

SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

Celebrating over 40 years of "keeping alive the history of Salisbury"



MARCH 2022



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

General Meetings and Activities

February 19th Saturday 9:30am

Clean up and Sausage Sizzle

April 6th Wednesday 7:00pm

Ruth Gates (nee Magor) 'Gemima Magor' story

May 15th Sunday 1:30pm

History Month Salisbury walk

June 8th Wednesday 7:00pm

Bob Stace "Life & Times of Colonel Light"

August 10th Wednesday 7:00pm

Martin Guerin "Penfield & WRE"

October 19th Wednesday 7:00pm

AGM "Show & Tell"

December 4th Sunday 12:30pm

Christmas Luncheon (details to be advised)

Trip to Kapunda Historical Museum June/July

date & time to be advised

Report from the President – Des Brown

Greetings all; as we start 2022 we wish you all a safe and enjoyable new year and trust we will soon have the issues of Covid behind us. In the mean time despite the uncertainty we will push on with our normal program and adhere to any Covid restrictions. Presently we are able to hold our normal meeting, where masks must be worn, and signing in is required. Please do not bring along supper, the Society will provide biscuits, tea and coffee.

I refer you to our program on the adjacent page. The Folk Museum will be open on the first Sunday of the month and Water Wheel Museum on the first and third Sunday of the month unless it falls on a public holiday weekend where they will be closed.

Thank you to the 12 members who assisted with a clean up of our Folk Museum on 19th February.

We now have two uniform additions to the museum:

- the original uniform for the 1940s Drum Major of the Salisbury Primary School Band
- the Salisbury Country Fire members uniform worn in the 1960s



Congratulations to Vesta Williams who turned 100 on 13 November 2021.

Vesta has lived her whole life in Salisbury. Vesta now lives in the Dunbar Nursing Home and still has a great recollection of her past years of Salisbury. Vesta's Great Grandfather was Thomas James Williams who in 1845 became a publican of "Travellers Rest" and registered it as "Old Spot Inn" in 1849.



Vale Rita Mary Wilson who died on 2nd December 2021 aged 96.

Rita had been an enthusiastic member of our Society.

Rita researched and published the life and achievements of Ruby Davy the first Australian Doctor of Music. Her book was published by the SDHS in November 1995.

We extend our sincere sympathies to the Wilson family.

President's Stop Press — Bunyip Friday 6th Aug 1948

New Road – Brown Terrace – Honour Clerk

At Salisbury District Council meeting on Monday, in accordance with the Opening and Closing of Roads Act the Council made an order for the opening of a strip of land 50 feet wide from Park Terrace extending along the eastern boundary of the Recreation Park to Allison Factory as a new road. The name "Brown Terrace" honours the District Clerk, Mr E.J. Brown, who in December will complete his 20th year as Clerk of the District.

Mr Brown for many years was secretary of the Recreation Park and secretary of various sporting bodies using the Park. He was the first secretary of the Gymnasium Club, and took a prominent part in the building of the Gymnasium Hall, opened free of debt in 1913.

Council considered it appropriate that this new road looking on the playing field should be named in his honour.

Salisbury District Council

1920s to 1970s

An act to appoint District Councils and to define the powers thereof was passed on 25th November 1852. This allowed for a formation of a Council in every district within the province to be called the District Council of that district and was the birth of Local Government in South Australia.

South Australia originated the principles of an elected local government and was the first of the colonies to implement it.

The Yatala Council (which included Salisbury) was formed following a petition of 120 residents who nominated John Chamberlain of Pine Forest (now Nailsworth), Thomas Abbott, the Little Para, Daniel Brady, the Dry Creek, John Harvey, the North Para and John Ragless (the Younger), the Great North Road, as their first councillors. The council was proclaimed in 15th June 1853 and the first meeting took place at 2pm on Saturday 9th July in an office in King William Street.

