

SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER



JUNE 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

Our first general meeting for the year involved an interesting talk from Judith Dell who told of the History of Arnotts. Judith relayed how William Arnott, who immigrated to Australia 1847 (the same year that Salisbury was being established by J Harvey), opened a bakery in NSW that eventually became Arnotts Biscuits Pty Ltd in 1970, manufacturing the very popular Tim Tam from 1963. Judith also displayed an extensive and unique tin collection from Arnotts.



May was History Month and we again held a very successful walk around the historic sites of Salisbury as well as the Water Wheel Museum. Although a little damp we had 28 participants from various suburbs and finished with the usual exceptional afternoon tea.



With the completion of Salisbury's new Community Hub due by the end of the year, there are moves to tidy up the old Methodist Cemetery. A 'Friends of the Methodist Cemetery' group is being formed with participants from the Uniting Church (owner), the City of Salisbury Council, general community and our Historical Society. I understand the initial task will involve a general tidy up, reinstating the paths and the addition of some general lighting.

Our next general meeting is planned for June 19th. The feature of this meeting will be a talk by Edwin Curnow who grew up in Salisbury and now resides in Frankston Victoria; his topic is 'Pioneer Preacher Rev J Wright his early life and times at Salisbury'.

And finally, I'm pleased to advise that the society has a new Facebook page where newsletters will be published and upcoming events advertised; so please 'like', 'follow' and 'share'. The society can be found by searching either 'Salisbury and District Historical Society Incorporated' or 'SDHS706' and keep an eye on those news feeds!



President's Stop Press— Chronicle 8th May 1851

Salisbury May 5th; *"Still another fire has to be added to the list of outbreaks here since the flour Mill was destroyed in January. At about 15 minutes to midnight last night the alarm was given that Mr F Denton's ironmongery shop was on fire. The shop & Mr. Denton's dwelling-house are all in one, two of the front rooms of the house being used temporarily as the post office. The building is in the main street, a stone's through from the railway-station, having the Governor MacDonnel Hotel on one side and the new post-office building on the other. Messrs. Batchelor, Montgomery, Amos & Lowe were among the first on the scene. Mounted-Constable Eyre followed immediately after. The fire was found to have taken possession of the front shop, where miscellaneous goods and stock were stored. Fortunately an inch hose 70ft long, used by the contractors for the new post office was available and after Mr Montgomery had burst in the front door a good stream of water was brought to bear on the fire. The pressure from the Barossa main was exceedingly good. As there seemed little hope of the post office portion of the building being saved, the door was broken in by police and the letters removed... the hose was played so effectually that the fire did not get outside the shop. The stock there, however was entirely destroyed. The house which belongs to Mr J Heddle is insured.*



CFS General Background

The SA Country Fire Service (CFS) evolved from a long and complex partnership between volunteers, local government and the South Australian Government to meet community safety needs. The partnership began as an attempt to deal with fires in rural areas.

Firefighting was left to local residents who would band together to fight fires as they arose, without any formal organisation or authority.

In 1913, the government gave councils the right to appoint Fire Control Officers who had the power to do anything 'necessary or expedient and practicable' to, prevent fires, and extinguish fires.

From the mid-1950s, Emergency Fire Service (EFS) organisations grew stronger and volunteers began to campaign for EFS to be established as a statutory authority. In 1976, the government passed the *Country Fires Act*, which set up the SA CFS.

Salisbury Fire Brigade

The Salisbury CFS Brigade has always consisted entirely of volunteers. In the 1940s the one major piece of equipment was a hand drawn 2 wheeled hose cart. This comprised of a draw bar that two people had to hold to keep the cart upright and to push it with. Fire protection in Salisbury was limited to knapsacks, fire beaters and 400 feet of hose, which was on loan from the Civil Defence organisation. In early 1943, Salisbury mushroomed into a munitions manufacturing centre, supporting the War effort.

