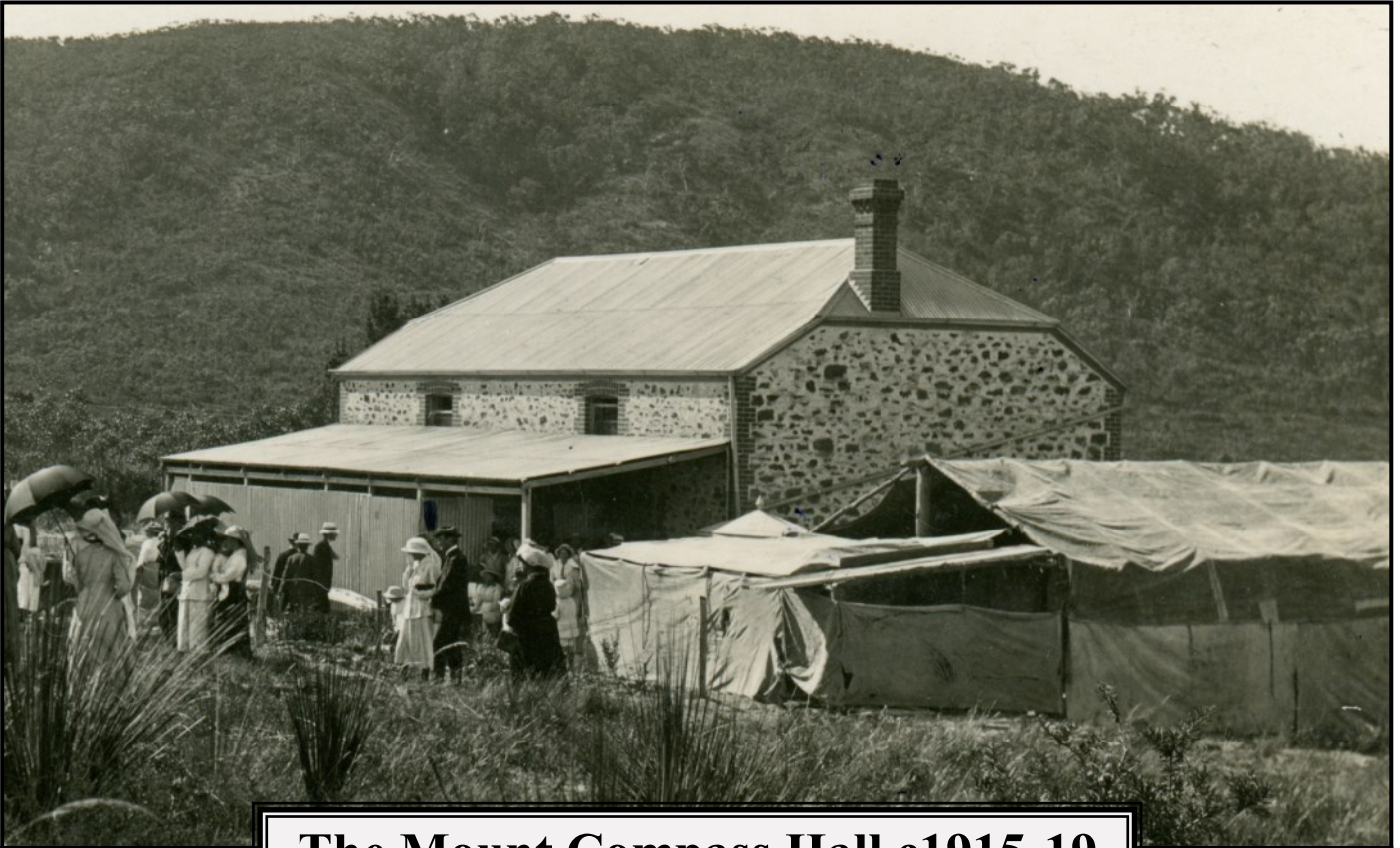


THE MOUNT COMPASS ARCHIVES

CHRONICLE

A FORUM TO PROMOTE THE HISTORY & ARCHIVES OF MOUNT COMPASS

No 27 DEC 2024



The Mount Compass Hall c1915-19

The people above are gathered in their finest clothes for the Annual Show held in the Mount Compass Hall and grounds. This photograph was taken in around 1915 to 1919 and shows the Hall with a full length enclosed veranda on the back and a separate timber framed dining area covered with what appears to be hessian fabric.

The veranda was added on in 1907 by the Hall's original builder, Richard Peters, along with Herb and James Waye. As the Hall was also used as a schoolroom from 1903 until 1934, the students used this veranda as a craft room and shelter shed. (In 1914, the Education Department was paying the Hall Committee 10/- (\$1.00) per year for each student that attended the school - which was a valuable source of income.)

The timber and hessian structure alongside the hall served as a dining room but was later replaced with a slightly more substantial structure that had an iron roof, timber slats for the walls and a dirt-floor. That also served a similar purpose until it was demolished around 1958 when the Memorial Hall was built.

For those interested in names, the couple in the centre left are recorded on the reverse of the photo as Emily Biggs (dressed in all white) and Albert Hunt. To the left of them are three boys, Hugh, Eric and Alex Simons.

Out of view on the left is a corral where horses and other animals were held during the day long show. *Horses over hurdles* and a *Lady's Hack* were amongst the competitions on the day, along with a poultry section, wood-chopping, and children's schoolwork and needlework competitions. Vegetables, flowers and fruit were displayed in the Hall (with the Waye brothers winning first prize for their eight foot high display of vegetables at the 1915 Show.)

A few versions of this photograph/postcard exist, with this one kindly supplied by Richard Langford.

Editorial

Welcome to this final Chronicle for the year.

More by chance than any thoughtful planning, many of the articles in this edition concern topics that readers are likely to still have knowledge of. As photographs or items are brought in to the Archives, they often form the basis of the articles published here. It just so happens that we received copies of many photos relating to the **saleyards** at the same time as an extremely rare photograph of a band performing on the hall stage from the 1960s surfaced. Each of these items deserve some time in public view.

Local stalwart **Don Perry** passed away recently and in his honour a number of photographs featuring him standing beside his various community projects are reproduced here as a fitting acknowledgement of his work. If any readers do hear of other local or past residents passing away, feel free to provide me with a little information about that person's life in order that they too can be remembered.

