stables, work and storage areas, staff housing and office space. The style, in terms of materials and design, is less unified and individual than the others in the area.

The station has been a large local employer. Even in the 1950’s approximately twelve permanant and numerous casual jobs were available. Many local people, including Aboriginals from the village of Euabalong, have found work on the intensive
irrigation, stock and cropping operations at Booberoi. Some of these people have later moved to other and more senior positions on surrounding properties (2).

Booberoi has been a strong influence in the area because of its size and its early use of powerful technology. Activities included:

- early and extensive clearing
- large scale irrigation
- extensive dry-land farming
- fencing
- stock work
- rabbiting (contractors were employed until the 1960’s) (3)
- horse breeding
- horse breaking
- shearing (shearers were hired individually from within the district) (4).

There has been a tradition since early this century of dividing operations between a Stock Manager and a Farm Manager, probably dating from the commencement of large-scale irrigation in 1901 when the weir was built.

Landscape:

The homestead complex is set near the Lachlan River, beside the Euabalong to Gunebang road. Land here is rich black river flats. Much has been cleared but it is laced with gullies and timbered patches. Eucalypt stands persist along both river and creek frontages. In the 1912 article in The Pastoralists Review it was described as “composed almost wholly of gently undulating country, with occasional plains. The timber consists of kurrajong, box and yarran, practically all undergrowth having been cleared away, leaving sufficient for shelter purposes.” Kurrajong may still be seen but little yarran remains.

Much land in the homestead corner is subject to flooding. In large floods, such as those in 1950, 1952, 1956 and 1990, the waters remain for several months thereby isolating this area. Booberoi is fortunate, however, as a partial solution is provided by the railway line on the northern side of the property, which is rarely cut for more than a few days even in the worst floods, but the lower lying areas can be inundated for months at a time.

This area has been the subject of much pastoral and agricultural modification for over a century and so presents a mellow and much modified aspect, of the kind favoured by landscape painters that is often regarded as typically Australian. The land has been levelled for irrigation purposes so supports either crops or improved pastures. The surviving trees are pleasantly spreading specimens. The river curves gently through the plain with a thick fringe of trees along its course.

Away from the river the hand of man has been less intense, so cypress pine appears in bands and a range of native grasses are the main ground cover.

In spring a rich variety of native wild flowers still appear and the paddocks are a bright splash of yellows and white for a few weeks.
TABLE: BOOBEROI 1: STOCK RETURNS

These figures are taken from the Report of the Royal Commission to inquire into the Condition of Crown Tenants in the Western Division of New South Wales, 1901. Part 11. Page 852. Return shows Owner's Name and the Number of Stock on each Holding in the Sheep District of Condobolin (Western Division) on 1st January in each year from 1882 to 1900 inclusive, as per Owners' Returns. See Table Booberoi 1, continued next page.


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Notes

Oral Informants
1. J. and G. Nixon, formerly of Gunniguldrigie, and M. O'Kane who grew up in the area.
2. (a) The late Mr. Jack Edwards, local stockman. (b) Owners of several neighbouring properties, including Euabalang, Hyandra and North Whoey.
3. Mr. Don Higgins, Manager of Booberoi.

References
2. ibid., p.1246.
3. ibid., p.1243.
Site BB: Report 2

Name: Booberoi Shearing Shed
District: Euabalong
LGA: Cobar
Location: Beside the Sydney to Broken Hill railway line
Map: 53/44 on the Kiacatoo 8231-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. BB1
Photographs: Figs. BB8 to BB19
Diagrams: Figs. BB33 and BB34
Date of Site Visit: 9 January 1982

Recording Circumstances:
Permission to record independently had been granted by the Manager, so two recorders spent an afternoon at the site without interruption. The heat was extreme (approximately 115 degrees F. in the shed), so no local activities were observed.

Structures:
WOOLSHED
The shearing shed was most likely to have been built shortly after Booberoi was bought by Mr. Haley in 1880 as he converted the station from a cattle run with 7,000 head of cattle to a sheep property. See the Table of stock returns at end of Site BB Report 1 which records these changes.

The shed is mentioned in the article in The Pastoralists Review of 1912 as "a weatherboard structure, containing twenty-six stands of sheep-shearing machines driven by a 12-h.p. oil engine. This shed was originally a hand shed, but was converted into a machine shed six or seven years ago".1

A large structure approximately 14.9 m wide and 50.4 m long, the woolshed has a wooden frame with galvanized iron cladding. There were 26 original stands (Fig. BB33).

Four large shutters are set above the double doors at the end, to provide light and ventilation.

The engine room houses a diesel engine marked:
R.A. LISTER & CO LTD No. 853700
DURSLEY Spec. 10-2-30
ENGLAND HP 12
RPM 650

With its 26 stands this is a large shed but it provides little sheep shelter with space for approximately 500 in the pens and none at all underneath. Sheep take two to three days to dry if they get wet so shelter for about 6,000 sheep is needed here if loss of workdays is to be avoided. The solution is provided by a separate shelter shed and a third long shed which connects it to the shearing shed (Fig. BB34). These ancillary sheds are of quite modern construction and their strange orientation in relation to the shearing shed suggests that they probably postdate an earlier structure.
The 1912 Pastoralists’ Review article mentions that “Adjoining the woolshed is a sweating shed, with a housing capacity of 3,000 sheep. This shed can be filled with sheep in ten minutes”. The position of this shed, together with its capacity, suggest that the writer is referring to the connecting structure.

The Booberoi railway siding on the Sydney to Broken Hill line is approximately 500m from the shed. It is used to bring sheep in for shearing and to take them back to distant pasture, loading at Euabalong West and Kiakatoo, especially in times of flooding such as the massive 1950’s floods. Mr. Higgins, Manager, advised that station records show that 180,000 sheep were shorn at Booberoi in 1935. This number is much in excess of the stock returns for last century, and probably includes sheep from other properties in the area owned by the same company.

Landscape:
Flat plains of red sandy soils lightly timbered with box and pine. Much clearing has thinned the treecover and reduced the diversity of species present. Grasses are more common than the native edible shrubs.

