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POWER PLANT PTY. LTD.

BRG 184  
Series List

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The founder of Power Plant Pty. Ltd., the late Edwin Allan Bantick, was born at Zeehan on the west coast of Tasmania on the 8th May, 1896. A veteran of the Gallipoli Campaign, he trained as a motor mechanic in Hobart, Tasmania after World War I.

In 1926 he moved to Adelaide, South Australia to set up and manage the Adelaide Car and Tractor Company Ltd., on behalf of Tasmanian interests. This company sold Ford cars and tractors and brought the first Howard Rotary Hoes to South Australia in about 1930.

Wishing to start his own business, Allan Bantick formed Power Plant Limited at the end of 1935 with the financial help of the late Malcolm Moore, the founder of the Moore group of companies and the late William Queale, founder of Kelvinator Australia Limited.

The first meeting of the Directors of Power Plant was held on the 12th December, 1935, in the office of the firm of solicitors, Norman, Waterhouse, Chapman and Johnston at 23 Grenfell Street, Adelaide. At this meeting a lease was signed for the old premises of Unbehau & Johnstone Limited at 100 Currie Street.

Also at this meeting an old friend of the three Directors, the late Mr H.C. Thomas, was appointed auditor. His company retained this position until it was absorbed by Touche Ross & Company in 1973.

The first company motor vehicle was purchased on 22nd January, 1936 for £170/-/- (a used Ford car, engine number A9399).

The first Statutory General Meeting of Shareholders was held on 26th February, 1936 at 12.30 p.m. at the registered office of the Company (100 Currie Street, Adelaide).

Soon after its formation, the Company was appointed State Distributor for Fordson Tractors and also sold various other agricultural machines. Negotiations with Howard Auto-Cultivators Limited, for the sole state distribution of their products commenced early in 1936 and were finalised early in 1938. This arrangement which still applies, is the last of its type remaining in Australia.

A property in Burnett Street, at the rear of 100 Currie Street, was leased in July, 1937 to be used as a service station.

Business deteriorated with the approach of World War II but various Government Contracts were obtained which enabled the Company to survive. A significant one was for the mounting of wheels etc., to Wiles Mobile Kitchens for the Army.

As the supply of tractors and machinery improved after the war, business flourished. The Currie Street and Burnett Street properties were purchased in 1946. The Currie Street property was renovated during 1949 and a property at Webb Street, Portland (near Port Adelaide) was purchased for a tractor assembly and repair depot.

The Burnett Street property was rebuilt in 1951 and a plant was set up at the Webb Street premises in 1953 for the chemical removal of rust and mill scale from structural steel by the "Mephylene Process". Land was purchased and developed as a sales outlet for used tractors and equipment on the Main North Road at Blair Athol in 1958. The headquarters of Power Plant remained at 100 Currie Street until the Company consolidated its activities at 307 Hanson Road, Wingfield in 1971.

During the late 1940's and 1950's the Company was not only involved in selling and servicing agricultural tractors and equipment but also earthmoving, roadmaking, quarrying machinery and material handling equipment. As South Australian representatives for S. Haunstrup & Company, the Company was involved in the construction of numerous concrete wheat silos throughout the state and some of the water storage tanks on the Morgan to Whyalla pipeline. In recent years the Company has tended to concentrate mostly on agricultural machinery and has increased its activities in the distribution of spare parts and accessories.

Power Plant Limited became a Proprietary Company in June 1963 and the founder, Edwin Allan Bantick retired in June 1965. He died on 7th November that year.

The present Managing Director, Noel Edwin Bantick, joined the staff in January, 1948. He attended his first shareholders meeting at 11 a.m. on Saturday 17th September, 1949. He was appointed a Director in March, 1952 and Managing Director on 1st December, 1958. By 1979, Noel Bantick and his family had acquired all of the shares in Power Plant Pty. Ltd. These they sold in November, 1983 to Australian Farm Equipment Pty. Ltd.

#### Historical notes compiled by E. Bantick, 1987

In the early days of the company office hours were:

8.30 - 5.30	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs.
8.30 - 9	Friday
8.30 - 12	Saturday

#### Workshop

8.00 - 5.30	Mon to Fri.
8.00 - 12	Saturday

1 hour for lunch, 10 mins for morning and afternoon tea break.

#### Notes from the first Minute Book of Power Plant Limited from 12/12/1935 to 22/11/50

The first meeting of Directors was held at the office of the Company's Solicitors Norman, Waterhouse, Chapman & Johnston, 23 Grenfell Street, Adelaide on Thursday 12th December 1935 at 12.00 noon.