A descendent of the **Watson-Dier** family graciously contacted me about a collection of family photos that we may be interested in. Many of these have now found their way into the Archives and have further expanded our knowledge of Mount Compass in the 1940s. Their story is on page 11.

An article on the **Buffalo Lodge** in Mount Compass has been held over due to a lack of space but this will also allow a little extra time to anyone who may have information on this particular group to contact me. Details about the Buff's meetings or charitable work would be helpful. (There is a display cabinet in the hall foyer that currently exhibits a few items from the Buffalo Lodge that are held by the Archives).

Although many troubling things are going on in the world right now, there are many good people contributing to their communities, even if it is only in some small way, and helping to make their part of the world just that little bit better. To all these people, keep up the good work.

Wishing all our readers a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Steve Kettle (85568444)

News reports from the past

GABARET — FASHION PARADE HOTEL CROWN TONIGHT — FRIDAY

at 8 p.m.

New winter range including mod gear by
Trevor Rose.

MUSIC BY MAJESTIC KNIGHTS

Admission \$1.00 including supper.
Proceeds for Victor Harbour Cricket Club.

Above: An ad for the Majestic Knights band from the Victor Harbor Times in March 1973.

Right: Tough times for the livestock industry. An article from the Times on 7th June 1995. See page 7 for more information on the saleyards.

'A 22-year farming low'

REGION - Local beef producers are facing the toughest times for 22 years, according to a local stock agent.

The gravity of the problem has prompted a call for the formation of a local farming lobby group to work on improving the situation.

But, despite the dire situation, Kym Endersby from Pro-Stock Mount Compass is advising farmers to sell their cattle as usual because the consequences of holding onto animals are almost certain to be worse.

He said some people had chosen to hold their cattle from sale, only to find that they got less per kilogram for the animals because they had lost condition.

Subsequently, the cattle weighed less and their prices further depreciated.

At last Wednesday's auction, some very poor quality 'chopper' cows sold for as little as \$5. The approximate cost to put the cattle in the sale yards is \$20.

"It's a terrible disaster, the only thing holding well at the moment is well-bred, well-finished trade calves," Mr Endersby said.

He said there were three factors

affecting the market at the moment: no rain, a high Australian dollar, and a world-wide beef glut.

"A change to any one of those three factors will not have an impact on the other two, so the problem will still remain."

A recent shipment of 10,000 beef cattle to Egypt, with plans for a similar one next month, had given some hope to producers, according to Mr Endersby, but local farmers were still "having a rough run".

"At the moment the farmers are accepting the prices but we are still going to great effort to convince people not to panic sell," Mr Endersby said.

"They (farmers) don't have to be happy with the values, but they should accept them."

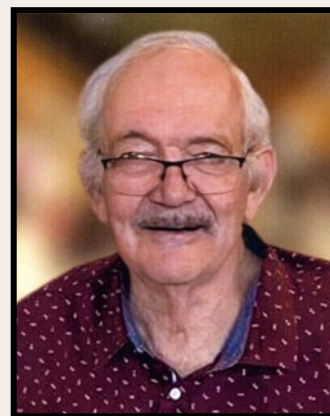
Mr Endersby said he had even thought about shutting down his saleyards which see more than 200 head of cattle sold each Wednesday.

Mr Endersby is calling for expressions of interest to form a large, active local farming group to apply pressure to appropriate organisations in an attempt to improve farming conditions on the Southern Fleurieu.

John Excell (1937-2024) Passed away in August this year. John lived in Mt Compass from 1949 and through the 1950s. He completed years 6 and 7 here from 1949 before attending high school at Victor Harbor. Keith and Mona Excell, his parents, initially lived on Clyde Terrace before moving to Stan Curnow's 'Marydale' property on Woodcone Road, where they remained for about 27 years. In 1949, John's father helped establish the existing garage in Mt Compass, along with the brothers Jack and Max Neville.

John Floyd Robinson (1928-2024) Passed away on the 4th September, aged 96. He lived on a property at Tooperang before moving to Paracombe in the early 1970s. John was president of the Football Club in 1969. He later served on the Tea Tree Gully council. He was married to Reta and the couple raised three children.

Bruce Adams (1947-2024) *(Right)* Worked at the Mt Compass branch of the State Bank from about 1966 to 1970. He was heavily involved with the football club during that time, serving as treasurer for three years and coaching the colts while also playing in the A-Grade. Bruce boarded with the Eve's on Nangkita Road.



Donald (Don) Ralph Perry (1947-2024) *(Below right)* passed away in August this year.

Don was a Hindmarsh Tiers boy, attending Myponga School for one year before completing the rest of his schooling at Victor Harbor.

In 1967, at the age of twenty, he moved with his parents to Yundi. He had already met the future love of his life, Carole Kelly, by this point and they would marry at Myponga (Carole's home town) in the following year.

Between milking their cows, Don helped his parents build a home on the property, followed by one for himself. He did not manage to move into that house however, as the newly married couple decided to head to Canberra.

This came about due to Don's strong interest in car racing at venues such as Rowley Park, Murray Bridge, and at Seymour in Victoria, where he won the Australian Formula 500 racing title.

The following year, while successfully defending this title at Yass in NSW, he was offered a job by the Canberra purchaser of his winning car from that previous year. What followed were six to seven years of working in Canberra, including building six to eight racing cars during his time there.



The devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires gave the couple an unwanted warm welcome when they moved back to Yundi in 1983.

Undeterred, for the next two years they worked the family dairy, but Don then opted to work at Roger Oliver's engineering business in Willunga. The following year, after constructing his own large shed, Don began operating what would become his own very successful engineering business in May 1986.

The couple had two girls by this stage, Jodie and Merrin, with Carole running the girls around to their various activities, such as netball, while Don was 'stuck' in his shed.

Don soon gained a good reputation for building front end loaders, fertilizer bins, and a variety of farm machinery as well as always having a ready supply of steel in stock for local purchasers.

Some of his community work that should be acknowledged include:

- Slippery dip in community playground**
- Steel stairway to Archives**
- Trolleys used to store hall tables below the stage**
- Silhouettes memorial in hall car park**
- Steel framework for hall foyer extensions**

(Refer photos on following page.)