Notes

References
2. ibid., p.1246.
Site BB: Report 3

Name: Booberoi Pumping Station
District: Euabalong
LGA: Cobar
Location: On the Lachlan River at the point where Booberoi Creek leaves the River, beside a large weir.
Map: 66/44 on the Kiaatoo 8231-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. BB1
Photographs: Figs. BB20 to BB31
Diagrams: Figs. BB35 and BB36
Date of Site Visit: 7 February 1982

Recording Circumstances:
Permission was given for independent recording. No station informants were available to help explain the features of the site at the time of recording, though many local people were able to comment on what was found (1). A separate visit was made to the weir in the company of the local manager of the NSW Water Commission who generously pointed out the various features of the weir and associated works. Details of its construction were supplied by the Librarians at NSW Water Commission, Sydney.

Structures:
1. BOOBEROI WEIR
The weir and its associated works was built in 1902 by the Department of Public Works. It is a mass concrete gravity wall weir, shown in Fig. BB20, having:

- length: 102 m
- maximum height: 6.1 m
- width at base: 4.1 m
- width at crest: 1.1 m

Reinforcing terracing is present, see Fig. BB21.

Regulator: connected to the southern abutment is a concrete structure with a 2.9 m high metal gate, which controls the flow of water into Booberoi Creek (Fig. BB22).

Recorder: A Stevens Recorder is set on a well, with a pipe to the crest with a float attached, which records water flow at the weir on a 90-day drum. The flow into Booberoi Creek is recorded on a 7-day meter.

2. BOOBEROI PUMPING STATION
Painted a deep red, the pumping station is a ramshackle building with three distinct sections of different date, approximately 10.8 m by 18.5 m. It has a wooden frame with galvanized iron cladding. Fig. BB35 shows a plan of the layout.

At the north west end of the structure is an area where four drive-wheels, each of different size and construction, are set in concrete pits. The name “H. Carruthers” is marked on footings in this area (Figs. BB27 to BB29).
The wheels are in a line running approximately east to west. Each is different. The three wheels at the eastern end are set very close together (Fig. BB28) in a brick and concrete pit (Fig. BB29). The first wheel takes the power from the engine while the others drive the pumps.

(a) The largest wheel is the first at the eastern end, with a diameter of 3 m (Fig. BB27). There are six heavy spokes each 1.15 m long. In the centre is a wooden block held together by metal plates. The rim is 0.33 m wide and holds five belt trays each 0.045 m wide to contain the five v-belts. This wheel was connected to the engine and transmitted the motive force to the other wheels which powered the pumps. The v-belts were an efficient way to maximise the contact of belt to wheel and so minimise power loss during transmission. All the other wheels have a smooth rim which would accommodate the single wide belt often used to drive heavy equipment such as pumps.

(b) The next wheel is the smallest with a diameter of 0.9 m and twelve double spokes. It is of a type commonly used to drive an auxiliary appliance such as a small pump for engine needs.

(c) The third wheel is very close to the small one. It has a diameter of 1.85 m with a rim of sheet iron bolted together by plates. There are two rows of spokes (24 on each side) with each spoke of diameter 0.02 m and length 0.68 m.

(d) The most westerly wheel is set in its own pit but is of similar size to (c) with a diameter of 1.87 m. In construction it is most like (a) with six wide spokes. It is set in a sloping concrete well with the shafting supported on the concrete pillar.

Behind the wheel area, on the river side of the building, is a small open pump room which houses two Vickers-Gill propellant pumps made by Vickers-Armstrong Ltd. Station accounts held at the homestead record that the pump left England on 2 October 1935.

Dates: A photograph held by the Lake Cargelligo Historical Society (see Fig. BB26) shows a somewhat different configuration of buildings and roofline. It is thought to date from the early 1930’s (2). As the new pumps arrived in 1936 (3) it is probable that extensive changes and extensions date from this time. Station records include receipts for the purchase of the pumps but do not mention installation work, probably because it was done without cash expenditure by the usual station workforce.

The early history of this extensive experiment in transforming the land is not clear, but Sir Samuel McCaughey the pioneer of irrigation in the Riverina, held leases on several blocks in this area including Euabalong Station.

Other: An example of local folklore is the expression: When Booberoi turn on the pumps, the river drops two inches (4).

Landscape:
The pumping station is set directly on the bank of the Lachlan River. The soil is black and heavy. Large eucalypts cluster near the river. To the north, the red soil country is very flat, probably enhanced by the long years of intensive irrigation. Large areas are completely cleared of trees, which were ringbarked during the nineteenth century and then cut down to supply the huge boiler which fuelled the pumps. Several men were employed to cut and transport this timber during the 1930’s (5). The photograph held by Lake Cargelligo Historical Society (Fig. BB26) shows the light rail system built to
facilitate the smooth flow of material to the boiler. Large scale intensive cropping has been practiced here for about 100 years. Many crops have been tried, including cotton in the last 20 years (6), but intensive grazing has dominated. Little native vegetation survives except for trees in pockets on the watercourses and grasses on the extensive dry land grazing areas.

NOTES

Oral Informants

1. Mr. E. McInnes and Mrs. J. Nixon (Lake Cargelligo Historical Society).
3. Mr. Don Higgins, from station records which include original purchase and shipping details.
4. The late Mr. Jack Edwards, local stockman.
6. Mr. Don Higgins.
map, OMA of NSW. Map is a photorecopy of the 1:50,000 topographic woodshed and the pumping station. Map of the area showing the location of the homestead, the

FIG. BB1: Booberol. Map of the area showing the location of the homestead, the

Key
BB1: Booberol homestead
BB2: Booberol woolshed
BB3: Booberol pumping station
Fig. BB2: Booberoi Homestead. Front of the house, from the north. This is the original block with three parallel gables. House is low, almost flush with the ground. A corrugated iron water storage tank to catch roof water is at right corner.

Fig. BB3: Booberoi Homestead. From the east. Shows the grape trellis over the path from the gate to the verandah. In the foreground is a corner of the verandah of the cottage used for staff housing. The front gable has a ventilator to cool the roof space.
Fig. BB4: Booberoi Homestead. The wooden cover to the large cement underground rainwater storage tank. Original hand pump has been replaced by a modern system.

Fig. BB5: Booberoi Homestead Complex. From the northeast. The stockmen's quarters and the wire-gauzed meat house, at the rear of the house yard. Note the kelpie sheltering from the 45 C degree heat in the shade of the house (bottom right).
Fig. BB6: Booberoi Homestead Complex. The drop-log stable from the north. The door to the loft is intact and the structure is used for storage.

