

Stuarts Creek Station sold

The sale of Stuarts Creek Station (between William Creek and Marree) late last year to the Western Mining Corporation (WMC) ends a 79 year period of ownership by S. Kidman and Co.

Originally purchased in 1919 by Sidney Kidman as a drought relief measure, the Stuarts Creek Station was managed in partnership with the Peake Station until 1935.

With S. Kidman's purchase of the Anna

Creek Station in 1935, all three properties were amalgamated under a central management based at Anna Creek. This arrangement was continued for 63 years and ended with the sale of Stuarts Creek late last year.

Stuarts Creek Station was originally claimed as a reward in 1858 by J. McD. Stuart for his 1858 exploration in which he travelled as far north as present-day Coober Pedy town.

On this exploration, his decision to cease his northern movement and return to the southern coast was made on the northern tip of Windy Ridge (just east of town).

From there he steered south-easterly through the "Jungle" area before cresting the top of the Stuart Range where the modern Stuart Highway now runs. This historic intersection is now marked by a monument which was jointly erected in 1993 by the Coober Pedy Historical Society and the John McDouall Stuart Society.

His sighting of the Stuart Creek (proper) was the most significant contribution of his 1858 trek.

The semi-permanent waters along its length provided the seed which allowed pastoralism to commence outside of the Flinders Ranges.

For many years, pastoralism was restricted to the regions within the horseshoe of salt lakes (Eyre, Torrens, Frome, etc.) and broadly defined by the area encompassed by the Flinders Ranges. This was because the pastoralists had been unable to locate the land bridge between Lake Torrens and Lake Eyre which we tend to take for granted today as the Oodnadatta Track.

The Oodnadatta Track was in fact the route of the original Stuart Highway. The purchase of the Stuarts Creek Station by WMC is consistent with their established policy of gaining control of the pastoral stations which surround their mineral interests.

At the present point in time, no decision has been forthcoming with regard to their intended use of the resource which has grazed cattle since 1859.

Greyhound Pioneer February - March Seat Sale



OPENING TIMES

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8:00am to 11:00am

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