

The Story of Mavis Elizabeth (Harris) Oliver

By Judith Ann Wilson (nee Oliver)

Mavis Elizabeth Harris was born on the 25th August 1919 at Woodville, NZ.

Mavis Harris's parents were Alfred Born 8 June 1888 and Elsie Ada (nee Clark) born 1893 – farmers in Woodville. Mavis's mother Elsie was killed in a car accident in 1939.

Mavis Harris's siblings were: Ronald born 17th April 1917 and Henry Alfred born 22 September 1914.

Mavis married Maurice Allen Oliver in Woodville on 25th January 1941 and they had four children: Allen Keith born 1942, Maureen Elsie born 1943 – died 2007, Pamela Mary born 1945 – died 2007, and Judith Ann born 1949. Allen & Maureen were both born in Woodville, Pamela was born in Pahiatua and Judith was born in Palmerston North. Maurice died on 14th August 1981.

They lived in Blenheim during the war and then shifted back to Woodville. In 1947 they moved to Palmerston North where they lived at 268 College Street. In 1950 they purchased a house at 23 Rangiora Avenue, Palmerston North. In 1988 Mavis moved to a unit in Ruahine Street, Palmerston North where she lived until 2008. After becoming ill she moved into Willard Elderly Care in Russell Street.

There were many holidays in the caravan and a lot of time spent down at Foxton Beach. Mavis's love was bowls. She played both indoor and outdoor, living very close to the Bowling Green. Most days she would go for a walk for about an hour up until the last few months of her life. She drove her car until she was 88.

Mavis worked part time at Prepared Foods, Robert Embroidery working on the Line 7 range after the family grew up.

Mavis was a Life Member of the RSA Women's Section and a committee member for many years.

Mavis was survived by 2 children, 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Mavis passed away on 7th October 2007.