Fig. BB7: Booberoi Homestead Complex. Detail of the western wall of the drop-log stable showing the posts and battens used to hold the cypress logs and the method of attaching the verandah roof.
Fig. BB8: Booberoi Woolshed from the east. Now covered in corrugated iron, this was originally a weatherboard shed. Half-hipped roof resembles the McFadzean sheds at Naradhan, Ubbba and Wooyeo. Roof has ventilators and skylights. Note the wooden frames for drying wet wool in the foreground.

Fig. BB9: Booberoi Woolshed from the south. Tanks for storing roof water and fuel stand beside the shed.
Fig. BB10: Booberoi Woolshed from the west. The small room added to the side is the engine room to accommodate first the steam engine and later diesel ones. Note that the floor of the board area is low but still somewhat higher than that of the wool room (at the right of the frame) which is flush with the ground.

Fig. BB11: Booberoi Woolshed area. The long and narrow sheep shelter shed that connects the woolshed to the large shelter shed. Note awnings to provide ventilation and protect the unglazed windows from rain. From the west.
Fig. BB12: Booberoi Woolshed area. The large sheep shelter shed showing the curious angle of abutment with the connecting shed, from the south.

Fig. BB13: Booberoi Woolshed area. The shearer's huts, often used for staff accommodation throughout the year. From the north.
Fig. BB14: Booheroi Woolshed, interior. From the southeast. Along the shearing board toward the sheep-pen end of the shed.

Fig. BB15: Booheroi Woolshed. Shearing stands looking from the board. Very sturdy posts support the shearing machines while skylights provide ample light.
Fig. BB16: Booberoi Woolshed. A shearing stand showing the exterior of the catching pens with their slatted floor, and the chute to the counting-out pen with the shelf for the shearer's tools.

Fig. BB17: Booberoi Woolshed. Inside the catching pens towards the sweating pens with a myriad of gates to control the flow of sheep.
Fig. BB18: Booberoi Woolshed. From the board looking across the woolclassing tables and wool bins to the wool room at ground level below.

Fig. BB19: Booberoi Woolshed. From inside the wool room looking back to the board. The woolpress is in the foreground. The large posts and plates of the framework of the roof are in the strong "box" shape.
Fig. BB20: Booberoi Weir on the Lachlan River. Built in 1902 by the Dept. of Public Works, this was the first such weir built in the state of New South Wales. It controls the flow of water into the Booberoi Creek on which landholders along its course depend for supplies of water for stock and other uses.

Fig. BB21: Booberoi Weir. Restraining terraces on the northern bank of the Lachlan near the weir to prevent the water undercutting the banks.
Fig. BB23: Booberoi Pumping Station. From the southwest showing the older sections of the building and the recently added roof which shelters the modern pumps which draw the water from the Lachlan into the concrete splash pan in the foreground.

Fig. BB24: Booberoi Pumping Station from the north. The boiler house has a suspended verandah using steel cables.
Fig. BB27: Booberoi Pumping Station. The four drive wheels from the east. These wheels are set in two separate pits and were used to drive the pumps. They have not been used for some time and much small and connecting machinery has gone. The scale rod has 10 cm divisions.

Fig. BB28: Booberoi Pumping Station. The row of four drive wheels from the south, showing them extending into the pits and the different types and sizes of the wheels. The diameter of each wheel, from the left, is: 1.87 m, 1.85 m, 0.9 m, and 3 m respectively.
Fig. BB29. Booeroi Pumping Station. Three of the drive wheels in the brick-lined pit that houses them. The large wheel on the right has a diameter of 3 m with six wide spokes. Its rim holds belt trays for the five v-belts that took power from the engine. The small central wheel is obscured. The metal wheel on the left with two rows of spokes was used to drive a pump.
Fig. BB30: Booberoi Pumping Station. The firebox of the boiler from the north. The boiler is connected to the chimney by an underground flue.

Fig. BB31: Booberoi Pumping Station. The brick wall housing the boiler from the west. The double row of posts beside the boiler suggests that the extension of the building overlapped this area.
Fig. BB32: Schematic plan of the Booberoi Homestead Complex.
Fig. BB33: Schematic plan of Booberoi Woolshed.

KEY:
1. Slatted floor
2. Connecting sheep shed
3. Shearing board
4. Counting out pens
5. Diesel engine room
6. Wool bins
7. Woolclassing table
8. Ferrier wool press
9. Wool room
10. Sheep yards
KEY:
1. Shearing shed
2. Connecting shed
3. Sheep shelter shed
4. Access road
5. Railway line
6. Shearer's huts

Fig. BB34: Schematic plan of the buildings at the Booeroi Woolshed Complex.
Fig. BB35: Booerori Pumping Station; schematic plan of layout.
Fig. BB36: Booberoi Pumping Station; schematic plan of the splash pan and offtake channel to the irrigation works.
Site BL : Summary

Name of Property: Boorithumble
Town/district: Euabalong West
LGA: Cobar
Location: About 7 km south west of Euabalong on the bank of Booberoi Creek
Map: 35/36 (homestead), 38/36 (shearing shed) on the Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. BL1
Owner: Mr. K. and Mrs. M. Worthington
Sites: Homestead complex : Site BL Report 1
Shearing Shed : Site BL Report 2
Features: Wooden house with unusually detailed finish for the area. Eight rooms completely covered in decorative pressed metal in a rich array of patterns.
Poison shed of drop-log with blocks of wood hammered into the ground, making a cobble-like floor.
Stable of drop-log.
Shearing shed dating to the 1880's or earlier, with a wooden shingle roof surviving under the galvanized iron. Parts of the lifting equipment to hoist wool to the storage loft can still be seen at the front of the building.

Landscape:
Along the Booberoi Creek is a belt of soft fertile country with box and eucalypt cover. Clearing has been extensive here so the present landscape is open plain with scattered clumps of trees. It quickly merges into a scrub and pine belt with a dense cover of medium sized trees and scrub with little grass. This in turn gives way to sandy red soil plains with thick mallee.

Photographs: Figs. BL2 - BL19
Diagrams: Figs. BL20 - BL21

Published Sources:
1. Report of the Royal Commission to enquire into the Condition of the Crown Tenants in the Western Division of New South Wales. 1901. Part 11. Page 852. Return showing Owners' Name, the Number of Stock on each Holding in the Sheep District of Condobolin (Western Division) on 1st Jan in each year from 1882 to 1990 Inclusive, as per Owners' Returns. (See Table at end of Site BL Report 1).