Many thanks to the readers who continue to supply information for this page.



Above: Don Perry beside the new Hall Foyer framework that he constructed in 2015

Right: The memorial silhouettes cut by Don and erected in 2018

Below right: One of the very useful trolleys he constructed in 2011 that slide under the hall stage for extra storage.

Below: The slippery dip designed, built and donated by Don Perry for the new community playground c1999.

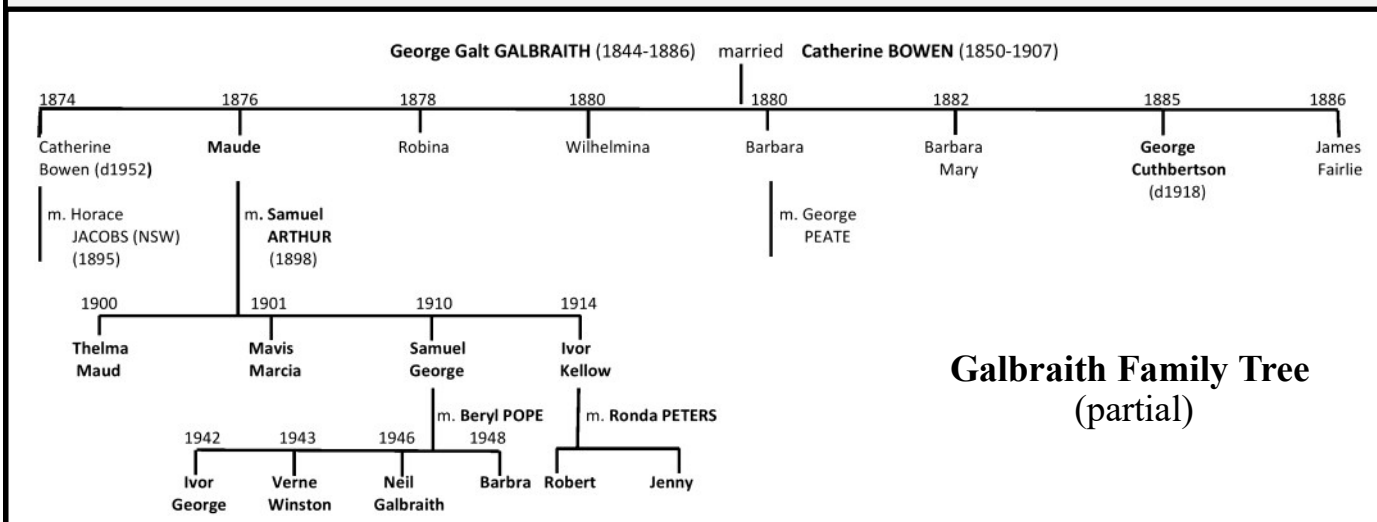


George Cuthbertson Galbraith WW1

Stored in the Archives is an old map of the original memorial pine trees from World War 1. Names are recorded alongside the site of each tree but two of these names are not recorded on the district's 1959 Honour Roll. One is Earl Kitchener, the British Secretary of State for War, who died in 1916 after his ship struck a German mine. The other is George Galbraith. This is his story...

George Cuthbertson Galbraith was born in Ararat, central Victoria, to parents George Galt Galbraith and Catherine Bowen. His father had been an 'unassisted' migrant from Scotland, who landed in the Colony of Victoria in 1871 as a 28 year old 'gentleman'. His occupation was later listed as both a wheelwright and a coach maker. George would marry Catherine in 1873, two years after his arrival.

There must have been a few good genes in the Galbraith family, with the father, George Galt, having one brother who became a doctor who migrated to New Zealand, and another that was a physician/surgeon who migrated to the Colony of Victoria, and one more who was an engineer. (*This family background may account for the grandson, I. K. (Kelly) Arthur's own amazing engineering skills when he invented the Arthur Rotary Slasher*)



George and Catherine's first son, George, was recorded as a 30 year old mason/builder when he enlisted in World War 1 at Keswick on 22nd February, 1915. He soon joined C Company of the 27th Infantry Battalion with his address at the time of enlistment given as Mount Compass and his marital status as single.

His sister, Maude Arthur (nee Galbraith), had married Mount Compass' Sam Arthur in 1898 and was listed as George's next of kin on his enlistment papers. By 1914, Sam and Maud had four children, Thelma, Mavis, Samuel George and Ivor (aka Kelly), with George also living with them at the time of his enrolment. Prior to arriving in South Australia, he did gain three months experience with the Scotch Regiment in Melbourne.

Following his basic army training, and vaccinations against typhoid fever and smallpox, George boarded HMAT Geelong on the 31st May 1915, to arrive in the Middle East on the 6th of July. During that five week voyage the army decided to promote him to Lance Corporal.

Then followed two months training in Egypt, after which George found himself hospitalised after he fractured his forearm near the wrist during a boxing match, which required his arm to be set in plaster. It is unclear from his army records, but this may have excluded him from the Battalion's three month's service at Gallipoli, where they suffered some casualties but had what was described as 'a relatively quiet time'.

After returning to Egypt, they received further training and were re-organised before heading to the war in Europe, arriving in Marseilles, France, on the 21st March, 1916.

After initially being placed in a quiet sector, his battalion was marched to the Somme in support of the Australian 1st Division. George was unfortunately injured in the fighting at Pozieres on the 4th August 1916, during which his battalion took part in a successful second attack on the German positions around Bapaume. His record states:

"wound to lower part of leg, received about 4 hours later he received a concussion of lower spinal region from bursting of a shell in trenches whilst engaged.... Has had both sciatic nerves stretched one by operation (scar still shows) and one 'dry' but little or no improvement."

Continued from previous page

It would appear that he received two injuries, four hours apart. He was first shot in the lower right leg, but must have continued fighting, only to then be badly injured by an exploding shell.

George was transferred to a hospital in Derby, England, on 15th August and then two months later transferred to the No.2 Australian Command Depot in Weymouth. This base had been established to cater for the Australians who were unlikely to return to active service. Over the years 1915 to 1919, more than 120,000 Australian and New Zealand soldiers passed through this facility.

