

# SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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



**DECEMBER 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

## **2023 General Meetings and Activities**

**February 18th Saturday 9:30am** *Clean up and Sausage Sizzle*

**March 15th Wed 7:00pm** *To be advised*

**April 19th Wed 7:00pm** *Colin Seymour Transway Museum St Kilda*

**May 14th Sunday 1:30pm** *History Month Salisbury walk*

**June 14th Wed 7:00pm** *Terry Sloan "Penfield & WRE"*

**August 16th Wed 7:00pm** *Michelle Toft Burnside History Officer*

**October 18th Wed 7:00pm** *AGM "Show & Tell"*

**December 3rd Sunday 12:30pm** *Christmas Luncheon*

*Day Trip and luncheon to be advised*

*The SDHS Committee wish you and your families  
a safe, happy and blessed Christmas*



## President Report 2021-22

This edition of the newsletter sees the end of yet another year and while COVID continued to impact and disrupt our lives (and a couple of our meetings!), we still had a great year with many highlights.

In February we had our usual 'busy bee' clean-up at the Folk Museum and are most grateful to the members who joined in to assist.

Our April and June general meetings drew much interest. In April, Ruth Gates gave a detailed and interesting account of what it was like to live as a widow with a family in the 1800s through the life of Gemima Magor and Bob Stace presented a delightful and enlightening talk on the Life and Times of Colonel Light in June.

In May we again participated in the annual SA History Festival with an historical walk around old Salisbury. This was well attended with over 20 people participating followed by a delightful homemade afternoon tea; thank you to all who contributed. Our walk was assisted by Alice Foster guiding us through St John's Church with Delwyn Ayling explaining the history behind our institute and Terry Sloan providing a demonstration at the Water Wheel.



In late June, many of us enjoyed a day visit to Kapunda, appreciatively organised by Terry. This included the many historical mine sites around the town, a great pub meal and a tour through the extensive collection of historical items in the Kapunda Historical Museum.

In November we opened our museums for a Home School Scouts group. It was a pleasure to help these delightful young people appreciate the history of our District. Pleasingly, we already have a request from another group, the Kidman Park Probus to visit our Water Wheel Museum in March next year.

I'm also pleased to report that the society's membership now stands at 48 with 5 Lifetime Members.

While the year brought many highlights, it also brought sadness with the passing of three of the society's members – Rita Wilson, Vesta Williams and Frank Potter. Each resided within Salisbury most of their lives ; their contribution to both the community and the society will be fondly remembered.

I would especially like to thank our Newsletter Team for their support and efforts during this last year and express our gratitude to the Office of the Hon Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Tourism who continue to professionally print our newsletters. We have again had some excellent articles this year, copies of which over the past 6 years have nearly doubled to 60. In addition, complimentary electronic copies are emailed to all City of Salisbury Councillors and hard copies provided for the Mayor, Council History Officer, Cnr Shiralee Reardon and MP Zoe Bettison.

The society acknowledges the Discovering Salisbury website's self-guided tour of some of the historical sights of Salisbury and was pleased to see they have incorporated several of the society's photos from our digitised historical collection of over 3,000. With both the society and Salisbury Council having such a keen interest in the history of Salisbury, the society would welcome and be encouraged by feedback and/ or interest from council on ways in which we could work together in promoting the history of Salisbury and in preserving it for future generations.

Thanks also to all those who have been part of the roster that allows us to open our Folk and Water Wheel Museums throughout the year; we look forward to your ongoing support in this role.

I would particularly like to mention Simon Hales, the youngest member of our Society, and thank him for his initiative in researching issues and his willingness to help and be involved. Also thank you to Jim Trenorden who has been slowly working through our old tool collection displayed in the stables, giving them a new lease of life.

Finally, you may recall that last year I advised that it was my wish not to continue as President for a 6th year. However, as no alternative nominated for the position, I agreed to be nominated and continue for another year. A new structure was established by the committee which has seen some roles previously the responsibility of the President disseminated to others. This new structure and the support of committee members assisted in my agreement to be nominated for President to ensure the continuation of our society.

My father was the first President of our Society and I do not wish to be our last. It is therefore my hope that next year will see some fresh faces and new ideas to assist in the society's longevity.

Our Society is based on the value of history as has been evident with the activities of our Society over the past 41 years.

In the coming year I look forward to your ongoing support to help keep alive the history of Salisbury.

***Des Brown***

***SDHS President 2021-22***

## AGM Elected Officers for 2022-23

**President** *Des Brown*  
**Vice President** *Simon Hales*  
**Treasurer** *Tanya Paine*  
**Secretary** *Jennifer Paine*

### **Committee Members**

Speaker Coordinator *Delwyn Ayling*  
Event Coordinator *Terry Sloan*  
Roster Coordinator *Dennis Wright*  
General Meeting Coordinator *Jim & Glenyss Trenorden*  
Newsletter Reps *Alice Foster & Raelene Brown*  
**Newsletter Committee** *Alice Foster, Lynette Potter,  
Raelene Brown, Jennifer Paine,  
Tanya Paine, Des Brown*

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*Salisbury & District Historical  
Society*

*Inaugural Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> June 1981*

*James St Council Chambers*

*Photos N R Brown SDHS*



*Alderman D Plumbridge  
Acting Secretary A Waddel*

## **Governor MacDonnell Hotel**

Imagine that we are standing here 169 years ago, back in 1853.

We are standing in open country at the back of John Harvey's village which ended up there at the dog leg bend in John Street on the end of small lane now called Judd St. All the roads came to a dead end up there.