Unpublished Sources:
Oral informants:
1. Present owners, K. and M. Worthington
2. Mr. E. McInnes, former resident of the property, now living in Lake Cargelligo

B34
Site BL: Report 1

Name: Boorithumble Homestead Complex
District: Euabalong West
LGA: Cobar
Location: About 7 km south west of Euabalong on the banks of Booberoi Creek
Map: 35/36 on the Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. BL1
Photographs: Figs. BL2 - BL11
Diagrams: Fig. BL20
Date of Site Visit: February and August 1981

Recording Circumstances:
The owners were pleased by the interest shown in the old structures on their property and made themselves available to show us around and to answer questions where possible. They have lived on the property for over ten years and grew up on nearby stations and so have extensive local connections and knowledge.

The survey of this property is only a preliminary one and does not attempt detailed recording of the standing structures, but is intended to establish in a general way what is present, its general condition and its relation to the landscape.

Structures:
Wooden homestead
Sheds
Stable

HOMESTEAD
Set on the north bank of Booberoi Creek, this old homestead presents a somewhat poignant atmosphere with its recent abandonment leaving it in a fairly good state of preservation but in great isolation.

It was built about 1914 by W. Bland (1). Bland also built several other houses on the property at this time. A total of four houses from this property have been moved elsewhere in the area for further use, providing a graphic illustration of the changing waves of land use and work patterns in the area. Three of the houses are in the town of Lake Cargelligo and the other on a farm nearby. All are still in use.

An interesting connection is the fact that Mrs. McInnes was the daughter of the well-known shearing-shed builder McFadzean, who was a partner of Bland in Narrandera, (see the photograph in Freeman 1). While there is no suggestion that McFadzean was involved in the construction of this homestead, some of his tradition of fine workmanship survives intact in the harmonious plan of the structure and its fine finish.

Boorithumble is a wooden house on a sawn timber frame with a galvanized iron roof but it has an unusually detailed finish for the area. In particular, eight large rooms are covered completely, including all walls and ceilings, in pressed metal sheeting in a rich array
of patterns, few of which are alike (Fig. BL5). Another embellishment is the decorative wooded frame in the hallway (Fig. BL4). The effect is slightly melancholy given the isolation of the house and the arid landscape surrounding it (Fig. BL2). Coloured glass and ornate fireplaces add to the atmosphere.

Corrugated iron water tanks to store rain-water surround the house (Fig. BL2) which was also able to draw on water from the nearby Booberoi Creek. The present condition of the structure is quite sound but the roof has started to lift in parts and this allows water and wind to penetrate (Fig. BL3) so that deterioration will accelerate now that it is now longer used as a homestead.

POISON SHED
The shed is thought to date to the 1870’s (2). The roof is of shingles on round battens. Walls are of drop-log in panels of approximately 2 m length (Figs. BL6, BL7) which was a common size for pine in the area. The floor is of blocks of wood hammered end-on into the ground giving a cobbled pattern. The shed is in a very fragile condition. As it was used for both the storage of chemicals, including arsenic, and the mixing of various potent agricultural poisons on the bench shown in Fig. BL9, re-use was never a possibility and nature has been allowed to take its course.

STABLE
Of similar construction to the poison shed, the stable is even more fragile, having lost most of its walls. Recent use by cattle and sheep in search of shelter is threatening the stability of the structure: clear signs of pressure from resting animals is present on the badly leaning timbers (Figs. BL10 and BL11).

ORIGINAL ERRYBENDRY HOMESTEAD
Approximately opposite the Boorithumble homestead, on the southern bank of Booberoi Creek, stand the few remaining traces of the original Errybendry homestead. Located in a hollow which was frequently flooded throughout this century, only a few fragile wooden footings remain. A stand of exotic trees, including several large mulberry trees, are the main physical indicators of a former habitation. Oral reports from a former Boorithumble resident (3) and other long term residents of the area (4) are of a weatherboard house that was abandoned for many years and left to disintegrate.

Landscape:
On a straight stretch of Booberoi Creek with large box trees and sufficient water to allow the cultivation of exotics and fruit trees, the house looks out onto a plain of red soil supporting a range of grasses with eucalypts scattered widely. A band of scrub and mallee are on the horizon.
TABLE: BOORITHUMBLE: STOCK RETURNS

From the Report of the Royal Commission to enquire into the Condition of Crown Tenants in the Western Division, 1901. Part 11. Page 852. Return showing Owners' Name, the Number of Stock on each Holding in the Sheep District of Condobolin (Western Division) on 1st Jan. in each year, as per Owners' Returns.

Wm. Bailey, MOUNT BOORITHUMBLE

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Notes:

References

Oral Informants
1. Mr. E. McInnes, now of Lake Cargelligo, whose family owned Boorithumble for about 80 years and who grew up in this house.
2. Mr. E. McInnes.
3. Mr. E. McInnes.
4. Mr. N. Graham and Mrs. J. Nixon.

B37
Site BL: Report 2

Name: Boorithumble Shearing Shed
District: Euabalong
LGA: Cobar
Location: About 1 km from the old homestead on a bend of Booberoi Creek, reached by an internal station road
Map: 38/36 on the Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. BL1
Photographs: Figs. BL12 - BL19
Diagrams: Fig. BL21
Date of Site Visit: February 1981

Recording Circumstances:

Shearing was in progress at the time of the visit. The opportunity to observe this “wool factory” in operation outweighed the problems of access which were a consequence. Weather was very hot and dry so the sheep were ready to shear on arrival at the shed. They were held in the adjoining yards, then taken into the shed in batches waiting at first in the long race and then in the small holding pens behind the board. Shearing was done on the four-stand board and the sheep left the shed via the sloping chutes to the holding yards.

Structures:

SHEARING SHED

Thought by the previous owners (1) to date from the 1880’s or earlier, the shearing shed now has four stands and is clad in sawn timber heavily reinforced with galvanized iron (Fig. BL12). It is a rectangular shed with the woolroom located at the end of the board. The original layout and workflow has been retained. Very heavy timbers are used in the roof which is of galvanized iron covering the original wooden shingles which are visible from below (Fig. BL16). The roof is very high and steeply sloped. Skylights are set high in the roof for light and ventilation (Figs. BL14, BL15).

