

# SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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



**JUNE 2024**



*Salisbury & District Historical Society Inc.*  
*3 Ann St Salisbury*

**Museum Open**— 2pm-4pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays 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 0450191792

*We acknowledging 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*

### **Upcoming 2024 Program**

**Wednesday, 19th June-7.00pm**  
Bob Samson- National Railway Museum

**Wednesday, 17th July-10:30am**  
Don Loffler-Early Days of Holden  
Followed by lunch at Salisbury Hotel

**Wednesday, 28th August-7.00pm**  
Alan Starks-Story of Chocolate

**Sunday, 8th September-12noon**  
Picnic on the lawn

**Wednesday, 16th October-7.00pm**  
A.G.M. and Show and Tell

**Sunday, 1st December-12:30pm**  
Christmas Lunch-TBA

## ***Report from the President – Simon Hales***

Greetings, did you know that the Salisbury and District Historical Society Folk Museum is now 30 years old? It was officially opened on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1994.

Since our last Newsletter we have had some interesting guest speakers. In March we heard from Robert Styling on the History of Fire Brigades in Salisbury from the early days of the Emergency Fire Service to the current CFS in Salisbury, along with some information about the Sampson Flat fires. In April we heard from Roger Frisby about the Central District Football Club and the connection to Salisbury; we also had a day trip out to the St Kilda Tram Museum and lunch at the St Kilda Hotel which was well received.

Our History Month activities on May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup> were very successful with over 40 people joining in the walk around Salisbury visiting historic buildings and cemeteries, followed by a lovely homemade afternoon tea.

A general reminder that we have a day time meeting coming up on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 10:30am with guest speaker Don Loffler to talk about Early Days of Holden followed by lunch at the Salisbury Hotel. It would be great to see many of you there! If people are happy with a day time meeting we can look into the possibility of having some more day time meetings next year.

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### ***Societies visit to St Kilda Tram Museum***



*Our Historical Society volunteers roster to open the Folk Museum and the Water Wheel Museum on a monthly basis.*

*If any one would like to become involved in this activity we invite you to contact us on "salisburyhistory706@gmail.com" or the President on 0450191792*

## THE EPIC STORY OF THE SCHOOL TEACHER AT THE BURTON S.A. SCHOOL IN 1927

In the days of the early settlement of the Para Plains, the Port Wakefield Road became the route for settlers taking up land to the northwest of Adelaide. The Bolivar Hotel was established just north of "The Little Para River" on the corner of Port Wakefield and Burton Roads, as an overnight stop and watering hole for horse coaches, hay carters and other travellers. Although motor transport was beginning to become popular, these were still the days of horse-drawn vehicles and Bolivar was a convenient distance from the city to stop for the night.

The original Burton Church, which was also used as a school, was built in 1858 on the Burton Road approximately a mile from the Port Wakefield Road, and the area all around became known as Burton. The dairy, mixed farms and wheat farms were scattered around the district and at the time of this story the nearest was about a mile from the Church.



The Burton Church/school was a sturdy building with thick stone walls made of locally quarried limestone and bonded with mortar of burnt lime and sand. The pinewood flooring was worn but solid at the time of this story, and the hard knots in the wood stood up unworn and bumpy. Since the building was used as a school as well as a church, the desks had to be stacked in the lean-to annex

at the rear, ready for the week-end church use. Any ink spots on the floor were cleaned by wetting and rubbing with a stone. This practice added to the wearing away of the soft tissue of the wood between the knots.



School room and early chapel on the right

A new church had been built adjacent to the old in 1915. The older building was then used as a social meeting place, also for Sunday School classes at the weekend, and as a Government school on week-days. This was a one teacher school for grades 1 to 7, with a few children in each grade, and with the scholars usually numbering between 15 and 25. Most of the children walked long distances to and from school but some rode a pony or came by jinker or sulky. With no air conditioning the heat of the summer was endured without question. A small cast-iron fireplace offered some warmth in the winter.

The school day usually began with a line-up of the scholars facing the front of the building, an inspection of hands for cleanliness and a few simple exercises. They were then required to stand to attention and recite the ode of allegiance.

I love my country The British Empire.  
I salute her flag, The Union Jack.  
I honour her king, King George the Fifth.  
I promise cheerfully to obey her laws.



The children would then file into the school and begin their lessons as shown on one of the two large backboards out the front. All this happened on the day of the unusual incident.

