



# NEWSLETTER



Sandgate & District Historical Society & Museum

Opening Hours: Wednesday & Sunday 10 am – 3 pm  
(other times by appointment)

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April 2020 Vol 2

## MUSEUM NEWS

To all our valued members. This is a time in our lives like no other.

I would like you to know that we understand that many of you are being faced with challenging times as we are exposed to both the increasing health crisis and the economic impact of this COVID-19 epidemic.

At the direction from the Government we closed the museum in March and cancelled the AGM, the Management Meetings and historical walks until further notice.

There is still lots of work happening and I thank the members who continue to answer emails, maintain the website and Facebook page, manage finances, edit the newsletter, work on research on the “Voices from the Past” project and continue presenting the museum history and profile.

Our thoughts are with you and please look after yourselves.

Pam Verney  
*President*



## “THE OLD TO THE NEW!”



*Meridian - built late 1880's*

With her husband Edward, a painter, Margaret Dyer lived in and ran this boarding house from about 1907. The family was well known for its interest in lawn bowls and established a private three-rink green near the house. Edward Dyer was involved in the formation of the Sandgate Bowls Club in 1914 and because that club did not allow women players, the private green at ‘Meridian’ was used for that purpose.



*Meridian - 2020 Covid-19 Bear Hunt*

The new owners – The Sinha family are certainly creating smiles from the waterfront walkers with the new Meridian verandah residents.

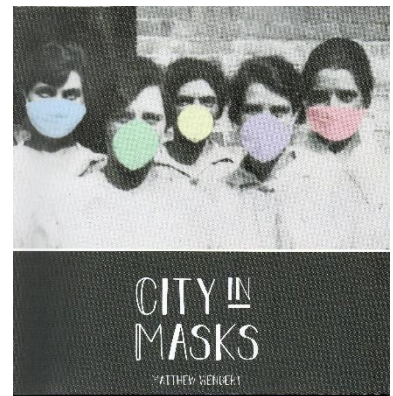
## HISTORICAL STORIES

History repeating itself!

“Queenslanders in 1919 faced one of the greatest threats to mankind in history.” (T Morgan)

The Spanish Flu reached Australia’s shores in 1919 – Brisbane’s worst natural disaster – more than 300 people died of the flu in Brisbane during the epidemic.

Matthew Wengert spoke at the museum in August last year and launched his book “City in Masks” published 2018 by AndAlso Books. This book records that the Sandgate branch of the Women’s Emergency Corps was one of the prominent anti-epidemic organisations that fought the flu 100 years ago.



*Daily Mail, Friday 31 January 1919, p8 .....*

### SANDGATE PREPARED.

#### SAFEGUARDS AGAINST EPIDEMIC.

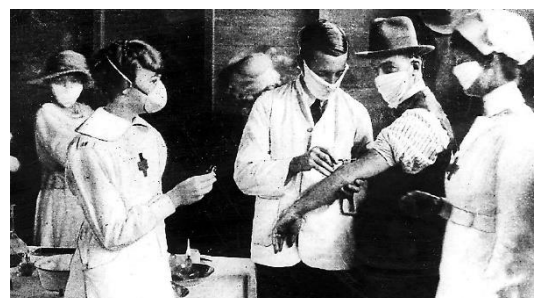
*SANDGATE, Thursday – Sandgate is prepared for any outbreak of the influenza scourge. In the course of an interview, the Health Inspector (Mr. Geo. C. Edmonds) stated that the health of Sandgate at present was excellent. He did not think there was a healthier town in Queensland. The sanitary service was very fair, and everything possible would be done to maintain a good service, but if any house should be neglected, he would get it rectified. Sandgate was not a likely place for an outbreak, as the strong winds tend to dispel disease rather than encourage them. In the event of an outbreak, however, Sandgate was fully prepared. All the necessary arrangements had been made, and all were working in conjunction with the medical officer (Dr. G. Davidson). The council’s health committee, who had full power to act, were working in conjunction with the medical men of Sandgate, and were to hold a meeting on Friday evening.*

*Volunteers are required for a nursing staff, preferably from widows without children and single ladies, and also men who would care to act as ambulance bearers. Persons willing to assist, should an outbreak occur, are asked to leave their names and addresses with the Town Clerk (Mr. A.S. Parry).*

*When asked regarding the milk supply, Mr. Edmonds said that when samples were taken from the vendors, the analyst stated that they all came up to the Health Department’s requirements, but nevertheless the carts were kept under constant supervision. In the event of an outbreak the isolation of Sandgate would rest entirely with the health authorities, under whose supervision all local work would be done.*

