

THE MOUNT COMPASS ARCHIVES

CHRONICLE

A FORUM TO PROMOTE THE HISTORY & ARCHIVES OF MOUNT COMPASS

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1950s Butcher Shop & Residence

Taken in the early 1950s, the above photograph shows the butcher shop and attached house in all their glory during a time when **Dean Edwards** owned this business. His daughter, Jane Harding, called in recently to visit our current butcher, Deryk De Kruyf, with her dad's old photo album, which included this gem.

Dean and his wife Shirley (nee Healey) left their dairy farm at Hope Forest to take over running the business here from 1951 to 1953. That decision was made once Dean realised that the early mornings and never ending routine of milking cows was not for him.

His life had not been plain sailing though. When he was aged just 18 months, Dean lost his leg after being accidentally shot by his older brother who had discovered their father's gun. His leg had to be amputated high on the thigh, after which he wore a timber 'peg leg' for the rest of his life. Although, his daughter recalled that when Dean was at home he would rather just hop around without any support.

The loss of his leg did not stop him from living a full life, including trying to enlist as a butcher in the army during World War 2 (his offer was declined). Dean continued in the profession when he left here—going to work for a butcher at Strathalbyn (his daughter would also become a butcher).

The family photo album not only survived the seventy years from when this picture was taken, it also survived the recent River Murray floods when the whole of Jane's lower storey was under water with the house (and all its photos) left flood bound for many weeks, along with most others along the river.

(More of Dean's photographs can be found on page 12)

Editorial

Welcome to the winter edition of this newsletter.

The football club is a key focus in these pages as it approaches the 100 year celebration of the first competitive team to be formed back in 1924. The fact that a small town like ours has been able to compete for so long against the larger Fleurieu towns is testament to the commitment of all those involved over the years. Where some other clubs have chosen to amalgamate to remain viable, the **Mount Compass Football Club** has not only survived, but flourished.

The story of this proud club's early years can be found on page 4.

The **Wall Hanging** that has been a fixture in our Memorial Hall for over thirty years now has just been re-housed. Thanks to funding from the New Moon newsletter's dispersal of funds, a secure but accessible alcove has been constructed in the Supper Room. Photographs and information from the original unveiling and the more recent event can be found on page 13.

Our appeal for your historic photographs or documents relating to the history of this district is ongoing. Page 12 has a few of the photos kindly supplied to us by Jane Harding, the daughter of one of our early butchers.

With the football centenary celebrations just around the corner, we are putting a specific call out for anything you may still have around the house (or boxed in the shed) that you are willing to share for this occasion. An old item of uniform or a trophy would be useful, even one of the early Minute books that have somehow gone astray over the years would be welcomed by the Archives and Football Club.

For those of you who have spent time on the Community Centre committee (which would be many readers) there is an interesting article noting the early **Hall Trustees** that starts on page 10.

Enjoy the memories and keep warm

Steve Kettle
(8556 8444)

MOUNT COMPASS, September 2.—A public meeting was held in the hall on Monday evening. The trustees stated that there was a debt of about £98 on the building, and it had been a difficult matter to raise sufficient money to pay interest on the loan. When the building was erected it was for school and public use. The allowance from the Education Department used to pay about half the interest on the mortgage, but the allowance to buildings for school purposes in the country had been so much reduced that it was barely sufficient to pay for wear and tear. Mr. Peters, who presided, said it was the largest public meeting held at the hall since its inception. Mr. Gowling (secretary) gave particulars of accounts. It was thought most unfair that the trustees should have to find all the deficient interest. The trustees started a subscription list on the motion of Mr. E. C. Good, and a substantial sum was collected in the room. Mr. Peters read a letter from the Commissioner of Crown Lands intimating that he would set aside for a cemetery an acre of section No. 323, Hundred of Nangkita.

News reports from the past

Left: The Observer, 11 Sept 1909 reporting on the Hall Trustees running short of money. (see page 10)

Below: A football report from the club's early days as Nangkita Athletic Club -Victor Harbor Times 20 July 1928

JUNIOR FOOTBALL.

Nangkita Athletic United, 2 goals 10 behinds, Victor Harbour B Grade, 6 points. T. Haskett (2 goals for Nangkita).

Best players: Nankita—H. Simonds, A. Hurrell, H. Brown, H. Inglis and Charlie; Victor—A. Chaplin, L. Overall, T. Lewis, H. Armstrong, and G. Ryan.

Obituaries

Mark Maywald (1949-2023) Mark, who passed away on 6th March, was manager of the State Bank in Mount Compass from 1981 to 1985. He lived in the bank house with his wife Veronica (Von) and their two children Ben and Amy - who both attended the Mt Compass School. He willingly took on the role of Secretary with the Community Centre during his time here.

Michelle Barrett - Long term residents of Mt Compass would be devastated to hear that Michelle Barrett has died at the age of 48, leaving a husband & three teenage children. She played netball here and was a champion Division 1 tennis player, winning the Country Singles Under 18 Championship at Memorial Drive. Her parents John & Janette were very prominent in the Mt Compass tennis club and established the fruit and veg shop before Melita Hicks took over. Michelle attended the Mt Compass Area School and went on to become a teacher, spending 18 years at Sacred Heart.

