

Bahai faith visit

A group of Baha'is visited Coober Pedy recently. They consisted of Morris Nicholson, an Aboriginal man from Wamba Wamba country, Karel Fontain, an English/Australian woman from Tasmania who lived in Coober Pedy for a while some five years ago, Mahvash Vahidi and her son Sina, Persian/Australians living in Adelaide, and Sinclair Mann of Adelaide visited Coober Pedy during the weekend of 21st to 23rd August.

Their purpose in coming to Coober Pedy was to share a message of friendship with the townspeople and to visit some friends in Coober Pedy. What brought this very diverse group together was their belief in the Baha'i faith. This faith is an independent world religion which originated in 1844 in Iran, Persia. Since its inception up until now the Baha'i of Iran have undergone great persecution, harassment and loss of life in Iran because of their belief. The faith however has spread to all countries and territories of the planet.

The ultimate aim of the Baha'i faith is "Oneness of Humanity". Through this principle the faith aims to achieve equality of rights and responsibilities



The Baha'i faith group that visited Coober Pedy

for men and women, as well as the elimination of all kinds of prejudices, leading to true justice and global peace and prosperity.

Baha'is believe that all people irrespective of their race creed religion or sex are the beloved creation of one Almighty God. The faith teaches the unity of all peoples and encourages the harmonious diversity of the various cultures within that unity.

The group met with various groups in the community and shared their message with them before leaving town on 24th August.

Readers may remember Karel, who was spectacularly saved by the Defence Forces of New Zealand and Australia, earlier this year, in the Tasman Sea, when her and her companions yacht capsized in very heavy seas.

Hoveida Saberi

Station to Station Lambina Station

Back in 1987 a regional radio presenter asked the newly married Lambina Station wife, Libby Williams what 'Lambina' meant, Libby quipped, "land of many rocks and big prickles". Anyone who has visited Lambina would have to agree. Lambina Station is a 3535 square kilometre beef cattle station 170 kms north-west of Marla. It shares a boundary with Todmorden Station to the east, Hamilton Station to the north east, Tieyon Station to the north, Granite Downs (Witjintitja) to the west and Welbourne Hill Station to the south.

The Lambina Pastoral Lease was established in the early 1900s and in about 1928, Jim Robb took up the Lease from

Goldsborough Mort to breed horses for sale to the Indian Army. This was the main land use until the mid 1930s when the horse trade to India declined and beef cattle production took over.

The original homestead at Lambina was situated at the junction of the Warrungudinna Creek and the Alberga River, some 20kms from the present homestead. This timber, iron and rammed earth floor house was completely washed away in the big flood of 1938, leaving the Manager, Mr Page and his family stuck up a tree for almost 24 hours awaiting rescue from the raging flood water. The main homestead was then rebuilt by the Robb family much further to the west of the current home-

stead. An outstation was established at a bore called 'New Lambina' near the Lambina/Todmorden boundary, where a man called Ironbark Davies and his family lived.

Jim Robb sold Lambina Station around 1940 due to ill health and he retired with his wife and family to Glenelg in Adelaide.

In the 1950s, Sandy Pye and later the Hannigan family took on the Lambina Pastoral Lease.

There was an attempt in the 1960s-70s to graze sheep at Lambina Station. The shearing shed and some of it's equipment originated from Wintinna Station, and was

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put near the stockyards at the present day homestead area. The ruins of that shed and the derelict wool press can still be seen there today. There are numerous old wood and brush sheep yards dotted about the run of Lambina where stockmen herded the sheep at night to protect the flock from various predators. The huge stock losses to dingoes and winged prey forced the reintroduction of cattle to the station.

A new homestead was built in 1969 by the Hammigan family and Oodnadatta builders, Herbie and Peter Klemmt, using hand-made 'besser' style bricks. Local pastoralist and Lambina neighbour, Douglas Lillecrapp remembers when he visited Lambina in his school holidays and helped make the house bricks using creek sand and cement.

In 1987 the Williams family purchased Lambina Station. Two of the Williams brothers, Mark (Cactus) and John, went to Lambina together as single men in September 1987. Cactus had worked at Nilpinna Station for eight years and John at Mt Sarah for four years, both these stations being part of the Williams' family holdings. Cactus married Oodnadatta nurse, "Sr Libby" Morrison and John married Wilcannia girl Leeanne Woodberry. Today Mark (Cactus) and Libby Williams and their children, Kirsty, Sarah and Michael live at Lambina and John and Leeanne and their two children, Tara and Bradley live at Wooltana Station, east of Leigh Creek.

The present homestead is situated along the southern bank of the Alberga, a sandy intermittent river and one of the main rivers which traverse Lambina. There are many semi-permanent water holes along the Coongra, Warrungudinna and Yoolperlunna Creeks.

To the north of the Alberga River is sandhill country of the Pedirka Desert and to the south the stony tablelands predominate the land system.

The station is 3535 square kilometres and can run up to 5500 cattle. Over an 11 year period the property has been improved from a fairly under-developed pastoral lease. There have been extensive improvements - new dams, new bores and extensive pipe-



Lambina Station from the air

lines and tanks which has increased the number of watering points for cattle and reduced the grazing pressure on the rangelands.

The Williams' have maintained a keen interest and on going commitment to the establishment of workable conservation practices. This can also be seen in the form of the Deed of Co-operation Agreement between Lambina Station and the South Australian Opal Miners Association Inc, and now enshrined in the Opal Mining Act 1997. This Agreement ensures that opal miners at Lambina opal diggings minimise their impact on the rangelands by carrying out the required back filling and rehabilitation on all their opal claims and temporary camp sites at Lambina.

All these conservation practices ensure sustainable land management practice of the Lambina pastoral lease.

The response to good seasonal rains, such as those seen this year at Lambina, brings a myriad of wild flowers, perennial and seasonal grasses together with large numbers of native animals and birds, including wading birds, emus, bustards and parrots to name but a few. The numbers of feral animals such as brumbies and camels have been largely reduced over the past 11 years improving rangeland condition and an increase in native animal numbers has been noted.

Dramatic climatic variables, up to 50 degrees Celsius in summer months and down to 0 degrees Celsius on mid-winter nights, sets the backdrop for life on Lambina Station.

At present the five family members share Lambina with three stockmen, a governess, one dog and one cat. Post comes once a week by light aircraft from Alice Springs. Stores are picked up once a fortnight at Marla, (150 kms round trip on a dirt road) and the children do their schooling using the High Frequency (HF) radio through School of the Air, Port Augusta.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), 850 kms south at Port Augusta, are the medical link for outback families. The RFDS provide a clinic service to Lambina Station once a month on request and emergency aero-medical retrieval when necessary.

Libby Williams

Corrections

Sturt Vale Station is not owned by the same Williams family as previously indicated in the issue of 29th July and Macumba Station (not Mucumba) is now managed by the Nunn family not the Greenfields as indicated in the issue of 26th August.