

EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF DUNLITE

- JULY 1936 Dunlite Elec. Co. Ltd. owned by L.B. Dunn opened for business at 22A Tavistock Street, (now Frome St.) Adelaide.
Electrical appliance, automotive repairs and rewinding was main business.
- SEPT. 1936 Produced wind generating sets using converted generator from "Dodge" motor vehicles.
- DEC. 1936 Manufactured first of range of DUNLITE wind driven generators, wholly designed and made by the company.
First units 12V 300W, 32V 750W direct and geared drive.
- 1937 The 32V 750W belt driven generator with various types of control panels, first produced.
- 1938-'39 Expansion of sales outlets via network of commission agents throughout S.A. and distribution in Victoria.
- 1939-'45 Engaged in defense contracts - limited production for rural sales.
110V d.c. motors for electric traction vehicles.
Belt driven range increased to 1500W.
- 1946-'48 Gradual return to production of wind and belt driven generators for rural markets, hampered by material supply shortages.
Extensive programme of conversions of services disposal equipment for d.c. motors and generators.
- 1949 Dunlite designed range of "BROOKS" ¼ HP d.c. motors in various voltages introduced to Australian market.
Additional space rented and property purchased for anticipated further expansion.
- 1950 Section of purchased property converted to showroom.
First PMG contract for supply of 48V wind generators to power remote repeater stations secured.
- 1951 The 32V 1000W (MODEL "L") and 1500W (MODEL "M") wind generators with variable pitch propellers and automatic voltage regulators into production.
Work commenced on building of the new factory at 28 Tavistock St. Adelaide.
- 1952 All operations transferred from various rented premises to the new factory, comprising basement, ground and first floor.
- 1953 Complete new range of Dunlite 32V 1000-1750W d.c. engine powered sets introduced. Armature mounted directly on shaft and body bolted directly to engine spigot.
Available in electric start, remote and automatic control versions.

- 1954 First of the DUNLITE single phase slipring alternators was produced with static regulation in sizes 1.5 & 3kVA. Available as belt driven or direct engine mounted units.
- 1955 PMG awarded the first contract for engine driven sets, 24 & 48V 500W powered by "PETTER" diesel engines. Slip ring alternators increased to 6kVA output, plus range of dual voltage units 32V d.c. plus 240V 3kVA or 6kVA a.c.
- 1956-'59 Production and numbers of staff employed steadily increased to meet demand. Range of slipring alternators raised to 40kVA available in single phase and three phase.
Greater emphasis on commercial and industrial sales. Distributors established in all mainland states. Teams of installation and service mechanics covered all areas of S.A.
Range of selenium plate type battery chargers first produced.
- 1960 D.C. motors of various voltages, horsepowers and design produced in considerable quantities for the evaporative cooler manufacturers.
- 1961 "WISCONSIN" 3000rpm petrol engines with direct mounted Dunlite alternator were introduced to meet the demand for a light weight portable 240V 3.5kVA set.
- 1963 Rigid mounting of armatures and rotors superseded by flexible spring steel disc type coupling.
- 1965 First of orders for lightweight alternator sets received from Dept. of Army.
First stage of new factory, to cater for expansion, built at 28 Fullarton Rd. Kent Town.
Production commenced of first all-Australian designed brushless alternator in the range 20-60kVA three phase.
- 1966 Brushless alternator range expanded to include single and three phase units 6-20kVA.
Additions made to building at Fullarton Rd. to cope with increased production.
- 1967 Brushless range further expanded to cover range up to 150kVA. Production commenced on the new designed brushless wind driven generator, available as 32,48 & 110V 2KW and 12V 1000W.
Unit was multipole a.c. alternator, with output rectified to d.c. for charging into battery bank.
Considerable numbers were sold to PMG DEPT for tele-communication purposes.

Company was purchased by Australian Pye Industries, from LB.Dunn, who was retained as Managing Director.

- 1970 Production of MODEL "M" (1500W) wind generator ceased. L.B. Dunn relinquished directorship, but remained in consultive capacity until 1974.
- 1971 The company of .F.W Davey, Melbourne (pump and d.c. motor manufacturers) amalgamated with Dunlite to become LDAVEY-DUNLITE.
- 1972 Increased share of power generation field resulted in production of alternators up to 325kVA three phase. Rural demand largely replaced by commercial and industrial applications including PMG and other government depts.
- 1973 Commenced transfer of machines and equipment to premise formerly occupied by McKay Convair and situated at 28 Orsmond St. Hindmarsh.
- 1974 All operations transferred and factories at Frome St. and Fullarton Rd. vacated.
- 1975 D.C. motor manufacture formerly carried out by F.W. Davey transferred to Dunlite premises.
- 1977 DAVEY-DUNLITE as part of PYE of CAMBRIDGE became a member of the PHILIPS groups of companies when PYE were absorbed by PHILIPS. Davey and Dunlite resumed their separate identities.
Further research into wind power generation resulted in capacity increase up to 5KW 110V.
- 1978 Production of new design of lightweight 240V portable power pack in sizes 2-5kVA for construction and leisure applications.
Further penetration into export markets.
Total factory area, including storage and administrative sections = 100,000 square feet.
Total number of employees = 270.