Directors were: E.A. Bantick  
A.H. Furness  
M. Moore  
W. Queale

On that occasion Miss V. Drury was appointed Secretary and Public Officer of the Company at a weekly salary of £2/10/-. Mr H.P. Thomas of Thomas & Sara was appointed Auditor and a lease was signed for the building at 100 Currie Street, Adelaide which was owned by Unbehau & Johnstone Ltd.

At a Directors' Meeting on 22/1/36 it was agreed to purchase the first Company Car - a used Ford (Engine No. A9399) for £1701/-.

The Statutory General Meeting of Shareholders was held at the registered office of the Company (100 Currie Street) on 26th February 1936 at 12.30 p.m.

Directors agreed at a meeting on 25/3/36 to lease a Service Station premises in Bloor Court for two years. Rent to be £65/- for the first year and £75/- for the second.

E.A. Bantick reported to a Directors' Meeting on 22/7/36 about his negotiations with Howard Auto Cultivators Ltd. for the distribution of their products in S.A.

The first Annual General Meeting of Shareholders was held on 13/1/37. Turnover for the year was £20135/7/-, net profit £468/13/2 and a dividend of 7% was declared.

The following items of interest are from the Trading Account presented at this meeting:

Advertising	£132/14/8
Car Expenses	£158/7/11
Electric Light & Power	£11/5/5
Rent, Rates & Taxes	£483/13/6
Salaries	£1612/16/6
Travelling Expenses	£125/8/2

Total trading expenses for the year were £4591/12/10.

E.A. Bantick's remuneration at the time was £10/10/- per week salary plus £4/10/- per week out-of-pocket expenses and 5% bonus on annual profit.

The lease on the Currie Street property was extended at a meeting on 29/6/37.

On 19/7/37 a lease was arranged for the building in Burnett Street (at the rear of 100 Currie Street) to be used as a service station in lieu of the Bloor Court location. Rent was £3/- per week.

15/9/37 N.E. Bantick was allotted 400 shares.

29/9/38 A distributor agreement was signed with John Fowler & Company (Leeds) Ltd. to distribute "Fowler-Sanders" Power Units.

At about the same time final improved distributor arrangements with Howard Auto Cultivators Ltd. were completed.

25/2/41

"To the Directors of Power Plant Limited,

Gentlemen,

Our turnover for the period was £36,140/15/11 which is, as was predicted, better than last year, and after making adequate provision for bad debts and pricing our stocks on a conservative basis, our net profit for the period was £604/2/4.

Our Sale of Tractors and Equipment in the agricultural areas, owing to the generally unsatisfactory state of the market for primary produce, was not particularly good, but fortunately we made up for our loss of turnover in this direction by the sale of a larger proportion of industrial equipment.

Our relation with the Ford Motor Company, Howard Auto-Cultivators Ltd., and other Houses whom we represent, have been most satisfactory, and with the assistance of our Chairman, Mr. Wm Queale, we have completed an agency arrangement with Messrs Hadfields (Aust) Limited of Sydney, which should develop on a satisfactory basis in the future.

When our year closed, we were actually holding a number of signed orders, and prospects for the sale of Tractors and industrial equipment looked reasonably bright, despite the very unsatisfactory state of world affairs. It is difficult to foresee what may happen in the future, but I believe that by looking after the industrial side of our business, taking what good agricultural business we can get, and by working closely in co-operation with the firms whom we represent, such as Messrs. Haunstrup & Company, Hadfields, Malcolm Moore Ltd. etc., we can look forward to the future with a reasonable degree of confidence. "

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Yours faithfully,  
E.A. Bantick"

30 March, 1944.

"To the Directors of Power Plant Limited.

Gentlemen,

Our turnover for the period was £94,215/0/2 and after making adequate provision for Bad Debts and valuing our stock on a conservative basis, our Nett Profit for the period was £3,370.9.7.

Our turnover for the past twelve months was considerably higher than usual, due largely to the defence contracts which we have been carrying out and the fact that we have received quite a substantial number of "Howard" Rotary Hoes during the latter part of the year.

Because such a large proportion of our turnover was made up from defence contracts and sales to various Government Departments, our percentage of Gross Profit on our turnover was a good deal less than we have enjoyed "in former years; however, certain expenses such as Advertising, Travelling, Car Expenses, etc. have been kept down to the absolute minimum and this, combined with the increased turnover has very substantially increased our Nett Profit.

