

# Station to Station

## Mt Barry Station

Mt Barry Station is a beef cattle producing station 100 km north east of Coober Pedy and is 4,868 square kilometres in size.

It once held the horse breeding stock for the Australian Army.

In the early 1940's Dick Briscoe managed the Nilpinna/Mt Barry leases as one, from the original Mt Barry homestead, for the owners the Brooks family. In about 1948 the lease was split, Bob Kempe taking up the Nilpinna lease. Rona Kempe renamed Mt Barry after a hill 40 kilometres west of the homestead. The original Homestead was replaced in 1979.

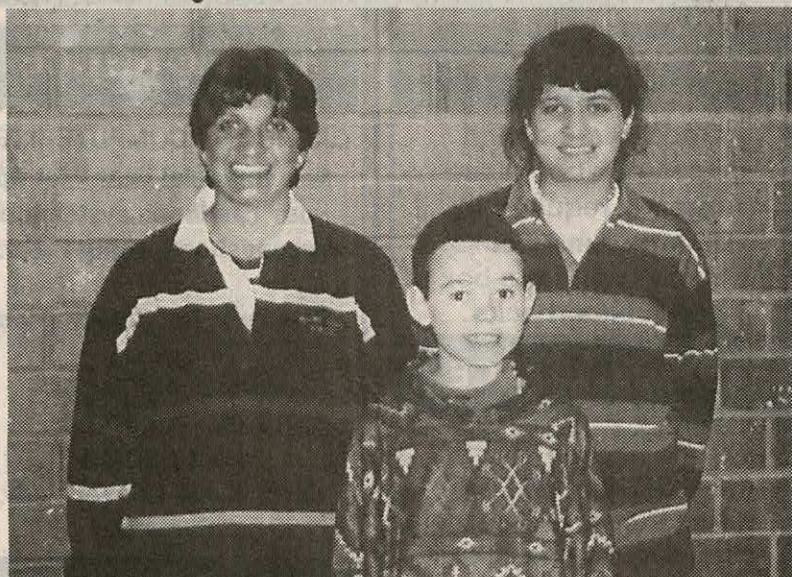
The Williams family purchased Mt Barry from Bob Kempe in December 1981 and still work the land and control it today. Mt Barry was nominated for the 1994 Ibis Awards and was joint winner with Middleback Station for the Pastoral Region.

The Williams family consist of Tony and Patsie and their children, Elizabeth, Todd and Patrick. Patsie Williams (nee Nunn) has been heavily involved with the School of the Air and has recently, with the help of her children produced the commemorative book on the 40th Anniversary. Patsie spent the first eight years of her life at Anna Creek Station before her family moved to Nilpinna Station where she met and married Tony Williams. Tony came from Carrieton which is east of Pt Augusta but in 1973 he came to work on his family's cattle station at Nilpinna, before taking over the running of Mt Barry in 1981.

Mt Barry Station is bounded by Arkaringa to the north, Nilpinna to the east, Evelyn Downs to the west and Mt Willoughby to the south west.

There are several bores on the property which supply the cattle with water during the dry season. In the wet as many as four creeks also run after rain and the land turns green at this time of the year.

Various relatives of the Williams family also own Lambina, Wooltana and



*Patsie Williams and daughter Elizabeth with friend Jack on a recent visit to Coober Pedy*

Sturt Vale Station all of which we will highlight in due course.

In closing I would like to quote a poem written in 1995 by Melissa Murray, a Teacher of the School of the Air, which describes Mount Barry Station much better than I can.

### **Beyond the Moon Plains**

The dust trail crawls across the horizon

The after effect of the rain sends a green tinge across the Moon Plain

Mounds in the distance break the horizon

The road slithers and slides across the Moon Plain

Up towards Oodnadatta

It winds and dips through creeks

Remains of blown tyres lays strewn and lifeless

The Breakaway country brings life to its surroundings.

The track continues on - winding through Lora Creek

- The country becoming overgrown with gums set amongst the creek beds.

A windmill and tank sits atop a mound

As I reach the watering point at Ricky's

The overflow from the pipe extending from the tank

Being a welcome sight to a parched cow.

Trees stand isolated for as far as the eye can see

A thundering trail of dust rises from the mound ahead

As a semi from Jamestown roars past me

Leaving me lost in a cloud of dust.

A mob of horses stand in broken groups

Just passed the Mount Barry Homestead

A grey and chestnut lumber across the road in front of me

As I come to a halt.

Just passed Raspberry Creek, the country changes

Thick, green growth

Through Archaringa Creek the country opens out and spills across the land

Low flying birds scoot across the road

The ground is a mixture of red earthy colours

It dips and dives; broken and eroded away with crevices

Mobs of cattle graze randomly in the paddock as I leave Mount Barry.

**Courtesy of the 40 years of the School of the Air booklet compiled by Patsie Williams and Family Heather Ollrich**