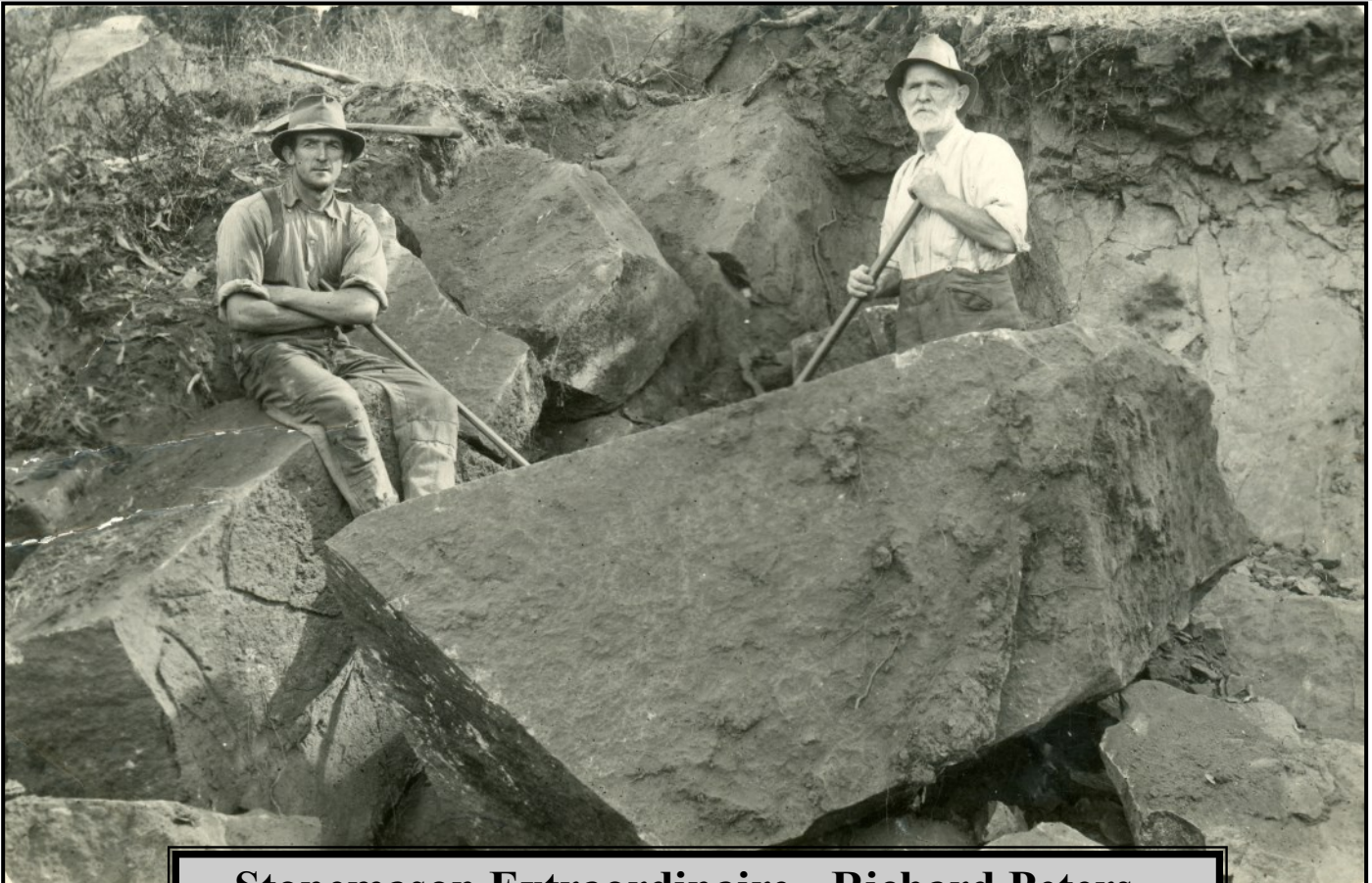


THE MOUNT COMPASS ARCHIVES

CHRONICLE

A FORUM TO PROMOTE THE HISTORY & ARCHIVES OF MOUNT COMPASS

No 23 DEC 2023



Stonemason Extraordinaire - Richard Peters

This wonderful photograph of Richard Peters and his second son, Sydney, was taken while they were quarrying stone for Syd's future house on Nangkita Road.

Using skills taught to him by his stonemason father in Cornwall, Richard dressed the stone and, with the help of his other sons, built a well-made spectacular house. He would eventually build, or help to build, five solid stone houses along this road, all of which are still occupied as residential homes.

The remains of the small quarry used for Syd's house is still visible above that home which, in 1976, was bought by John and Renee Thonard. It is now occupied (and being renovating by) John's daughter Merriwyn who, while tidying up the land, found a number of dog spikes (*two of which are shown here*) that helped confirm the tale that these large stones were carted down to the house site on a rail track.



Syd, a trained blacksmith, married Edith Stodart in 1920 with this photo likely to have been taken in the years immediately prior to that wedding. The ceremony was held in his parent's house on the same road (*see page 9*) and Syd, skilful with his hands, had made all their kitchen furniture before the wedding.

Having mainly worked on the family farm up to this time, Syd now became one of the drivers for his father's carrying business, Thornycroft Transport, before it was sold to the government. The couple and their three children then moved to Adelaide, where Syd worked for the railways at Mile End. (*see page 8 for more about Richard Peters*).

Editorial

I hope this Chronicle finds you all in good spirits and ready to face the new year.