### The Unusual Incident.

It was early in the spring of 1927 when our teacher Miss Hanley was taking her pupils through a normal day's work. It was nearing the morning recess time when there was a knock at the front door. When the teacher discovered the identity of the visitor, she immediately dismissed the school for recess time, and all the children went out to play their normal games of hopscotch, knucklebones, marbles and 'red rover all over' in the play area between the two buildings.

The man had arrived in a taxi, which in fact interested some of the older scholars, as taxi-cabs seldom went so far out from the city. The sound of raised voices coming from within the school added to the curiosity of the boys. One was given a leg-up, so he could peep through the window. He quickly jumped down and exclaimed that the man had a gun and was threatening Miss Hanley. This caused great concern among the older children and they did not know what to do.

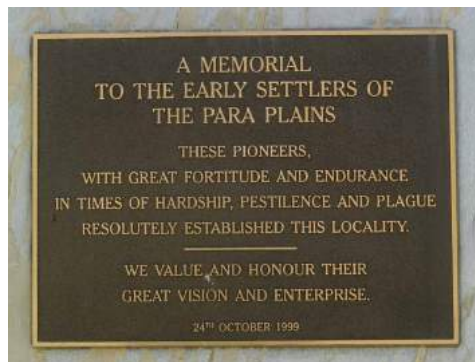
However, the caller soon emerged from the school and started off in the cab. There was a hasty meeting of the teacher and scholars who were told that the man would be coming back again to get her. They decided that the teacher would be locked in the church building and one of the lads with a pony would ride to the nearest farm for help. The rest of the children would run off and hide in the tumble-down ruins of Smith's old home situated some 200 metres away near the intersection of Burton and Gutter roads. The old pug house still had some walls standing and the many boxthorn bushes in and around it made it an ideal hiding place. So the children scampered away to their hideout and the errand boy rode quickly for help. In due course the taxi returned, but the gun man found the place deserted and prepared to leave again.

In a manner that would have made any 'wild western movie producer' proud, rumbling down the dirt track which was Gutter Road came an old "T" model Ford with the hood in the folded position and sitting erect the driver and three passengers with double-barrelled shot-guns pointing skywards. This posse was able to overtake the taxi on the Burton Road and make a citizen's arrest. They escorted their prisoner to the Salisbury Police Station and presumably he was charged.

Miss Hanley decided SA was not safe for her and moved to Western Australia. The school resumed normal work when a male teacher was stationed at Burton to complete the year's work.

***Story as recalled by Douglas T.H. Wright who was present on the occasion in Grade 3. This story has been fictionalised by brother Walter W Wright.***

NOTE; Since this event Burton Road has been renamed Bolivar Road and Gutter Road is now Burton Road.



Plaques located adjacent to old school room and church cemetery on Bolivar Rd

## 1940s UK's WWII blitz and the resultant connection to Salisbury

I was born in Bristol, U.K. a city which was heavily bombed in the early days of the war and we lost our family home in December 1940 when one very large bomb demolished several houses and killed 15 people, seven of them my childhood playmates. We were so lucky to have survived. As we had no home, the family split up to different relatives and my mother and my self moved in with my maternal grandmother – a very Victorian lady who believed children should be seen but not heard.



After a few months we were re-housed but as children were still being evacuated in large numbers I found myself on the way to Cornwall with many from my school, in March 1942.at the age of 10. We all congregated at the main railway station (parents were not allowed to see us off) all wearing name tags pinned to our coats and carrying our small suitcases and our gasmasks in a

cardboard box with string which we carried across our bodies. We were all very excited at the thought of a long railway journey. I still remember my first sight of the beautiful ride along the Devon coast.

Our train took us to Liskeard in Cornwall where we were given refreshments and allocated to different foster parents. I was paired with a 12 year old girl (Kathleen) whom I knew well and we were taken to a small hamlet a couple of miles from the main town of Callington. Our foster parents were a couple in their early 40s with no children so it must have been a shock to suddenly find their peaceful existence shattered. They lived in a cottage belonging to a nearby farm so we were never short of any dairy supplies.

From about the second day there Kathleen was determined she wasn't going to stay and wrote to her parents saying she would walk back to Bristol if they didn't come and fetch her. After about a week she was gone! I myself was quite happy and spent nearly two years there. In the beginning the evacuees had a temporary school in the village hall and whilst we were there we were all given a New Testament with the signature E.J. Brown inside the front cover, presumably the person who had donated them.