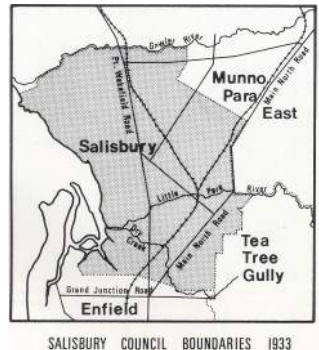
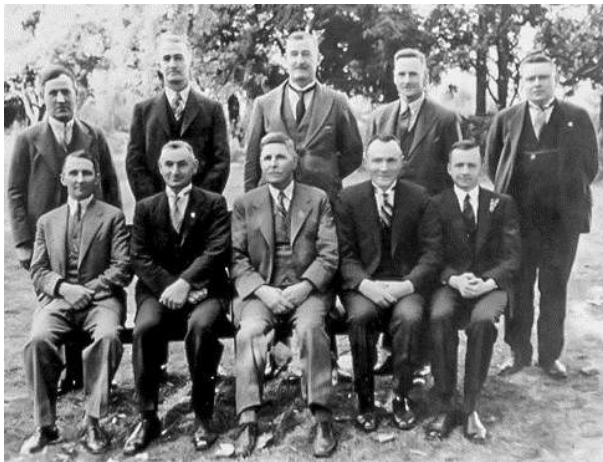
On the 18th June 1868, the Chief Secretary, Henry Ayres, proclaimed the separation of the district into North and South and set forth the boundaries of each. The dividing line was the Dry Creek, the Northern area being named Yatala North and the other, an area of 11,685 acres, the District of Yatala South. The old combined Council held its last meeting on 19th June 1868.

The proclamation of the new district appointed five new councillors for Yatala North, they being Messrs. Joseph Broadstock, Andrew Goodall, Thelisma Aubert, Henry Wright and John Hill. The first meeting of the new council was held at the Governor MacDonnell hotel, Salisbury on the 22nd June 1868. The five nominated councillors chose Thelisma Aubert as the first chairman and until a decision regarding the appointment of a clerk was made, Mr. E.W. Loades acted in that position. On the 18th August 1868 James Harvey, son of John Harvey was elected clerk at an annual salary of £30. James Harvey remained in that office for 42 years.

The new council was soon in financial straits, as the district was not rich and land holders were faced with frequent droughts. In 1871 the Clerk reported only £14 in the Bank and council had to decline its annual donation of £2 to the local school. In 1872 the half yearly balance showed total receipts of £180 and a debit of 6/8d. requiring an overdraft of £50 from the bank. In 1873 it was suggested that the auditors do their work voluntarily. Mr James Harvey was succeeded as District Clerk of Yatala North by Mr H.E. Talbot (1910-1917).



The first council chamber in John Street Salisbury was built in 1925 and consisted of a single room and was situated on a block of land which had been purchased by the District Council of Yatala North in 1906. In 1917 Mr. W.J. Sexton became the District Clerk and he served until 1929 when he was succeeded by Mr. E.J. Brown for the next 23 years.



1933 Salisbury District Council

In 1933 the name was changed to the District Council of Salisbury. In September 1933 at the first meeting of the District Council of Salisbury Mr. H J.W. Griffiths was appointed chairman, Mr. H. Martin Deputy Chairman, Mr. E.J. Brown District Clerk and overseer of works and Mr. Caird inspector of weights and measures. At this time, the Council of Salisbury comprised, 140 square miles and embraced the former district council of Munno Para West and Yatala North.

There were 8 wards in the new council and 9 councillors

After the death of Mr. E.J. Brown in 1952, Mr. J. Bormann became District Clerk. At this time Iris Saint was the only administrative assistant. There were four employees on the outside staff – Jack Wilson, Len Renney, Mick Capogreco and Peter Edson.

There was massive new development with the establishment of the new Salisbury North estate and for a number of years Salisbury's population virtually doubled every two years.

The problem of the council at this time was to keep up with developments. Major problems were to find sufficient money to meet the few subsidies provided by the government and in increasing staff and equipment to cater for the expanding services which the population demanded.

