

Reference Number: **2014.0097**

Collection/Series Title: **MOUNT DERRIMUT SUBJECT AND  
CORRESPONDENCE FILES**

<b>Creator</b>	University Of Melbourne. Faculty Of Agriculture And Forestry
<b>Creator's Activity/Occupation</b>	University committee
<p><b>Creator's Historical Note</b></p> <p>Previous Control Number: UA10 The initial meeting of the Faculty of Agriculture took place on 15 December 1905, when Professor W. A. Osborne Professor of Histology and Physiology was elected Dean. However, despite the formation of a faculty there were no dedicated staff until 1911 , and it was not until the 1920s that the School of Agriculture moved to develop its own identity in terms of staff , students and physical resources. In contrast the Faculty also moved to separate from the School and distinguish the Committee chaired by the Dean to be responsible for administration of academic matters. Then in 1973 the Victorian School of Forestry merged with the University of Melbourne to create the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry . In 1986, the position of Dean of the single department Faculty passed from Dr Rolf Beilharz to Professor (of Forestry) Ian Ferguson. In 1990, Professor Egan assumed the Deanship for the traditional three years and was requested to extend by one year to the end of 1993. By this time, a number of the changes were planned for the Faculty by the University Administration. In 1994 Professor Robert White was appointed Acting Dean with two newly created departments the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Forestry . He continued in this role until 3 April 1995 when the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture was formed. Then on the 1 July 1997 the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture merged with the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture to form the Institute of Land and Food Resources . In 2005 the department was renamed the Faculty of Land and Food Resources, in line with University convention.</p> <p>Selected references: Falvey, L. &amp; Bardsley, B. 1997, Land and food: agricultural and related education in the Victorian Colleges and the University of Melbourne, Institute of Land and Food Resources, University of Melbourne, Parkville Victoria. History, 2014, Melbourne School of Land and Environment, accessed <a href="http://www.land-environment.unimelb.edu.au/about-us/our-faculty/history.html">http://www.land-environment.unimelb.edu.au/about-us/our-faculty/history.html</a></p>	
<b>Date Range of Collection/Series</b>	1955-1978
<b>Size/Extent</b>	5 boxes (0.60 m)
<b>Access Conditions</b>	Access: Restricted
<p><b>Scope and Content of Collection/Series</b></p>	

Previous Control Number: UM438. The Deer Park area was home to the "Mount Derrimut" field station of the University of Melbourne from 1964 to 1996. The site was also used by the Western Institute to deliver courses in the late 1980s. Before being used by the University of Melbourne, it was used by Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand Ltd (ICIANZ, ex ICI and now Orica) for training and conference purposes. The site is now occupied by the Sunshine Golf Club, the golf course having opened in November 2007. An early cattle stud, Mt. Derrimut was established as a grazing property in 1850 by the Morton Brothers and their friend Leach, all of whom emigrated to Australia from the Lakes District of England. The Mortons were successful in cattle breeding and won several prizes at Melbourne shows, becoming famous for their Derrimut Shorthorn cattle. The first great sale of Derrimut cattle was held at the end of 1867. Around the same time, Septimus and Leach returned to England, leaving Richard Morton to carry on his own stud at Mount Derrimut. Richard Morton returned to England in 1875 and the Mount Derrimut property was sold to James Howatson, a Scot, who had emigrated to Australia in 1859. Howatson raised sheep on the property, including merinos. In 1883-1884, he built the present homestead, also laying out substantial gardens and planting a grove of trees on the lower slopes on the Deer Park side. James Howatson died in 1897 but the property remained in the Howatson family for some forty years. The property was maintained as a pastoral property under Howatson's trustees until shortly before World War I. The property was then leased until 1944 when trustees of the Howatson estate sold a much reduced estate of 317 acres to Beresford Cole. In 1950, Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand Ltd (ICIANZ) bought the property to provide more adequate buffer areas around its Deer Park explosives Factory and magazine areas. The company enlarged and remodelled the homestead for use as a centre for staff training and conferences, with extensive restoration works being conducted. ICIANZ also used the property as a cattle stud from 1955 until 1960, when the stud herd were sold. In 1962, the ICIANZ Directors agreed to 800 acres being leased to the University of Melbourne for use by the School of Agriculture, with the land and buildings coming to be known as the "Mount Derrimut Field Station". Thirty-seven residential second year students from Dookie Agricultural College effectively transferred to Mount Derrimut where they were required to attend lectures, demonstrations and complete practical work. Mount Derrimut was to provide training for postgraduate students in such areas as animal husbandry and agronomy as well as providing research facilities for Agriculture and other University departments. Planning and building commenced in early 1963, with staff recruitment taking place later that year. The official opening was held on 30 September 1964, with the AUC providing funds to the Field Station to be used to supplement the accommodation and buildings already in place. An appeal was launched during 1964 by H.C. Forster, the Dean and Professor of Agriculture, so as to raise funds for student facilities at Mount Derrimut. A letter was sent out to 750 graduates of the School of Agriculture with an appeal target of £5,000. The funds raised, along with those provided by the SRC and the Melbourne University Sports Union, were used to create student accommodation, laboratories and class rooms. The original bluestone Morton cottage remained on the property until 1953 but was demolished, despite efforts by ICIANZ to retain the building. Howatson's Mount Derrimut homestead and stable buildings are now regarded as significant local buildings, being classified by the National Trust. The heritage citation for 275 Mount Derrimut Road Derrimut, Brimbank City, Victoria, Australia reads: "Mt. Derrimut homestead and farm is of State significance for its historical associations with the Morton brothers cattle stud - one of the first major grazing and breeding properties in Melbourne's West, renowned for the quality of its breeding stock, and important for the role it played in the development and improvement of cattle breeds for Australian conditions. It is also of regional significance as a rare example of a nineteenth century grazing property with its surviving Italianate homestead and garden, and some remaining outbuildings and stone walls. The role of the site as formerly the Melbourne University agricultural field station is also to its significance, demonstrating a longevity and continuity of use in connection with agriculture and animal husbandry in Victoria". The records in this series were created by the then Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry and are comprised of correspondence regarding the establishment, administration and maintenance of the Mt Derrimut Farm and Field Station. The files are titled and arranged according to subject, the contents of which are arranged in reverse chronological order. The subject areas include: Development of the field station; History of the field station; Equipment; Staffing and staff salary policies; Buildings and Works; and Animal Research Units.

