

SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2019



Salisbury & District Historical Society Inc.
3 Ann St Salisbury

Museum Open— 2pm-4pm on the 1st Sunday of the month

Water Wheel Open—2pm-4pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

These times may vary due to long weekends and school holidays.

The Museum and Water Wheel visits can be arranged at other times,
please contact the President on 0408086545

2019 Program

General Meetings and Activities

February 9th Saturday 9am

Working Bee — Clean-up at Museum

March 13th Wednesday 7pm

Guest Judith Dell “Arnott’s to Ministry”

April 28th Sunday 12pm

Picnic on the lawns at rear of Museum

May 19th Sunday 1:30pm

History Month Salisbury Walk

June 19th Wednesday 7pm

Guest Rev T Curnow “Pioneer Preacher”

August 14th Wednesday 10am * (day meeting)

Guest Margrette Kleinig “Red Cross WW1”

October 9th Wednesday 7pm AGM

“Show & Tell”

December 1st Sunday 12pm

Christmas Luncheon (details to be advised)

Committee Meetings 7pm on Thursday:

Feb 7th, March 7th, June 6th, August 1st, Oct 3rd & Nov 7th

Report from the President – Des Brown

Greetings.

As we start a new year our society again looks forward to continuing the task of keeping the history of our community alive.

Salisbury was 170 years old in 2018 so we thought it would be appropriate to have our Christmas Luncheon at the newly renovated Salisbury Hotel, the first hotel built for John Harvey. It was originally called the New Road Inn later to become the Salisbury Hotel.

At the luncheon councillor Shiralee Reardon, our City of Salisbury Council representative presented Jim and Marilyn Potter with an engraved mantel clock in recognition of over 37 years involvement with our Society and its committee.



Our annual “Busy Bee” at the Ann St Folk Museum was well-attended; thank you to everyone who was able to come along.

I am pleased to report that the Water Wheel continues to attract attention, to the extent that I was recently interviewed on the ABC North West SA about how it played its part during the period when Salisbury was the main source of citrus for our state for nearly 100 years.



The Water Wheel Museum is now over 33 years old and has had no major renovation in that time. We are currently consulting with the City of Salisbury Council who is keen to ensure the necessary maintenance and improvement work is completed.

It was 100 years ago, last year, that Salisbury born Dr Ruby Davy became the first women in Australia to obtain a Doctorate in Music. To commemorate this we have been fortunate to have Ms Christine Shillabeer (nee Reid), play and record Dr Davy’s musical composition entitled “Australia Fair & Free” which will be available in the museum shortly. Christine is another Salisbury born resident and her grandmother, Angela Judd (nee Ebbs), was taught by Dr Davy.

Please be advised that our web page is currently undergoing an upgrade; I will provide further information on the work being undertaken next time.

I commend our program for 2019 to you and hope you will all be able to participate.

President’s Stop Press— SA Advertiser 28th Dec 1863

“The first examination of the pupils attending Mr Steven’s Salisbury school took place in the Assembly Rooms of the Salisbury Hotel. ... The children 74 in number were examined in the usual branches of English education and about 40 prizes were awarded to the most proficient..... Special prizes for Grammar and Mental Arithmetic, presented .. To Mary Ann Butcher and James Scott.

The Chairman expressed his entire satisfaction at the readiness of the answers, particularly among the girls.

At the adjournment the children we entertained by their teachers.”

SALISBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL

The first school in South Australia was conducted on Kangaroo Island in 1836 but unfortunately closed several months later due to the lack of financial support.

The South Australian School Society's first school opened in Adelaide in 1838 and continued until 1843 when it was relinquished to private interest.