Douglas Clifford Box (1945 - 2023) - Doug worked for Alan Bennetts at the sand mine and golf course from 1989 into the 2000s and worked as a volunteer with the Compass Cup. His daughter Bronwyn & her husband Shane Monaghan live in Mt Compass.

Roger Ivan Gropler (1945 -2023) - Was the son of Ivan Gropler the local butcher who worked here from 1953 to 1959. Roger and his sister Suzanne attended the Mount Compass school during that time. They had arrived in Mt Compass from Myponga and left for Barmera while in their grade seven year.

Mary Patricia McInerney nee Black (1941 - March 2023) -The daughter of Donald & Ronagh Black of Woodcone Road (section 207). Mary, who had married Ian McInerney of Robe, passed away peacefully in that town at the age of 81.

Thomas (Tom) William Farmer - Passed away in February this year at the age of 96. He married a local girl, Carlene Anderson, in 1953. Lately they had been living in retirement at Victor Harbor after spending their life in Naracoorte. Tom and Carlene had both supported the Mt Compass Archives by providing us with access to their family photographs taken at Mt Compass during the 1940s & 1950s.

Vern Hueppauff (1936-2023) - A brother to Robert (below) and son of Herb & Mona. His family lived on Section 341 of Cleland Gully Road. In 1952 Vern was the first President of the Senior Rural Youth in Mt Compass and he also played football for Mt Compass in the 1950s - as did Robert. Vern was a member of the 1954 Premiership team but would leave Mt Compass at the age of twenty one to work for Holdens at Elizabeth after marrying local girl, Coralie Palmer.

Robert Hueppauff (1938-2023) - An early member of the Junior Rural Youth in Mt Compass. He married Barbara McKenzie who was also a member of that group. Robert played A-Grade football for Mt Compass in the 1950s, including the 1959 Premiership winning team but left for WA in 1969, where he would remain for the rest of his life.

This Mount Compass A-Grade side from the 1950s includes both Vern and Robert Hueppauff.

Vern is fifth from the left, back row, and Robert is third from the left, front row.



Mount Compass Football Club

Celebrating 100 Years of Football

Part 1

For a club from a small central Fleurieu town with no major industrial or commercial enterprise to tap into for sponsorship support, the Mount Compass Football Club has managed to pull well above its own weight. The first organised football team was formed 100 years ago at a time when the area was simply a collection of rural properties, although the game had been played informally for years before this. The first team to play in an organised competition was a combined Nangkita-Mt Compass side.

The Pioneer Years

It is very likely that the first football match involving local players was a social game in 1894 involving the Nangkita Village Association and a team from Finness. The visitors, Finness, won by 5 goals to 3 on that occasion, with the only players named in newspapers as Messrs Taylor and Ryder. Formed during a time of great depression, this short-lived Village Association only existed from 1894 to 1896 as a project designed to provide a subsistence living to unemployed families from Port Adelaide.

Some of these families remained in the district, with at least three of the historic 1924 side, Jim & Eric McKinlay and Tom Langley, originating from these early settler families.

It is recorded that the first community football to be used in this district was purchased in 1900 using money raised by Archibald (Arch) Peters. He later recalled in a written piece for the *Entre Nous* newsletter (May 1973) that as a boy, he had called on every home in the district to raise the 12/6 (\$1.25) necessary to purchase such a match ball. Arch would go on to become the first Club President, captain and coach, and played his final game of football at the ripe old age of 50.

He also recalled that some of the men that lived close to the school would coach the schoolboys at lunch time on basics such as picking up the ball and drop kicking etc. In those early 1900s there were never enough players to form a worthwhile team but those that were keen did play an occasional match with one of the nearby clubs. Towards the 1920s, scratch matches began to be played against teams from Willunga, Hindmarsh Valley, Mount Jagged and Myponga.

Names mentioned as being amongst the organisers of games at that time included the brothers Sid & Len Wienert, and Laurie Ekers whose son Colin would go on to play a significant role in the development of this club. At Mt Jagged, George Hicks and Jack Sneyd rounded up players to form a scratch team while others organised a team under the Mt Compass name. Eventually these two teams combined together in the hope of reaching sufficient numbers to form a full team, with the Mt Jagged side then disbanding.

Local social games of 10 or 12 a side are also known to have been organised between married & single men, with players wearing their everyday boots and clothing.

Grounds

Around the turn of last century, games would be played to the west of what is now Roadman's Reserve on what was also the school's playground at the time. The old Roadman's cottage located there was the venue for the requisite social dancing that followed these matches. The ground apparently had obstacles such as pot holes and stumps to trouble the players while the goals were simply two trees pruned back to the trunk.

Games would later be played at various properties in the district where there was a sufficiently flat area: Bruce's land (later PB Angus Parsons' property) on Cleland Gully Road, another property on Pages Flat Road, one on the corner of Lanacoona and Victor Harbor Roads (now Brokenshire's dairy), another at the southern corner of Victor Harbor & Goolwa Roads and for several years, the Peters' family property on Nangkita Road were all used as football grounds.