In the paperwork recommending his discharge as permanently unfit, his problem was reported as:

“Sciatica still present. In bed over one month. Has Violent twitchings of all muscles served by sciatica nerve on rolling over in bed and especially on attempting to stand. Has not sufficient control over legs to be able to stand at all. Leg wound healed and no disability.”



George Cuthbertson Galbraith

(Note: the word ‘violent’ in the above quote was spelt with a capital V and underlined in the official report).

A sheet in George’s service file headed ‘Opinion of the medical Board’, notes that he would be totally incapacitated for at least six months with regard to his being able to earn any form of income.

On 13th February 1917, George embarked on the hospital ship HMAT Benalla, leaving Plymouth for the long voyage back to Australia, arriving on the 10th April. He would spend the following two weeks in the ‘No.7 Australian General Hospital’ (aka ‘*The Digger’s Hospital*’) at Keswick. His notes at the time stated his condition was unchanged but he was able to walk a little. His disability was total.

In April, Lance-Corporal Galbraith was formally given a ‘welcome home’ at the Mount Compass Hall after serving overseas for one year and 315 days in both the Middle East and on the Western Front. Mr Mel Jacobs (President of the Patriotic Committee) presided over what was noted as an ‘enjoyable evening’. George would be officially discharged on medical grounds one month later.

Around August that same year, George was able to undertake the role of postmaster at Redhill, in the State’s mid north. Tragically, it was here on New Year’s Day, 1918, that he died when out shooting with friends. Reports of the day record that as he was climbing into a buggy, both barrels of his gun discharged into his body, killing him either instantaneously, or shortly afterwards, depending on the newspaper report. He was aged 33.



George’s headstone at Redhill - photo from Billion Graves website

His sister Maude Arthur of Mount Compass, in seeking to settle his estate, wrote to the army asking if his will was still kept in his army pay book. Whether a will did turn up is not known at this stage, but George would be buried in the cemetery at Redhill (*see left*).

In August 1923 his oldest sister Catherine Jacobs, now acting as his next of kin, signed receipts for his Victory and British War medals, listing her address as St Kilda in Victoria. Two years later she signed another receipt for his 1914/15 Star Medal.

George was noted as living at Mt Compass with his sister when he enlisted in the First World War. Although this may have only been for a short period of time, when a memorial of pine trees was established in front of the hall to acknowledge the local men who had volunteered, one of the trees was planted in his name.

Whatever the reason, when the Mt Compass-Nangkita Districts Honour Roll was unveiled in 1959, George’s name was not included. It may simply have been that he was no longer recalled as having lived here or it may be that he was by then, not considered to be a local at the time of enlisting. **It may be a mystery that is never solved.**

References: Mt Compass Archives, [https://birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/Weymouth Army Service records](https://birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/Weymouth_Army_Service_records) -National Library, https://birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/HMAT_A24_Benalla Australian War Memorial site: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51467> Wikipedia 27th Battalion: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/27th_Battalion_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/27th_Battalion_(Australia))

Mount Compass Saleyards

Thanks to the collection of photographs from the Victor Harbor Times as mentioned in our previous Chronicle, we have gained a valuable insight into the local saleyards and its owners.

Bushy Martin Agencies, based in Willunga, had been conducting cattle sales at Port Elliot for fifty eight years prior to establishing a brand new saleyard at Mount Compass in 1990. This facility, which included the latest computerised system, would now be centrally located, offering easy access for the whole Fleurieu Peninsula. It would also be the first dirt-floor saleyard that was fully undercover in Australia.

This land and livestock Agency was originally a franchise office of Dalgety Australia Ltd under the ownership of G B Martin Nominees. In 1985, G B (Bushy) Martin retired and sold the business to **BJK Nominees P/L**, a firm comprising of **Brian Eiseman**, **Jurgen Ollwitz** and **Kym Endersby**. These three men had worked for Bushy over the previous eight years at this point and had been heavily involved with both the livestock and real estate side of business.

Kym Endersby was the company's contact for livestock, and Jurgen Ollwitz for Real Estate, while Brian Eiseman was the Bushy Martin Agencies' representative for both real estate and livestock at Meadows (right).

The last livestock sale to be held at Port Elliot was conducted on 8th January 1990 with the Grand Opening sale at Mount Compass just two weeks later, held on Monday, 22nd January. 600 to 700 people attended the inaugural sale which began with an opening ceremony conducted from the back of a ute (see below). The well-known livestock buyer, Keith King, was invited to formally open the saleyards, with both sheep and cattle auctioned on the day.



Directors of Bushy Martin Agencies, Kym Endersby, Brian Eiseman and Jurgen Ollwitz in front of the new Meadows office in June 1988



How about this for a rural stage? Keith King stands in the back of a ute to make his opening speech, with Kym Endersby (listening intently behind him) and Jurgen Ollwitz (obscured), sitting in the back.

The saleyards sit on a 4 hectare site, three kilometres south of Mount Compass on the Victor Harbor Road. From the very beginning this was a state-of-the-art facility, with an original working capacity of 600 cattle and 1,000 sheep. Animals were sold according to their liveweight using a computerised scales system that was the only one in this state north of Naracoorte. An octagon-shaped platform weighed the cattle as they entered the ring, resulting in an instant readout showing the number of head, along with their combined and average weight.

The weekly sales began with an average of 400 head of cattle but is now regularly over 1,000 head per week, with a capacity for 1800+ head. However, in hard times such as the late 1990s to early 2000s, with drought conditions, a high Australian dollar and excess cattle, the yard's sales dropped to as low as 130 head in some weeks.

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Kym Endersby, Brian Eiseman and Jurgen Ollwitz in front of the brand new Mount Compass Saleyards in 1990

Over time, Jurgen Ollwitz and Brian Eiseman left the business, with Kym Endersby then operating under the name Pro-stock. He has been joined in running the saleyards by his two sons, Scott and Clint, to now be operating as the 'Southern Livestock Exchange'. (See photograph and notes on page 10).

This was the first saleyard in Australia to offer live online bidding with buyers now able to bid online from anywhere in Australia, with 2025 marking their 35th year at this site.