An article in the South Australian Register on 7th March 1849 stated that a meeting was held at the New Inn Salisbury where it was resolved to open a subscription list for the purpose of erecting a school room. No other articles were published however by May 1st support had grown to 23 residents under the management of Mr Posser. Approval was given on 6th June by the Governor of South Australia, Sir Henry E.F. Young, for Mr Posser to establish a school, the first school in Salisbury, however, the actual location of this school is uncertain. The earliest records of the



Education Department date back to a report in 1861 which state that Mr Charles Taplin and his wife Eliza came to Salisbury in 1854 and ran a school. When the new St Johns Church of England was built in Church Street and opened for church services in 1858, the old building was leased as a day school, which Mr Taplin conducted from 1858 to 1867. In 1868 Mr James Poole and his wife Ellen took over from the Taplins and in 1869 there were 50 boys and 40 girls who sat the annual

examination on 18 December. The Poole family continued there until the Salisbury Public School was opened in 1877. Before 1877 there were also a number of private schools in Salisbury. One at 25 Park Terrace, 3-5 Church Street, the old pise building in Brian Street. Miss Emily Keyworth conducted an unregistered school in a small building in Mary Street opposite the old 1846 St John's building during the 1870s-1880s. There is also thought to have been a Roman Catholic school on Commercial Road which operated in the early 1850s.

Other teachers conducting schools at that time were James Stevenson in 1862; William Middleton 1864; J Osborne 1865-66; John Faulkner 1867-68 and Shapland Graves 1877.

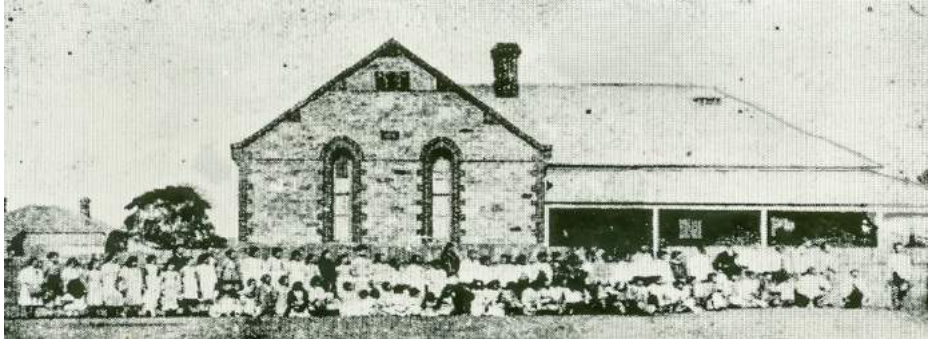
Every morning children would assemble in the school yard at 9.15. One blow of the whistle meant "stand still", two whistles meant "form a line". The boys went in first and hung up

their caps as they went in; the girls followed and they all stood quietly by their desks until they were told to sit. Before the lesson began they had a short talk about manners and behaviour and had to sit with their arms folded; no fidgeting allowed.



At the age of 13 or 14, the children took their qualifying certificate; not many went onto secondary education. Those who did, travelled by train to Gawler or Adelaide; the others went out to work, often to work on the family farm.

One of the most important steps taken in 1875 was to introduce the “Education Act” which made school attendance compulsory. All children between the ages of 7 – 13 were required to attend 70 days per half year. Fees ranged from 4d to 9d a week. By 1876 most licensed schools had been taken over as public schools. In 1892 the Act was amended to say no fees were to be payable. Unfortunately a lot of early records were destroyed due to a mouse plague.



The first public school in Salisbury, on the corner of Mary and Wiltshire Streets, was opened in 1877 and was the only primary school in the district till 1943. It was built by Loads and Lambert, using stone from the local quarry at a cost of 796 pounds on land purchased by the S.A. Council for Education in 1876 for 50 pounds. It consisted of two rooms, originally to accommodate 120 children, the southern room added in 1880 brought accommodation up to 200 pupils. The school playground was on private land which the Salisbury Council had compulsorily acquired due to the owner never paying rates and was subsequently given to the Education Department for use as a school playground in 1927.