A newspaper report from 1920 noted that when a Hindmarsh Valley team visited here to play the Mt Compass team, the ground was described as "all water". The 'Valleys' as they were known, won by eight points, but it was a low scoring game with the visitors managing 3-7 while A Waye kicked the sole Mount Compass goal although 11 behinds were also kicked. As was usual, the day wound up at the Hall for tea, followed by a concert and dance and ending with supper.

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1924

This is the year that finally saw a football club come into existence. Having enough players at last, they affiliated with the Southern Association's B-Grade competition, under the name of **Mt Compass-Nangkita**. This **Southern Football Association (SFA)** which had been formed in 1886 had gone through a number of transformations but became a four-team competition in 1924, involving clubs from Willunga, McLaren Vale & Hillside (who changed their name to McLaren Flat in 1946) and this new Mt Compass-Nangkita side. Without a junior competition in those days the larger clubs regularly played younger boys in these B-Grade teams.

The Mt Compass team colours were listed as chocolate-brown and blue (although some remember it as green) with black shorts (labelled 'knickers' on the official program) unfortunately, no surviving item of clothing from those days has been located.

The local driving-force, **Arch Peters**, was nominated as the team's captain/coach. Other players in that first season were: **Laurie & Len Leane, Bill & George Hailstone, Jim McKinlay, Albert Waye, A Knott, Bert White, Alb, Alex, Frank & Harry Simons, Geoff Stone, Tom Langley, Hugh Jacobs, Ted Haskett, Den Ottewell, George Arthur and Eric McKinlay.** (The last two men were absent from what has become widely known as the first team photo - shown below).



This is the first known photograph of a Mount Compass– Nangkita football team. By 1946 the colours were noted as “Chocolate and Blue with black knickers” in the official ‘**programme of matches**’ brochure, which may be the same as the colours worn here.

Back row: Laurie Leane, William (Bill) Hailstone, Jim McKinlay, Albert Waye, Alf Knott, Bert White, Alex Simons,

Middle row: George Hailstone, Geoffrey Stone, Tom Langley, Hugh Jacobs, Frank Simons, Cecil Skewes (suit),

Front row: Frank Ellbourne, Ted Haskett, Harry Simons, Arch Peters (captain), Albert Simons, Len Leane, Den Ottewell.

(Having four members of the Simons family now living in the area was decisive to this team being formed).



This photograph is believed to have been taken in about 1925. The team was not part of any organised league competition in that year (that we know of), but did play friendly scratch matches against local sides.

L to R: Mel Jacobs, Den Ottewell, Bill Hailstone, Tom Langley, H Simons, Alf Knott, Albert Simons, E Haskett, George Arthur, Arch Peters, Alec Simons, L Leane, A Wright (White?), F Ellbourne, F Simons, Albert Waye, Hugh Jacobs, Geoff Stone, George Hailstone, Richard Peters.

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From Hall records, a football meeting is known to have been held in the Mount Compass Hall in May 1924 with fundraising dances held in June and August. A euchre party (card game) & dance was also held in 1925 at the hall followed by another social in June 1926, although whether the team played in any organised competition in the years immediately after that first season is doubtful. The Hall Finance book listed this booking under the name of “**Football & Athletic Club**”, which may explain the name adopted by the next registered team.

1928

The next known year in which a local team played organised football was 1928 when a team under the name of “**Nangkita Athletic Club**” joined the **Great Southern Football Association (GSFA)**. This League had been formed in 1923 and now expanded to include a B-Grade competition made up of Encounter Bay, Victor Harbor and this new Nangkita team. At that time, Nangkita was the largest population centre for this district, also boasting the Nangkita Cricket Club and Nangkita Tennis Club.

From newspaper reports this team won at least two of their games with the following players listed: Albert Waye, Ted Haskett, A & H Simound (likely Simons), Giles, A Hurrell, H Brown, H Inglis, George Arthur, Geoff & J Stone, Curnow, Leane and someone simply recorded as ‘Charlie’.

The possible formation of a B-Grade (aka Juniors) Association the following year that would include **Nangkita**, Yankalilla, Port Elliot, Encounter Bay, Victor Harbor and Willunga was reported in the newspapers but as no results were ever posted that year, it may not have gone ahead.

The **1930** season however, did see a team under the name of **Mount Compass** competing in the **Southern Association’s** B-Grade. That Association’s A-Grade competition consisted of five teams (Noarlunga, Willunga, Aldinga, Hillside & McLaren Vale) while the B-Grade competition had four teams – Myponga, McLaren Vale, Hillside and **Mount Compass**. No results for this competition were reported in newspapers over the ensuing years however, and any records of these matches being played, cannot be found.

The only known players listed in reports for that 1930 season were: Arch Peters, J (George?) Arthur, Albert Simons, S Curnow and McKinlay.

The next mention of any local football team is when the **Fleurieu Football Association** was founded in **1934** by clubs from Mount Compass, Yankalilla, Myponga and Second Valley. Mount Compass and Myponga previously played in the Southern Football Association B-Grade competition while Yankalilla had played in the Great Southern Football Association but had, in more recent times, only taken part in challenge matches.

