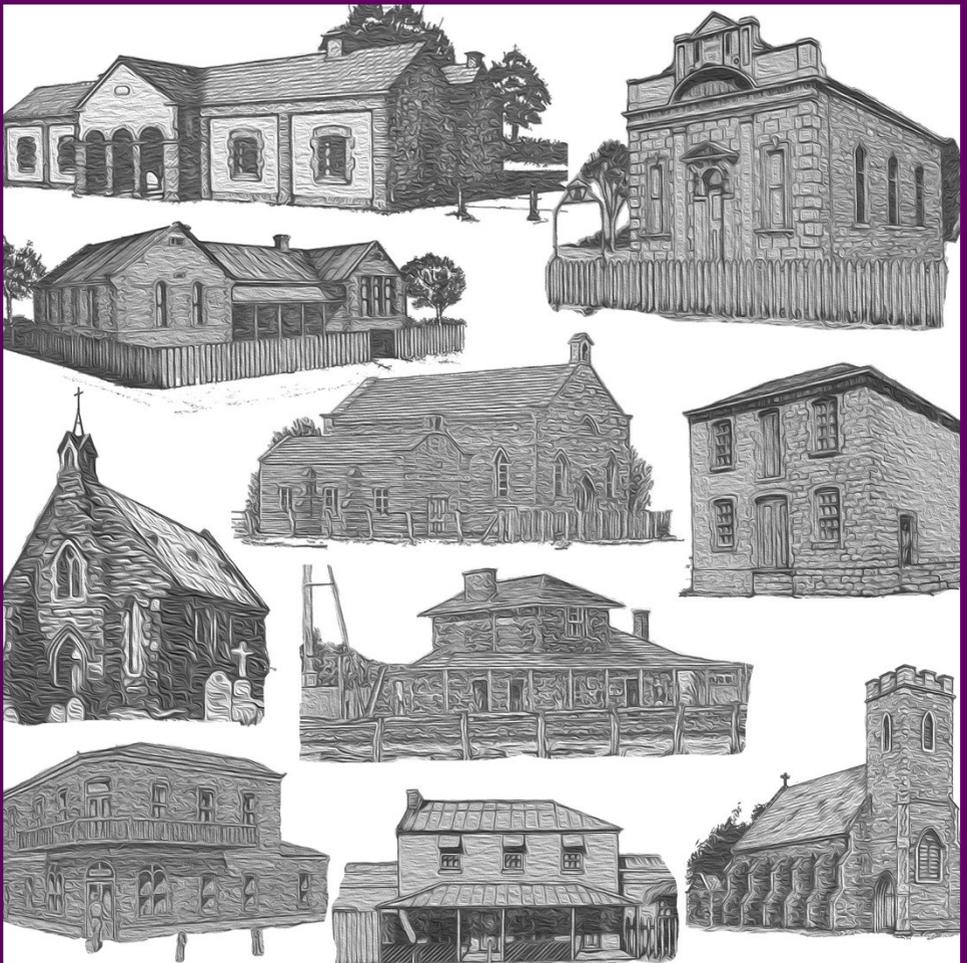


SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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



MARCH 2026



Salisbury & District Historical Society Inc.
3 Ann St Salisbury

***We acknowledge the Kaurna people, the Traditional Owners of the land on
which we live today .***

We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging

The **Salisbury and District Historical Society** has prepared an exciting programme of events and speakers for 2026. Attendance at any of these events is open to anyone with an interest in the history of Salisbury. You do not need to be a Member of the Society to attend any of these events.

MARCH Wednesday 11th 7.00pm **St Kilda - Speaker – Kevin Collins**

APRIL Wednesday 15th 2.00pm **Memories of Salisbury 1** – Memories shared by Betty Polkinghorne/Lyn Bain; Glenyss & Jim Trenorden; Yvonne Winzor

MAY Wednesday 13th 10:30am **Salisbury during World War II**

Speaker-Margaret Allan.

(followed by lunch at Salisbury Hotel)

History Month Town Walks (see Web Page)

Sunday 3rd 1.30pm Town Walk 1 and

Sunday 17th 1.30pm Town Walk 2

Email: salisburyhistory706@gmail to book.