As a result of the new munitions factories Penfield Fire Station was established at No 2 Explosives and Filling Factory, with five firemen and three appliances, supervised by Senior Fireman, Fred Kerr. Salisbury was part of the 'Munitions Fire District' until the early 1950s when it was disbanded. This brigade assisted the volunteers of Salisbury.

The Bunyip in February 1947 reported that in Salisbury, the *'first training of Auxiliary Fire Services occurred with 16 present under the leadership of J L Helps. Many of the team were new to fire drill and undertook the training with great enthusiasm. Mr I Judd had been primarily responsible for the recruiting of new members'*.

In the 1940s the town was warned of a fire by ringing the bell at the Methodist Church.

The old 'Air Raid' siren from the Munitions Factory replaced the church warning bell in the late 1940s and was operated from the District Council Office or the then Town Clerk's (E J Brown) home.

The siren lasted until 1989, when it finally wore out.



In 1950 an obsolete Austin Ambulance, that was previously owned by the SA Police Department, was converted to a tray top by members of the brigade. They added a pump and length of hose and it became the first Salisbury Appliance.

After a huge fire at the railway yards adjacent to the Flour Mill in 1951 on the eve of Labor Day celebrations, the need for a fire appliance became obvious. With limited equipment and poor water pressure, and the assistance of the

Munitions Brigade, a goods shed containing a truck and wheat were destroyed.

After a 200 signature petition for more equipment a public meeting was held in March of 1952. It was agreed that all ratepayers would pay threepence in the pound (Sterling) ; 4,000 pounds was raised to purchase a four-wheel drive wartime 'Blitz Buggy' converted to a fire appliance. This stayed in service in Salisbury until 1964, and then saw duty on the West Coast until it was pensioned off in 1983.

In 1952 it was also decided that a "proper" rank structure of volunteers should be introduced. As a result, Keith Abbott was appointed the first Station Officer or Captain of the Brigade.

The Advertiser in September 1953 reported that *'The work of the Salisbury Volunteer Fire Brigade will be eased by the purchasing of a modern firefighting unit. The director of EFS Mr F Kerr has invited Mr K Abbott Chief Officer of Salisbury Brigade to exhibit the new unit at the Royal Show'*.



The first motorised appliance was kept next to the driver's residence and the Salisbury RSL (in the open). In 1954 extension to the Council Chambers in John Street were constructed including a new Nissen type hut for the Fire Brigade appliance.

In 1960 Alan Savage succeeded Keith Abbott as Station Officer and remained in that role until 1970. In 1970 Frank Dunn took over the role of Station Officer and held this position until his retirement from 'active' firefighting in 1992.

The brigade inherited a relatively modern appliance at the end of 1963 when the Elizabeth EFS closed and MFS took over the area previously covered by them. It was a dual cab urban appliance. In May 1964 the brigade received a brand new International Fire Appliance that was funded by the District Council; it was equipped to fight both urban and rural fires and carried 500 gallons of water.

A new fire station was opened in 1971 in Wiltshire Street behind the previous station. This was



timely as the Para Hills EFS merged with the Salisbury Brigade and their appliance, which was almost the same as the Salisbury one, was added to the Salisbury fleet.

Salisbury had 157 reported calls, the highest in the state at that time and this would continue to escalate into the future.

In 1976, the EFS evolved into the CFS, until that point the EFS had been under the control of SA Police. It now had its own staff, legislative responsibilities and funding and eventually taking the responsibility of the CFS away from district councils.

In 1977, the SA Metropolitan Fire Service or SAFB (as it was known then) established a station on Frost Road, Brahma Lodge and took over the "built up area" around Salisbury. This reduced the number of calls for the brigade from around 500 a year to about 250.

In 1980 the Salisbury Brigade appointed Harry Bowey, a past Mayor of the City of Salisbury and significant advocate of the Salisbury Brigade, as its first President. A role he held until 1988. Other Presidents have been, R. Mattiske, 1988-1992, F Dunn 1992-2012 and R Styling 2012 to present.