Yankalilla’s first preference had been to re-join the GSFA in that year but, for whatever reason, this had been opposed unanimously by the other clubs involved. As a consequence they canvassed Mount Compass and Myponga about forming their own Association, which did go ahead, along with the inclusion of Second Valley, a newly formed club based at Rapid Bay.

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By all accounts the Fleurieu Association teams had an evenly balanced season, apart from Second Valley, who struggled to be competitive. The premierships race was a battle right to the end for the other three clubs with Yankalilla eventually taking out the premiership. A Woods of Myponga, with 33 votes won the Association medal for the best & fairest player, **S. Patfull of Mount Compass was runner-up with 19 votes** and C. Kelly (Yankalilla) was third with 16. Myponga's A Woods was also the leading goalkicker for that season.

Amongst the players for 1934, as printed in the papers, were: Arch Peters (Club President), Alb Simons (Secretary), H Brown (captain), Allen Lee (vice-captain), Curnow, Teddy Ellbourne, Weinert, Jones, Arthur, McAvoney, Robertson, Stan Roberts, S Patfull, Groeke, Simons, Clifford, McLean, Ottewell and Knott.

This Association only survived for that one year however, with Yankalilla being allowed into the GSFL for the next season. Myponga went the other way, to the Southern Football League, and the Second Valley side folded with their remaining players going to Yankalilla. The only Grand Final for that Association's competition saw Yankalilla 9-11 defeating Myponga 4-9. Mount Compass appears to have only played in scratch matches in the years following this failed competition.

In June of 1935 a game was reported on between the Port Elliot side (who were having a 'day-off' from their five-team competition) and Mount Compass, with Port Elliot winning this match 10-15 to 6-9. This Mount Compass side then played Goolwa the following week, only just losing 6-9 to 6-6. Players listed for these games included: S Curnow, R Polomka, L Weinert, H Brown, K & H Jones, S C Jones, J Arthur, A S Patfull, L Weinert, Lee and P Grotto.

The next time Mount Compass would field a team in any competition would be **1940**, when they joined **Great Southern**, where their opponents would be Yankalilla, Encounter Bay, Victor Harbor & Port Elliot.

Players that year included Curnow, Skinner, Rosewall, Boland, Verrall, Shepherd, Whibley, B Smith, R Lane, Groeke, H Brown & Dodd.

With the outbreak of war, all football competition halted for the years 1941- 1945, resuming once again in 1946.

Following the official end of the war in September 1945, Mount Compass and Victor Harbor played a fundraising match in aid of the Red Cross. What was termed 'a fair number of spectators' saw Mt Compass win this game by just one point, 3-5 to 3-4. The players were obviously keen to pull on their boots again but the club decided rather than join the GSFL once more, they would opt to join the **Southern Football Association (SFA)**.

This Association featured only an A-Grade competition in that year, consisting of seven teams: Aldinga, McLaren Flat, McLaren Vale, Morphett Vale, Myponga, Willunga and Mount Compass. In 1963 the Association would change its name to become the **Southern Football League (SFL)**.

The home ground at that time was still the Verco family's farm paddock (later owned by future team captain, Geoff O'Halloran Giles and where an even later captain, Nick Brokenshire, would operate his own dairy). The Vercos generously offered this land on the corner of Lanacoona and Victor Harbor Road for the use of both the football and cricket teams. (The two clubs would not play on their own oval until 1950/51.) Colin Ekers later recalled that the changerooms consisted of jute bags strung between trees, while their uniform was simply a rag tied around their arms.

Mount Compass finished a creditable 3rd in that re-started **1946** competition, winning seven games and losing five, while managing to reach the Preliminary Final where they lost to the Minor Premiers, McLaren Flat.

The registered players for that year's competition were listed on the official program as:

S Adams, C & S Anderson, Erk Anderson, H Appledore, F Arthur, E Beaumont, Hector Brown, J Byron, J Caddy, D Chigwidden, R Coles, Keith, Stan & Sam Curnow, Ken Ekers, H Haskett, S Haywood, C Hobbs, L Jacobs, S Jones, R G Lane, B Leane, P Leane, Arch Peters, D Picard, W Pryce, S J Quinn, D Rosewall, L Shepherd, Ray Stone, B Symons, Don Tonkin, M Turner, G Tynan, B & V Verrall, B Wehr and A Wyborn.

In **1947** Port Noarlunga also joined the competition, with Mount Compass finishing the season in 5th place, just outside the final four. It is interesting to note that during this season any returned servicemen were exempted from qualifying rules regarding eligibility to play in finals. Gate charges of 11d (just under 10c) applied to all matches in the competition.

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1948 saw the introduction of a B-Grade competition which, despite the best of intentions, may have stretched the Club just a bit too far. Only four of the clubs had expanded to include both an A and B side, with Mt Compass one of those accepting this challenge. It seems to have fallen flat however, as the A-Grade side finished bottom of their table and the B-Grade were forced to forfeit their only finals match (all four sides at this level went straight into the finals).

In **1949** a team from Aldinga joined the competition, which now boasted nine clubs. Following on from the unsuccessful attempt to field two sides the previous season, Mount Compass only managed a depleted A-Grade team in this year. That side, with many young players, struggled for the whole season, finishing bottom of the table with only one win for the year, a home game against Morphett Vale.

