

## Station to Station

### Allandale Station

Allandale Station, the original property of Mr George Bennett, is a compact, well watered and conveniently situated run, consisting of about 3,000 square miles of country which practically surrounds the head of the Great Northern Railway line as it was known at the turn of the century.

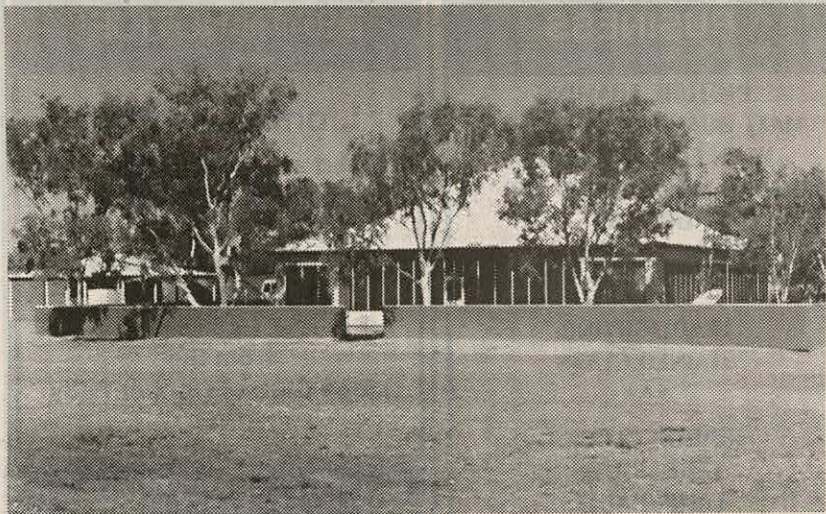
The present homestead is some twelve miles from Oodnadatta. Allandale provides good stock feed with salt bush, cotton bush and Mitchell grass disseminating over the country and providing first class feed. The average rainfall is about six inches in perhaps four out of five seasons but this can vary with storms not cutting a regular path through the Outback.

Allandale has only been known as Allandale since the turn of the century for it was 1900 when Mr Bennett took up this residence as owner on what was known as Cecilia Creek station. The property consists of three stations of Cecilia Creek, Wondillina and Warringina to which have been added certain blocks of other country to form the present station.

The northern boundary is Storm Creek, twelve miles north of Oodnadatta, and extends southward to the famous Algebuckina waterhole on the Neale River. Mucumba Station to the north east and The Peake Station to the south east form the boundaries. To the west is Arkaringa Station, and to the south Nilpinna Station. Allandale also has a common border with Todmorden Station to the north west.

While the Neale's River and Cecelia Creek are the main water courses there are several smaller water holes and streams. The timber on the station is predominantly gidgea, box and gum which were useful in fencing, building and domestic purposes in that time.

Within eighteen months of Mr Bennett moving to Allandale he set about improving the stock and purchased some Hereford cows from Lake Albert (Murray Lakes District) which was one



Allandale Station - Photo Peter Caust

of the finest studs in Australia at the time. At the same time he purchased a bull, Earl of Trediger from Narrung Estate, which was the beginning of the Allandale Stud which then numbered 50.

Mr Bennett, of Victor Harbour, was born in 1870 and was 16 when he moved to the Far North with his father who was manager of Macumba Station. He subsequently went to work on Stuarts Creek Station (Coward Springs) and later worked on his eventual home of Cecelia Creek which was owned at that time by Mr James Allan. Mr Allan left Cecelia Creek station to Mr Bennett when he died in 1900.

Mr Bennett left Allandale Station in 1906 to pursue his racing interests and the land passed to the Crown Pastoral Co. Pty.Ltd. The Crown Pastoral Co. Pty.Ltd surrendered the lease in 1935, Allandale was abandoned until 10th December 1937 when transferred to David and Ethel Scobie.. The Scobie family held the lease until 10th July 1967 when the new lease holders Lindsay Clarke, Trevor Clarke and Edith Clarke took over the running of Allandale Station .

The Clarke family had pastoral interests in the Carrieton district in the Flinders Ranges and also Maryvale, south of Alice Springs. The Clarkes

employed well respected cattleman, Norm Hagan, as their manager after a particularly dry season, in which all but 500 head of cattle died due to drought. The first decent rainfall occurred and Hagan began upgrading the herd from predominantly shorthorn cattle to the more versatile poll Herefords. Hagan and his sister Mrs Edith Anderson lived at Allandale until 1978 when Trevor Clarke died and Edith Clarke secured the services of Ron Napier to continue the upgrading of the herd. Napier was invaluable as a manager for Edith Clarke but he announced his retirement in 1990 and his son Greg took over Allandale during a devastating drought period of 1990/91. He remained until November 1991 when he moved to Clare. In the summer of 1991 Andrew Clarke took on the role of working Allandale. It was the first time a Clarke family member had resided and operated the property since the purchase in 1967. Allandale Station is now owned by Andrew Clarke, his brother, James, and their mother Edith. You can visit Allandale station on the Mail Run Tour which leaves Coober Pedy on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Heather Ollrich  
in conjunction with  
Donnagar Clarke**

*Next week-Mount Sarah Station*