Time seems to have slipped away but I'm sure many positive things have happened along with all the gloom that is presented on our tv screens. The good news is that the Mount Compass Archives have now been in existence for **50** years! A large number of you have made a genuine impact on our collection with your donations of artifacts and photographs that would perhaps otherwise have been lost through the generations (or gone to landfill). Anyone that owns photographs or documents that could be of interest to the Archives, but you wish to retain ownership of, you can simply allow us to scan them, helping to ensure they are preserved into the future. Just give me a call if this is something you are considering.

The Peters family is one of the few that has survived the generations to still be represented in this district. Inside this edition are a number of photographs that deserve our attention. They are all buildings that **Richard Peters**, a stonemason from Cornwall, built during his lifetime. With the paucity of historic buildings in our district, his skilled work is overdue for acknowledgement.

Richard's arrival here in the late 1800s would be the beginning of the Peters dynasty in the Mount Compass district, with various details regarding his public-spirited life featured on page 8. Many of the photographs included have been copied from Richard Peters' granddaughter, Ronda Arthur, who herself turned 100 recently. A photograph taken at Ronda's birthday celebration is included on the back page.

This year also marks 80 years since the **Mount Compass Cemetery** was first established, a place that is well worth a visit for those interested in either family or local history. It was not our first planned cemetery however, with an article covering the intriguing background to its development featured on page 4.

Merry Christmas & best wishes to you all for the new year

Steve Kettle
(8556 8444)

News reports from the past

MOUNT COMPASS, JUNE 3.

On Saturday evening a well-attended meeting was held in the public hall to consider the question of having a local cemetery. Mr. F. Slater presided. Messrs. C. S. Hancock, R. Peters, C. J. Wehrman, sen., M. Jacobs, and Evan; C. Good, Herbert, and Waye spoke in favour of a cemetery being provided. Mr. W. Gowling intimated his willingness, with the approval of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, to surrender two acres of land leased by him from the Crown, with an approach from the main road, for the purpose. This site was considered by those present to be a most suitable one, and a resolution was carried in favour of adopting it. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Gowling. A memorial to the Commissioner asking for the proclamation of a curator has been freely signed by the residents.

Above: Southern Argus 10th June 1909. An early cemetery meeting.

Right: Chronicle, 7th April 1938. Richard Peters.

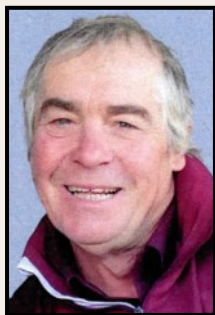
Mr. R. Peters

Mr. Richard Peters, 80, who died recently, was a pioneer of the Mount Compass district. Arriving in the district 40 years ago, he played a prominent part in the progress of the district. He was a member of the Port Elliot District Council for 10 years, three years of that time being chairman, and had been a justice of the peace since 1901. He was a supporter of the Methodist Church, and was prominently associated with the erection of the new chapel at Nangkita. Mr. Peters, who was born at Camborne, Cornwall, arrived in Australia in 1879. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge since 1891, and of the "Pride of the Hills" Druids' Lodge for 50 years. He left a widow, three sons (Messrs. A. and H. Peters, of Mount Compass, and S. Peters, of Macclesfield) and three daughters (Mesdames A. Dowell, of Mount Compass, G. Stone, of Nangkita, and R. Kernick, of Hindmarsh).

Obituaries

Mary Kennedy passed away earlier this year. She lived on Peters Terrace, Mt Compass with her husband Graham from about 1993 to 2005. She was the mother of Ashley, a 1990 Grand Final player for Mt Compass Football Club. Her daughter Tracy is married to Peter Galbraith, who coached A-Grade Football here for ten years, including the back-to-back Premierships in 2016 & 2017.

Elizabeth (Bardie) Penfold Simpson (1934-2023) passed away on 1st July aged 89. Bardie and her husband Tom (dec'd 2010) owned the Woodcone Farm on Woodcone Road. The Simpson family had earlier owned the 6,500 acre Glenshera farm from the 1920s up until the 1980s. Although farm managers oversaw these properties, the Simpsons were regular visitors on weekends and school holidays. As you may have guessed from the name, Bardie was related to the well regarded Penfolds Wines and Simpson families.



Steve Merritt – left (1955-2023) married to Jan & father of Simon & Craig. He worked in a variety of jobs, including at the now closed CMI Piggery on Munetta Road and the Mount Compass Tavern. A keen sportsman, he played basketball, cricket and football for Compass.

Helen Gardiner – right (1946-2023) was married to Ray Gardiner and mother of Jay & Susie. She was one of the volunteers involved with making the Hall Wall Hanging (quilt). Ray managed the 2,000 acre Willowburn Farm for 12 years from 1985 and together they would manage the Golf Course and Caravan Park before retiring to Peters Terrace.



Des Stone (1941 -2023) Had worked as an agricultural worker and as a fencing contractor with Johnny Haywood. He was a keen fox shooter and had recently allowed the Archives to scan his photos (see page 12). Des played football for Mt Compass, winning the Best & Fairest B-Grade trophy in 1966 & 1967. At Des' prior request, his memorial service was held in the Mt Compass Football Clubrooms. He is survived by three daughters.

Peter Stone (1943 –2023) Lived at Nangkita until leaving for the south-east in the mid 1970s. Married to Margaret Nicolle, they raised two boys, Geoffrey & Stewart. Peter was a Cub Master at Nangkita in the early 1960s, with an old building on their property serving as the Cubhouse for a number of years. His dairy still stands on the corner of Nangkita and Waterfall Drive. He was a descendent of two local pioneer families, the Stones and Peters.

Eric Wayne Manley - right (1947-2023) Lived and went to school here in the early 1950s and 1960s. The family property was north of Mt Compass on the Victor Harbor Road (recently Cheryl & Rob Minniss' property). Known to friends as Wayne, along with his wife Anne, he spent much of his adult life at Murray Bridge.