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<b>Collection Category</b>	University, official	
<b>This document dated</b>	28/05/2015	

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Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.**

<b>Unit/Box</b>	<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>	<b>Description</b>
2014.0097 Unit 1	2014.0097.0001	Mount Derrimut Farm Sub-Committee	1966-1973	Contains summary report on farm activities, budget, reports etc.
2014.0097 Unit 1	2014.0097.0002	Biology Laboratory, Agronomy Laboratory, Poultry Unit	1964-1970	File containing tabs with subject matter, as listed
2014.0097 Unit 1	2014.0097.0003	Teaching Vote, Cattle Research Unit and Sheep Breeding Unit	1964-1968	File containing tabs with subject matter, as listed
2014.0097 Unit 1	2014.0097.0004	Animal Husbandry Facilities General; Animal Husbandry Research and Teaching; Animal Husbandry Project Laboratory	1962-1972	File containing tabs with subject matter, as listed
2014.0097 Unit 1	2014.0097.0005	Meteorology Department; Agricultural Engineering; McKay Trust; Farm Management Teaching	1966-1971	File containing tabs with subject matter, as listed
2014.0097 Unit 2	2014.0097.0006	Capital Sites and Road Works	1963-1975	Allocated works per budget allocations
2014.0097 Unit 2	2014.0097.0007	Mount Derrimut Lease	1954-1975	Material is sitting loose in a black folder. Includes opening brochure 30 September 1964; history; aerial photo; plans; correspondence; meetings; teaching programs etc.
2014.0097 Unit 2	2014.0097.0008	Mount Derrimut Farm; Cattle Breeding Unit; Dairy Unit; Poultry Unit; Sheep Unit; Sheep Breeding Sub Committee	1961-1972	File containing tabs with subject matter, as listed

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Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2014.0097 Unit 3	2014.0097.0009	Mount Derrimut History: Opening of Mount Derrimut	1955-1964	Includes photos; Professor H.C. Forster, "The History of Mount Derrimut", Agros 1963; History (May 1965); List of Invitees for Opening Day; Pamphlet "The University of Melbourne and the Countryman: A Pamphlet describing the contribution of the University to the Agriculturalist and the Pastoralist" 1955.
2014.0097 Unit 3	2014.0097.0010	Farm Machinery; Machine Shed; Boundary Fence	1963-1967	File containing tabs with subject matter, as listed
2014.0097 Unit 3	2014.0097.0011	Staff House, Equipment, Ballarat Road Annexe	1963-1974	File containing tabs with subject matter, as listed
2014.0097 Unit 3	2014.0097.0012	Staff Salaries	1964-1973	
2014.0097 Unit 3	2014.0097.0013	Opening Ceremony, William Henry Lord Theatre and H.V. McKay Agricultural Engineering Centre	1967	
2014.0097 Unit 3	2014.0097.0014	Mount Derrimut: General Correspondence	1977-1978	Covers property matters such as leases, maintenance, equipment, insurance, minor works, fire management etc.
2014.0097 Unit 3	2014.0097.0015	Negotiations with ICIANZ	1961-1972	
2014.0097 Unit 4	2014.0097.0016	Mount Derrimut Committee / Correspondence	1971-1975	
2014.0097 Unit 4	2014.0097.0017	Mount Derrimut Committee / Correspondence	1976	
2014.0097 Unit 5	2014.0097.0018	Mount Derrimut Committee / Correspondence	1977	
2014.0097 Unit 5	2014.0097.0019	Mount Derrimut Committee / Correspondence	1978	

**End of List**