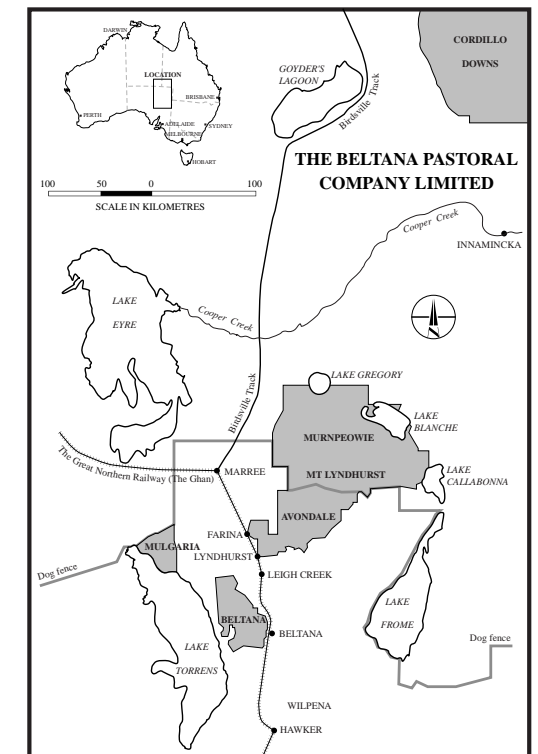


# Beltana Pastoral Company

The South Australian Parliament passed an Act in 1851 for the leasing of 'Waste Lands' to pastoralists and graziers. A condition of each lease was to carry a given number of stock per square mile. In 1862, Thomas Elder took over John Haimes' 1854 Lease no 370, - Beltana Station as part of a chain of leases throughout the north of South Australia. Pastoral leases were renewed after 14 or 21 years or similar, so leases changed hands and boundaries were altered. As the years passed the Beltana Pastoral Company was formed and leases consolidated to be Beltana, Mulgaria, Avondale, Mt Lyndhurst, Murnpeowie and Cordillo Downs. All the homesteads and associated buildings on these properties were of solid stone construction and well appointed. During the 1800s and early 1900s there were as many as 60 people living on a station. Some of the employees were married men with families. A blacksmith and a butcher were permanent employees and those living on out-stations were connected to the homestead with a 'party line' telephone. Before the railway was built, Beltana was the 'overnight stopping

place' for other pastoralists living further north and travelling to the ports. It was also the launching place for expeditions across Australia to the north and west. Explorers were provided with camels, salted meat and other supplies. Thomas Elder and Robert Barr Smith were partners in the stock and station organisation, Elder Smith & Co Ltd, supplying pastoralists and graziers with all their needs. The Government's stock-carrying requirement was over-rated. The first big drought in 1864 was a disaster, with pastoralists losing most of their stock. The annual rent was reduced from ten shillings to two shillings and six pence per square mile to compensate. Overstocking caused very serious dust storms. The pastoralists adjusted their own stocking rates to suit the land and dust storms have all but disappeared. In 1989 lease payments were changed by the Government and are now calculated on the number of stock carried. The Beltana Pastoral Company relinquished its interests in South Australia in 1984 and moved interstate.

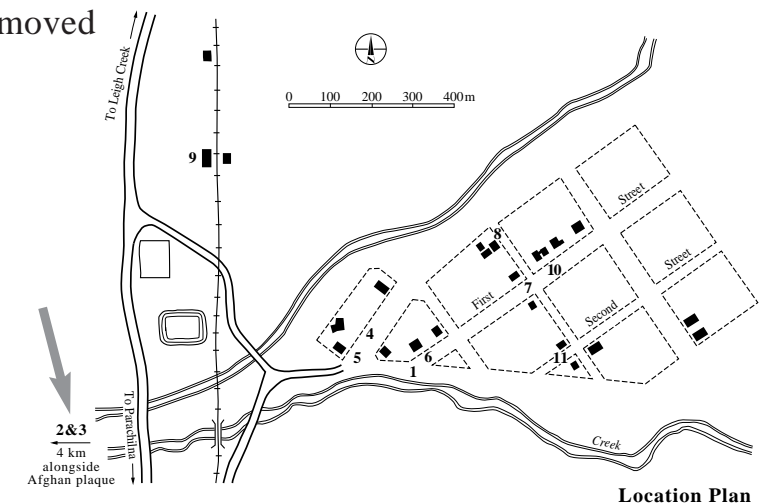
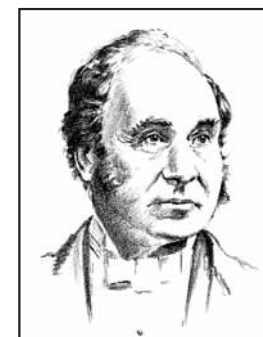


*Nathaniel Phillipson*  
Manager at Beltana



*Robert Barr-Smith*

*Thomas Elder*



The Beltana Sport & Social Progress Association  
and the Beltana Memorial Committee  
Supported by the Commonwealth



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