Roma Gladys Kirk (nee McKinlay) (1931-2023). Passed away in August, aged 92. Married to Bruce Kirk, Roma was a descendent of the McKinlay and Jacobs families and had recently allowed the Archives to scan many of her historic family photos. She was born in Mt Compass but spent much of her married life in Victor Harbor.

Stuart Chaplin (1940 -2023) A man with a wide variety of interests, ranging from water-skiing, to opal mining at Mintabie, or shearing sheep & alpacas to coaching junior football at his beloved Mount Compass Football Club. The attached photo shows Stuart with his Junior Colts team in 1979.

With his wife Bettian (nee Rothe), he established himself as a dairy farmer at Yundi in the early 1960s, where they raised three children, Roger, Teresa and Craig. Stuart's parents, Alexander Chaplin & Marjorie Stone, were early residents of the Yundi district, raising three more children, Russell, Lance & Kathryn.



The first burial at the Mt Compass Cemetery was 80 years ago, so is an appropriate time to provide this overview of how the facility came to be where it is.

In June 1909 two acres of leased land was offered to this district for use as a cemetery by the property holder, William Steel Gowling. This civic minded Mr Gowling had also agreed to be one of the five original Trustees of the 1903 Hall, and Secretary of the Hall Committee at the time it was built.

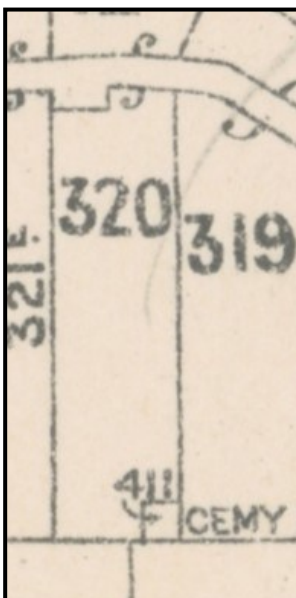
In September 1909, newspapers reported that the Commissioner of Crown Lands would set this land aside for a cemetery (on Section 323). In support, the Hall Committee passed a motion that year, appointing Mr Waye and Mr Harry McKinlay to act as Trustees for this new cemetery.

As it turned out, Mr Gowling's wife, Emma Caroline Gowling (nee Gowne), would be the only person buried on this land. She had passed away in September the previous year (1908) at the age of 67, reportedly the first early settler to die here, but was buried prior to the cemetery being officially approved. Her coffin was carried by the menfolk to its final resting spot once a track had been cut through the scrub, allowing the funeral cortege to pass.

For some unknown reason, this cemetery was not destined to be. The site was recorded on some maps but it was never formally recognised on the land's title.

It is perhaps a little ironic that after trying to establish a cemetery on his own land, when William Gowling himself died in 1919, he was buried in an unmarked grave at Willunga. His death was the result of an unfortunate accident while he was carting the mail from Willunga at the age of 77. He was thrown out of his cart and crushed when his horse bolted, on the outskirts of Mount Compass.

Mr Gowling's land was subsequently sold in 1920 to Hugh Jacobs, who would build his own house on the Gowling's old homesite. This 'new' home, that was only recently demolished, was the first house on the southern side of Bahloo Glen Road, on what was previously Rod Lewis' Agon Berry Farm. Hugh would retain only the northern part of the land, with the remainder (sandhill and swamp) sold off. (The Anderson, Pittman, Verco, McAllan, Miller & Traeger families would be some of the future owners).



In 1924, the women of this district raised sufficient funds to place a simple post & wire fence around Mrs Gowling's gravesite, which at the time was unmarked. This was then replaced by the Mt Compass CWA in the 1970s with a rail fence and an identifying plaque. Hugh Jacobs and Bob McAllan erected the railing, with a tree planted on the site at this time and which remains there today (*refer above photo taken in 2022*).

With the town beginning to grow, thoughts of locating a cemetery in this district arose once more. In 1939 the back portion of Albert Waye's property (Section 320) was offered by Mr Waye for this purpose and remains the site still in use today. Albert was the son of our pioneer roadman (aka stationman), George Waye.

The Mount Compass Cemetery consists of two, one-acre blocks, section 411 with a certificate of title in the Council's name dated January 1942, and a second section (416) dated August 1947.

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Left: Part of the 1942 Hundred of Nangkita map showing Albert Waye's Section 320, with the first part of the Cemetery (Section 411) marked on the bottom corner. The indentation on the top corner of Mr Waye's property is what is now Roadman's Reserve where the old cottage was located. The road cutting through the top is Victor Harbor Road, with the curly symbols indicating that the Sections are bisected by that road (ie. 320 & 319 are on both sides).

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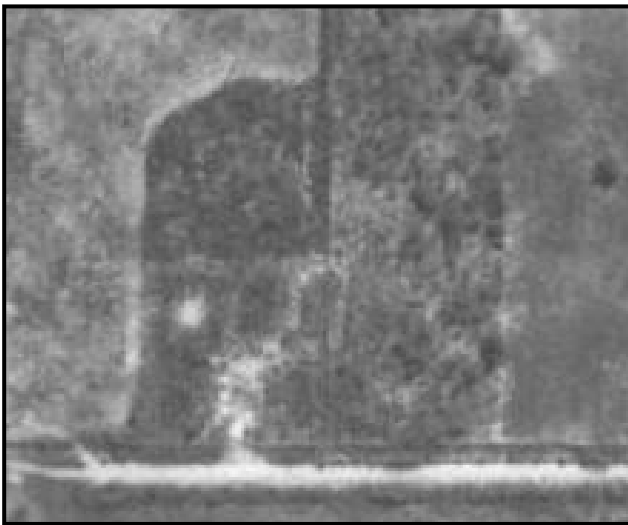
With this being the war years, the cemetery's layout was designed by the 'planner of military cemeteries', with the track leading to it part of the farm owned by Mr Gregory, which is now where the golf course is situated.