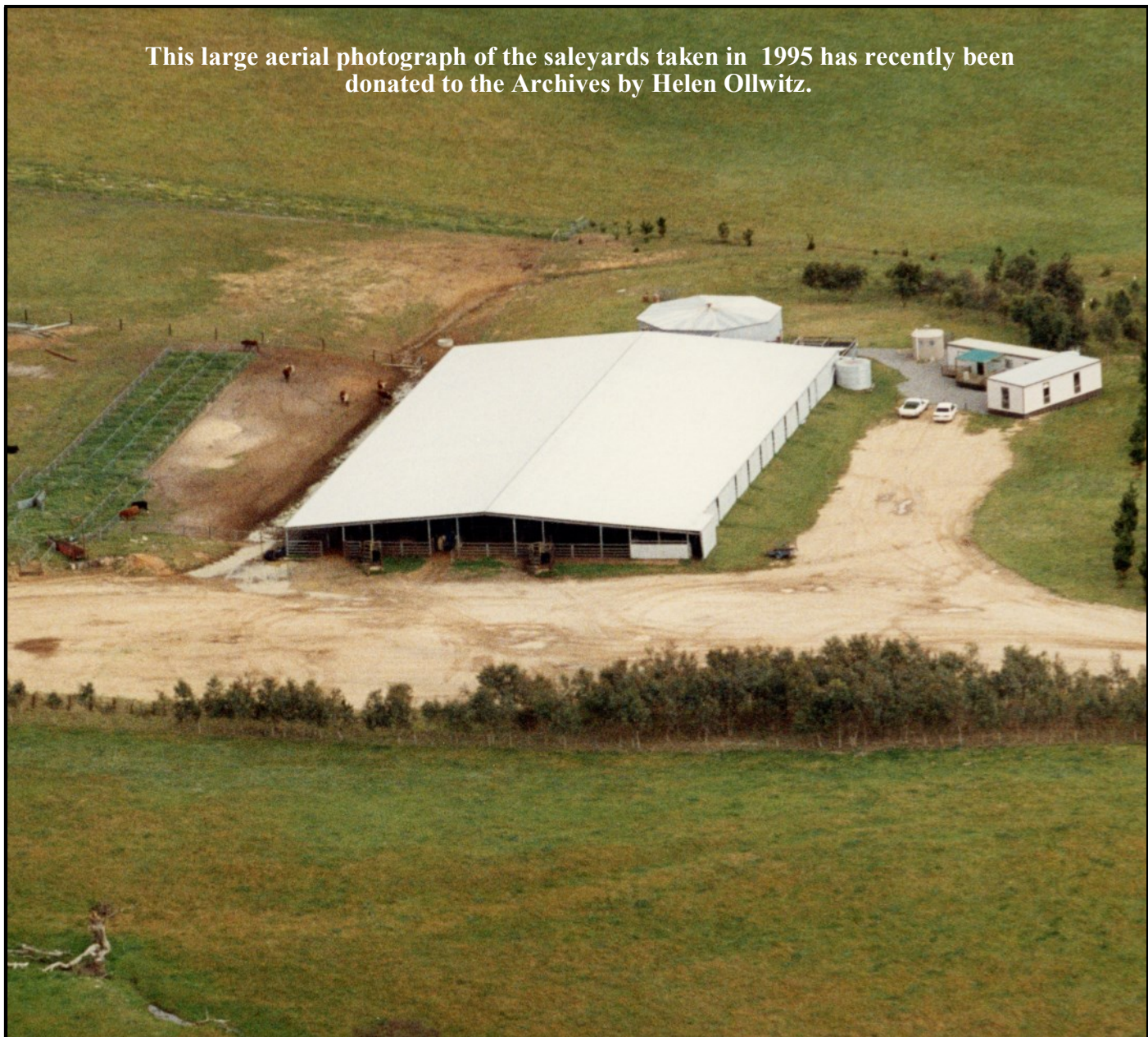
A website that includes a short video about the online sales can be found here: <https://www.slemedia.com/>
and online sales can be viewed here: www.southernlivestockexchange.com.au
or just go to watch the sales in person on Wednesdays at 9.00am

References: Victor Harbor Times, Victoria & South Australia Saleyards Guide 2022, Helen Ollwitz.



Kym Endersby on the left, with Gino Pacetti assisting, conducting a sheep auction in June 1990

This large aerial photograph of the saleyards taken in 1995 has recently been donated to the Archives by Helen Ollwitz.