The Schoolmasters house behind the school was finished in 1879. The first headmaster to live there was Mr Carl August Wittber, a distinguished educationalist, he was head master till 1886. In July 1881 a 1,000 gallon tank was supplied and a shelter shed was erected in March 1884. Mr Wittber was succeeded by Alfred Neale for the next two years, Mr Grasby followed in 1888 and a year later William Bennett continued as head master until 1895. Mr Alexander Kemp served until his untimely death in 1899. He was replaced by Mr Alfred Baylis who remained there until he retired in 1913. Mr Monks' term, who introduced shorthand to school, was short lived due to his death shortly after his appointment. Mr Walter Tribe came in 1914 and was headmaster until 1922. He was succeeded by Mr Robert Northey until 1925 when Mr John Severin took over until his death in 1938. The position was then filled by Mr Allan Holland until 1948.

The original woodwork and domestic arts rooms at the school were erected in 1925; these were timber framed and galvanised iron structures.

As recalled by Mrs Margaret Moss *“School concerts were held in the town assembly hall which was attached to the southern end of the Salisbury Hotel. Picnics were organised for the school, on Friday 24th March 1882 a special steam train was hired to transport students, parents and teachers to Semaphore Beach, total cost of return journey 17 pounds 11 shillings”*.

On 15th December 1893 a school concert was held in the institute and an Arbor Day was held in August 1894 became an annual event.

The turn of the century brought an increase in activity with a flower show being held in October 1901 and the Duke and Duchess of York (later became King George V and Queen Mary) visiting Salisbury in 1902 where the Duchess was presented with a basket of oranges by Ms Isla Swann.

1914 -1918 brought wind, dust, drought and war; and the one school rainwater tank was padlocked to protect its precious contents. There was also a pneumonic flu which swept through the town and took its toll. In 1923 a severe outbreak of diphtheria occurred, claiming several lives and the school was closed for several weeks in an endeavour to reduce the spread of the disease.



A ‘Back to Salisbury School’ event was held in 1935 with many old scholars visiting the school for the day’s celebration; over 1,000 old scholars attended.

At the outbreak of the war in 1939, teacher Mr Nadebaum enlisted in the army and hundreds of old scholar’s trooped off to the other side of the world. For the school children there was the School’s Patriotic Fund and scholars earned badges and strings in bars as they brought in collections of paper, scrap metal and old tyres, raising money for their efforts. Air raid shelters were dug by the council and air raid drills were practiced regularly.

In 1943, when families began to occupy the war time cabin homes, known as the ‘Cabin Homes Area’ where 284 cabins had been erected, there was not enough room in the old school to accommodate the influx of students. The Education Department approved the construction of wooden school buildings supported on stumps so that they could be easily transported at a later date. The building comprised of 6 rooms and was to accommodate up to 300 children; this was known as the Salisbury Extension School.



This school was located on land by the Salisbury Oval on Brown Terrace and catered for those children of employees of the Munitions factory in Salisbury. The school was opened at the beginning of the school year in 1943, the first Head teacher being Mr Ernest Currie. Enrolments were restricted to residents of the cabin cottages with few exceptions.

In March 1948 the Superintendent of Primary Schools recommended that the two schools be consolidated under one head teacher. In 1949, the two schools were united and operated on the old school site under the name 'Salisbury Consolidated School'.



In 1945 the Education Department purchased more land at the southern end of the school property in Mary Street. At the end of 1948 the prefabricated buildings from the

Salisbury Extension School were transported to their new site on Mary Street and it became the Salisbury Consolidated School. Mr Ernest Currie became headmaster and had the job of merging the two schools. Mr Currie was transferred in 1952, and replaced by Mr Ernest Priest.



In 1953 the enrolments at Salisbury School were nearly 700, due in part to the new housing estate at Salisbury North. A new school opened at Salisbury North in 1953 with an enrolment of 250; the head master was Mr Fred Davis.