The first burial at the new cemetery was that of one of our early pioneers, Mr Harry Pomfrett McKinlay on the 4th Oct 1943 (*see right*). It wasn't until April the following year that Robert William Coles became the second person to be buried at the cemetery.

An anomaly is that the earliest date of death for anyone buried at the Mount Compass Cemetery is that of the pioneer, Richard Peters. He passed away in 1938 prior to any official cemetery in this town, so was buried at Willunga. The Council's records show that his body was re-buried here in 1949 alongside his wife Cora, it can be assumed that his family had the body transferred following his wife's death. This is recorded as the 11th burial at the cemetery in council records. The Peters' family history record has a slightly different view. It notes that:

"At some time after the Mount Compass cemetery was established, his wife Cora had his body transferred to Mt Compass – subsequently, when she passed away in 1946, Cora was buried alongside him."

Whether the council records are incorrect, or the tale passed down through the family is wrong, is yet to be confirmed. (*refer page 12 for a copy of those council records*)



Two aerial views of the cemetery site - one from 1949 (left) and a more recent one from google maps (right). Note that in the first photograph, the cemetery had only recently been formed and the adjacent road was simply a sandy track (the yet to be named, Arthur Road).

The following is a brief chronological summary from various media reports and council records of maintenance and improvements to this facility.

The first group known to have carried out maintenance at the cemetery was the local 'Common Cause', in the mid-1940s. This social-political group would later establish the Mt Compass Co-operative Store. (*Chronicle no.7*)

In **1955**, following a request from the Community Centre, the council placed gravel along the cemetery's sandy road, allowing vehicles to safely turn around. The existing road was narrow, with the sides consisting of loose sand. A request for the council to clear some of the cemetery's scrub was met with the response that a volunteer working bee should be organised to do this.

A portion of the cemetery land was still unfenced by **1960** according to correspondence from the District Council to the neighbour, Mr Gordon H Garrett (owner of Wayne's old property, Section 320), who was querying the size of the cemetery adjacent to his land.

During the **1960s**, when a Blitz fire truck was purchased and refurbished by the local Emergency Fire Service (now the CFS), it was put to good use watering the young trees at the cemetery during training exercises. Mel Jacobs was appointed as the convenor, responsible for its upkeep, followed later by his son Hugh Jacobs.

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The cemetery in about 1991 with a clear view through to the Dairy Vale factory (top left).

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In July **1974** a working bee attended by 10 people put in several hours work cleaning the site. Five trees were planted with Allen Blakely rotary hoeing a fire break on the outside, which Tony Belle slashed for the third time.

From **1974** through to at least **1980**, Tony was noted as regularly slashing the general cemetery site. (at the time, Tony owned the farm that later became the golf course and he's also the gentleman who waves to all passers-by from his home on the corner of Stonesford & Nangkita Roads).

In **1976** the Community Centre requested that council erect a cemetery sign at the main road junction, along with a 'no through Road' sign. It was suggested that a chain wire mesh fence should be erected around the cemetery to replace the existing fence. Permission was also sought for locals to plant suitable trees to beautify the site.

That same year, about 12 people attended a working bee. Allen Blakely again hoed one fire break along the outside, and another along the tree line, to help with water soakage. Bracken fern growing around the graves were sprayed and the headstones cleaned while Tony Belle again used his farm tractor to slash the block.

The restroom (*pictured right*) was originally supplied by the Jacobs family in **1954**, in memory of Melphord Jacobs who passed away the previous year. Renovations were carried out on this building in **1976** following a \$100 donation towards the cost by the local Country Women's Association.

A **1977** working bee was held to again clean headstones of lichen, tidy up the graves, and cement the shed floor. In **1981**, Councillor Dorothy Jacobs successfully arranged for the Council to provide a new five hundred gallon rainwater tank.



The rest room with Columbarium Wall at right and the memorial plaque inset.

For about 20 years from the **1980s**, Ben Peters was employed to dig the gravesites. His nephew, Richard Langford, helped him to prepare three of the graves, and recently described how all the holes were dug by hand without the aid of machinery. Planks were placed to shore up the sandy sides as the hole was deepened.

In **1982** Ben Peters was reimbursed \$25 by the Council for the set of boards used when digging out the gravesites (in later years the council would use mechanical means to dig the holes). In about **1983**, the small niche, or Columbarian Wall, was built to receive cremated ashes. As you would expect, a working bee was then held to spread the blue-metal rubble used for a pathway along the newest section of plots.

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Burgess Road along one side of the cemetery was not built until the **1980s** when Ken Burgess subdivided part of his land, during which time the Burgess Oval would be developed.

Around the period **1986** to the **1990s**, the Mount Compass Lions Club undertook maintenance of the cemetery, but by **2000**, the Alexandrina Council had accepted responsibility for all maintenance.