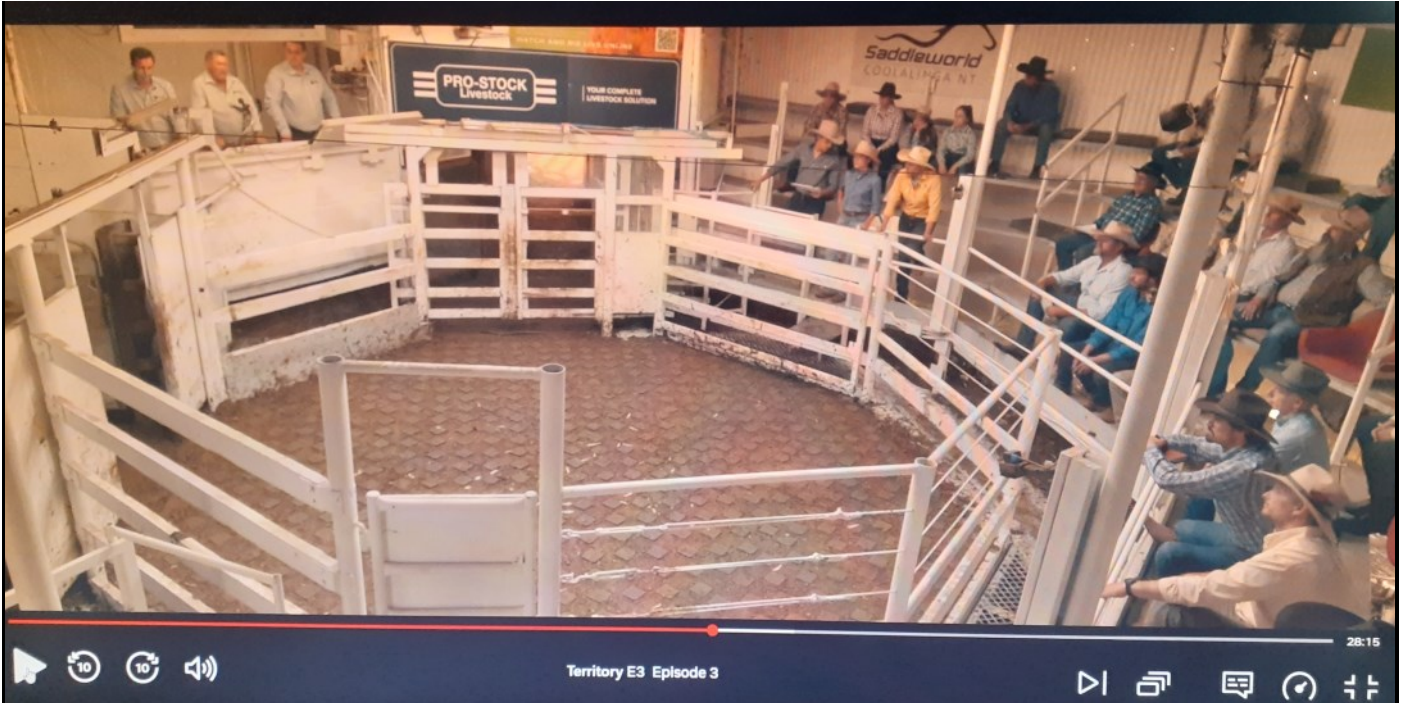


Jurgen Ollwitz (1957-2022): (left) Began his working life in the accounts section of Bennett Farmers. Preferring to not be stuck indoors, he moved across to their livestock section before joining Bushy Martin's Dalgety office in Willunga as a real estate salesman in 1981.

When Bushy retired in 1985, Jurgen was one of three partners who took over the business and was instrumental in helping to establish the Mount Compass saleyards. (see previous article).

He then returned to purely Real Estate when Brad Reseigh purchased the business' Real Estate arm, operating as an Elders agency. In 2007 Jurgen joined Jason Michelmore to form Michelmore/Ollwitz with First National, and then in 2012 changed to Ollwitz and partners, based in Willunga.

House and property photographs as well as numerous maps from his real estate days and which featured the Mt Compass district, have been donated to the Archives by his widow, Helen Ollwitz.



For those who are not aware, the third episode of Netflix's recent drama "**Territory**" features Pro-stock's Mount Compass saleyards. The photo above (taken from my tv screen) stars **Clint** and **Scott Endersby** (on the left) helping conduct the auction. This scene is in Episode 3, about half way along.

Along the same theme another local, **Simon Huntington**, also had a brush with fame when his antique threshing machine was used during the filming of "**The New Boy**", a 2023 film starring **Cate Blanchett**.

His Fowler Steam Engine was on the set (at Booleroo Centre) as a back-up machine and Simon can be seen here riding alongside Cate Blanchett as she steers his prized machine. (She was dressed in her nun's outfit at the time.)



Continued from previous page

Herb now found himself once again enlisting in the Home Guard, this time with his two sons, during World War 2.

In 1946, having initially worked as an employee, Herb took over the business himself. He sold the shop in 1951 and entered retirement, which allowed the couple to travel the country by caravan and head to Queensland during the winters. Although retired, Herb was still a fit man and helped their son Jack with contract hay making at Mallala and their other son Allan, with butchering at Myponga.

Along the southern side of Arthur Road, a small concrete structure that looks only a little larger than an outside toilet, still stands today (right). This was where Herb slaughtered his animals for the butcher shop and delivery round, with the waste fed to pigs he also kept on the 80 acre leased property. It is recorded that Herb would kill 65 sheep and two cows each week to satisfy his customer's demands. His son Allen helped in this endeavour and eventually set up his own butcher shop and delivery round at Myponga.

Hilda passed away in 1960, and Herb in 1995, with the couple buried together at Meadows Cemetery.

The respect in which Herb was held by those who knew him is clearly demonstrated by the words of an Enterprise Colony couple, Tom and Rose Kelly*, who wrote a letter in 1987 to the then 90 year old Herb.

In this letter, Tom Kelly describes their isolated life near Yundi, an area that was seen to be a distant place in the 1930's and 40's, and established to help the unemployed:



The old slaughter house on Arthur Road photographed in 2017

“... we have often spoken of you, when you used to do your weekly call on us out at ‘Enterprise’. We did not see many people out there and when you would come every Saturday it was like as if we were getting some relatives as visitors. All the neighbours would come for their meat, it was a real meeting place, our kids used to think you were like Grandpa. They were sure good old days, no money, but we were happy and worked hard... Rose, my wife, says old Herb was a nice man, always the same.”

In this letter, Tom also added a few words about the kind support they received from the other business in town, the local bakery, operated by Snow and Doreen Beaumont:

“Beaumonts used to drop a week's worth of bread in the box at the gate every week. I remember trying to get an account from them. I had not paid them for 12 months, so I went into the shop one day and said I'm not going out until I have paid for my bread, and Mrs Beaumont said: how much do you owe us? and I said, ‘you are selling the bread not me’, and she didn't have a clue. I really think they did not care if we paid or not.”

How tough these times were for the people at Enterprise Colony can be envisaged from the following lines in this insightful letter:

“Do you remember, Herb, when the kids would come into your shop after school and ask for 2/- worth of dog meat with not too much sawdust in it as it gets into the old man's teeth?”

The community spirit shown by the Watsons included using the power from their 32 volt cool-room generator to also light up the hall with electricity. Power lines were simply strung across the road for this purpose. After the second world war Kelly Arthur took over the responsibility of supplying the hall's electricity from his new garage (located where the hotel is now).

It was Hilda Watson who, in 1939, formed the first Girl Guides Unit in Mt Compass, with her then 19 year old daughter Betty (right), who assisted with running the Brownies. In the Archives we also have a photograph of a plate presented to Hilda by the Football Club, that is engraved: “To Mrs H Watson in appreciation of services rendered to Mt Compass Football Club”. This plate was unfortunately thrown out at some point so the photograph is the only record of it ever existing.



