

# Obituary

## Ian James Rankin

**Pastoralist**

**Born 21st September 1930, Quorn.**

**Died 14th November 1999, Adelaide, age 69**

Ian Rankin will be remembered as a colourful bush character in the far North of South Australia. He was respected as a key player in the pastoral industry in the 60's and 70's.

Ian had a keen interest in racehorses and flying.

He was known for his good sense of humour.

Ian was the youngest of three sons of Richard and Sylvia Rankin, who managed Mt Vivian Station, north of Glendambo for Mr. Jo Kenworthy.

Ian moved further north to McDoull Peak Station in 1937, age 7, with his family while his father worked for the Jacob brothers on the property.

The Rankins purchased Ingomar Station 80 Kms south of Coober Pedy from Perc Carne in 1943, then purchased McDoull Peak and The Twins Stations in 1946. Ian lived at McDoull Peak until the family purchased Mabel Creek Station in the early 50's. Mabel Creek was Ian's home for around 35 years.

The Rankins also bought Mt. Willoughby Station in the mid 1960's then sold the property in the 1970's.

A great man for horse racing, Ian, with Fr. Cresp and Dick Nunn founded the Coober Pedy race meeting in 1969. Ian was the first President of the club. His aim was to have the townspeople and station families mix and support each other, which he did successfully. 31 years later the Coober Pedy races is still the major event on October's calendar. Ian's horse "Heart Starter" was his pride, having won many races at the Coober Pedy meetings.

Ian was known as a good boss, up to date with modern ideas. When stations were working with 'pack horses and 'bungcarts', Ian used a double decker bus as a camp kitchen. Socially everyone enjoyed his company; he was a great entertainer.

Ian was known for his bush pilot skills, he used his plane and experience for effective management of his properties.



*Ian Rankin*

Ian was diagnosed with cancer in 1985. His health deteriorated rapidly with the accidental death of his daughter, Mary, and his grandson, Jonathon, in 1992.

Ian's life was shared with Marg Pick of Coondambo Station, whom he married in 1953.

He is survived by his wife Marg, two sons, Chris and Greg, and seven grandchildren.

**Patsie Williams**

**(Photo by Peter Rowe)**

***WATERS-LAGZDINS***  
**ACCOUNTANTS**

**COOBER PEDY BUSINESS CENTRE**

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