There are currently 171 names listed at the Mount Compass Cemetery on the following Alexandrina Council web page (although it hasn't been updated for a while):

https://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/live/cemeteries-and-memorials/cemetery-search?name=&cemetery_id=5

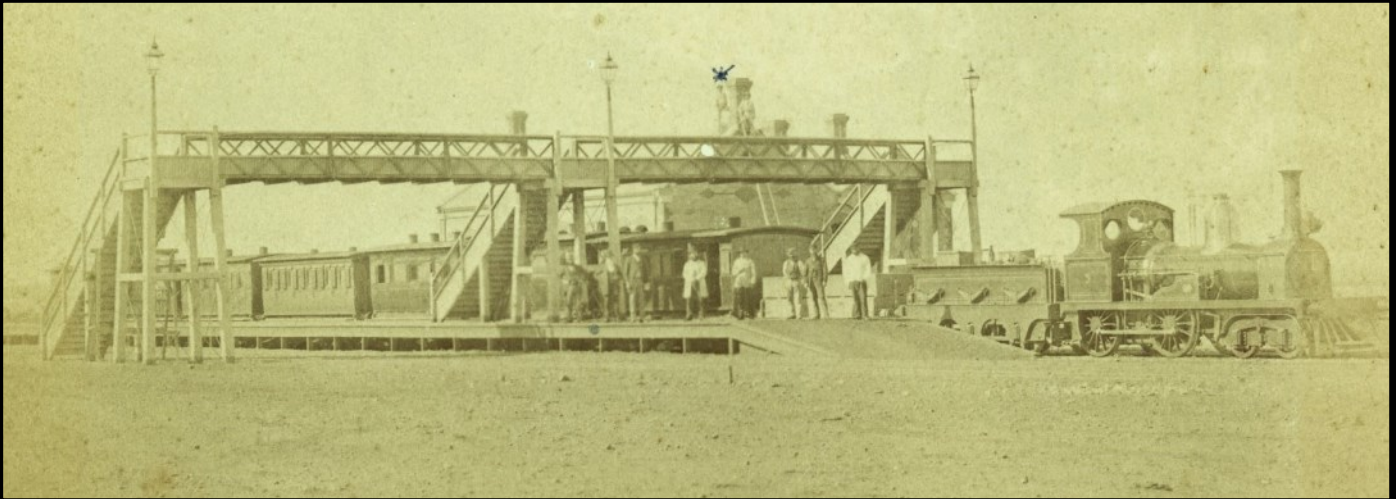
References: trove.nla.gov.au, "Where the Compass leads You" - L Jacobs, State Records, Mt Compass Archives.



Richard Peters is one of those well known names from our past, but he is perhaps not acknowledged sufficiently for his many accomplishments.

Born in 1857 in Cornwall, England, he was the 12th child of a stonemason and was taught the tricks of the trade by his father. At the age of nine he had an accident which took off the thumb and forefinger from his right hand. Despite this he became a stonemason who gained a reputation for always seeking perfection in his work.

In 1879, at the age of 22, Richard sailed out to Australia, ending his six month journey in the colony of South Australia. He then moved across to Melbourne where he worked on a number of buildings, including the Flinders Street Railway Station. As his brother William was living at Aldgate in South Australia, Richard was soon drawn back to this state. The brothers worked together on many large homes for people of considerable wealth. Richard then travelled around various parts of the state, working on buildings such as the now historic Gladstone Gaol, the Terowie train station (see photo below) and the Corny Point lighthouse.



This photograph is one of the many that Ronda Arthur has allowed us to scan into our Archives. It shows her grandfather Richard Peters standing on a stone building at what is believed to be the Terowie train station (marked with a cross, top centre). From information available about that station, he is standing on the roof of the new stone ‘refreshment room’, alongside the footbridge. As Richard worked on the nearby Gladstone Gaol in the 1880s, it is very likely that he also worked on this building around the same period.

Richard worked for the respected Willunga builder, George Sara, building churches, shops and homes. After he married a Willunga girl, Eda Cora Jacobs, in 1887 (yes, the two pioneer families are related), the couple moved to Stirling for a period of about ten years, living in a new home built by Richard. He now worked on many large residences around the Mt Lofty, Stirling and Aldgate areas.

In the late 1890s, he purchased land at Mt Compass, where the family would engage in market gardening and growing fodder crops. Richard and Cora (as she preferred to be known) had four children by this time (three boys and a girl) with Richard turning his thoughts to future employment for his sons. With this in mind, the family moved into a rental house at Willunga (Cora’s home town) while Richard built the family a four roomed home on Nangkita Road, that still stands today (*see following page*). They moved into this house in November 1898, with it considered one of the finest homes in the district and possibly the first solid stone home in Mt Compass.

Richard bought his home block of 98 acres (Section 330) in 1895, followed by sections 363 (86 acres) in 1905, and 358, 359 & 360 (total of 117 acres), all spaced along Nangkita Road.

The home property was virgin scrubland with ten acres of swampland and permanent running water. Richard continued working as a stonemason while also beginning to clear his block. He is credited with bringing the first dairy cow into this district in 1898, (*right*) which became the basis of each of his three sons’ future dairy herds.



“Beauty” - the first cow brought into this district

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The family home on Nangkita Road. Cora Peters (seated, left) with her three daughters, Lilla, Bessie and Edna.

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As soon as the swamp was sufficiently cleared, the family grew vegetables which they sent to market with the area's first market gardener, David Wright. From a young age, the boys worked diligently on the property and, within time, the family was able to buy three more blocks, one for each son. These boys (Arch, Sydney, & Howard) often camped on their vacant properties while clearing scrub.

By around 1914, Richard no longer needed to work in the building trade thanks to the income from his vegetable growing and later, the income from butter making. Initially, the property only supported one cow and a working horse, but the introduction of superphosphate in the 1920s saw their herd increase to twenty Jersey cows. They were then able to produce 100 pounds (45 kilograms) of butter a week, which was sold in Victor Harbor for about two shillings (20c) a pound.

It wasn't all just work, Richard and Cora were both talented singers and in their spare time often rendered duets together at Literary Society meetings and, after 1903, concerts were held in the local hall (built by Richard). Amongst his other interests, Richard was one of the early members (and a President) of the local Agricultural Bureau and President of the Show Society.