Ronda Peters (m. Arthur) and Betty Watson (m. Dier) c1941

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What Mrs Watson did to earn this gift is not known but presumably it was given to her for work involving the catering side of fundraising. Although the year was not engraved, it may have been from around 1951 when the couple retired, which would make it the earliest known presentation to an individual by the club.

Betty, who worked in her father's butcher shop for ten years, was also involved in other community activities. She helped train participants for the Debutant Ball, supported fundraising activities for the local football club and, in 1943, was a candidate in the Miss Red Cross Competition, raising the grand total of £116-11-2 (\$233.12).

In 1940, Betty became engaged to Leslie King of Meadows South, two weeks after his enlistment in World War 2. Tragically however, he died in Egypt two years later, leaving her heartbroken.

Years later (1948), Betty Watson would marry Alexander Leonard Dier (pr. Deer) in the Nangkita Methodist Church. Alex was the adopted child of Johannes (also recorded as Johnnes) Ferdinand Dier and Emma Elizabeth Dier (nee Mattner) of nearby Munetta. Known to friends as John and Lizzy, this Barossa born couple had moved here from Loxton North, when drought and depression forced them off their land.

Their son, Alex (also known as Alec), had not completed year 7 when they moved, and was never given the opportunity to continue his schooling, being required to now work at clearing their new property with his father, from daylight to dusk, using a cross-cut saw.

The couple had also adopted baby girl called Maura, when Alex was aged nine (*photo right*). At the age of 18, he enlisted in the army and was placed in the Royal Engineers Regiment, for deployment to the Northern Territory. However, twelve months on, and following requests by his family that he was required back on the farm due to his father's failing health, he was exempted from further service. (His father did not live many more years).

While Alex did continue to improve the property, he also found time for some recreation, such as football, local dances and bike rides. After the morning milking, it was nothing for him, along with a couple of mates, to ride all the way to Brighton for a swim and then back again in time for the afternoon milking. His family notes that he always enjoyed light-hearted banter and clowning around, all with a good dose of laughter.

In 1947 with the land cleared, two dams dug, and a dairy built, his parents sold the property and purchased another near what is now Roadman's Reserve at Mount Compass. This property consisted of Sections 320 and 419, land on both sides of the Main Victor Harbor Road. They lived on the western side in two old Nissen huts until their home was built. The area behind the house was a poor quality, sandy soil, but across the road near the base of Mt Moon was fertile ground with a year round water supply, allowing Alex to market garden there (*see below, left*).



Maura and Alex Dier

Unfortunately, his father passed away that same year and much to Alex's despair and disappointment, his mother surrendered their perpetual lease over the property and moved to Victor Harbor. Emma would pass away in 1956 and was buried alongside her husband in the Mount Compass Cemetery.



Alex continued in a variety of farming jobs around the district, including potato and carrot digging & bagging, hay stacking, fencing, and milking. Further away he found employment at the Reynella Quarry and for a while crushed stone at the Brighton Cement Works.

In his mid 20's there was romance, and eventual marriage, to **Betty Ellen Watson**, a marriage which lasted over 50 years.

The new couple set up home in a small, corrugated iron cottage at Pages Flat, supplied while Alex worked on a farming property owned by a Mrs Daw. It was here two years later that he became a family man with the birth of their first child, a daughter Susanne, born in 1950, and four years later, while residing and working on Arn Elliott's property at Echunga, a son, Danny Michael born in 1954.

While at Pages Flat, he continued playing for the Mt Compass Football team and of note, played in the club's losing 1950 grand final game against Willunga.

Left: Alexander Dier proudly displaying his carrots

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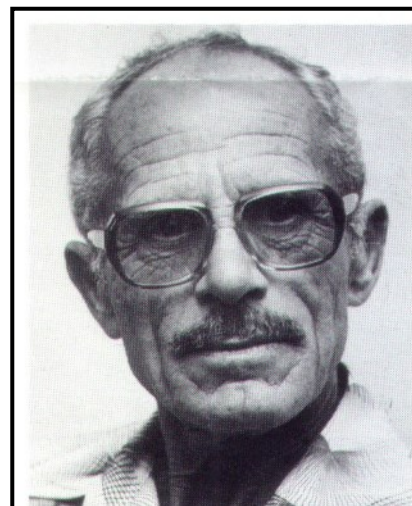
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In 1956 Alex found work as a factory hand at Dairy Vale's Kondoparinga Cheese Factory in Meadows. The couple bought Betty's parent's old house in Meadows that same year. In 1957 Alex was appointed as a cheese-maker, and in 1964 was promoted to factory foreman, continuing to make cheese until the factory was closed down in 1967.

Following this he was transferred across to the Dairy Vale Factory at Mount Compass where butter and powdered milk were produced, with Alex continuing as factory foreman. He was promoted to Production Supervisor in 1979 and after 28 years with Dairy Vale, he retired at the age of 61. Alex and Betty continued to live at Meadows during this time.

Betty passed away in 2000 and Alex in 2009, both are buried in the cemetery at Meadows.

(Note: Ronda Arthur, a pianist, recalls that Betty's brother, Allan Watson, was a drummer who she combined with during the war years to play at various events in the hall and nearby towns. Both mothers of these two young 17 year olds would accompany them as chaperones of course.)



A photograph of Alex Dier taken from a newspaper article about his retirement from Dairy Vale

* The Kelly property was previously owned by the Smiths, being the second block on the left, along Blackfellows Creek Road after crossing the ford.

References: Susanne (Sue) Milnes (nee Dier), trove.nla.gov.au, Ronda Arthur, SAILIS land title search,

Music in the Hall 1968 - 1975

Some of you may recall the hugely popular New Year's Eve Balls and fundraising dances that were held in the Hall. Three of the bands that performed during the 1968 to 1975 period included local man, Phil Peters, as the lead singer. (2nd from right in the rare photo below).

The Fanatics are captured here performing at the reception held in the Mount Compass Hall for Phil's sister, Lynette, when she married Bruce Harvey of Milang, in April 1969.

Continued on following page...

"The Fanatics" 1968-69, "The Acoustics" 1970 and 'Majestic Knights' 1971-75



Continued from previous page.

The band that Phil fronted changed its name three times as various members left and were replaced. Through each iteration however, they were keenly sought after for various local shows. Phil recalls that the hall in Mt Compass was the band's favourite destination, with its timber dance floor easily rating as the best on the Fleurieu.