1950 saw the Mount Compass team again consisting mainly of young local men, bounce back with a vengeance. In a turnaround year this side only lost three of their matches for the whole season, recording 13 wins to finish in second place on the table.

This was enough to give them two shots in the finals. The second semi-final saw Mt Compass go down 14-11 to 7-11 against the minor Premiers, Willunga. This put them in the Preliminary Final against McLaren Vale who they managed to beat in a close battle by just two points, 8-11 to 8-9.

This meant they had to once again face the strong Willunga side who had won the previous two Grand Finals and were on their way to winning what would be five Grand Finals in a row. Despite their best efforts, the end result was probably known well before that final bell, going down 13-13 to 5-10.

The players in that valiant 1950 side are listed below.



The above photo is a poor quality photocopy but we would love to know who has the original - if it still exists.

Back row: T Unsworth (trainer), unk, V O'Grady, Geoff O'Halloran Giles, G Tynan, I Houston, R McKinlay,
2nd row: H Watson (trainer) R Polkinghorne (trainer), R Lewis, Keith Tonkin, Allan Tonkin, Keith Curnow,
 L Heading, W (Bill) Nash Snr,
3rd row: A Dier, John Kemp, A Russell,
Sitting: R Cooper, Ken Clifford, Don Tonkin, Johnny Haywood, G Stevens,
Front: Norm Anderson.

The Southern competition at this stage consisted of McLaren Vale, Willunga, Reynella, Port Noarlunga, Morphett Vale, McLaren Flat, Myponga, Aldinga and Mount Compass.

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1951 saw them attempt to field two sides again, buoyed no doubt by the previous season's good result. The A's finished in a heart-breaking fifth place, on equal points with the fourth placed team, Reynella, who made it into the finals. The competition had ten A-Grade teams by this year.

In a very close division that consisted of seven sides, the B's did technically finish second to bottom (6th), but those first six teams all finished within four points of each other.

A past player for Mt Compass, Erk Anderson was one of the ten League vice presidents in 1951, with M Nevelle recorded as the club secretary. Messrs Nevelle & O'Grady were also the club's delegates to the association, with Mount Compass now playing in their **new colours** of maroon with gold collar & cuffs, and white knickers.

A home ground at last

Ken Ekers recalled (in *Entre Nous* of June 1997) that work on the town oval first began in 1937 and was a huge undertaking that took 10 years to complete. "*We had to carve tons of sandstone out of the side of a hill with tractors and horses*". He also noted that Basil Proctor, Art Nitschke and Jim Ellis paid their worker's wages while they worked on the project. "*Practically every family in the district made a contribution*".

The Mount Compass town oval was first used by the football club in 1950, after being enlarged into a more suitable playing facility for the club. The oval was levelled and grassed in the late 1940s with Hall Committee Minutes noting that the Football Club were given permission in June of 1950 to practice on the oval on Sunday mornings until 11.00 o'clock. The position would be reviewed after one month but, as it does not appear to have been mentioned again in the Minutes, the trial must have been successful.

After six seasons in the Southern Football League and facing the arduous journey up and down old Willunga Hill, Mount Compass decided in **1952** to move across to the more rural **Great Southern Football League (GSFL)**. This then became a seven team competition consisting of Victor Harbor, Encounter Bay, Port Elliot, Goolwa, The Valleys, Yankalilla and Mount Compass.

The Mount Compass Football Club has continued to compete in this competition up to the present day.

References: SA Country Football Digest -P Lines, Allan Jolly SFA history records, trove, Southern Football Assoc. records on wikipedia, Australian Rules Football wiki, Mt Compass Archive records. 'Where The Compass Leads You' by Linton Jacobs.



The expanded oval was levelled and grassed during the 1946 - 1947 period but was not played upon until 1950/51 when the turf had established itself sufficiently. The above photograph was one of a collection donated to the Archives by Bob McIntosh in 2011. They had been taken by his father Vern who was closely involved in the oval working bees. That project was carried out over two winters and supervised by a six man committee that comprised of: Basil Proctor (chairman), A Cox, Mel Jacobs, Jack Sneyd, Horrie Jacobs and Vern McIntosh.

Would you be a Trustee for the Hall?

Ever thought about who the first community members were that stepped forward and accepted the legal responsibility of managing our local Hall(s)? Would you have done this? The Trustees up until the formation of the Mount Compass War Memorial Community Centre Inc are explored here.

From the newspaper article on page 2, it is clear that if you were a Hall Trustee, the responsibility for the payment of interest on the Hall debt ended with you. The gentlemen mentioned below all put up their hands to ensure this town did have a viable hall and deserve to be remembered by those of us who are still benefitting from their selfless actions.

The Archives have custody of an incomplete collection of **Minute books** dating back to 1899 when the vacated roadman's cottage was referred to as the Hall. These books note the existence of both a group of Hall Trustees, and a Management Committee that consisted of all the Trustees and three community-elected members.

Following the building of a new hall in 1903 a new Management Committee was formed to oversee the daily operation of this community asset. It is not known if any or all of the Roadman's Cottage Trustees moved across to this Hall, but we do know the names of these trustees as per the Land Grant mentioned in a later **Declaration of Trust** from 1931.