Submitted by Lynette Potter and Jennifer Paine



THE CHURCH OF ST.AUGUSTINE, SALISBURY.



In 1846, ten years after the foundation of the colony, Mass was first celebrated in Salisbury on a site near the old Catholic cemetery; the first school was opened in 1850 in what is now the dining room and one bedroom of the presbytery. A temporary chapel made of pug and pine was created in 1853 but this structure was destroyed by fire in 1855.

The congregation then decided to build a permanent place of worship to be known as St. Augustine's Church. Much of the preparatory work such as quarrying and carting building stone was done voluntarily. The foundation stone of St. Augustine's was laid in 1851, but the Church was not completed until six years later due to the departure of most able bodied men to the Victorian goldfields. St. Augustine's Church was finally blessed and opened by Dr Francis Murphy, Adelaide's first Catholic Bishop, on 1st March 1857. Many descendants of the early settlers who helped with the building of the Church are still parishioners of St. Augustine's.

Until 1859 Salisbury was part of the Gawler parish. In June of that year it became a parish in its own right with Dr. Frederick Byrnes as first parish priest. About twenty parish priests have served Salisbury parish, three of them for long periods. Father George Pierce served from 1904 to 1916. He was succeeded by Father Richard Morrison who was parish priest from 1916 to 1926, he was a man of great aesthetic taste and had such a brilliant career as a student that he needed special papal permission to be ordained at an age younger than usual. Father Frederick Gatzmeyer was ordained parish priest in 1926 and held that position until he was killed in a tragic motor car accident at Parafield in 1957.

Submitted by Alice Foster.

Referenced St. Augustine Parish archives.

ST. AUGUSTINE MEMORIAL SCHOOL, SALISBURY.

In September 1953 a men's committee and ladies' auxiliary was formed to raise finance for the school. Through fetes, house parties, trading tables and a New Year's Eve ball funds were raised, with parents making curtains for the Hall and constructing outside seats for the school.

On Sunday 23rd January 1955, St. Augustine's Memorial School began its existence on Commercial Road, Salisbury. It was staffed by The Dominican sisters of North Adelaide under the guidance of Sister Mary Augustine. The school was dedicated to the memory of those Catholic servicemen who lost their lives during the war. It consisted of one building, later known as Siena Hall, in which Grades 1 to 7 were all housed, commencing with 148 students. A small group of students had commenced school as St. Augustine's students in the last few months of 1954 and were housed in a classroom at the Salisbury Primary School opposite the Salisbury Institute. The Dominican sisters travelled by car for a short time and were in residence in Emmaus House on Carey Street in July of the same year. The house was a personal donation from Mr Kevin Judd, and in later years when the sisters left the parish was donated for the use of the parish.

The school was made up of three classrooms separated by folding partition doors that enabled the classrooms to be converted into a spacious and much needed parish hall. A wide louvred verandah ran the full length of the building with a kitchen and office to complete the building. The tuckshop was conducted inside at the end of the verandah, utilising the kitchen.

The first debutante ball was held in 1955 with the children being prepared by Sister Mary Teresa; this was a great success and began a tradition for many years to come. Annual sports days at St Augustine's consisted of four house teams and there was always a march past with the students being trained in marching by Sister Augustine and the other sisters very diligently. Members of the Royal Australian Air Force and other dignitaries would be invited to be present and judge the marching of the students and present a trophy for the best team.

Football teams commenced under the guidance of Sister Mary Julian, and were very successful. Maintenance of the school was under the guiding hands of the Father's club, but the oval was kept in perfect condition again initially by Sister Julian on the Church tractor mower with her full habit on, and her veil flowing in the wind.

The numbers of students increased throughout 1955, thus necessitating another teacher and an extension to the building in the future. Enrolments for 1956 were 220 students and by 1959 another Sister had been added to the staff with an influx of 88 migrant students from Italy and United Kingdom.