On 19 February 1980 the brigade was called to be part of its first major deployment outside of its fire district to Deep Creek Conservation Park on the Fleurieu Peninsula. This was the start of the brigades many deployments to all parts of the state and country.

Following the states' second 'Ash Wednesday' fire, there was a significant overhaul of CFS equipment, especially trucks. As a result, Salisbury received a new Hino urban rural 4-wheel drive appliance in 1992. This replaced the 1974 quick attack appliance and the older of the ACCO 2-wheel drive appliances.

Salisbury CFS Brigade moved into Wiltshire Street on the 3rd of March 1971. This building had an extension opened on the 7th of September 1987, to allow for more space for appliances.

On the 23rd of May 2004, Salisbury CFS relocated to the current premises located at 156 Commercial Road, Salisbury.



The Salisbury Brigade has always been fortunate to have great and visionary leadership and membership over its 75 years and during that time has provided outstanding service to not only the District of Salisbury but across the state and indeed the country. This service continues today and they remain constantly at the ready to respond to calls for assistance in their own area of responsibility and throughout Australia.

Over the year the Brigade has had its fair share of Australian Honours, Frank Dunn OAM, Ken Potter AFSM and Rob Styling OAM and AFSM. Also there are over 47 life members that have given over 10 years service and A King and B Menadue have given over 40 years service.

The community of Salisbury is very fortunate to have had the services of the dedicated volunteers who make up our CFS.

Submitted by D Brown from extract of a short history of "Celebrating 75 Fabulous Years" prepared by R Styling OAM AFSM

SALISBURY MEALS ON WHEELS



Meals on Wheels is a not for profit community based volunteer organisation providing low cost meals for people who live independently, but may be unable to cook for themselves, such as older people, people with a disability or recovering from an illness or injury.

The initial idea of providing a hot daily meal to people unable to cater for themselves was instigated by Miss Doris Taylor, born in Norwood on 25th July 1901. After a childhood accident which resulted in a lifelong spinal injury, she realised the need for such a service.



The first meals were served to 8 elderly Pt Adelaide residents on 9th August 1954. The meals were prepared in a prefabricated Nissen hut, donated by the Le Messurier family who had many businesses in the local area.

Delivery was originally done by car with large containers of soup, meat, vegetables and sweets taken to the resident and served onto their waiting plates.

The cooking and delivery was initially done by 11 volunteers who set an example which thousands of others have followed throughout the state to this day.

By November 1954, 30 people were receiving meals at a cost of 2 shillings a day.

Some 10 years later the Salisbury Kitchen situated on Brown Terrace was opened on 2nd April 1965 by Lady Bastyan, wife of the then South Australian Governor; this was the 19th branch established in South Australia. Several community meetings were held to gain volunteers to operate the branch who were needed to prepare the meals from 7.30am -11am and delivery drivers were required from 11am – 1.30pm.

Land for the Salisbury kitchen was donated by Mrs Elsie Quick and the kitchen was the first wholly owned kitchen in the state. Records show an anonymous donor gave a most generous donation of 8,500 pounds to assist with the cost of the building, a Rotary Club project.

The initial cost of a meal was 2 shillings and sixpence with the Salisbury kitchen originally serving 10 clients. A number of women from the Salisbury and Elizabeth area volunteered to work in the kitchen and deliver meals each week.

The first Chairman of Salisbury Meals on Wheels was Reverend E Hind, of the Salisbury Uniting Church, Secretary Mrs McNicol.

For many clients the daily visits also provided an important social contact with the outside world. The Meals on Wheels model in general has served as an exemplary for other states.

Within 20 years more than 70 meals per day were being prepared and delivered at Salisbury.

During 1979 - 80 hot boxes, using heat beads were introduced. The introduction of Alfoil containers made delivery much easier, it was more hygienic and the meals stayed hotter, with each client getting the same quantity and no shortages at the end of the round.

