Albert J. Hurford was born in Bathurst on 29 November 1868, and baptised at All Saints Anglican Cathedral. Albert did not follow his father George’s profession of master builder. His father was responsible for erecting both public buildings and private homes in Bathurst, many of which remain today.

Albert Hurford was a railway man and knew Ben Chifley. Elected to the Bathurst City Council in 1914, he was a strong advocate for enlarging the sewage treatment plant to include more of the city area. In 1921 he was elected Mayor and at times served as Deputy Mayor. In 1922 he supported Alderman J Beddie, who became Mayor that year.

After Albert left the railway and went into private business in 1923 he no longer stood for Council. He was one of the main bellringers at All Saints Cathedral who carried out the ringing of the bells on Sundays. Albert Hurford died on 7 November 1945.

Edmund Webb ran the family business of Webb & Co in George Street. He remained on Council for 44 years, being Mayor on five occasions in 1885, 1888, 1906-7 and 1918.

He was the first to discuss a waterworks scheme for Bathurst in 1876 and he made a sizeable donation towards the construction of the first Town Hall and Council Chambers.
Bathurst celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Municipality of Bathurst in 2012. Gazetted on 13 November 1862, Bathurst could now elect its first Council and Mayor.

The election for the first Bathurst Municipal Council took place in February 1863. Nine Aldermen were selected from 23 candidates, including Richard Young Cousins, Edmund Webb, Joseph Cary Stanger, John De Clouet and Dr Richard Machattie.

Of these men several would go on to become Mayors of Bathurst.

Richard Young Cousins was the first Mayor of Bathurst. He was born in Wiltshire, England, and settled in Kelso in 1840. Although a Kelso man, Cousins was a part of the residents group that proposed to incorporate the town of Bathurst in the late 1850s.

Richard Young Cousins was active in many civil affairs, especially with the Masonic Lodge, Bathurst District Hospital Board and the Bathurst Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Association.

He attended a public meeting on 18 December 1861, which passed motions in favour of the proposal to incorporate Bathurst. The official notice that established the town as a Municipality was signed almost a year later, on 13 November 1862.

In June 1863, the eldest daughter of Richard Cousins, Louisa Jane, was selected to plant a number of oak trees in Bathurst to commemorate the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The silver spade used in the ceremony is in the Bathurst and District Historical Society Museum.

Edmund Gell was an architect in Bathurst and he became its fifth Mayor in 1867. He had been Council’s first Town Surveyor as well as overseeing much of the construction and building work in the Municipality.

Born in England in 1820, Edmund Gell arrived in Bathurst in 1858. One of his early roles was to plan and design the Presbyterian School in 1859. In 1867 he became a magistrate.

Francis Benedict Kenny became an Alderman in Bathurst in 1892 but resigned the following year due to poor health. In 1897 he was re-elected and became the Mayor for the following two years. In 1904 and 1908 he was successfully re-elected as an Alderman, serving as Mayor for two terms in 1908 and 1909. However, ill health saw him seek leave of absence in October 1910.

Born in 1854 near Lake George, he went into law, firstly at Goulburn before arriving in Bathurst in 1881. F B Kenny, or ‘FB’ as he was known to his family, was very active on Council.

He lived in ‘The Terraces’ at the top of Lambert Street when he became Mayor in 1898. The People’s Federal Convention, held in the School of Arts in 1896, was high on his agenda, as was Council’s intention to run for the honour of the new Federal Capital at Vittoria in 1899. Mayor Kenny welcomed the Premier, the Hon G H Reid PC, at the Town Hall in mid June 1899.

In November he met Mr Oliver, the Federal Capital Commissioner, to discuss the finer points of Bathurst’s proposal which included using the Bathurst Court House as a temporary Parliament building.

In 1906 he declined the opportunity to stand for State Parliament. He was a Protectionist, committed to providing economic protection for local producers against international and interstate competition.

With his legal knowledge Mr Kenny often presided over local meetings. Throughout his career he was a generous supporter of charities and organisations and keen to establish a good water supply for Bathurst.

Francis Kenny was the Mayor who laid the foundation stone for the Boer War Memorial in Kings Parade.

Robert Lionel Gilmour was educated at the Kings School in Sydney after being born at ‘Bathampton’ on the Blayney Road in 1867. He pursued a number of pastoral interests in both Queensland and New South Wales.