Our relations with all the manufacturers whom we represent have, under the very difficult conditions existing, been most satisfactory.

It is also gratifying to know that quite a substantial number of Fordson Tractors are being imported into the Commonwealth this coming year for agricultural purposes. Our Company as Distributors for South Australia will of course get their share and the writer looks forward with pleasure to being able to sell Fordsons again after a lapse of almost three years, since any new machines were available for agricultural clients.

Yours faithfully,

E.A. Bantick  
Managing Director"

23rd March 1945.

"To the Directors of Power Plant Limited,

Gentlemen,

Our turnover for the period was £156,558/13/7 and after making adequate provision for Bad Debts and providing the initial payment for our Superannuation Fund, our Nett Profit for the period was £7,694/14/1.

Our turnover for the past twelve months showed a further considerable improvement, due largely to the defence contracts which we have been carrying out and the fact that in addition to receiving a substantial number of "Howard" Rotary Hoes during the year, we also received our first consignment since the war started of Fordson Tractors from England. Due to the number of new Fordson and "Howard" products which we were able to sell throughout the year, our percentage of Gross Profit on our turnover showed a slight improvement. Advertising, travelling, car expenses, etc. were kept down to an absolute minimum, but naturally our wages, Commissions, etc. show an increase over former years.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to take advantage of all the business which we could have secured, due to the fact that some of the manufacturers whom we represent have been so tied up with War work, that they have been unable to supply machines for industrial purposes, however important the project may have been.

Our relationship with all manufacturers and firms whom we represent have, despite somewhat difficult conditions existing, been very satisfactory.

I am pleased to be able to report that we will be receiving a substantial number of Fordson Tractors during the coming year and we understand they will be available for both agricultural and industrial purposes."

27/3/46 It was decided to purchase the Burnett Street property for £4000/- and also the property at 67 Franklin Street which was owned by United Motors.

It was further agreed to form another Company to be known as Power Equipment Limited to handle the Howard franchise from the Franklin Street location.

Turnover for year ended 30/11/48 was £367,342/3/7. Net Profit was £15,101/12/9 and a dividend of 30% was declared at the 13th AGM (12/3/49).

The building in Currie Street was improved during 1949 and a property purchased at Webb Street Portland (near Pt. Adelaide) for the assembly and repair of tractors and equipment. N.E. Bantick attended his first shareholders meeting on Saturday 17th September 1949 at 11 a.m. This was an Extraordinary Meeting regarding the declaring of dividends and issuing of shares.

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At the 14th AGM on 28/2/50 the Managing Director reported that for the year ended 30/11/49  
Turnover was £103,4187/12/9  
Net profit was £39,706/8/10  
A dividend of 30% was declared.

2nd book 22/11/50 to 17/9/59

For year ending 30/11/50  
Turnover £129,0510/6/10  
Net profit £13,2335/15/3  
50% dividend declared at 15th AGM 8.5.51.

Chairman's report at this AGM indicated:  
Contract let to G. Haunstrup & Co (S.A.) Pty. Ltd. to erect a new building on Bennet Street site.  
Ford Motor Co. now selling agricultural tractors direct to dealers.  
Negotiations in hand to set up Napthalene plant.

26/3/52 N.E. Bantick appointed a director, confirmed at 16th AGM 29/4/52

Burnett Street building occupied during 1953.  
Napthalene Division set up at Webb Street.

At a Directors meeting on 4/9/58 . E.A. Bantick gave notice of his intention to retire as Managing Director on 30/11/58. It was unanimously agreed by the Board that N.E. Bantick would become Managing Director of all "Power" Companies on 1/12/58.

i.e. Power Plant Limited  
Power Investments Limited  
Power Equipment Limited  
Power Appliances Limited  
Power Machinery Limited

29/10/58 A block of land on Main north Road, Blair Athol (cnr Leslie Ave) measuring 150ft x 113ft was purchased for £4200/-/-. This was developed as a sales outlet for used tractors and equipment.

25/8/59 Consent of the Board was given for N.E. Bantick to apply to the Local Courts for a second hand dealers licence to operate on the Main North Road property.