Well known among locals for his marvellous voice, Phil sang at Mt Compass on many occasions.

It was not long after he had taken on the role of Frank, the prison governor, in the South Coast Choral & Arts Society's 1968 performance of "Die Fledermaus" that he would join The Fanatics. With the band's immediate popularity requiring all his time, this would be the one and only Choral Society show in which he performed.

Phil Peters still remembers how he would be required to sing up to 60 or 70 songs each night, with two or three shows held a week. At this time he was still working at his parent's dairy on Nangkita Road.

Other band members included: Colin Turner (of Mt Jagged, the son of Murray & Evelyn Turner), Brian Tugwell (Yankalilla), Peter Clark, and Trevor Sheridan (both of Victor Harbor). The members were mainly beef or dairy farmers, along with two mechanics (Colin and Trevor). Although Peter Clark was their main drummer, a high school student named Ian Thorn did fill in for the band's Acoustics year.

The band(s) regularly played at Balls on Friday nights followed by 60/40 dances and 21st birthdays on Saturdays, performing at the Mt Compass hall every two months or so. Some other venues they played at included the Victor Harbor Town Hall, Myponga Hall, Yankalilla Ag. Hall, Hindmarsh Valley Hall, Inman Valley Memorial Hall and Goolwa's Centennial Hall and Masonic Hall.

A simple search of past newspapers via the trove website shows that in the 9th May 1969 edition of the Victor Harbor Times, five adverts for various events featuring The Fanatics can be found at venues around the Fleurieu.

After changes to the band, such as the addition of keyboards, and Trevor Beer on saxophone, they changed their name to 'The Acoustics' for 1970, then 'Majestic Knights' up until 1974, when they disbanded. However, they were persuaded to reform for one more huge Mt Compass New Year's Eve Ball in 1975, which would be their final show as a band.

They had by then performed here for five consecutive New Year's Eve shows. (*Refer Victor Harbor Times 1975 ad on right*).

Leigh Duffield who was Chair of the Community Centre at this time recalls that at one point, regular weekly dances were being held at the hall, and proved to be valuable fundraisers, helping to pay off the hall's outstanding debt.

The New Year's Eve Balls were especially popular, with one memorable dance selling more tickets (over 600) than the hall could legally accommodate. Leigh still remembers standing centre stage, counting down the start of the new year and feeling decidedly uneasy about whether it was safe to release all the balloons hanging above the crowd. The hall was so crowded that no part of the floor could be seen, and he was concerned about what a mass rush for the balloons would result in. Of course, everyone survived and had a great time.

Strange as it may seem in this day and age, these were all dry shows, with no alcohol allowed within three hundred yards of the hall. The closest point that locals could legally consume alcohol was at the gate into Willowburn farm, on the southern outskirts of Mount

Compass. This was known locally as 'Duffield's Gate' after the farm's manager, Geoff Duffield, and proved to be a valuable resource for fundraising groups, who found a ready supply of empty beer bottles there each week.

**NEW YEAR'S
EVE
BALL
MOUNT COMPASS
MEMORIAL HALL
WEDNES. 31st DEC.
10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Majestic Knight's Band.
Admission \$1.50.
Air-conditioned Hall.**

Thanks to Phil Peters, Peter Clark and Leigh Duffield for their assistance with this article.



Hope Forest (Dingabledinga) History Books On Sale

For those who may not know, the development of Hope Forest and the nearby Montarra and Dingabledinga settlements closely reflect the neighbouring Yundi and Enterprise Colony depression era schemes.

At a recent history afternoon held at Dingabledinga Hall (just behind the Hope Forest CFS shed) three very knowledgeable speakers outlined the hows and wherefores regarding why Hope Forest came into being (hint: the name is a clue). The afternoon was entitled “Depression to Hope - Hope Forest & the Great Depression”.

The settlements listed above were each formed during the depression years of the early 1930s, by families attempting to escape chronic unemployment in the Port Adelaide area. (Mt Compass also had another smaller, private settlement at the Lagoon, which could house just two families at a time. This was where the strawberry farm is now located.)

Fifteen unemployed men started clearing the scrub under the Hope Forest scheme, constructing homes on their allotted acreages prior to being joined by their wives and accompanying sixty one children. Despite the best of intentions, as with our schemes at Yundi and Enterprise Colony, they were destined to fail. They did however, open up the land for the following settlers to better establish themselves, and who were in a position to make their own decisions about choices of crops and livestock.

The Hope Forest School (which closed in 1970) was established for this group of children, as was the Yundi School for its 51 students (that school closed in 1963). All these settlements that were only a few kilometres apart had similar hopes and dreams at a time when the whole world was looking a little bleak. Excessive bureaucracy, properties too small and poorly resourced, along with unreasonable expectations, are a few of the issues that arose for these families, many of whom were hard working.

Two well-researched books cover this history. The first, “**Beyond The Range**” details the Hope Forest district’s history and costs \$49.50, while the latest book, “**Within Living Memory**”, covers past residents’ memories and can be purchased for \$35.

Anyone interested in purchasing either of these fascinating Hope Forest history books can email Bev Rowe at: neville.rowe1@bigpond.com



A mosaic constructed by the **Mount Compass Lifestyle Group** was unveiled on the 20th October this year. These photographs highlight some of the women who worked on this project.

Above: Janine Raven, Dorothy Walker, Lauren Brown, Cynthia Bowles, Dawn Jessen, Colleen Griggs, Denise Martin, Maureen Orrock, Fay Williams, Pat Giles, Carole Perry & Linda Anderson.

Right: Fay Williams and Cynthia Bowles indicating the particular square they worked on, while below (L to R) are Carole Perry, Glenda Connor and Linda Anderson also proudly pointing out their handiwork.



The views & opinions reflected in this Journal do not represent the views of the Mt Compass War Memorial Community Centre Inc.

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of articles printed here. If you wish to advise of any corrections required or can add further information regarding any item, please contact me using the address below.

Most importantly: if you have any information, documents or photographs that that could be of interest to the Archives please give me a call or send an email.

Steve Kettle (mtcompassarchives@gmail.com)