Major renovations of the kitchen were undertaken in 1996 and for several years the kitchen prepared more than 250 meals per day, with 100 meals going to the Playford Council area.

Further refurbishment was completed during 2014, with the removal of all timber cupboards and replaced by stainless steel bench tops and open shelving. New non-slip floor covering was also laid.

By 2010 the kitchen had prepared almost 1 million meals and was providing 30,000 plus meals per year at a cost of \$6.50 per day per client.

Currently in 2019 Salisbury Meals on Wheels have 200 clients and 130 volunteers. Meals cost \$9.50 per person per day for a 3 course meal. All clients receive a menu every week from which they have the choice of two main courses everyday.

Frozen meals are provided from the Kent Town Kitchen, approximately 120 a week, for clients who require weekend meals or meals on public holidays. Special diets are also catered for including vitamised, milk free and vegetarian.

The Salisbury branch has many life members including an incredible 45 years of service from Ms Daphne Bald who also undertook secretary for 23 years.

The branch is extremely fortunate to have had and continues to have such a wonderful group of volunteers who serve their community and promote the ideals of Doris Taylor.

Submitted By
Jennifer Paine



Miss Doris Taylor
founder of
Meals on Wheels

Miss D Taylor visits Salisbury Advertiser 19th Nov 1954;

Miss Doris Taylor ... who sees more of the human side than most from her motor wheel chair is disappointed. Her wheelchair is temporarily off the road and she will not be able to make her attempt on the Norwood-Salisbury "buzz-wagon" (her name for her petrol driven wheel chair).. She is already holder of the record Norwood—Port Adelaide,(10mile in 60 minutes). However Miss Taylor will still be in Salisbury to carry out the judging of the doll completion at the Salisbury North School fete. She described the town as "growing up like a mushroom". The school was opened in February last year (1953) with 250 children and would have 1000 by next February (1955).

She said "I went up there full of the troubles of the aged and instead I found the problems of the young"



Salisbury Post Office

By 1841 there were six post offices in the colony of South Australia. These were, Adelaide, Port Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Morphett Vale, Willunga and Encounter Bay. Offices opened at Gawler in 1841 and Mt. Barker in 1842.

From 1848 when the town was established it took two years before

Salisbury became an address for mail. It was transported from Adelaide via the Burra Coach which dropped off mail at the Old Spot Hotel.

In 1850 Charles Bertheau, who conducted a general store on Commercial Road, was given the contract to bring the mail from the Old Spot Hotel into Salisbury and distribute it at his store. In 1853 he sold out to Joseph McCabe who also took out the contract of mail delivery. About two years later the contract was taken over by James Jepson who had a general store in Ann Street (opposite the old Police Station). It is reported that he used to walk to the Old Spot to collect the mail.

It was about 1855 that postage stamps were introduced.

After the railway reached Salisbury in 1857 the mail was conveyed by train. In 1862 the contract was taken up by Mrs Charlotte Pretty who was running a draper's shop in John Street. She kept it for about 10 years and then Louisa Litchfield, daughter of the station master was appointed postmistress and the delivery of mail was made at the railway station.

In 1886 Louisa married William Davy and her brother-in-law, Thomas Lipson was appointed to the job. He had it for about 10 years when it was taken over by Thomas Willett.

The morse-code telegraph was installed in Salisbury in 1857, soon after the railway was opened and the first telephone service between Adelaide and Salisbury was connected in 1892. The first telephone exchange with three subscribers, was installed in 1905.

In 1901 the newly formed Australian Commonwealth Government took over control of the postal facilities.

In Salisbury, the railway station and post office were under the same roof. There were no private letter boxes and only very few places such as the Flour Mill and Chaff Mill had telephones and there was no delivery of mail. Everyone had to go to the little window at the Railway Station on the eastern side of the line to collect their mail. There was no platform or station on the western side. There were no street letter boxes and everyone had to go to the same place to post letters. When the postmaster went to lunch, the station master served out mail and when the station master went to lunch the postmaster looked after the trains. There were not many trains in those days.

