



January 2016

### **First resident recognised in naming of pavilion at David Cruickshank Reserve**

City of Nedlands Council resolved to name the new pavilion at David Cruickshank Reserve after Nedlands' first permanent resident at a council meeting in December.

When a widowed Scottish father of six arrived in Western Australia from England, he was bound by a contract to his employer. He had no inkling that he would later be hailed Nedlands' first permanent resident and recognised in the naming of Nedlands' newest building.

On 18 July 1829, Adam Armstrong, along with his five sons and daughter, and his employer, Thomas Peel, set sail upon the vessel 'Gilmore' to Western Australia. With Britain's hopes of a prosperous future turning bleak, they had aspirations for a bright future in Australia.

Four months later on 15 December they landed at their new home, the Swan River Colony. For the next 18 months, Armstrong helped Peel survey land known as Ravenswood, which Peel had been granted from the government.

In 1831, Armstrong officially became Nedlands' first permanent resident when he was granted Swan Location 85 (320 acres). The location today is in the vicinity of Birdwood Pde and Waratah Ave.

The family lived in a tent while Armstrong built a house using limestone from the river foreshore and material from the slopes of Birdwood Pde. He named it Dalkeith Farm and his cottage Dalkeith Cottage, as he had previously been the manager of the Earl of Dalkeith's estate in Scotland.

On Dalkeith Farm he dug a well for fresh water, planted grapes and figs and farmed the best goat run in the Colony.

In February 1839, the property was sold to John Lewis and Armstrong returned to Ravenswood. His original cottage was on a farm bought by James Gallop, who built a two-storey house in the 1870s, now known as Gallop House. The house was bought by the state government in 1911, and was neglected for several decades before being restored in 1963-64.

Armstrong died in 1853 aged 67.

The Councillors decided to name the new pavilion the Adam Armstrong Pavilion following a suggestion from Councillor Ian Argyle.

Councillor Argyle said: “He was an outstanding candidate who had been over looked proper recognition. He was the very first settler in what he named Dalkeith. He built a long house that was known as Dalkeith Cottage and as his agricultural activities expanded it became Dalkeith Farm. If we failed to give our founder proper recognition, it would be like Perth not recognising Captain James Stirling, who sailed down the river.”

The City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said: “The decision to name the new Pavilion in honour of the original settler of Dalkeith is Council’s way of recognising the positive contribution Adam Armstrong made in establishing the area.”

“Armstrong’s journey from England to Nedlands is rather interesting. He showed strong pioneering spirit and foresight in establishing his Dalkeith Farm and cottage.”

The newly established building will be officially opened on 19 February 2016.

## **About Adam Armstrong Pavilion**

Between January and October 2015, the City upgraded the Collegians Amateur Football Club at the David Cruickshank Reserve and developed a new state-of-the-art facility.

The facility can be used not only as a sporting venue but as a multi-purpose facility that benefits the whole community and is in line with the City’s 10-year Strategic Community Plan to update and renew community infrastructure and assets.

**ENDS**

### **About the City of Nedlands**

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

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