

POUND.

The control of stock was a priority to councils as many properties, public and private as well as reserves were not fenced. It was the duty of the inspector of nuisances to remove stock from streets and reserves and the building of pounds. Thus, the building of pounds and the appointment of poundkeepers was important in the control of stock.

By November 1864 the Armidale pound was in a dilapidated state and the Minister of Lands was requested it be moved to a reserve on the corner of O'Dell and Rusden Streets. Council received information in February 1865 from the Surveyor General that surveyor Greaves had been instructed to appropriate two roods in section 45 (East End Park) and to auction the former pound as Crown land. In April council received further information that 'the reserve for the new pound had been measured'.¹ Council felt the money raised from the sale of the site could be used for the erection of the new pound. In January 1866 'it was still in the same locality, near the centre of the town'² although the old pound had been sold and a new site granted. Aldermen were concerned about cattle being driven to the pound as were the police and the mayor offered to meet with Mr Weaver, the police magistrate concerning the matter.

H. Allingham resigned as poundkeeper in September 1875 and one week later the new poundkeeper J.B. Fitzgerald immediately asked for the pound to be removed from Beardy Street to Barney Streets. Council accepted the recommendation.

In June 1882 the inspector of nuisances was appointed under the seal of council 'to impound all animals found straying on streets or reserves within the Municipality of Armidale, in accordance with the Act'.³ This action meant that more stock would be impounded.

Council received a letter from C.E. Smith P.M. in July 1888 advising council that a site for a new pound had been granted and suggested the present yard be moved.

In March 1892 the Armidale P.A. and H. Society applied to close Chapel Street and to enlargen the showground by the exchanging of allotments. It was proposed to exchange two blocks dedicated for the pound yard to be changed for two nominated by the society. There was no objection to the closing of the street by council.

¹ *Armidale Express*, 15 April 1865, p.2.

² *Armidale Express*, 20 January 1866, p.2.

³ *Armidale Express*, 6 June 1882, p.9

C.L.G. Fielder inspector of pounds informed council in March 1911 that the condition of the local poundyard was not in accordance with the Impounding Act. The matter was referred to the poundkeeper.

In June 1932 Dumaresq Shire contributed £5 to the upkeep of the pound but following the council's request for a donation of £10 in March 1934 council was informed by the shire 'it was not intended to make an annual contribution'.⁴

The general purposes committee in December 1936 referred to suggestions for the removal of the site of the poundyard from Jessie-street to the municipal saleyards. In March 1937 council decided to take no action in altering the site of the pound yard for the present. But the issue of the pound in Jessie Street being so close to a school and settled areas was again raised in January 1938 and in February council decided to move the pound to the saleyards. The engineer provided a report on the cost of erecting a new pound to council in May. The report was adopted and on 17 October 1938 a new pound opened in Mann Street, West Armidale adjoining the municipal saleyards.

In June 1940 the general purposes committee recommended 'portion of the saleyards be set aside as a permanent poundyard'⁵ to save expense.

Following a period of thirty three years as poundkeeper, G.E. Fitzgerald resigned in July 1946. He was replaced by J. Black. In August 1978 Fred Stanley, aged 79 years, retired following a thirty two year period as poundkeeper.

The Armidale Branch of the New South Wales Animal Welfare League complained to council about conditions at the dog pound in March 1968. Constructed in 1966, council called for a report on costs of constructing a roofed shelter for dogs at the pound.

⁴ *Armidale Express*, 7 March 1934, p.10.

⁵ *Armidale Express*, 8 June 1940, p.7.