

# **SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER**



**JUNE 2020**



*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

## **2020 General Meetings & Activities**

**February 15th Saturday 9am**

*Working Bee — Clean-up at Museum*

**March 11th Wednesday 7pm**

*Pamela Rajkowski "The First Cameleer Settlers"*

*the first author to research the history of the Afghan cameleers of Australia*

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**April 5th Sunday 12pm**

*Picnic on the lawns at rear of Museum*

**May 17th Sunday 1:30pm**

*History Month Salisbury walk*

**June 10th Wednesday 7pm**

*Keith Ellison "Ferry Sound Industry, Radio & Magnetic Recording"*

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**July 15th Wednesday 10am (Note daytime Meeting)**

*Rachael Harris "Women in WW2 in SA including Munition workers in the field"*

**October 14th Wednesday 7pm AGM**

*"Show & Tell"*

**December 6th Sunday 12:30pm**

*Christmas Luncheon (details to be advised)*

**Committee Meetings 7pm on Thursday:**

**Feb 6th, April 2nd, June 4th, Aug 6th, Oct 1st & Nov 5th**

*Cancelled due to COVID-19*

*To Be Advised due to COVID19*

## Report from the President – Des Brown

Greetings, I trust you are all coping as well as possible in these unprecedented times.

It appears these events have a habit of occurring approx. every 100 years, 1920 The Plague, 1820 Cholera, 1919 Spanish Flu and 2020 COVID –19.

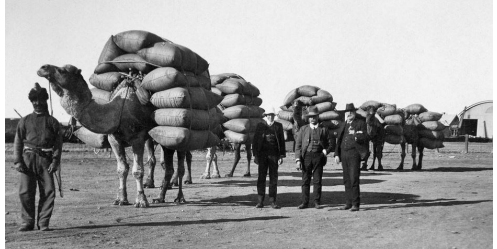
Let us hope that as we, in Australia, continue with following the advice of the Medical experts we may soon return to our “normal” lifestyle.

Our April, May & June gathering have been cancelled as a result, and we await Government direction as to when we can resume.

Our last meeting in March was a very enjoyable and informative meeting. Pamela Rajkowski made us all aware at how much our country's development was assisted by the work of the first Afghan cameleers and their camels.

This included

- The Overland Telegraph line
- Mineral export, copper, gold
- Wool, grain and general supplies
- The Old Ghan Railway
- Mail deliveries
- Rabbit proof fencing



I have been advised that the City of Salisbury Council has engaged a contractor to complete the upgrade and maintenance work required for the Water Wheel. All being well this should be completed over the next few months.

It is difficult to say when we will be able to meet again as before. Social distancing will be our limiting factor but I look forward to being able to personally meet up with you all again soon.

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## President's Stop Press — How Times have Changed

### SA Register Sept 1874;

“Salisbury Aug 28th , We are getting our share of rain this winter, a day without more or less of it is a rarity. The Little Para River is bank high and threatening to flood. The crops look very well indeed. The coming Show and ploughing match do not seem to excite much interest yet.

This sleepy hollow is at length waking up about felt wants, including a District Council office, a schoolroom, and a Institute. At present Council meetings are held in a cold upper room at the public house, to which the only access is by a dangerously steep stairs. The schoolroom is disgraceful, and calls for the Board of Health, and of anything like and Institute building the town is destitute.”

### Advertiser 24 August 1950; "Tobacco Problem at Salisbury,

Owing to the greatly increased adult population of the district, the Salisbury Council recently made an attempt to have the tobacco quota increased. The council has been advised that tobacco production of Australian manufacture is still restricted by the inadequacy of dollar funds. However, in view of the Sate Housing Trust's building project of over 500 homes in the town, some small allocation may be available to assist the new residents. “

## REFLECTIONS BY MR G.S. JENKINS

Gordon Stanley Jenkins, son of William and Jane, was born on November 17<sup>th</sup> 1889 in Salisbury. He married Mira Ponton, and they had 3 children Winston, Lois and Heather.



He lived most of his life in the district and was heavily involved with the citrus industry of the area. He was elected to the Salisbury Council in 1919 and remained in office till 1949. He passed away in 1971.

In 1969 two high school students visited Gordon, to ask if he could help them with some information about the early days of Salisbury for their school project. After a bit more prompting from his niece, Elizabeth Bowey, he agreed. This following is taken from those notes written in July 1969 when Gordon was 80 years of age.



Going places in the past was either by bullock wagon or Shanks Pony (walk), "if you didn't get there today, tomorrow would do", the saying went. Personally, I thought nothing of walking to Tea Tree Gully in a day. I would leave Salisbury at 8am to go to Golden Grove then turn right to Tea Tree Gully, have lunch at my Uncle's store and then leave by 2pm and be back in Salisbury by 5pm. Most families came into Salisbury by horse and cart, then sulkies and traps.

Around 1910 the motor car came on the scene. There was no water, sewerage or telephone until the start of the century, most people had their own wells, rainwater tanks and cellars, no fridges then.