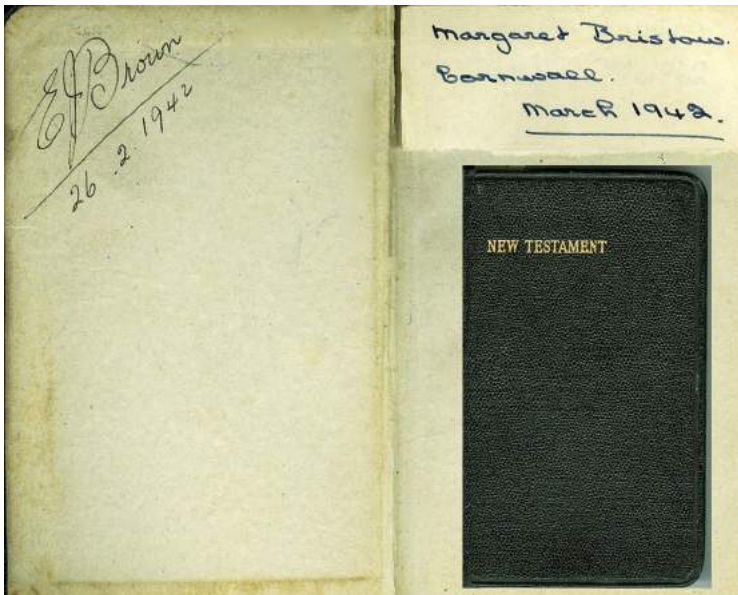
Fast forward to 1973 when my husband, daughter and myself came to Australia.

After a few moves in South Australia we eventually bought a house at Salisbury East in 1986. We became members of the Salisbury Uniting Church and my husband and I joined the very active Over 50s club which at one time had over 100 members. During my time there as President I was going through some old Council correspondence when the very distinctive signature of Mr. E.J. Brown jumped out at me, who was the District Clerk of Salisbury at the time of that correspondence. After several conversations with Mr. Noel Brown, his son, it was agreed this was the same as the signature in my New Testament which I still have'

I still find it amazing to think that something sent to a nine year old evacuee in Cornwall has found its way back again so many years later.

***Written by Margaret Sowter***

***Margaret still enjoys life and lives in a local Salisbury retirement village***



***E J Brown was Town Clerk of Salisbury District Council  
from 1928 to 1952, 24 years.***



## Salisbury Soldiers' Memorial

In 1919 it was decided to erect a memorial in Salisbury to those who fell in the war (WWI), but a delay arising from inability to decide upon the form postponed the completion till June 26<sup>th</sup> 1922.



### ***Salisbury & District Memorial***

***unveiled by Brig-Gen S. Price Weir on June 25th 1922***

***It composed of axed red granite, is 11ft 3 inch high, and there is a bronzed panel in the front on which are the names of 15 men who made the supreme sacrifice***

The Chronicle on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 1922 reported'

*"On Sunday everything was ready for the unveiling, when a fine gathering from the surrounding neighbourhood gathered at the monument, close to the crossing near the railways station.*

*The memorial is of a very solid type of red granite, surrounded by piled rifles, signifying peace.*

*A bronze plate on the front bears the names of 15 soldiers who fell out of a total of 84 enlisted from the district, and on the back another plate bears the phrase "To serve is to reign".*

*Brigadier-General S. Price Weir performed the unveiling ceremony and delivered an address. He commented upon the high percentage of the fallen to the number of those who enlisted from the district, the average for the State being 10% while in this district it was 20%.*

*Another speaker Sir Archibald Weigall told the children that they should show their respect for the fallen soldiers by either taking off their hats or saluting whenever they pass by any monument erected in their memory, and he suggested to the older people that they should hold a memorial service once a year at the monument.*

*At the conclusion of the ceremony the crowd went to the Institute, where an honour roll was unveiled."*



In the pursuing years it was reported that on Arbor Day school children marched to the site and planted trees long Memorial Ave leading from the War Memorial.



In 1950 the Salisbury Council and RSL decided on a new memorial gardens adjacent to the railways station, where the monument was relocated



In 1984 the monument was again relocated to its present location, on the corner of Memorial Ave and Orange Ave, the first ANZAC service there was held in 1985.



Anzac Day 1985



Anzac Day 2024



*Salisbury & District Historical Society Inc.*

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*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 2023-24**

President: Simon Hales 0450191792

Vice President:

Secretary: Jennifer Paine

Treasurer: Tanya Paine

Salisbury Council Rep: Shiralee Reardon

*Committee Members:* Terry Sloan, Delwyn Ayling, Dennis Wright, Alice Foster,  
Lyn Brooks and Alan Polkinghorne

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

*Web-site Mangers:* David Murren

*Auditor:* Anna Gordon

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