JUNE Wednesday 17th 3.00pm **Parafield Airport – Speaker- Tom Ganley**

JULY Wednesday 15th 2.00pm **Memories of Salisbury 2** – Another wonderful trip down memory lane shared by Marty Guerin & Roy Magor

AUGUST Wednesday 12th 10:45am **Elizabeth Oval Escorted Tour (CDFC)** followed by Lunch.

(Meet at Grand Central 10:45am)

SEPTEMBER Wednesday 16th 7.00pm **St John’s Church – Speaker Jackie Young**

OCTOBER Wednesday 14th 7.00pm **A.G.M. and Show and Tell and Quiz**

DECEMBER Christmas Break-up Date and venue to be advised

All meetings held at **3 Ann St Salisbury** unless otherwise advised, followed by afternoon tea or supper. More information about the **Salisbury and District Historical Society** can be found on the **Web Site** or **Face book** page. You are also very welcome to have a chat to the Society’s president, **Terry Sloan**, by phoning him or texting on **0427 277 302** or by sending an email to ‘**salisburyhistory706@gmail.com**’ .

President's Report for February 2026

The speakers programme has been given a much different look by the committee, with most events being held during the day. We wish to continue with our social engagement, by having lunch, morning or afternoon basket tea where it suits. Details are in the programme.

About the speakers:

March 11th. Kevin Collins 40 years resident of St. Kilda

April 15th. Betty Polkinghorne, long serving local resident and committee member.

Lyn Bain, long time Salisbury resident.

Glenyss and Jim Trenorden, long time residents of Salisbury and contributors to the society.

Yvonne Windsor, active in the Salisbury in the 1940s to 1980s.

May 13th. Margaret Allen, professor Emeritus, Adelaide University.

July 15th. Martin Guerin, Local sporting identity and businessman born in Salisbury.

Ray Magor, Well known retired headmaster born in Salisbury.

September 15th. Jackie Young currently a local teacher, studying history at University.

To increase our presence in the community I ask that you forward my next Bulletin by e-mail to your relatives and friends, inviting them to join us for any or all of our events.

Terry Sloan.

THE SALISBURY LADIES GLEE CLUB

In February 1947, the inauguration of the Salisbury Ladies Glee Club took place at a meeting in the Salisbury Methodist Hall. This inauguration was the result of a group of 9 women singers presenting a program of songs in the Salisbury Methodist Hall on 19 November 1946. The success of the performance prompted the group to call together the women singers of the district with the purpose of forming a Glee Club which could serve the community on a regular basis.

The founding members were Mesdames Wilson, Ison, Major, Osborne, Lee, Vockins, Woods, Judd, Teagle, Schutze and Miss I Judd.

Mrs Joy Wilson was appointed conductor, Mrs Ison pianist and Mrs Woods elected secretary and treasurer. Initially members purchased their own music but after a while a membership fee of one shilling was introduced in order for the club to purchase music.

Their first engagement for the club was on 27 March 1947 in the Salisbury Institute, where two songs were performed at a social afternoon for the Mothers and Babies Health Association. Lady Bonython was the guest speaker at the afternoon.

During 1947, there was usually an engagement every month. In April, the School Auxillary had its 13th birthday, which they then celebrated in the Institute. In May, they combined with the Salisbury Male Choir to present a program to raise money for the Food for Britain appeal, raising 6 pounds. Their most outstanding event for 1947 was on 19 August when the Glee Club combined with the Salisbury Male Choir to present a Grand Choral Entertainment in the Salisbury Institute. The proceeds from the event went towards the Salisbury District Hospital X-ray fund. The Hall was packed, resulting in 30 pounds being raised for the fund. Since the event was so successful, it was repeated two weeks later. That year, a Christmas Festival of Music was presented by the combined Glee Club and Male Choir in St John's Parish Hall on Sunday 21 December.

In 1948, the combined choirs again presented a Grand Choral Entertainment Concert on 28 September in aid of the Salisbury Kindergarten which was well attended by an enthusiastic audience.

During this time, as a result of the post-war petrol rationing, an application was made to the Liquid Fuel Control Board for petrol coupons to help with travelling to venues away from Salisbury. The application was successful which allowed extra petrol for cars used in transport. Petrol rationing ended in 1950.