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- Not boxed - 8 volumes of newspaper cuttings relating to advertising of the Company and its products. (O/S)  
1 roll of papers
- Box 22 Photographs
- Box 23 Photographs
- Box 24 Papers re Adelaide Car and Tractor Co. c.1929-1933  
Papers re Mephalene Pty Ltd c.1953-1954  
File re Mephalene 1966-1969  
File Mephalene Directors 1966-1973  
File Mephalene Plant 1960-1961  
File Gibb and Miller Ltd c.1960-1961  
File Power Investments Ltd 1960 -1962  
File Power Investments Ltd - Extensions to  
Mephalene Building 1963  
File New Boiler 1960-1961
- Box 25 Used Car appraisal forms (blanks)  
Stock book (with loose papers in front 1926 -1930)  
File Papers re commercial vehicles 1933  
File ("Passenger Cars") 1934 -1935  
File ("Starting Certificates") 1934  
File Papers (mainly correspondence) with K.R. Oil Turners Pty Ltd  
1932  
File Papers re Malcolm Moore Transplanter  
(for tobacco) 1931  
Diary 1929  
File with Overseas Machines Pty Ltd 1933 -1935  
File Power Plant Ltd (mainly financial papers 1949 - 51).
- Box 26 File Malcolm Moore 1955 -1973  
File Reports, financial dealings 1957-1961  
File Paver Equipment-General (1950 -1960) + trade catalogues.
- Box 27 File "Holders" c.1958  
Loose papers (trade catalogues, photos and related papers)  
File Dealers and Agents Agreements (Obsolete) 1946 -1971
- Box 28 File Tractors and equipment. c.1950 -1960  
File Trade brochures  
File Trade brochures  
File Trade brochures  
File General-Lines handled  
Drawings of machines  
Stamps for Adelaide Car and Tractor Co. Ltd.  
Printing blocks  
Stock control book 1942 -1945

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- Box 29  
PLUS  
Photographs.  
8 mm colour movie film of Vinyard Slasher colour slides (both RESTRICTED) – see BRG 184/1/39
- Roll plans and drawings (map cabinet)  
3 outsize photos (copied and put in reserve).  
Bundle of Power Plant minutes 1959 -1963.  
(O/S - put in box 18).
- Box 30  
Competitor's Brochures
- Box 31  
Competitor's Brochures
- Box 32  
Howard's Equipment, Brochures  
Service Sheets
- Box 33  
Power Investment papers
- Box 34  
Power Investment papers
- Box 35  
Superannuation records
- Box 36  
Superannuation records
- Box 37  
Sales and service guide Catalogues: Engines and miscellaneous machinery.
- Box 38  
Rotovator, Howard catalogs  
Price List etc.
- Box 39  
Catalogues: "Walk behind" models (rotary hoes) and small engines.
- Box 40  
Sharescript etc.  
Director's Reports  
Tax Returns & Balance Sheets 1942 -1967  
Articles of Assoc etc.
- Box 41  
Power Plant Brochures  
Howard Newsletters  
Share Certificates  
Salaries  
Logos  
Awards Booklets
- Box 42  
Correspondence  
Sales Figures  
Price List  
Rotovator

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- Box 43 Sales Figures  
Rotovator, Price List
- Box 44 Plans & Specifications
- Box 45 Ledgers
- Box 46 Minute Book 1963 -1985  
Register of Directors etc.
- Box 47 Correspondence, price lists, contracts, and valuations of shares.  
Howard News (manufacturer's newsletter).
- Box 48 Howard catalogues  
Award.
- Box 49 Howard catalogues : tractor mounted equipment  
Awards  
2 brass plates.
- PLUS 38 x 16mm films. See film list for details. (BRG 184/1/1- 38)  
3 x 8mm films. See film list for details. (BRG 184/1/39 – 41)  
4 x Sound recordings (BRG 184/2/ )  
1. Reel-to-reel tape  
2. Record: Reg Lindsay sings Howard Rotavator / Alan Dean plays...Howard Rotavator.  
3. Record: Howard Rotavator  
4. Demo disc: 50 years: Howard Rotavator 1923 – 1973  
5. Record: The theme is Ford.
- Box 50 Howard Auto-Cultivators Ltd: Price list 1946  
Howard Tractor & Rotary Hoe Model 22DH: Lubrication Chart.  
Howard DH22 Tractor & Rotary Hoe: Lubrication Chart & Log (2 copies)  
Howard Model DH22 Tractor & Rotary Hoe: Parts book  
Papers relating to Adelaide Car & Tractor Company Ltd.  
(predecessor to Power Plant).  
Share certificates, share transfers, agreements, and minutes re ownership / directorship of Power Plant Ltd. 1937 – 1986.