This legal document provides us with valuable information about who these early custodians were that accepted the heady responsibility of caring for the community's assets.

The Trust Deed also states that the Hall land and what were described as 'hereditaments' (property),

"were purchased partly by subscription and partly by other means from the South Australian Government at auction on 4th day of June 1903, for the purpose of a Recreation and Amusement Hall for the inhabitants of the village and district of Mount Compass and its neighbourhood".

The Land Grant mentioned at the start was dated 7th October 1903 and granted to five local men, **Richard Peters, Robert Cameron, Charles Stephen Hancock, Arthur Charles Good** and **William Steel Gowling**, who became the original Trustees. *(Future editions of the Chronicle will look into the lives of these five men.)*

In 1912 the lands were then transferred to three new Trustees, **William Wright, Francis Edward Slater** and **Ernest Edward Jacobs**.

In that year, the Hall committee had found itself in dire financial straits, with the three men listed above, taking over the responsibility of turning things around. It is known from the later writings of Arch Peters and Linton Jacobs that a very civic minded market gardener, David Wright, *(below right)* had generously bailed out the Hall committee that year. Although Mr Wright did not then elect to become one of the new Trustees, his brother William did so. Unfortunately, the Minute books from 1912 to 1927 are yet to be located - if they still exist.

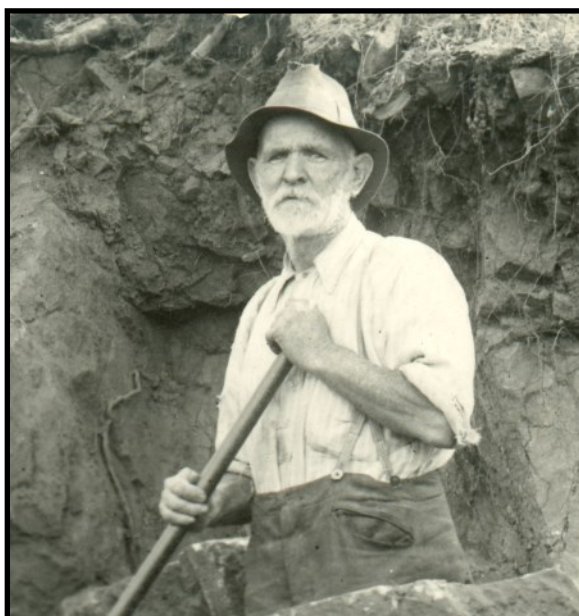
The new Trustees could only remain in the job while they continued to reside in the Mount Compass district.

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Two of the great contributors to this community.

Right: Mr Richard Peters.

Far Right: Mr David Wright.



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It appears that by the 1920s, at least one of them had left the area as amongst the few Annual General Meeting records from this time, is a motion moved by **Mr Richard Peters** in 1923 that “*the Trustees ask Mr F Slater to resign and the management re-constructed.*” The following AGM in 1924 reported that correspondence was tabled from **Mr F Slater** which was likely his formal resignation letter.

Presumably he had left the district and could no longer perform the role of Trustee but whether anyone was selected to take his place is not known. Those same Minutes proposed that “*the Committee (C Skewes, J Roberts & A J Peters) and the Trustees meet once every three months to consider the Hall business*”. Where records do exist from these early years, they are not especially detailed. Who attended meetings, or any positions they were voted into, were often not recorded, and sometimes not even whether a vote was actually held or passed.

Although the hall committee had the power to select replacement Trustees, if or when these decisions were ever made, rarely appear in the surviving Minute books. To complicate matters somewhat, the Trustees held meetings of their own from time to time, which we also do not have all the records for (if they were indeed recorded) while the Management Committee met at other times, with their records often lacking detail.

Everything changed again when on the 9th February 1931, the new Declaration of Trust was drawn up, with **Harry Pompsett McKinlay, Archibald James Peters, Melphoard Hugh Jacobs, Leonard Aubrey Leane and Ernest Edwards Jacobs** (*right*) recorded as the new Trustees for the ‘public’.

It was stated was that management and conservation of the trust premises would be vested in a committee that consisted of not less than eight persons. The Trustees themselves would be included as five members of that committee.

This combined committee was to be known as “**The Committee of Management of the Mount Compass Public Hall**”. (The 1931 Declaration document would remain in place up until 1953 when the “**Mount Compass War Memorial Community Centre**” became an incorporated body with its own constitution in readiness for a brand new Hall.)

The three additional members selected by the community to join the 1931 committee were listed as **Cecil John Skewes, Alexander Samuel Henry Simons** and **James Lewis Roberts** who had all been “nominated by the residents of Mount Compass and its vicinity”.

These three additional (non Trustee) members had to retire on the 31st May each year but would then be eligible for re-election.

The Committee of Management was required to appoint a Chairman and a Secretary for the ensuing year, but no requirement for a treasurer was mentioned. ‘Proper’ accounts of any money received had to be kept, and in June of each year an annual balance sheet needed to be presented at the annual meeting of the residents of the district. This financial duty was viewed as one of the responsibilities of the Secretary. The committee was granted the power to appoint new Trustees - it was not an electable position.