On 2 November 1948, members auditioned in the Town Hall for the Radio Program 'Amateur Hour'. Australians Amateur Hour was an enormously popular early Australian

radio program of song and community singing with guest performers. The program began in 1940 and ended in 1958. The original compare was Harry Dearth followed by Dick Fair and finally compared by Terry Dear. It did transfer to television as a talent quest in 1957 but was unsuccessful and ended after only 7 months.

The compare Dick Fair approved their performance and scheduled their performance for April 1949. From February, practices were held in the Congregational Church. On 26 April, 15 members of the Glee Club went to the Tivoli Theatre, now known as Her Majesty's Theatre in Grote Street, for rehearsal. They appeared on the radio show on 28 April with Dick Fair as compare. A photograph of the choir appeared in the publication 'Radio Call'.



In 1960, the club had uniforms made and wore them at the first Community Carols.

In 1961, Mr Jack Coombs offered his services as Conductor, with Miss R Quick now pianist and Mrs I Goodall as Elocutionist. The name was also changed to the Salisbury Ladies Choir.



The Glee Club had many engagements over the years, often travelling to Elizabeth, Gawler and Pooraka. The program usually consisted of several songs, a solo or duet performance, an elocution piece and then finishing with more songs. This made for an entertaining afternoon or evening. They made regular appearances at the local

Carols by Candlelight and Anzac Day Services.

Over the years they had many different members, too numerous to list. There were several pianists, including Mrs Ison, Miss V Illman, Miss A Goodall, Mrs Vine, Mrs Lill, Mrs Killmartin, Mrs Joy and Miss R Quick. The roles of Conductor was taken on by Mrs J Wilson, Mrs G Bammon, Mrs Wotten, Mrs J Vockins and Mr J Coombs.

Hay Carters

Around 1910 , hay carting was a prominent industry in the Salisbury district, with loads transported from the fertile plains between Salisbury and Dry Creek.



Hay carters in South Australia provided specialised transport for hay, straw and agricultural equipment. Once the horse teams hauling the tray-topped wagons with their high ladders and symmetrical sheaves plodded to the chaff mills in the northern suburbs, young farmers spent nights sleeping in store rooms at the chaff mills or at the pubs along the way, returning with lurid tales about the cuisine and company.

Before the roads were bituminised the wagons ground along on their iron-rimmed wheels with everyone keeping an eye open for the inspector who tested weights with a jack beneath the wagon because it was considered that overweight loads could damage the roads.

The wagons, line ahead, had a ponderous reliability about them, the wind spinning a few straws off their summits, dogs trotting underneath in the shade, where the waterbags swung, cool with evaporating water beading their sides.

Carting out of paddocks when the ground was set caused an occasional hazard with wagons being bogged, or sometimes capsizing, more teams summoned to haul out the wagons while pitchers remade the load.



Disputes sometimes occurred regarding the quality of the hay, with carters sometimes refusing to accept reduced prices for lower-grade loads.



The Kesters whose property was at Para Hills, engaged in mixed farming, growing oats and wheat mainly for hay. A common task was to hitch five horses to a four ton load of hay and take it to the horse tram depot at Walkerville. As farming techniques improved it became one of the best hay growing farms in the state. One year the family harvested 500 tons of hay.



From the Observer on 3 Dec. 1927

Slipping while attempting to board a hay wagon on his farm at Penfield this morning, Mr. Charles Johnston Fatchen, a farmer, was killed through a wheel passing over his neck. Mr. Fatchen and Mr. Thomas Short were carting hay, the former driving and the latter riding on top of the load, when Mr. Fatchen alighted to shut a gate. He was climbing up again when his foot slipped. The heavy wheel dislocated his neck and caused immediate death. He was 57 years of age.

Submitted by Lynette Potter. Details from Trove and an article by Max Fatchen.



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 2025

<i>President :</i>	<i>Terry Sloan</i>
<i>Minutes Secretary:</i>	<i>Brenda Wright</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Dennis Wright</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Chris Ferrell</i>
<i>Salisbury Council Rep:</i>	<i>Shiralee Reardon</i>
<i>Committee Members:</i>	<i>Delwyn Ayling, Jennifer Paine, Alice Foster and Alan Polkinghorne</i>
<i>Auditor:</i>	<i>Jeff Rittberger</i>
<i>Editing team:</i>	<i>Jennifer Paine and Lynette Potter</i>

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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Facebook: - www.facebook.com/SDHS706

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

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