***John St Looking West  
viewed from Judd St  
1919***

***Painting by D Wright***

The front of the town was at the other end along Commercial Road. In 1853 there was nothing here, probably just grass, trees, perhaps a few cows or a horse or two – no railway, no mill, no shops, no hotel, nothing on the other side of the railway. It was just open farmland and trees.



***Salisbury Railway Station  
1890***

***Photo N R Brown SDHS***

A year or so later there was talk of building a railway to Gawler which would come through Salisbury just behind the end of the village.

Suddenly this piece of land became very desirable property and caused a flurry of wheeling and dealing.

Now in 1851, two years before, an enterprising businessman and speculator had arrived in the district, pitching his tent on a rise overlooking the Old Spot Hotel on the Main North Road. His name was Joseph Broadstock and he was to play an important part in land dealings around the town. The original grantee of this land we are standing on, was William Pooley Trevaskis who obtained his grant of section 2190 in 1846. It was not until 8 years later when he saw the advantage of the coming railway that he began subdividing it.

He sold a piece to the Railway Commissioners and portions to other speculators. Broadstock saw the advantage of purchasing this piece of land between John Harvey's village and the railway and he bought it in 1854 and began busily subdividing it and selling allotments, continuing the streets in Harvey's plan.

He was quick to commence building a hotel and began to construct the Governor MacDonnell.

He was beaten to it by Enoch Jackson's Railway Hotel which opened in 1856 on the other side of the railway.



***Railway Hotel***



***Governor Mac Donnell Hotel***

However he made up for not being the first by being the biggest. His hotel, a two storied structure, stood as a landmark at the end of John Street and was completed in 1857. Broadstock made every effort to ensure the success of his hotel. He arranged for the first Yatala North District Council meeting to be held there, he himself being one of the first councillors, and he made a room available for the Loyal Wellington Lodge to use. They had started off at the Coach and Horse Hotel on Commercial Road but by 1857 the accommodation at the Governor MacDonnell was much superior, the Coach and Horse being but a small inn, so they moved over.

In 1858 Broadstock donated the short piece of land between his hotel and the railway, North Street to join Gawler Street.



***Gawler St photos N R Brown SDHS***

These linked up with the road on the other side of the river, and to ensure that it would be well used and bring traffic past his hotel, Broadstock contributed 75 pounds towards the cost of 106 pounds to build a bridge over the river. (Broadstock later bought the Railway Hotel in 1878 and made sure a good profit of 300 pounds by selling it four years later). The hotel has had its share of misfortune. In 1881, at 5.30 am the Governor MacDonnell was found to be on fire. About 60 people turned up to fight it and water was passed in buckets from a well on the premises, but only the kitchen and 2 adjoining rooms were saved. The Loyal Wellington Lodge lost its regalia and the balcony, the upper storey and the tap room were completely destroyed. It has been rebuilt since then.



A popular and well know Salisbury identity who lived at the hotel for many years and had his surgery there was Dr Hunter. He was a typical country doctor who closely identified himself with local affairs. For nearly 50 years he attended the inmates of the Angus Home for the Deaf, free of charge. Late in life he married Miss Swann and they went on to live in the Swann family home which stood where the car park of Foodland is now, and faced Wiltshire Street. When Dr Hunter died in 1952 at the age of 74, he had officiated at 1,000 births. He was a man remembered with much affection by older Salisbury residents.



***Governor MacDonnell  
just prior to being demolished  
in 1996***

***Photo N R Brown SDHS***

***Compiled by D R Brown***



# Stop Press Advertiser June 1st 1972

## 50 Years Ago



photos  
N R Brown SDHS

*“The historical Old Spot Hotel has been saved from the bulldozer. The hotel on Main North Rd by the Little Para River, was built 133 years ago, one of the first 20 in South Australia.*

*Its stone walls are being retained as the nucleus for a \$300,000 redevelopment. Dining rooms, bar and accommodation areas in brickwork to match the original are being added. Mr J Poerce a director of Pierce’s Service Hotels said demolition had been considered, but it was decided to retain the structure for its historical attraction. Opened in 1838 it was a favourite stopping place of bullock drives and couches – especially when the Little Para River flooded.*

*It has seen bullock team pitted against bullock team in tests of strength and prisoners from the Barossa Valley were held overnight in hotel’s small goal, now used as a store room.”*



**Old Spot Hotel with extensions**



*Home School Scout Group  
Visit to Museums  
in November*



*Descendants from old  
Salisbury Pioneer families  
Urlwin & Tate visiting our  
Water Wheel Museum*

# Snapshots from the past



***Salisbury Mounted Infantry***

***c 1900s***

***Photo taken at the corner of Commercial Rd & John St***



***Salisbury Methodist Church***

***Tennis Courts 1960s***

***D Magor Couch***

***photos***

***N R Brown SDHS***



*If you wish to see more historical photographs, please refer to our  
Flicker account [www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos](http://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 2022-23**

President:	Des Brown	0408086545
Vice President:	Simon Hales	
Secretary:	Jennifer Paine	
Treasurer:	Tanya Paine	
Salisbury Council Rep:	Shiralee Reardon	

*Committee Members:* Jim & Glenyss Trenorden, Delwyn Ayling, Dennis Wright ,  
Alice Foster 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](http://www.salisburyhistory.com.au)

**E-mail:** - [salisburyhistory706@gmail.com](mailto:salisburyhistory706@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** - [www.facebook.com/SDHS706](http://www.facebook.com/SDHS706)

**Photo Gallery:** - [www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos/)

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