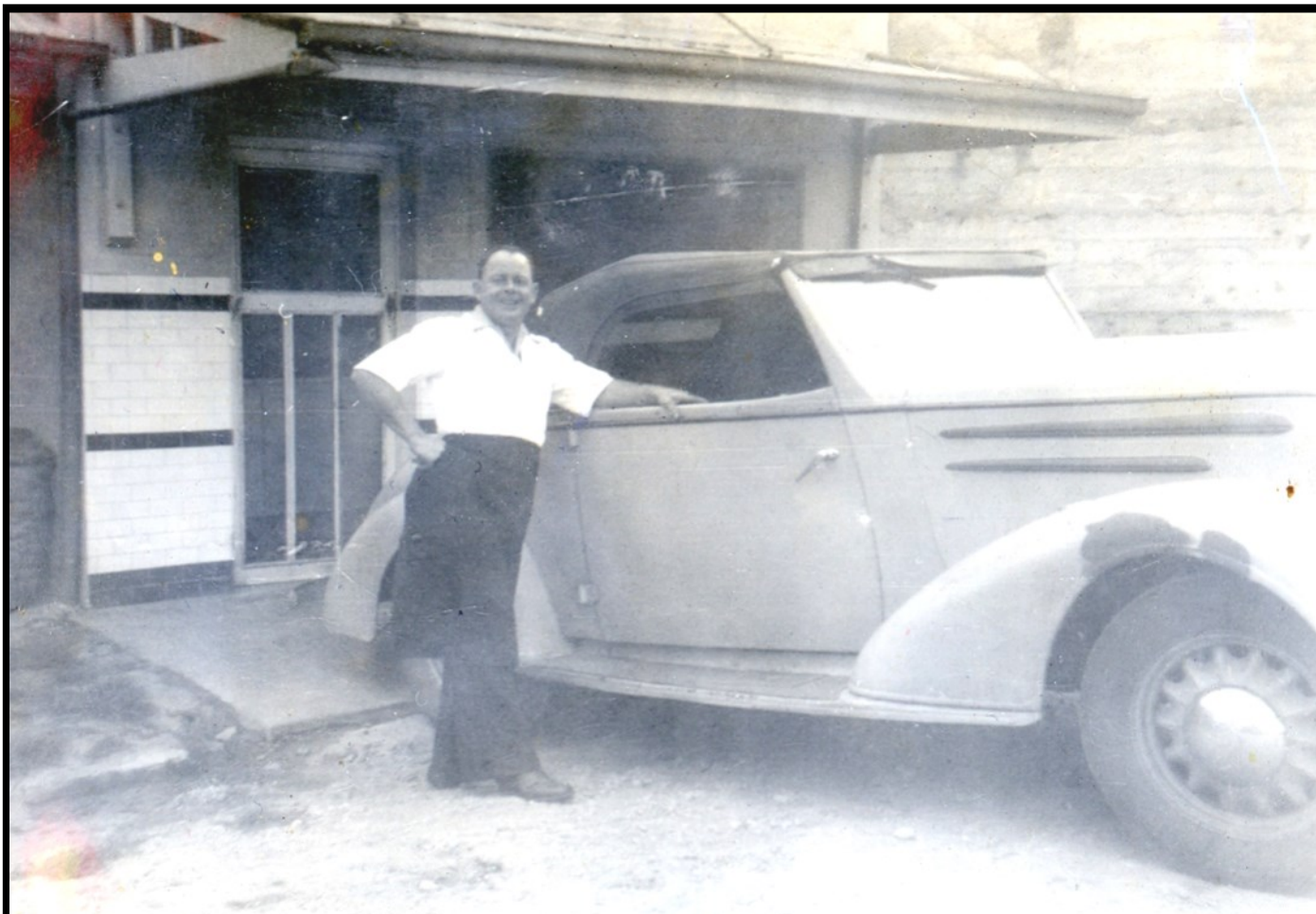
The are holes in the information we know. Although the 1931 Declaration of Trust does note the 1903 and 1912 Trustees along with the Trustees for that year, any possible replacement members from the intervening years were not listed. Two of the 1912 members (**W Wright & F Slater**) are recorded as having left this district by 1931 and hence could no longer act as Trustees but who, if anyone, ever took their place is not known.

From the surviving Minute books stored in the Archives, **Richard Peters** appears to have held the position of Chairman from 1899 up until at least 1912. **Ernest E Jacobs** (above), possibly from 1912, but at least from 1923, up until 1946 then held this position (he did sign the AGM Minutes from 1923 onwards, with the earlier ones missing). **Arch Peters**, the son of Richard, was the next Chairman from 1946 until 1956, overseeing the transition to the incorporated body that oversees the Hall today.



Ernest E Jacobs in the early 1900s

References: 'Where the Compass Leads You' by Linton Jacobs, Mt Compass Archive documents, including surviving Hall Committee Minute books.



Three more of Dean Edward's photographs from his daughter, Jane Harding.

Above: Dean in about 1951, proudly standing alongside his car, in front of the butcher's shop.

Below left: Dean Edwards enjoying a pipe –those were the days.

