

Reference Number: **1984.0107**
Collection/Series Title: **FARM AND ADMINISTRATION
RECORDS**

Creator	Ritchie, Mr Alan
Creator's Activity/Occupation	Graziers
Creator's Historical Note <p>Alan Blackwood Ritchie was born in 1895, the second son of Robert Blackwood Ritchie (R.B. Ritchie) and Lillian Ross. After the death of his mother in 1897, his father moved Alan and his elder brother Robin to Scotland to be raised by their grandmother Janet. Alan served in the Royal and Australian Navies during World War 1 a conflict in which his brother Robin was killed fighting in. After the war, Alan studied economics at the University of Cambridge. After working for a shipping company in London, he returned to Australia in 1924 and eventually took control of the family pastoral company R.B. Ritchie & Son. Pty. Ltd and its Blackwood property. He gained a reputation as an innovative grazier who implemented revolutionary farming practices.</p> <p>Alan Ritchie has also made a major contribution to Australian public policy through his association and connection to some influential business and public figures. One of which was R.G. Casey later to become a Federal Government Minister and Australian Governor General. Another was Sir Douglas Copland the first Dean of the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Melbourne. Through his association with Copland, he persuaded his father R.B. Ritchie to make a huge endowment to the University of Melbourne in order to establish the Ritchie Chair of Economic Research. Alan also served on the selection panel for the election of the Chair. Several leading economists were said to have visited and stayed with Alan at the Blackwood property over the years. He also wrote a series of questions which the commission of an enquiry into the Australian tariff would have to deal with and at one time wrote speeches for Prime Minister Stanley M. Bruce. He also served on the Victorian State Executive of the C.S.I.R.O.</p> <p>Alan was recalled to the Royal Navy during World War 2 and served in Liverpool and Birkenhead. He was however sent back to Australia as it was thought he could contribute more to the war effort by growing wool and grain.</p> <p>Alan and his Canadian wife Margaret Witcomb had four children Robin, Judith, Blyth and Linton between 1937 and 1946. He retired from Blackwood to Melbourne in 1965 and died in 1974.</p>	
Date Range of Collection/Series	c.1945-1980
Size/Extent	1 box
Access Conditions	Access: Open

Scope and Content of Collection/Series

Farm administrative records recording fleece measurements, notes about the use of rams for the upcoming year, animal breeding, hay yields, fuel comparisons, fencing and the control of pests

Sheep and cattle breeding registers; inventory receipts and memoranda books equipment order book; Chatsworth House Merino Stud ram client list and file regarding termination of this joint venture with the Estate of the late H.N. Beggs; letter regarding Ritchie genealogy.

1984.0107: FARM AND ADMINISTRATION RECORDS		The University of Melbourne Archives
Collection Category	Business, organisations	
This document dated	31/03/2015	

To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
1984.0107 Unit 1	1984.0107.0001	Farm Administration Schedule Sheets	c.1945-1970	Includes results of fleece measurement, notes about the use of rams for the upcoming year, list of rams for mating, greasy fleece weights of young rams, mating and lambing schedules
1984.0107 Unit 1	1984.0107.0002	Farm Administration Schedule Sheets	c.1945-1975	Includes comparison of females, comparison of sires, list of bulls and cows dropped for the year
1984.0107 Unit 1	1984.0107.0003	Farm Administration Schedule Sheets	c.1960-1980	Includes cow breeding records
1984.0107 Unit 1	1984.0107.0004	Farm Administration Schedule Sheets	c.1930-1970	Includes shearing, silage
1984.0107 Unit 1	1984.0107.0005	Farm Administration Schedule Sheets	c.1950-1970	Includes hay yields, fuel comparisons, fencing, control of pests etc
1984.0107 Unit 1	1984.0107.0006	Vic. 3289 Order Book	6 October 1967-22 June 1976	
1984.0107 Unit 1	1984.0107.0007	Chatsworth House Merino Stud Ram Client List 1970 - 1975	1970-1975	
1984.0107 Unit 1	1984.0107.0008	Chatsworth Purchase	1975-1976	
1984.0107 Unit 1	1984.0107.0009	Application and issue of permit for the destruction of 30 swans on property at Penshurst	22 June 1960	

End of List