Hilda is Lang's love child: Rose

**KIM MACDONALD** *The West Australian*

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Rose Porteous has weighed into the controversy surrounding the alleged love child of her late former husband Lang Hancock, saying he had told her that the Geraldton woman was his illegitimate daughter.

Mrs Porteous said her late husband had told her that Hilda Kickett was the product of an affair with an Aboriginal cook at an outback station when he was young.

Mrs Kickett has for more than a decade told friends and local businesses that Mr Hancock recognised her as a daughter before he died in 1992, though she was not in his will.

*The West Australian* revealed at the weekend that the mother of five has racked up loans of more than $1 million after convincing former friends and businesses that she was in line for a big slice of the inheritance.

But a spokesman for Mr Hancock's daughter Gina Rinehart said at the weekend that there was no financial agreement between Mrs Rinehart and Mrs Kickett.

"As you know from previous media, Mr Hancock's estate was bankrupt," the spokesman said.

"Mrs Rinehart has never met with or spoken to Hilda Kickett. Accordingly, there has been no agreement reached between Mrs Rinehart and Hilda Kickett."

About seven years ago, Mrs Rinehart's son John said that whether or not Mrs Kickett was related, she would have no claim to the family fortune because Mr Hancock's personal estate was bankrupt. It is understood the Hancock fortune was held primarily in a family company.

But Mrs Porteous, now married to real estate agent Willie Porteous, said: "Lang Hancock did not die bankrupt. Certainly not. Not with (Mosman Park mansion) Prix D'Amour.

"My goodness. He was living the high life. He had a jet, he had everything, and he never had debts."

Mrs Porteous said she had once been close to Mrs Kickett, who used to stay with her at Prix D'Amour, but the pair had lost contact in recent years.

She claimed that Mrs Kickett had told her that she was expecting money which she claimed had been promised by the Rinehart family.

Mrs Porteous said there was a striking resemblance between Mrs Kickett and Mr Hancock, especially when she wore dark-rimmed glasses favoured by the late mining pioneer.

"If you put glasses on her, which I did when she came to my home, and I couldn't believe it," she said.

"I said, 'Sorry, but you are not very pretty, because my husband was not a pretty man'.

"It is just very sad.

"Hilda is at the age whereby a bit of help would give her some dignity because the blood that runs in her is the same blood that is in Gina.

"She is entitled to (an inheritance)."