Originally, there were stands for eight blade shearsers but only four have been retained and converted to machine operation.

The sheep pens are wooden (Fig. BL16) and most are of round timber. The wool bins are of cut timber and a paling type barrier separates the board from the woolroom (Fig. BL15).

At the south end, above the entrance door, is a doorway and the remains of lifting equipment (Fig. BL12). This was used to lift bales of wool into a loft in the roof area as the isolation of the area often resulted in long delays in transporting the clip to market (2). The floor of the loft has been removed but the bracing of the shed with cross-ties to withstand the weight of the stored wool are still in situ (Fig. BL17).

Outside, at the northern end of the shed, a shelter to keep sheep dry has been built above part of the associated sheep yards (Figs. BL13, BL14). The yards are of the traditional design of heavy round posts with cypress logs for rails, with both holding and forcing yards. A corrugated iron tank (Fig. BL14) is located in the engine room which...
was added to the woolshed to accommodate a steam engine and used to house later petrol engines.

Landscape:
The shed is located near Booberoi Creek which provided water for sheep as well as for the steam engine and dip. The creek is now often dry because of irrigation upstream so that the shed area is very dusty in summer. A thin ribbon of large eucalypts remains along the course of the creek and a range of native grasses cover the open areas. No saltbush remains. To the north and west, red soil plains support pine and scrub but soon merge into thick mallee, little of which has been cleared.

Notes:

Oral Informants
1. Mr. E. McInnes, who grew up on Boorithumble.
2. Mr. E. McInnes.
Fig. BL1: Map showing location of the Boorithumble homestead and woolshed.

BL1: Boorithumble homestead complex
BL2: Boorithumble woolshed
Fig. BL2: Boorithumble homestead, from the northwest. The weatherboard house stands in isolation on a slight rise near Booberoi Creek. The associated service buildings are on the north side of the station road.

Fig. BL3: Boorithumble homestead, from the north. This is the front of the house, facing away from the Creek. Curved barge-boards trim the verandah. The missing roof iron is beginning to allow water penetration.
Fig. BL4: Boorithumble homestead. Decorative wooden hall frame painted several different colours to contrast with the pressed metal sheeting on the walls and ceiling.

Fig. BL5: Boorithumble homestead. A corner of the living room showing the range of different pressed metal patterns used on walls and ceilings.
Fig. BL6: Boorithumble poison shed from the east. It is located to the north of the station road opposite the homestead. The drop-log walls remain intact but the shingle roof is disintegrating.

Fig. BL7: Boorithumble poison shed. Detail of drop-log wall. Building has developed a slant because of the pressure of farm animals sheltering under the verandah and leaning against the posts and walls.
Fig. BL8: Boorithumble poison shed. Interior, showing drop-log panels.

Fig. BL9: Boorithumble poison shed. The “bench” for mixing poisons. The lid opens to allow poisoned grain to be prepared for rabbit baits.
Fig. BL10: Boorithumble stable, from the south. The drop-log wall at the back remains intact, but the other walls are fragmentary. The shingle roof is also fragmentary.

Fig. BL11: Boorithumble stable from the southeast. The north end has partially collapsed and the roof now leans against the wall. This was a large stable with carefully adzed stalls.
Fig. BL12: Boorithumble woolshed, from the southeast. The doorway to the loft area is still present in the upper wall. Part of the associated lifting equipment also remains in situ.
Fig. BL13: Boorithumble woolshed, from the northeast. The roof over the sheep yard to provide shelter for sheep awaiting shearing adjoins the end of the woolshed.

Fig. BL14: Boorithumble woolshed, from the west. The lean-to structure at the side of the woolshed was to house the steam engine. The water tank is still in place.
Fig. BL15: Boorimuthble woolshed. Wool bins stand in a row in front of the woolroom. The original shingle roof is clearly visible.

Fig. BL16: Boorimuthble woolshed. Sheep pens built of round timber with sawn timber for the plate supporting the roof timbers.
Fig. BL17: Boorithumble woolshed. The cross ties of the roof from the south end of the shed. Shingle roof and skylights are clearly visible.

Fig. BL18: Boorithumble woolshed. Detail of the roof showing the shingles, now covered with corrugated iron, and the round cypress timber frame.
Fig. BL19: Boorithumble woolshed. The southeast corner of the woolroom showing the weatherboard cladding over the round timber frame. A circular template for marking the wool bales hangs on a post.
Fig. BL20: Sketch plan of the Boorithumble homestead area.
Fig. BL21: Schematic plan of the Boorithumble woolshed.
Site BY : Summary

Name of Property: Brotheroney
Town/district: Euabalong
LGA: Lachlan
Location: On the Lake Cargelligo to Condobolin road, 10 km upstream from Euabalong
Map: 71/40 on the Kiacatoo 8231-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. BY1
Owner: Mr. Colin Marsh
Sites: Homestead: Site BY Report 1
Features: Large brick homestead with detached kitchen block, by the same contractor as Hyandra (Site Summary HY). Wooden windmill 100m west of the house. On the fringe of the survey area but included because of the house with its stylistic similarity to Hyandra and because it adjoined the original Wooyeo lease.

Landscape:
Beside the Lachlan, on rich black soil. Large river gums line the banks and scattered stands of large eucalypts dot the rolling plains to the east.

Photographs: Figs. BY2 - BY14

Published Sources:
Nixon, J. 1973. The Dusts of Time

Unpublished Sources:
Budd Jnl.
Site BY: Report 1

Name: Brotheroney Homestead
District: Euabalang
LGA: Lachlan
Location: About 200 m from the roadway on the southern Lake Cargelligo to Condobolin road about 10 km from Euabalong
Map: 71/40 on the Kiacatoo 8231-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. BY1
Photographs: Figs. BY2 - BY14
Date of Site Visit: August 1983

Recording Circumstances:
The recorders first spoke with the owners in their new house about 2 km from the old homestead. We discussed the background of the old homestead and they gave permission to us to visit and record it. They were aware of the parallels with Hyandra, but were unable to provide any additional detail.

Structures:

HOMESTEAD
The main house is of thick double brick which gave protection from the fierce heat of summer. The roof is of galvanized iron. It is a large imposing house on an isolated bend of the Lachlan River which was the focus of a large lease last century. Local opinion is that it was built by the same contractor as Hyandra which is the only other large brick house in the area (1). This is plausible as the detail of the style is very similar, for example, the twelve-pane windows with wide sills and “eyebrows” above at Hyandra (Site HY Report 1), the doors and many interior details such as the wooden mantel on the fireplace and the wooden ceiling boards.