Percy Gill was appointed postmaster in 1912 and in January 1914 the postal facility was moved from the railway station to two rooms of the house attached to Mr Denton's ironmongery shop next to the Governor McDonnell Hotel. A substantial Post Office building was built next door to it and this opened in 1915. This was a two-storey building with the Post Office and Telephone Exchange and part of the postmaster's residence on the ground floor and the main part of the residence on the upper floor.

This became the mail distribution centre to the outlying areas of Penfield, Angle Vale, Waterloo Corner, Bolivar and St. Kilda. The mail was conveyed by a contractor to these places three times a week. Mr C Donnelly was the first postmaster to occupy the new building; he was succeeded by H Byerlee in 1917, A Clifford in 1920, P Bested in 1929 and A Olsson in 1939.

In 1941 Salisbury was a grade 1 post office with the entire staff consisting of the postmaster, Mr Olsson and a postal assistant, Harry Squire. There were three full-time and one part-time telephonists.

The erection of 297 cabin homes in 1942 made it necessary for a mail delivery to households within a half a mile radius of the post office. By this time there were 200 telephones connected to the local exchange.

By 1957 there were 13 inside postal workers and 21 telephonists.

In 1969 a new post office was built on the south-west corner of John and Church Streets and the telephone exchange, which by this time was now automatic, occupied its own building on the remainder of the allotment to Wiltshire Street. The old building was sold to the State Government for offices and was later demolished.

In 1996 the post office relocated to a shop in the Parabanks Shopping Centre and the building on the corner of John Street and Wiltshire Street was then occupied by the Library. The whole function of the post office changed with the introduction of satellite communication.

Submitted by Lynette Potter

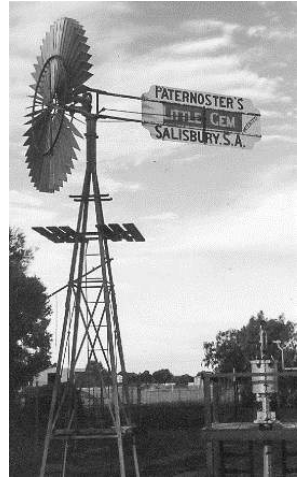
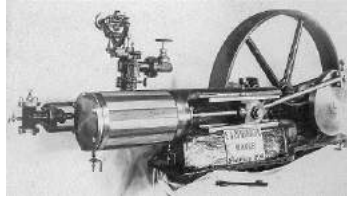
1945



Salisbury Past Resident



**Edwin John
Paternoster
1846-1943**



- Born in Waltham Abbey Essex - July 1846
Died in North Adelaide - April 1943 - aged 97
- Immigrated with parents in 1858 on the ship 'General Hewett' - aged 12
- He married Phynella Pollard in 1867; they had three sons and five daughters
- Edwin worked initially at Gawler for James Martin Phoenix Foundry
- He started his own business in 1873 as a gunsmith and sewing machinist; he manufactured the first treadle sewing machine in the new colony
- Edwin and his family moved to Salisbury in 1878 where he set up an agriculture manufacturing business, located on East Terrace on the corner of Union Street. East Terrace later became known as Paternoster Row
- In 1884 he applied for a patent relating to the feather of windmill blades; they manufactured windmills know as 'Little Gem' which were used throughout Australia
- The business expanded in 1907 with the manufacturing of oil engines; his eldest son eventually took over the business
- Edwin was a councillor for Yatala North for seven years
- He was also a local preacher for the Salisbury Congregational Church and a member of the Church of Christ



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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Vice President: Delwyn Ayling

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Treasurer: Jan & Hugh Tonkin

Salisbury Council Rep: Shiralee Reardon

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Disclaimer:

Views and opinions expressed in the Salisbury Historical Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Salisbury and District Historical Society Inc.

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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