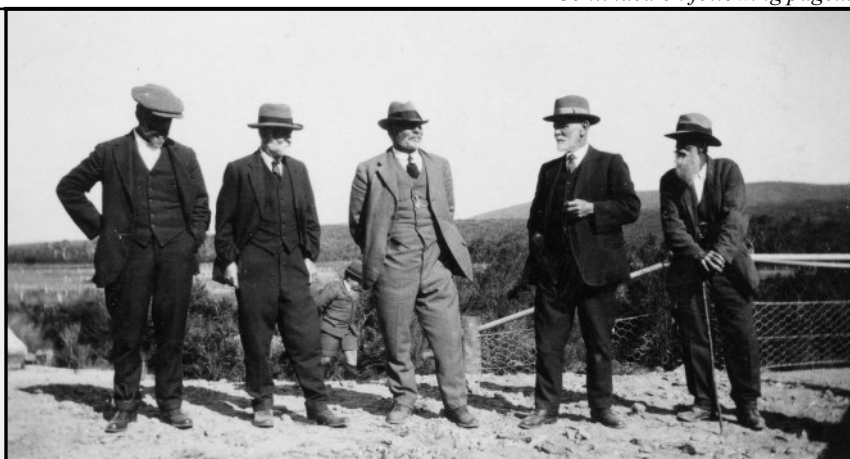
He took great interest in the well-being of this district and held various offices connected with public life. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Peace at Victor Harbor and the Druids 'Pride of Hills' Lodge. For around eight years he served as the local Nangkita councillor with the District Council of Port Elliot (1916-1920 and 1922-1926), including a period from 1919 to 1920 as Chairman. He was also a Justice of the Peace for nearly forty years.

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The formal opening celebration for the new Nangkita bridge in c1925. Left to right: George Stone, Felix DeCaux, possibly Councillor Albert Henley, Cr Richard Peters and Frank Hailstone.

Richard Peters had encouraged the council to build two bridges on the old Nangkita Road which allowed people to travel across the swamp rather than around the tricky 'Connors Corner'.

(This section of road is no longer used but at one time led to the local rubbish dump.)





A 1920 Photograph of Richard Peters holding his grand-daughter Thelma on the steps of the house he built on Nangkita Road for his son Arch. Thelma would pass away the year after this photo was taken with Arch & his wife Hettie then having another daughter, Ronda. This would later become Ronda's home with her husband I K (Kelly) Arthur.

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Richard was elected to the position of Chairman of the Hall Committee after becoming one of the five original Trustees. He carried out this responsibility from 1899 to at least 1914, possibly longer, but as some of the hall records are missing, it cannot be confirmed.

The 'Chasing Rainbows' history book states that Richard, as the father of four school-age children at that time, was the instigator of a school opening at Mt Compass after he wrote a letter to his local MP. Prior to this the children had to walk to Nangkita for their schooling. The new school was opened in the old Roadman's cottage in 1899.

In 1920, Richard travelled to England to visit his numerous siblings. Unfortunately his mother, at the ripe of 92, had passed away before he could return to England. This trip only took one month each way, quite a difference to his first journey out. By this time, Cora & Richard's three sons were all married and living in their own homes built by their father.

Richard started a transport company in the 1920s known as 'Thornycroft Transport'. This was likely devised to provide both employment for his son Syd, and to transport goods for the expanding district (*see photo in Chronicle No. 20*). His son-in-law, Alex Dowell, became the second driver for the two Thornycroft trucks, carrying freight between Adelaide and Victor Harbor.

We are fortunate that many of the local buildings that Richard Peters was involved with are still in use today.

Following a successful tender, Richard built the original Hall (now the Supper Room) in 1903 (*photo on following page*).

Apart from also building his own home, he built or helped to build, four other homes along Nangkita Road, those of his sons Syd, Howard and Arch, and his daughter Bessie Stone's substantial house (*shown right*).