May 1954 – Tenders were called for a new council chambers and office block. It would have a 96 ft. frontage and comprise council chamber, staff office, EFS room and fire proof records room. The existing council building measuring 16ft. x 30ft. had served the council since 1925.

The fire station would be a 40ft. Nissan hut being a gift from the Commonwealth Government in return for the protection of Commonwealth installations in the district.



The new Council Chambers opened in June 1955, costing £5,000. At that time the total population of the district was about 9,000 and the total rate income £22,400.

In 1950 the South Australian Housing Trust first discussed plans with Salisbury District Council for the development of the new satellite town (later named Elizabeth).

Elizabeth was less than 12 months old in 1956 when rumblings of discontent with Salisbury District Council's administration began. Following a long period of councillor-clashing, feuding and much social strife, the Salisbury and Elizabeth District council did not oppose a petition lodged in 1963 for the severance of the Elizabeth area and its constitution as a separate municipality.



City of Salisbury Councillors 1964
Page:4

Salisbury Council was granted City status to take effect from 6th July 1964. It had a total staff of 150. In 1965 the name was changed to the Corporation of the City of Salisbury. When Salisbury became a city, ratepayers were required to elect the mayor, whereas a council chairman is elected by council members. Mr J.L. Lindblom was the only nomination and was therefore elected unopposed. He entered the council as a representative of Pooraka Ward and completed 20 years of council service in 1978.

An information leaflet to ratepayers dated August 1964 said "City status for Salisbury will enhance borrowing power, increase councillor representation, give the Council more appropriate powers under which to administer your affairs and increase the prestige of the area", signed Mayor J.L. Lindblomb and Town Clerk J. Bormann.



In June 1975 the Premier Hon D Dunstan opened a new Civic Centre of Salisbury which included District Council Office and Chambers together with the public Library. The building itself gained an Award of Merit from Royal Australian Charter of Architects.

In 1933 the total population of Salisbury was less than 2,000. In the 1970's the population of Salisbury had increased to 80,000 and today is over 140,000.

Compiled by Lynette Potter from various sources



City Of Salisbury Emblem

The emblem which Salisbury adopted when it achieved City status in July 1964. The link between Salisbury, South Australia and Salisbury, England, is depicted by two double headed eaglets with coronets about their necks. These eaglets are the principal feature of the Arms of Salisbury, England.

The missile head is surrounded by a castle tower. This is a traditional symbolic feature which indicates that the badge or arms are those of a local authority.

The orange leaves included in the emblem represent the early Salisbury.

The City motto - *Consilio et Prudentia* (with Wisdom and Prudence) forms the base of the emblem.



Current City of Salisbury Mayor Gillian Aldridge OAM; elected in 2008

An Era of Salisbury's District History (1853—1964)

16/6/1853 District Council of Yatala proclaimed—south from the Little Para River

22/9/1854 Salisbury was laid out as a township and a plan deposited in the General Registry Office, Adelaide

27/4/1854 District Council of Munno Para West proclaimed

29/12/1856 The railway line from Adelaide to Salisbury was opened

18/6/1868 District Council of Yatala North was proclaimed

22/6/1933 District Council of Salisbury was formed from portions of the D.C. of Tea Tree Gully, D.C. of Yatala North and D.C. of Munno Para West

4/11/1935 I.C.I.(Alkili) Ltd commenced the establishment of what is now the largest Salt Works in the southern hemisphere and the third largest in the world.

1941 The No. 2 Explosives Filling Factory, the forerunner of the Weapons Research Establishment was commenced in Salisbury by the Commonwealth Government

2/6/1950 South Australian Housing Trust members met Chairman and Councillors of Salisbury and Munno Para East Council to outline and discuss tentative plans for the development of a 'new town'.