The house has not been occupied for some years as the family have built a new house nearby. Most of the verandah has been removed because of the danger of iron flying about in strong wind, so the bricks are now exposed to the elements. This is unfortunate as the bricks are locally made and rather fragile. The site of manufacture is not known but on Hyandra the bricks were made on the property, so perhaps a contractor and a team of brickmakers moved through the district in the 1870’s.

In the main block the walls are of double brick with sharply defined mortar. It is built in mainly English bond with some colonial bond towards the top of the wall (Fig. BY9) and in another band at the bottom of the wall. Inside, they are covered with plaster. The ceilings are of grooved boards and the floors are 14 cm wide boards. All ceilings are high at 3.5 m and three rooms use polished boards for the ceiling. Two rooms have fireplaces, while one former bedroom has a kitchen stove set into the fireplace providing a hint of a late, informal, occupancy.

The separate kitchen block also has brick walls. They are whitewashed inside. The roof is of wooden shingles on cut rafters. A large bread oven dominates the room
Report BY1

(Figs. BY11 to BY13). The scale and fittings of the kitchen suggest a large everyday household and professional kitchen staff.

Landscape:
On rolling plains on the comparatively gentle southern banks of the Lachlan River on rich black soil. Large box trees line the watercourse with scattered clumps elsewhere. Much of the area has been cleared for cropping and intensive grazing.

Notes:

Oral Informants
Fig. BY1: Location map showing Brotheroney homestead. Map is a photocopy of the 1:50,000 topographic map of CMA of NSW.
Fig. BY2: Brotheroney homestead, from the northeast. The main block of the homestead with part of the separate kitchen block visible on the left side of the photograph near to the water tank.

Fig. BY3: Brotheroney homestead, from the northeast. The main block with the holes where the verandah was once attached visible along the upper wall. The line of the floor edge may be seen among the grass. French windows open onto the verandah.
Fig. BY4: Brotheroney homestead. The west wall of the main block from the northwest. Holes to take the verandah beams are visible.

Fig. BY5: Brotheroney homestead. The back verandah of the main block from the southwest. The verandah remains in place on this side of the house.
Fig. BY6: Brotheroney homestead. Interior, a window in the sitting room. The delicate twelve-pane window is in a wide cedar frame.

Fig. BY7: Brotheroney homestead. Interior, a fireplace in the main block. The wooden surround and mantel closely resemble those at Hyandra.
Fig. BY8: Brotheroney homestead. A window in the main block. There is an "eyebrow" type lintel above and a wide masonry sill as at Hyandra.
Fig. BY9: Brotheroney homestead. The Front door to the main block with a fan above as well as the "eyebrow" type surround.
Fig. BY10: Brotheroney homestead. Main block and separate kitchen block behind from the northeast. The verandah has been removed from the kitchen and this probably obscures the old covered connection between the two blocks.

Fig. BY11: Brotheroney homestead. The brick kitchen block showing some missing roof iron as well as the lack of a verandah which exposes the hand-made bricks to weathering.
Fig. BY12: Brotheroney homestead. Interior of kitchen block showing the back of the large free-standing chimney. The shingle roof is in good condition.

Fig. BY13: Brotheroney homestead. The large open fireplace and the baker’s oven in the kitchen block.
Fig. BY14: Brotheroney homestead area. The wooden windmill tower on the bank of the nearby Lachlan River, about 100 metres from the homestead.
Site CN: Summary

Name of Property: Coan Downs
Town/district: Mount Hope
LGA: Shire of Cobar
Location: On Coan Downs station about five km from the homestead which is about twelve km from Mt. Hope township.
Map: 85/81 on the Mount Allen 8032, 1:100,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. CN1
Owner: Mr. Bruce Cullen-Ward
Sites: Shearing Shed
Features: A very large structure, the original sections of which are clad entirely in cypress drop-log, with a galvanized iron roof. Commenced before 1874, it was built to accommodate 76 hand shearers. The shed was originally 180 feet long but has been reduced to 140 feet. This shed has many local and regional associations. It is, for instance, mentioned in the traditional song “Flash Jack from Gundagai.”

Landscape:
On a flat plain cleared of the cypress pine trees that once heavily covered it, now supporting coarse native grasses and scattered pine and eucalypts. Low hills surround the plain and provide some water catchment. Soil is red and sandy.

Photographs: Figs. CN2 - CN7
Diagrams: Fig. CN8
Published Sources:

Unpublished Sources:
Site CN: Report 1

Name: Coan Downs Woolshed
District: Mount Hope
LGA: Shire of Cobar
Location: About 5 km from the homestead, about 12.5 km from the village of Mt. Hope
Map: 85/81 on the Mount Allen 8032, 1:100,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. CN1
Photographs: Figs. CN2 - CN7
Diagrams: Fig. CN8
Date of Site Visit: December 1981

Recording Circumstances:
The owner, Mr. Bruce Cullen-Ward, provided background information at the homestead and then accompanied the recorders on a short visit to the woolshed, where he provided much detailed information about the shed, its history as known to him, and the way changes had been made over the past century. The weather was hot and dry, as it was December, so the surrounding plain was bare of grass and there were no sheep activities at the woolshed.

Structures:
Freeman has made a detailed architectural study of this station and had commented that "Coan Downs homestead is neither particularly historic, nor does it possess much architectural merit". While much debate could arise from this evaluation, and the values that it assumes, the fact that a recent measured survey of the homestead had been completed made it pointless to attempt a re-measure of these rambling buildings. A general inspection of the area was then made and the remark of Freeman's that "the result is satisfying: an homogeneous collection of ordinary buildings strung together in splendid isolation" seems to sum up the situation very well. Time at this remote station was limited, therefore, the available time was spent at the woolshed.

THE WOOLSHED

About five kilometres from the homestead, on the dry, flat plain at the centre of the run, with some large shade trees for shelter, stands the cypress drop-log woolshed (Fig. CN2).

A long, low structure, Coan Downs shed has the traditional box frame of heavy posts supporting the central span over the shearing board. Freeman noted that the tie beams support purlin struts which themselves support the rafters. A rectangular shed appears on a map of 1874, providing a date of commencement for the main structure. It remains in good condition and is used regularly, though the station is now much smaller than 250,000 acres held in the nineteenth century.