In the late 1920's their school teacher

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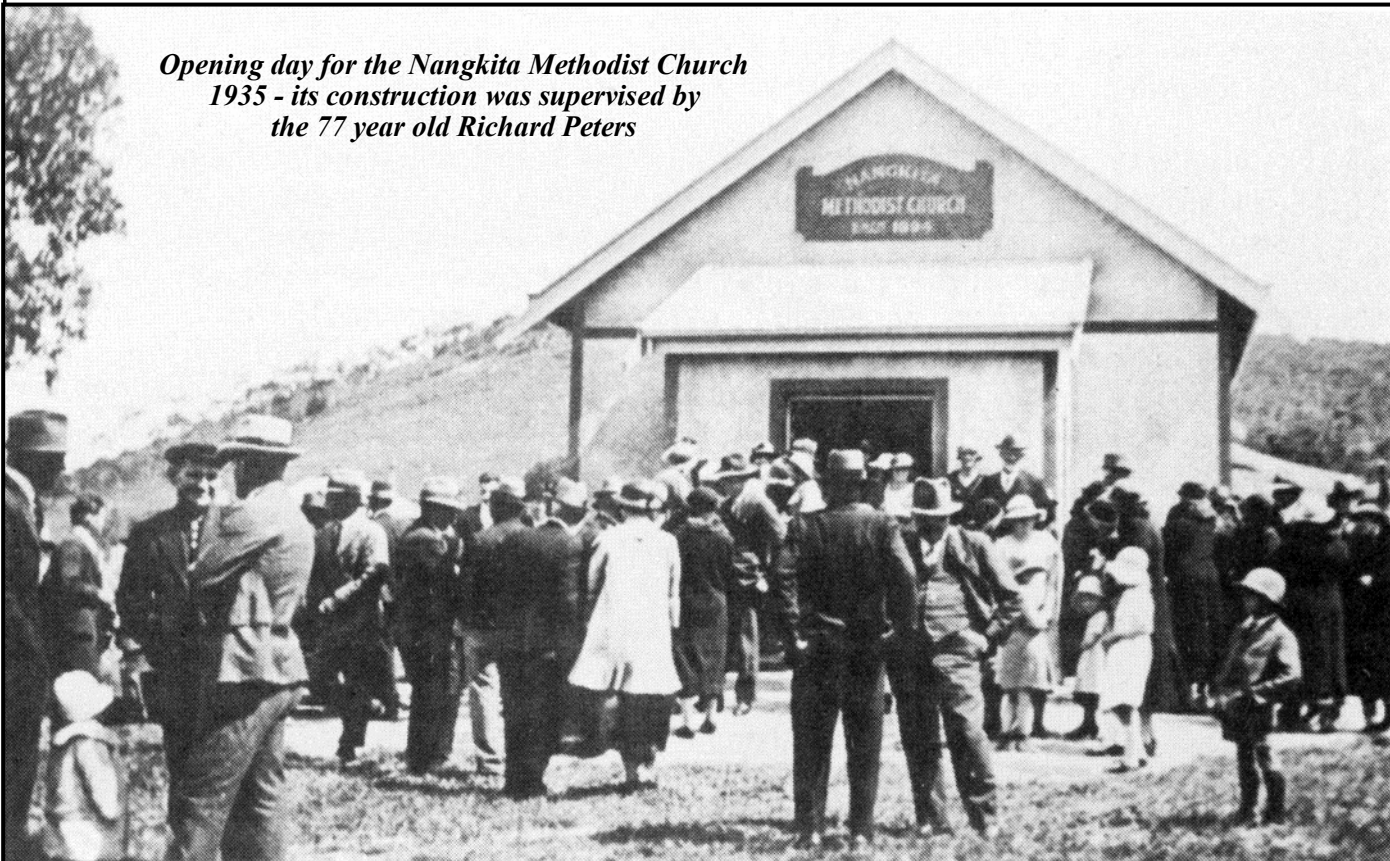
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daughter, Bessie, returned home to help run her parent's dairy in their advancing years. After Bessie married Geoff Stone in 1934, Richard would subsequently decide to lease out their farm to the Goldings. That family then lived in the back section of the house, with Richard constructing a small self-contained flat using the front two rooms and veranda for himself and Cora.

Clearly not one to sit back in his later years and rest, Richard also supervised the construction of the Nangkita Methodist Church in 1935, following the amalgamation of the Mount Compass and Nangkita congregations. He was a steward of the church for around forty years, with this new church built just a few years before his death. Richard's wife, Cora, was given the honour of laying the Church's foundation stone.

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***Opening day for the Nangkita Methodist Church
1935 - its construction was supervised by
the 77 year old Richard Peters***



***The Mt Compass Hall built by Richard Peters in
1903. This photocopy is the clearest view of the
hall that we have, with the whereabouts of the
original photo unknown.***



No. of Burial.	Name of Person Buried	Age.	Last Place of Abode.	Date of Burial.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.	No. of Graves.	Situation of Grave.	Depth of Grave.	Whether any and how many persons previously buried in grave, and whether coffins lined with lead have been used.	Remarks.
11	<u>Peters</u> Richard	82	Willunga	1949		123 with 121	Reburial from Willunga in charge			Lease 10 4-11-1949

Above: A copy of the council cemetery records for Mount Compass showing Richard Peters was (re) buried here in 1949, as the 11th burial at this location.

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Richard Peters passed away at the home he had helped to build at Nangkita for his daughter Bessie Stone, on the 18th March 1938 aged 80, following "a long illness". Without a local cemetery at this time, he was buried at Willunga, but a few years later his body was transferred to the new cemetery at Mt Compass, where he would be re-buried alongside his wife Cora (*refer above*).

There is a thought that Richard Peters was also involved in building the two similar double storey stone houses in this area, the Arthur family's old home 'Weeroona' and Hancock's old 'Heywood' home on Woodcone Road, although this has not been confirmed. Both homes are believed to have been constructed from the same stone as the 1903 Hall, which was sourced from a quarry on Nangkita Road (Section 328).

References: "Where the Compass Leads You" by L Jacobs. R Peters Eulogy by J A Crisp, published in the 1938 'Australian Christian Commonwealth' publication. "Chasing Rainbows in the Rain" by Ann Riddle. Peters Family History book compiled by June Niejalke. trove.nla.gov.au

Fox Photos from the Past

Des Stone (who recently passed away) along with his father Doug, took their fox hunting seriously and were renowned for their shooting accuracy. The three photos reprinted here were part of a selection recently scanned into the Archives from Des Stone's personal collection. Doug Stone would tragically pass away in 1970 after accidentally shooting himself while fox hunting on a local farm.



Left: Bill Hailstone, who sometimes joined Doug Stone on his shooting trips, is shown posing with three dead foxes along with a 12-gauge shot gun.

Above: Doug Stone in the mallee with his kangaroo and fox skins

Right: Des Stone proudly displaying his bundles of fox skins in 1976.



Referendum to form a Federation in 1898 - How Nangkita Voted

With the 2023 referendum perhaps still lingering in people's minds, it may be of interest to look back at the first referendum held at Nangkita (Mount Compass did not have a Polling Station at this time).

The district's Polling Booth was established at Nangkita in 1895, boasting thirty five registered voters by 1896, increasing to sixty one by 1899.