St Augustine's Parish School is now a beautiful, modern, well facilitated school with a student population of approximately 600.

Submitted by Alice Foster.

Sourced School archives and M/s. Chris Ferrel.

Two early Principals of the Salisbury Public School

Mr Carl August Wittber

(Salisbury School 1879 – 1886)

Mr. C. A. Wittber was born in Silecia in May 1849. He migrated with his family to Australia when he was six years old and after a voyage of five months landed in Melbourne. His education was gained at a private school and from a tutor. On leaving school he became apprenticed to the printing trade. Subsequently, the family moved overland by bullock wagon to Adelaide, a journey of five weeks. He again entered the printing trade. His lust for learning eventually moved him in to the teaching career and he became one of the outstanding masters in the South Australian Education field. He came to Salisbury Public School in 1879 and was Head Master for some six years. During this time his son Carl Wilhelm (Bill) was born. Bill won fame for his engineering pursuits and manufactured the aircraft engine involved in the first Australian power flight.

During August Wittber's career he travelled overseas for the Education Department and collected text books and studied teaching techniques which he introduced into South Australia. He was the author of many text books which were widely used. He was responsible for introducing the school penny bank system in 1908. He was one of the committee responsible for the inauguration of the "Children's Hour" and composed many of the songs contained in it. This active life came to an end in 1926 at the age of 77.

Mr. J. H. L. Severin

(Salisbury School 1925 – 1938)

Mr. John H. L. Severin was born in Freeling. After having served as a monitor in the Freeling Public School, he went to the Teachers' Training College, where he became associated with the Director of Education (Mr Adey). His first appointment as head teacher was to the Nuriootpa Public School. From there he was transferred to Baroota School where he remained for two and a half years. At his further appointment to Dawson School, he was married to Miss Wanda S. Olafsen. After remaining at Dawson for 11 years he had charge of schools at Yongala Vale, Greenock, Orroroo, Saddleworth and Salisbury.

On 25th March 1938 Mr. Severin attended Salisbury school in the morning and at recess went to his home. When he did not return to school, his assistant, Mr Nadebaum, went in search of him and found him unconscious in a chair in his home. Dr. W. Hunter who had been attending Mr Severin for some time, was summoned and pronounced him deceased. Mr Severin had been in charge of the Salisbury school for 15 years and was due to retire at the end of the year. He left a widow, daughter and son and six grandchildren.

He had given 52 years of service to the Education Department.

Salisbury Past Resident



F T P (Teddy) Heidenreich
1874-1962



- Son of a Lutheran Pastor who settled in the Tanunda area.
- Served as an apprentice miller in the Albion mill at Gawler.
- Came to Salisbury in 1898 and eventually became the manager of the Munno Para Rolling Mills located on the northern end of Gawler St.
- The mill burnt down in 1915 and in 1917 he started a new mill at the intersection of Gawler and John St. This mill provided employment for many until its sale and closure around 1989. It was demolished in 1990.
- Teddy was a foundation member of the Salisbury Bowling Club and was president of the Norwood Football club for 23 years, never missing a training night or game.
- He was a generous, solidly behind any worth while cause and active in the community and church.
- He was described as *"a colourful figure, and to the older residents of Salisbury he was a symbol of the pioneer spirit which founded the State of South Australia"*.



Salisbury & District Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 838, Salisbury, SA, 5108

The Salisbury & District Historical Society was established in 1981. The Society was formed to promote the discussion and study of South Australian and Australian history, particularly within The District of Salisbury.

Other tasks include the collection, recording and classification of works, source material of all kinds relating to the history of the District of Salisbury and to facilitate access to the collection by the community.

SDHS Committee 2019

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Secretary:	Lynette Potter	
Treasurer:	Jan & Hugh Tonkin	
Salisbury Council Rep:	Shiralee Reardon	

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Disclaimer:

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While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the articles printed, responsibility is not accepted for any errors they may contain that are out of our control.

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