Below right: Shirley Edwards and a family member behind the butcher's residence. On the right hand side of this photo is the rear view of the old **Bank of Adelaide**, which is now the Fleurieu Dish cafe. By coincidence, people may recall that a cafe had also been operated here a few years back by Erica & Barry Gottfried. Barry was another of the butchers in Mount Compass, from 1959 to 1961.



The Wall Hanging Finds a New Home

Just recently, the Wall Hanging originally placed in the main Memorial Hall, was moved to a purpose-built display alcove in the Supper Room, thanks in part, to money donated by the now defunct New Moon newsletter.

This transfer was celebrated on 13th April with a symbolic cutting of a ribbon by Chris Jerram and Raelene Draheim (*refer photo on following page*). Chris represented the 'New Moon' donors and Raelene had coordinated the original project.

Bill Coomans, the local Councillor (& deputy mayor) along with his wife Denise were the driving forces behind this re-siting which will now allow visitors the opportunity to view at eye-level, the intricate details of this unique community project.

Back in the late 1980s, the original concept behind this Wall Hanging was that it would be a Bicentennial activity as explained in a letter sent from Raelene to the Community Centre:

“...a scheme to bring together members of this community and create a record to mark the year 1988, while providing something to look back at in the future.”

Prior to this, a night class had been held in the school's Home Economics room for those interested in “patchwork, quilting & applique”. Raelene, who would become the project's coordinator, had herself attended these classes for a year before then taking over the teaching role. The idea for a community project had its origins in these classes and her involvement with other quilting groups.

The project did receive both the endorsement and backing of the Community Centre Committee, who agreed to supply a workspace and any required materials. The actual work was carried out in a small room at the hall that had at times been a doctor's surgery, the Entre Nous newsletter room, a hair salon and the Tim Stokes op-shop. Since the 2016 redevelopment, this space has become an extension of the women's toilets.

Up to eight volunteers at a time would work on the Wall Hanging at the group's fortnightly sessions which took place over a period of about two years.

The finished work is in the style of a quilt, (generally layers of fabric held together with quilting stitches), and it incorporates patchwork, applique and embroidery techniques.

The fifteen people who participated in making this Wall Hanging were:

Raelene Draheim, Marlene Connor, Betty Mayhew, Louise Blakely, Gael Maloney, Helen Gardiner, Sophia Russin, Dorothy Jacobs, Jo Gilpin, Wendy Ness, Ronda Arthur, Cindy Wyatt, Bina Burnside, Dorothy McKinlay and Katrina Stewart.

(All their names can be seen embroidered around the edge of the Wall Hanging.)

On 21st November 1990, two hundred people watched the unveiling carried out by Angela Bannon, wife of John Bannon, the State Premier. Angela was a self-confessed 'needle-person' and a strong supporter of the arts, reportedly taking great delight in attending events such as that.

Continued on following page...

Right– Four of the original workers who attended the April ceremony - Wendy Ness, Gael Maloney, Marlene Connor and Raelene Draheim.



Continued from previous page

The finished design has three sections running horizontally across the Hanging. The top section reproduces the view looking from the western side of Victor Harbor Road towards the shops and hills, the middle section has motifs of local products and four major businesses, the Dairy Vale factory, golf club factory and the sawmill (all of which are now closed) along with sand mining. The lower third depicts buildings on the opposite side of Victor Harbor Road such as the Hall, hardware store and school.

It was Raelene Draheim who sketched out most of the designs although Wendy Ness added the humorous central section with a Compass Cup depiction.

This wall hanging has now been cleaned and checked for deterioration by Artlab*, a leader in the conservation of cultural collections. This government entity is situated behind the Museum on North Terrace, where they carry out restoration work on many of our state's artworks and sculptures.

Although this project was completed thirty three years ago, it is intriguing to note what has changed since then. Indeed, during the two-years in which it was made, more than ten changes occurred to the buildings as they were being depicted. The project certainly achieved its goal however, of capturing that particular period in our time.

(Thank you to Raelene Draheim and Bill & Denise Coomans for their assistance in providing the information printed here.)

**Note: our own Mount Compass Archives has recently made use of this same Artlab's free advisory service to help ensure the secure storage of our historical community documents and artifacts.*



Raelene Draheim, Chris Jerram and Cr Bill Coomans at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Above is one of the photos in our collection showing some of the work being carried out on the Wall Hanging. Seen here are Gael Maloney, Wendy Ness, Dorothy Jacobs and Helen Gardiner working in the small room that was located under the stairs to the projector room (now the Archives). This room had seen various uses during its time but was gutted during the 2016 Foyer renovations to be included in the expanded women's toilets.



Above: A photograph with unknown players that could possibly be a combined scratch team to play another local side prior to the 1924 team. If anyone has seen this photo previously and can help verify who is in it, **please contact the Archives**. The photo has ended up in the hands of a person related to the Haskett family but its origins are unclear - although their tops look very similar to those in the team photograph on page 5.

Below: Two views of the original opening celebrations for the Wall Hanging (refer page 13). **Left** is Angela Bannon and Raelene Draheim, **right** is the Community Centre President, Clive Bennett (dressed for bowls).



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)