The Baker used to call every day with his horse and covered in cart. The greengrocer, George Verril who came from Hermitage, called every week with his van and two horses laden with plums, cherries and apricots. Marr Bros. from Golden Grove, also had a van and two horses and brought groceries. The Syrians and Afghans also used to walk from



house to house selling their wares, garments, towelling and sheets all wrapped neatly in sheets of oil cloth. Bill Pedler, one of four brothers who lived in the foothills would arrive with his little box laden with medicines and ointments etc, and all guaranteed to kill or cure, you had to take the chance! Mostly they were all pretty good.



Francis Fenden came out from England and purchased land in 1849 along the Little Para, and became interested in fruit growing. He initially planted 15 acres of grapes and built his own distillery. He later planted 6 acres of oranges on the valley flats which flourished.

This is thought to be the start of the commercial citrus industry in Salisbury. The fruit became well known throughout Australia for its excellent quality. During the orange season it was a common sight to see two or three hundred cases lined up along the railway station platform ready to be picked up and sent north and on to Broken Hill. It was Salisbury's oranges that took out 90% of the prizes at the Royal Adelaide Show. Salisbury used to have their own Citrus festivals, the main exhibitors, K. Harvey, R. M. Sayers, G.S. Jenkins and C. Ponton. In 1920 the exhibition of citrus at the Adelaide Show was a pyramid built and decorated by Mr Sayers Sr. with citrus fruit from Salisbury. The pyramid was approximately 30 foot high and the each section packed with different coloured fruit, it looked spectacular.



The first metal roads were laid during the depression years in the 1930s, the stone from nearby quarries. The stone was carted in large wagons usually pulled by six big horses. The stone was thrown out by the teamsters on the side of the road and generally in 6 and 7 ton heaps. It was later cracked by men with 1 ½ or 2 pound hammers with a handle 3 to 4 foot long. This was called stone knapping and was very hard work. Stone crushers came in later and everything was done at the quarries. Most of the stone

that was used for a break water at Outer Harbour came from Salisbury quarries.

One summer's night, a bootless sailor got off the train at Salisbury and went for a stroll up the main street. He noticed boots in the window of Mr W. Davey's shop, and thought he would like a pair. As it was a hot night Bill had decided to sleep on the couch in his shop and had left the door open out to the footpath. Bill's only attire was a nightshirt. When the sailor walked in to take a pair of boots Bill was wide awake he yelled out and gave chase. He was yelling and calling out in hot pursuit so much that he woke nearly everybody that end of town. He caught up with the sailor at the Brewery Bridge where the sailor ran through a prickly hedge and climbed an orange tree. After a bit of a struggle Bill and two other helpers caught the would-be thief, who got two months goal. It had been a quarter mile chase for Bill in his nightshirt, ending with his feet full of prickles, a punch to the nose and a black eye.



Both Bill Davey and Bill Harvey were very good athletes, sprinters and long-distance runners while Hedley Coker was a champion high jumper. The two Bill's used to play for Port Adelaide, they would

walk to Pt Adelaide in the morning, play the match, have tea and walk back, arriving home at 11pm.



Around 1895 there was a black English cattle dog who became known as "Bob the railway dog". Bob used to ride on the trains in the guards van between Adelaide and Gawler and Adelaide to Pt Adelaide. If on the train to Gawler he would always get out on the platform at Salisbury and have

a look around, but as soon as he heard the guards whistle he would hop back on again and off he would go back to Adelaide, later boarding another train to Pt Adelaide. Everybody knew Bob and used to like to give him something to eat. He did this for several years until someone claimed him.

On one New Year's Eve, the local policeman, who had a black horse, got a bit of a shock when he went out to feed the horse the next morning; during the night the horse had been given a whitewash by some local lads. The policeman thought he had gone colour blind for an instant but soon hosed off the animal to reveal his true colour.

There were swagmen, who used to roam the roads, carrying their swag on their backs and black billy and tucker bag in their hand. Plodding their way to nowhere in particular. I asked a chap one day where he was going and he said "Pt Augusta". I asked him what would he do when he got there and he promptly replied "walk back". At night they slipped into farmers sheds or open haystacks, and usually begged for food and collected milk from any left on the roadside stands from the dairies.

Joe Judd started mixed farming with a flock of 146 sheep on the area where the Salisbury East High school is today. The long-eared Bandicoot and the Kangaroo Rat were in the hills just above that area.

To go up on the hills and overlook Salisbury and take a birds eye view of the Salisbury Plains and the sea in the west beyond and imagine things that used to be or as I saw it 60 years ago and give a description as to what it looked like on a late spring evening. Away to the west one could see the Gawler River, winding its weary way towards Pt Gawler from the foot hills to the sea beyond, and but for the giant red gums, which grew along its banks that would not be possible. Twelve miles nearer Adelaide and the hills once could see the same picture to some extent of the Little Para, doing the same thing, winding its way to St Kilda beach and salt pans. It runs right through the middle of Salisbury, on its destination to the sea and on the river flats grew thousands of orange trees, which were laden with golden luscious fruit. All the land between the Gawler River and the Little Para, then onto the foothills was agricultural land of high quality. Over this area were hundreds of farms scattered, carrying out mixed farming, growing hay, fat lamb producing and dairy farming. There is something that appeals to live in the district, you are in town and yet it seems to have an open air country feeling about it. There are still native birds chirping all day, including mud larks, parrots and cockatoos, and in the night you can still hear the brown owl and the possums.

