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# Middleback Station—a pastoral legacy

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## **Abstract**

Middleback and its associated properties, especially Roopena, which are located around and pre-date Whyalla and have recently been acquired by Defence to expand the Cultana military training area, have left a remarkable legacy for rangelands science and management in South Australia and beyond.

Due to the availability of good water from Wizzo Well, and the entrepreneurial engineering spirit of pioneer George Nicolson, Middleback demonstrated the appropriateness of the 'Waite' model of pastoral development: small paddocks, a small mob of sheep in each and dependant on a single watering point off-centre towards the NE corner.

Andrew Sr and his brother Don both enjoyed higher education in agriculture and time away from the property, and both had a strong interest in scientific pastoral management. They actively sought out innovative ideas, and supported University research and teaching for some 40 years, spawning a rich legacy of research, researchers and generations of undergraduate students touched by the Middleback experience.

This session will explore these and other Middleback legacies. Andrew Sr, supported by his son Andrew Jr, will be interviewed by one of the Middleback graduates, Dr Martin Andrew.

This history of the Middleback properties, authored by Andrew Sr, has just been published as "Wizzo. The Story of a Well and the Nicolson Family". Autographed copies of this book will be available for sale after this session. (Watch out for the review by Dr Noelene Duckett – another Middleback graduate – in the forthcoming issue of "Range Management Newsletter").