*Dr. Davidson has plenty of vaccine on hand, and is now inoculating privately. All the Town Hall staff have been inoculated as an example. The local committee will carry out any requirements issued by the health authorities in respect of distinguishing quarantined houses. A few rats are to be found around Sandgate, but poison is supplied to any householder who asks for it at the Town Hall.*

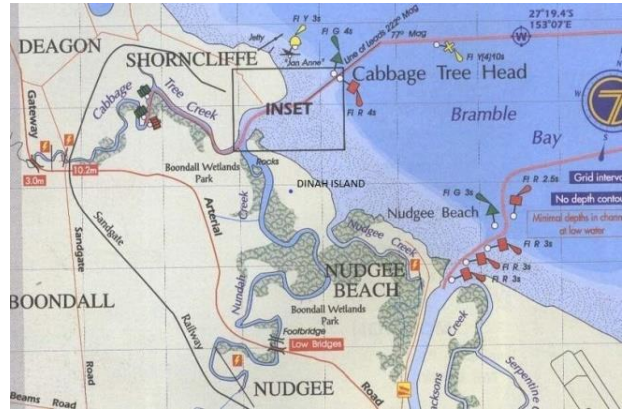
*In conclusion, Mr. Edmonds said that the people of Sandgate could rest assured that everything would be done by the medical men, who would look after their safety to the best of their ability. The pamphlet issued by the Health Department had been spread broadcast in Sandgate, and everything possible had been done to safeguard the town.*



## DINAH ISLAND - SHORNCLIFFE *Nobody knows it's there!*

Just across the creek opposite the Sandgate Yacht Club is Dinah Island. The island is included in the Moreton Bay Marine Park and is bordered by Cabbage Tree Creek, Nundah Creek, Nudgee Creek and fronting Bramble Bay from Nudgee Beach Township to Shorncliffe.

A group of six volunteers have been researching the island's history and have conducted four trips to the island to gather information and take photos. The 100 acres island was first purchased by M Horan by Alienated Deed of Grant Auction in 1853.



The area was occupied by the Aboriginal Turrbal people and is rich in Aboriginal history with Bora rings and middens nearby and is a significant sacred burial site. Records show four European families lived on the island at the turn of the century. The Research group photographed about 200 migratory sea birds on one of the two large saltwater lagoons. A resident pair of sea eagles can nearly always be seen on their favourite lookout gumtree opposite the Boondall wetlands hide.



## BRISBANE TO GLADSTONE YACHT RACE

This year's Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race was cancelled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The 72<sup>nd</sup> annual event was to start on Good Friday (April 10 2020) off the Shorncliffe Pier. The race has been run since 1949.



## WENDY TURNBULL MBE - PROFESSIONAL TENNIS PLAYER

Wendy Turnbull, who grew up in Sandgate, returned in February and visited some of the places from her childhood.

After visiting Sandgate High, where she talked to the students and spoke to former teachers she made a donation of memorabilia from her professional career.

Accompanied by Stirling Hinchliffe she then visited the Sandgate Museum. She spent some time speaking to museum volunteers and viewing the displays. Pam was very grateful to accept donations of some of Wendy's trophies from her childhood, career highlight photos and one of her Australian representative tracksuits. These are now on display in the museum.

Wendy began her career playing at the Washington Street courts in Sandgate. Nicknamed "The Rabbit" for her speed on the court, she was a singles runner-up at the 1977 US Open, 1979 French Open and 1980 Australian Open. She won four doubles titles and mixed doubles titles at Grand Slam events. She captained Australia on the Federation Cup team from 1985 to 1993 and played on the team from 1977 to 1988. She received an OBE in 1984 and was inducted into Australia's Tennis Hall of Fame in 2009.



*Pam Verney, Wendy Turnbull & Stirling Hinchliffe*

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual membership fees were due April 1 2020

Single: \$20      Family: \$30

Payment options: At the museum by cheque, cash or direct debit (BSB 084 365: A/C 52 501 9521)

*(Please use your name as a reference on direct deposits)*

### Thanks to our Local Sponsors

D&S Gage      Full Moon Hotel      Northside Marine      Sandgate Pest Control  
Safe & Sure Electricians      Stirling Hinchliffe MP      McDonald's Bracken Ridge

### Thanks to our Local Supporters

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