The walls are of the local pine, dropped between sturdy posts (Figs. CN4, CN5). Much of the original Gospel Oaks "Three Crowns" galvanized iron roof is still in place.
A central board area originally held 76 stands but now only ten remain in use. The owner is convinced that the shed originally extended symmetrically about its axis to the 180 feet needed to allow the 76 stands. The forty feet now lost were probably removed during repairs early this century, when the station passed through a number of hands.

In the middle of the back, east, wall is an unusually placed central entry to the shed, (Fig. CN 6), probably for convenience because of the large size of the structure. Usually, entrances to a shed are located at either end, through the woolroom and engine-room, and via the sheep ramps. The wooden pediment above the door is the only example of such ornamentation of a station structure in the study area.

The shed is low and provides no shelter for sheep beneath it, but the chutes from the board run beneath the floor to the counting-out pens. The sheep accommodation inside the shed would be adequate for the reduced number of shearers now using it.

The woolroom was built some time after the woolshed, of weatherboard and galvanized iron. In addition there was a separate wool storage building nearby with a light rail system to facilitate the transfer of the wool bales from the main shed.

Landscape

The woolshed is in the centre of a large plain where the original cypress pine has been cleared by ringbarking leaving a few scattered shade trees in a sea of coarse native grasses. In his Journal about the area, Budd claimed that “I have seen grass in paddocks so thick and high almost preventing sheep to be seen in it, and yet these sheep were dying of starvation. The dry nature of this grass was almost like sticks and lacked proper stimulants.” Like others at the time Budd believed that “by stock deposit ... these blocks were wearing away from their native garb, producing a closer and more nourishing growth of stock fodder”. The closer management following the introduction of the Western Lands Act of 1901 also contributed to the changes in grass cover which have allowed the station to support grazing flocks in considerable numbers since then. In the distance are the blue ridges of Mt. Hope and Mt. Allen where copper has been mined since the 1860's, but the mark that they have left on the landscape is local and has had little impact on Coan Downs.

NOTES

References
2. Freeman, The Homestead p. 146.
   A personal account of life on the Lachlan by a local resident.
   The Journal is held by the Lake Cargelligo Historical Society. Some extracts were published in a series in The Lake News during 1968 and 1969, p. 53(1).
5. Budd, p. 53(1).
Fig. CN1: Location map showing Coan Downs woolshed. Map: Photocopy of part of Mount Allen 8032, 1:100,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW).
Fig. CN2: Coan Downs woolshed. The northeast approach to the long drop-log woolshed which stands in the centre of an extensive plain in great isolation.

Fig. CN3: Coan Downs woolshed. The western side of the shed, with the central doorway sheltered by a tree. Reinforcements of galvanized iron are scattered about the walls.
Fig. CN4: Coan Downs woolshed. The southern end of the shed which has been shortened by about forty feet since it was built to suit the operating requirements of the modern station.

Fig. CN5: Coan Downs woolshed. The northern end of the shed where the sheep ramp enters the structure.
Fig. CN6: Coan Downs woolshed. Northwest corner of the counting-out pens on the western side of the shed showing the heavy posts and top-rails of these very substantial yards.

Fig. CN7: Coan Downs woolshed. The owner of the station outside the main central entrance on the western side of the woolshed. The portico is a most unusual formality for a woolshed in the area.
Fig. CN8: Schematic plan of Coan Downs woolshed.

KEY:
1. Woolroom
2. Wool press
3. Wool bins
4. Wool table
5. Shearing board
6. Catching pens
7. Sweating pens
8. Entry ramp

Not to Scale
Site EB : Summary

Name of Property: Euabalong
Town/district: Euabalong
LGA: Coobar
Location: On an internal station road, beside Booberoi Creek. Station is on Lake Cargelligo to Euabalong road
Map: 49/29 on the Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. EB1
Owner: Mr. Kevin Thompson (in 1990)
Sites: Drop-slab structure: Site Report 1
Features: The only extant drop-slab structure in the study area. A similar structure on “Coonanga” in the Numurkah District is referred to by Freeman

Landscape:
On a slight rise near the Lachlan River, so the structures are located on rich black plains. Most of the original heavy band of eucalypt along the river and the mixed bimble box and cypress pine on the plain has been cleared for intensive production but some box remains along watercourses.

Photographs: Figs. EB2 - EB12
Diagrams: Fig. EB13

Published Sources:
2. Report of the Royal Commission to enquire into the Condition of the Crown Tenants in the Western Division. 1901. Part 11. Return showing Owners’ Names, the Number of Stock on each Holding in the Sheep District of Condobolin (Western Division) on 1st Jan. in each year from 1882 to 1890 inclusive, as per Owners’ Returns. See Table at end of Site EB Report 1.
3. NSWGG, 8 September 1885. Listed as Pastoral Holding No. 311.
Lease: 25,624 acres, Rent £1.10. Rate per acre - 0.75 pence.
Holder: Samuel McCaughey

Unpublished Sources:
1. Budd Jnl.
2. Oral sources in area, especially the owner at time of site visit, Mr. Neville Graham who is now resident in Lake Cargelligo. J. Cannon of Hyandra has memories of Euabalong beginning in the 1940’s. Details in report.

Note
Site EB: Report 1

Name: Euabalong Slab Hut
District: Euabalong
LGA: Cobar
Location: On a private internal dirt road on Euabalong station, beside the Lachlan River. The structure collapsed during the Lachlan floods of 1990.
Map: 49/29 on the Euabalong 8131-1 & 4, 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW). Fig. EB1
Photographs: Figs. EB2 - EB12
Diagrams: Fig. EB13
Date of Site Visit: 28 May 1986 to make a preliminary assessment of the site. Follow-up visit to complete oral record on 2 October 1990. Further visit to make a detailed survey was planned but the structure collapsed before that was possible.

Recording Circumstances:

At the time of the preliminary site visit in 1986, the owner of the property was Mr. Neville Graham, the third generation of his family to own the station. He first gave us an inspection tour of the modern homestead and associated work areas, including the aircraft hanger and workshop. Three aircraft were present, including an ultralight. The property is host to an official Emergency Rural Airstrip.