***Submitted by Jennifer Paine  
from notes of C S Jenkins  
recorded in 1969***

***You can read more about  
"Bob the Railway Dog"***

***[www.bobtherailwaydog.com](http://www.bobtherailwaydog.com)***







***1950 Aerial photo looking East over Salisbury  
Salisbury North homes commencing in the foreground  
The Little Para river meandering through highlighted by the gums***



***Sheering at "The Levels" around 1900  
Now Mawson Lakes on the banks of Dry Creek***





***Salisbury Citrus Growers Cooperative***

***Packing Shed around 1930***

***Later used by the 1st Salisbury Scout group  
was located near the new City of Salisbury Community Hub***

***Salisbury Railway Bridge***

***1889***

***Little Para River***



**Over the next few Newsletters we intend to list the Salisbury's Landmark Dates 1800's -1900's 1900's**

1910	First powered flight in SA
1911	Reticulated water extended to Salisbury
	Government established the Parafield Poultry Research Centre on Cemetery site
1915	New Post Office opens in John Street
	Second Burton Methodist Church built
1917	Heidenreich's flour mill commenced operation
1924	Tower added to the St Augustine's Church
	Post Office opened at St Kilda
1925	Council Offices built in John Street
1927	Parafield became Adelaide's major aerodrome
1928	New Congregational Church built Salisbury Highway
	Hospital opens in home at the corner of Haig Road & Park Terrace (now Aldi)
	Kingsford Smith and Ulm landed Southern Cross at Parafield
1931	First burial in new Cemetery near the new Chidda Station (Salisbury Memorial Park)
1935	ICI established Salt Works
1939	First sod turned on site of Salisbury Explosive Factory
	Institute transferred ownership to District Council
1940	Existing home Hospital closed
1942	Acquisition of 54 acres south of Park Terrace for 284 Cabin Homes
1949	Commencement of Cabin Home construction
1950	Land acquired for military airfield (Edinburgh)
1953	Salisbury North Primary school opened
1955	New town Elizabeth officially opened
1956	Salisbury residents connected to deep drainage
	Council resumes ownership of Cabin Home area
1958	GM begins building its Elizabeth factory
1959	Lyell McEwin Hospital Opened and Salisbury High School opened
	Central District first SANFL match
1963	District Council of Salisbury renamed District Council of Salisbury and Elizabeth
1964	Salisbury became a city and Elizabeth became a separated government area
1966	Salisbury Swimming Centre opened
1968	Salisbury Teachers College opened
1974	Parabanks Shopping Centre opened
1975	Civic Centre opened
1988	Ron White clocktower built

## Salisbury Past Residents



**William R Jenkins  
& family  
about 1900**

### **William Richard Jenkins**

Born at Hindmarsh in December 1852, the only son of William Jenkins and Sarah Palmer. His father William Jenkins apparently was a descendant of the Duke of Norfolk.

William Richard married Jane Goddard 1/8/1874

Jane, born 17/11/1889, the daughter Mr & Mrs James Goddard, Salisbury residents. Their children were; Leslie, Verna, Archibald, Muriel, Cecil, Arnold, Reginold, Gordon, Ervine, Esric and Gwenola.

Richard was a great raconteur & worked on a nearby orchard. He & Jane raised there family in a small pise wall home on Commercial Rd, previously owned by Jane's father James Goddard.

Many of the family became renowned prize winning citrus orchardist along the banks of the Little Para river and helped to make Salisbury the State's number one source of citrus for over 100 years.

Two of the main orangeries were know as Fenden Grove and Carisbrook.

Many of the family went on to serve in the community through the District Council, Sporting Clubs and Church.

William Richard died 14/1/1918 aged 65

Jane died 7/9/1914 aged 59 and is buried at St Johns Salisbury along with William  
(you can read some of Gordon Stanley Jenkins' reflection of living in Salisbury on Page 4 )



## *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 2020**

President:	Des Brown	0408086545
Vice President:	Delwyn Ayling	
Secretary:	Lynette Potter	
Treasurer:	Jan & Hugh Tonkin	
Salisbury Council Rep:	Shiralee Reardon	

*Committee Members:* Jim & Glenyss Trenorden, Jennifer Paine, Raelene Brown,  
and Alice Foster

*Editing Team:* Jennifer Paine, Lynette Potter, Alice Foster, Tanya Paine, Raelene  
and Des Brown

*Web-site Mangers:* David Murren

*Auditor:* Anna Gordon

### **Disclaimer:**

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While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the articles printed, responsibility is not  
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*Our Newsletter is printed courtesy of the Office of the  
Hon Zoe Bettison MP, Member for Ramsay*

*We recognise the Kurna Aboriginal People as the Traditional Owners of the Adelaide Plains in South Australia*