16/11/1955 The 'new town' was officially opened by the Premier of South Australia, Sir Thomas Playford, and named ELIZABETH after H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth

1/10/1956 The Council purchased 285 Cabin Homes and 52 acres of land in the centre of Salisbury from the Commonwealth Government and commenced the first 'slum clearance' proposal instituted by any authority in South Australia

11/12/1957 The Council's Elizabeth Public Library, the first free public library in the State under the Libraries (Subsidies) Act of 1955, was declared open

8/5/1958 The building of General Motors Holden Elizabeth factory—commenced

22/4/ 1959 The Council's Lyell McEwin Hospital was opened at Elizabeth Vale

21/2/1963 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Town of Elizabeth

22/8/1963 The name of the District of Salisbury was changed to the District Council of Salisbury and Elizabeth

13/2/1964 The Governor issued a proclamation declaring Municipality Status and separate local government for Elizabeth as from 1/7/1964

28/2/1964 The Council decided to apply for City Status for the remaining Salisbury area to take effect from 6/7/1964

1/6/1964 the population of the District Council of Salisbury and Elizabeth estimated at 54,000 persons

23/6/1964 The last meeting of the Districts of Salisbury and Elizabeth was held in the Council Chambers, John Street, Salisbury

These events were included in the souvenir for the last District Council of Salisbury & Elizabeth meeting of 23rd Jun 1964



Salisbury Past Resident

Ernest James Brown
1889-1952

Ern's grandfather William and wife Mary came to South Australia in 1854. Ern's father Charlie was born in Salisbury in 1865. Ern was born on the 18th of August 1889 and lived all his life in the Salisbury District. He married Elsie Dew on the 31st of March 1917. They had twins, Noel and Joyce, who were born on the 29th of December 1919. The family lived at Lot 8 Gawler Street "Westbury" (corner of Salisbury Highway and Wright Street).

In his early days Ern attended the Salisbury Public School. He later worked at Davey & Sons Flour Mill. In 1915 the mill caught fire and Ern saved the life of Anna the daughter of, the then mill manager, Teddy Heidenreich. The mill was destroyed. Ern then became the Store Officer for the SA Railways until his appointment in 1928 as Clerk for the Yatala North District Council, which in 1933 became the Salisbury District Council. He fulfilled the position for 24 years.

In 1910, he founded and was secretary of the Salisbury Star Football Club and later became secretary and president of the Salisbury Football Club.

During the war years he held over 33 executive positions within the district. He also held the position of secretary of the Labor Party and Oddfellows Lodge. Ern was very active in the Methodist Church as a trustee for more than 20 years, minute secretary for the Methodist Circuit for 25 years and Sunday School Superintendent.

He built a shack, "ÄRBA VUE", at St Kilda and maintained a keen interest in the St Kilda Progress Association. He oversaw the construction of the tide filled wading pool remnants of which are still there today.

The name "E J Brown" became a by-word for one who was always prepared to offer his help and guidance. Brown Terrace is named in his honour.

Ern died on the 7th of January 1952 while attending the first Salisbury Council meeting for the year. Ern and Elsie are both buried at Salisbury Memorial Cemetery, Spains Road Salisbury.

Snapshots from the past



Salisbury Star's Football Team 1937



Salisbury Oval Recreational Centre & Grand Stand opened 1913

*If you wish to see more historical photographs, please refer to our
Flicker account www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos and select the "Album" option*



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 2022

President: Des Brown 0408086545
Vice President: Alice Foster
Secretary: Jennifer Paine
Treasurer: Terry Sloan
Salisbury Council Rep: Shiralee Reardon

Committee Members: Jim & Glenyss Trenorden, Delwyn Ayling, Simon Hales,
Dennis Wright and Raelene Brown

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

Web-site Mangers: David Murren

Auditor: Anna Gordon

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.

Web-site: - www.salisburyhistory.com.au

E-mail: - salisburyhistory706@gmail.com

Facebook: - www.facebook.com/SDHS706

Photo Gallery: - www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos/

*Our Newsletter is printed courtesy of the Office of the
Hon Zoe Bettison MP, Member for Ramsay*