In 1898 the potential future Australian Constitution was put to voters via a new voting method - referendums. There were two political forces at the time which had an impact on this vote. One was the labor movement with many advocating a 'no' vote on the basis that the proposed Constitution was not democratic enough. The other movement was the women's right to vote, with many suffragettes holding the view that Federation would improve women's chances of winning the vote - and they supported the 'yes' campaign. Another strong argument in favour of a 'yes' vote was that it would abolish trade barriers between the colonies.

The result of that referendum was covered in the *Express and Telegraph* newspaper of 7th June 1898, which stated:

"With no uncertain voice the Nangkita Village Settlement declared against the measure with a 24 to 2 majority".

This Nangkita Village Settlement had been the creation of 25 unemployed families from Port Adelaide, and their vote appears to have reflected the stated views of a substantial number of those in the Labor Party at the time.

By way of comparison, Yankalilla voted in favour 126 to 35, Myponga 30 to 5, Encounter Bay was 740 for and 285 against and SA as a whole was 35,800 for and 17,320 against.

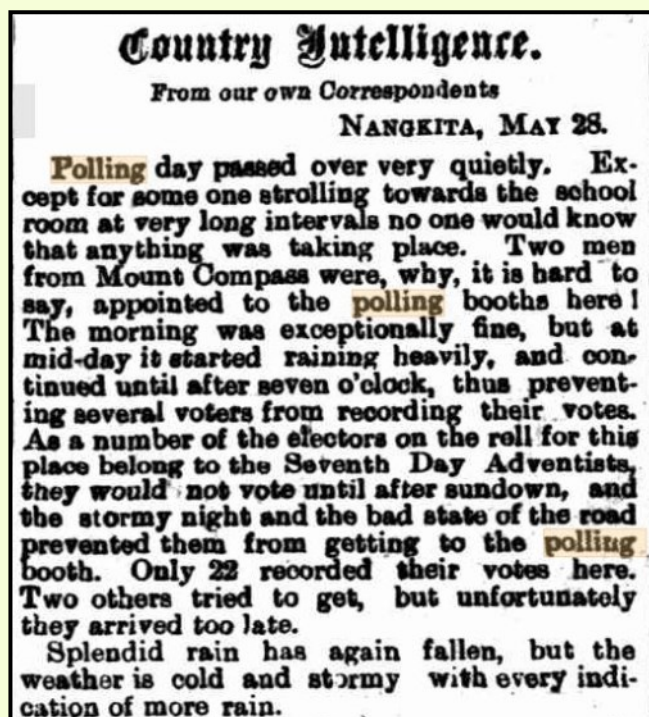
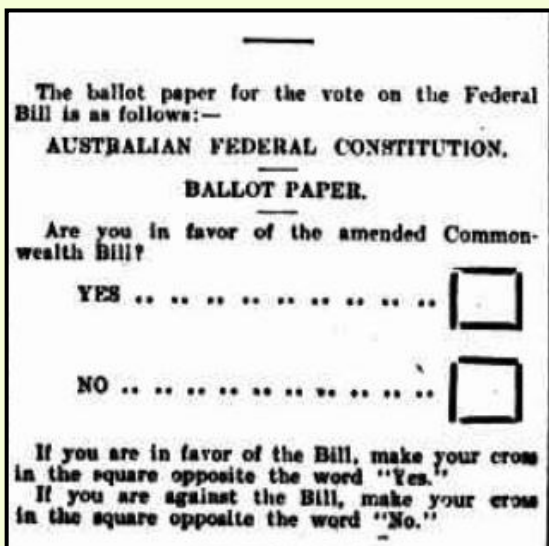
When a second referendum was held in 1899, the state vote showed increased support with 65,990 'yes' and 17,053 'no' votes. The break down of how individual polling stations voted was not recorded in newspapers this time, but the Encounter Bay District (to which Nangkita belonged) did vote 1411 for, and 295 against, with a substantial 212 informal votes.

The first referendum had been held in only four colonies, NSW, Tasmania, Victoria and SA. However, following that vote, the proposed constitution was amended by NSW and, in 1899, a second round was organised with Queensland now taking part. All five colonies voted in favour, although Western Australia was still not participating.

By 1900, with the WA colony still yet to hold a vote, residents from their Eastern Goldfields area threatened to form a separate colony, forcing them to finally hold the referendum in July of that year, which overwhelmingly voted in favour of a Federation.

References: trove.nla.org.au & Australian Electoral Commission's 'Teacher resources' website.

Below: a copy of the 1899 ballot paper.
Right: An article from the Southern Argus in 1905 that describes a Polling Day at Nangkita and the local Seventh Day Adventist voters.





Two centenarians in 2023 - Ronda Arthur (left) and Dot Childs (right)

Ronda Arthur (nee Peters) pictured at her 100th birthday celebrations with her son-in-law Peter Butterworth (a previous Mount Compass Bank Manager) and two of her grandchildren, Corey & Bianca. Refer to page 8 for an article on her grandfather, Richard Peters, which features many photographs scanned from Ronda's family album.

Dot Childs was until a few months ago, a long term resident of Yundi. The above photograph was taken at her 100th birthday celebrations in Victor Harbor. Along with her now deceased husband Ron, Dot operated 'Rondoro', an Arabian Pinto stud, but may be better known for their clydesdale horses. Dot made a significant contribution to this district by researching and compiling the Yundi history book "*Families, Feathers and Farms*".

It must be the year of milestone birthdays, **Trevor Connor** and **Ross Kelly**, both turned 80 this year. They are both regular attendees at the Archives' monthly history meetings. These are open to anyone on the first Tuesday of the month in the Hall Foyer. Contact me on the email address at the bottom of this page for further information.

Happy Birthday to these four and Merry Christmas everyone.

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)