



## Fowlers Gap Arid Zone Research Station

Fowlers Gap is a research and teaching facility of the University of New South Wales. The Station is located 112 km north of Broken Hill, NSW (latitude 31°05' S, longitude 141°43' E). The University holds this pastoral lease of 38,888 hectares in perpetuity, for the purposes of research and teaching into the functioning of the arid landscapes of far western NSW. In the decade, 1990-1999, 65 original research papers, 1 book and 32 theses were produced from research activities based at Fowlers Gap. This record has earned the Station national and international recognition for pre-eminence in arid lands studies. The Station also has a long record of public education and community consultation since its establishment in 1966. The Station has constructed eco-trails and wildlife-viewing platforms to interpret the landscape and the flora and fauna for general visitors.

Fowlers Gap is the only research station in the arid zone of NSW. Areas have been monitored and data collected continuously to provide a long-term ecological record that has earned the Station a place on the Register of the National Estate. State, National and International institutions and agencies have conducted and collaborated in research and teaching

activities and the Station welcomes and supports visitors who will contribute to this effort.



## Landform, vegetation and wildlife

Three main landforms are found on Fowlers Gap: lowlands in the west, the Barrier Ranges which run north-south centrally through the Station, and plains in the east. Vegetation consists of low shrubland communities dominated by saltbush, bluebush and copperburrs with scattered mulga and belah, and river red gums along the ephemeral creeks. Wildlife is abundant and includes around a hundred bird species and four species of large kangaroos.

The climate is typical of the arid regions of Southern Australia with mild winters and hot summers and an average rainfall over the last 30 years of 240 mm.



Fowlers Gap homestead complex

## Accommodation

There are currently three principal forms of accommodation

available to researchers, students and visitors to Fowlers Gap Station.

### ***Dormitory***

Two sleeping areas with outside barbecue area, large common room and kitchen, shower and toilet blocks, and laundry. Capacity up to 32.

### ***Shearer's Quarters***

Accommodation for 18 in twin share rooms with electric blankets and evaporative air conditioning. Large common lounge and dining area, TV, laundry and shared bathroom facilities.

### ***Cottage***

Self-contained four bedroom cottage with capacity for 8 with heating and ducted evaporative air conditioning.

Long-term stays (e.g. visiting fellows, academics on study leave, post-graduate research students) can be catered for in two additional self-contained cottages and a flat attached to the shearer's quarters.

## **Facilities**

Facilities include a separate office and laboratory block, small library with three networked PC workstations and whiteboards, conference area (maximum capacity 100) with projection screen, slide, data and overhead projectors, phone in all buildings, fax and email (2-way satellite broadband). There is no coverage for GSM or CDMA mobile phone networks, only coverage for Globalstar or Iridium mobile satellite. The station has UHF radio communications in most buildings and all vehicles.

The Station has a Toyota Troop-Carrier for hire (seats 10-12) and may provide hire of a 4WD utility or motorcycle by arrangement to appropriately licensed drivers.

## **Further information**

For further information (including charges) on this unique facility for research and education you can visit the web site

<http://www.bios.unsw.edu.au/fgap/> and contact:

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