Mr. Graham then accompanied the recorders to the site of the slab hut and remained with them during the recording process which was subject to tight time constraints. As the structure was of such early date a photographic record was made at once and the major details were recorded. A further visit to make a detailed survey was planned but the structure collapsed before that was possible.

Mr. Graham was able to recall the role of the structure during most of this century because of his family connection with the property for three generations, but had no knowledge about its origins.

A second visit was made to Mr. Graham, in 1990, at his house in Lake Cargelligo where he has lived since selling Euabalong. At this time he supplied some background information and context for the structure. A sketch plan he made shows how the slab hut related to the large homestead which once stood nearby on the site now occupied by the modern shearer’s quarters. He also reported a bark harness room nearby.

Note: At this visit the recent collapse of the slab hut was reported by Mr. Graham. A site visit was not possible because of the extensive flooding in the area by the Lachlan. Close measurement of this structure was not possible on either occasion.

Structures:
DROP-SLAB STRUCTURE

The first record of this property was as Erebelongs run leased by Joseph Moulder in 1865.
The only surviving example of this type of drop-slab construction in the study area, this structure was probably one of the first buildings on the lease. It shows its long use and evolution in a series of repairs and additions. The hut is made of sturdy red gum slabs set horizontally into a shallow trench in the ground with no foundation. Lewis\(^1\), notes that in the case of vertical slab structures, “their upper ends were tied or nailed to a horizontal member ... the lower ends would commonly rest directly on or in the ground”. A similar system was used here with the bottom slab forming the bed-log. The slabs are held to the upright posts by small battens forming a groove (Figs. EB8, Fig. EB11). Handmade nails secure them to the horizontal member at the top.

Part of the galvanized iron roof is missing. Most of the roof timbers are round but various replacements, as well as an extension thought to be pre-1920’s, have sawn elements (Fig. EB3).

Window openings are unglazed and are irregular both in size and placement and they are surrounded by a small wooden frame (Fig. EB11). Doors are framed by posts and topped by slabs (Figs. EB6, EB7, EB9, EB12). A door of wide boards held by handmade nails has been re-hung with metal hinges (Fig. EB12).

The early role of the structure is not certain, but it has been used for a service purpose for most of this century. It is feasible that it was the original shelter on the lease. Sited near the modern shearer's huts, it has most recently served as a “cook-house”\(^1\). The hut is of three rooms, the main one containing the remains of a large brick chimney and oven. The locally made bricks show irregular firing and have no frog marks. The mortar is reddish. The bond used is unclear because of the extent of collapse and the cracking of the bricks.

Decaying floorboards which were supported on small bearers are in situ (Fig. EB9). The slabs themselves are in almost perfect condition and belie the disintegration around them (Fig. EB10).

The hut is on the bank of the Lachlan and is near to the modern woolshed. The original woolshed was sited some distance away near to the present town of Euabalong and was destroyed by fire, although old sheep yards were still standing at the site in living memory \(2\). Unlike most properties in the area, Euabalong always produced crossbred sheep rather than merinos \(3\) so the emphasis was on meat production rather than on wool growing.

In recent years a new, recreational, use of the structure was made by people fishing and camping beside the Lachlan.

Nearby, on the bank of the river, is a steam engine, stamped: “Jaques Bros, Richmond, Melbourne”.

It is thought by Mr. Graham to have arrived on the station in 1925. Used for irrigation purposes, it took two men with a horse and dray to supply it with fuel. It pumped 1200 gallons per minute and watered 45 acres of summer stock feed, usually “saccalene”, a sweet cereal, which was cut green and put into pits and covered to mature. It looked and tasted like molasses.

Landscape:
Right on the banks of the Lachlan River, on rich black soil subject to flooding. Now
much cleared but large eucalypts remain along watercourses. Property was owned by (Sir) Samuel McCaughey, the pioneer of irrigation in the Riverina who was also involved to some extent with the massive irrigation operations on the adjoining Booberoi. Between the clearing and the irrigation operations huge changes have been made to the landscape over more than a century of intense use.

TABLE: EUABALONG 1: STOCK RETURNS

From Royal Commission to enquire into the Condition of the Crown Tenants in the Western Division of New South Wales, 1901. Part 11.

Return Showing Owners’ Name, the Number of Stock on each Holding in the Sheep District of Condobolin (Western Division) on 1st January in each year, as per Owners’ Returns.

S. McCaughey. EUABALONG.

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NOTES

References

Oral Informants
1. Mr. N. Graham, owner of Euabalong station at the time of the site visit.
2. J. Cannon of Hyandra who grew up in the area.
3. N. Graham
Fig. EB1: Location map showing the slab hut on Euabalong station. Map: photocopy of part of the 1:50,000 topographic map (CMA of NSW).
Fig. EB2: Euabalong. Slab hut from the south. The pile of bricks at the end was a brick fireplace and chimney. The tank stand has disintegrated leaving the tank unsupported.

Fig. EB3: Euabalong. The slab hut from the west, showing the extension for a washroom at the end.
Fig. EB4: Euabalong slab hut. Detail of a wall showing the method of fitting the adzed slabs into the uprights.

Fig. EB5: Euabalong slab hut with the later staff housing visible behind it, from the east.
Fig. EB6: Euabalong slab hut. Interior, showing doorway with round timber frame and bed log as doorstep. Battens to hold the slabs adjoin the uprights.

Fig. EB7: Euabalong slab hut. Interior, northern end of the structure, showing a doorway with an inbuilt table nearby.
Fig. EB8: Euabalong slab hut. Interior, showing a dividing wall made of a panel of slabs dropped horizontally into a frame of round uprights and secured with small battens. The upright posts are clamped to the plate.
Fig. EB9: Euabalong slab hut. A doorway in the western wall opening onto the verandah, with a morticed lintel and a bed log doorstep.
Fig. EB10: Euabalong slab hut. A slab from the collapsed section of the structure which shows precise adze work and little deterioration despite long exposure to the elements.
Fig. EB11: Euabalong slab hut. An external wall on the eastern side of the structure showing the posts, plate and a cross beam. The window is framed by a narrow sawn board.
Fig. EB12: Euabalong slab hut. A doorway to the verandah with an original door still in place. Metal hinges have replaced the original leather ones. Graffiti on the walls recalls the many workers who have used the building.
Fig. EB13: Sketch of the slab hut area on Euabalong station. The shearer's huts are built on the site of the original homestead. The original bark hut for storing harness and saddles has been replaced by the wooden shed.