



NEWSLETTER



Sandgate & District Historical Society & Museum

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

Phone: 38692283 Email: info@sandgatemuseum.com.au Web: <http://www.sandgatemuseum.com.au>

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MUSEUM NEWS

This year has certainly been an unusual one and the restrictions imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic meant we were unable to hold our Annual General Meeting as planned in April. We closed the museum to the public in mid-March and reopened on 1 July. Our faithful volunteers continued to work in isolation during this time.

The delay in holding the AGM in April has resulted in the current Management Committee holding positions for 18 months.

I would like to thank the outgoing Management Committee for their enthusiasm, work, support and commitment.

The AGM was held on Sunday 25 October 2020 when the new Management Committee was elected.

Hon President
Hon Vice President
Hon Secretary
Hon Treasurer

Pamela Verney
Ian Kulpa
Barbara Bow
Dianne Gage

Management Committee

David Kerr
Lexi Edwards
Stirling Hinchliffe

Patron
Auditor

Yvonne D'Arcy
Jason O'Connor

Robert Travers Atkin Monument Restoration Project

Project Manager
Treasurer

Pamela Verney
David Hill



COMING EVENTS

Monday 16 November 9.30 am
Monday 30 November 11.45 am
Friday 20 November 6.45 pm

Management Committee Meeting (*all welcome*)
Christmas Lunch (*The Full Moon Hotel*)
Fort Lytton @ night - \$20
(organised by BLHN – book 0498382899)
“Jingle all the Bay”

Friday 4 December



GRACE BEECHER – RESEARCHER & HISTORIAN

This year the museum worked on a project to recognise Grace Beecher for her contributions to both Bracken Ridge and Sandgate. Grace has been acknowledged at the Bracken Ridge library where a seat has been installed at the main entry with a plaque recognising her work as a researcher. A similar acknowledgement will be placed on a path near the former Sandgate Post Office recognising her research work in Sandgate.



Following article is reprinted courtesy of Leanne Palmer and Sandgate Guide.

GRACE BEECHER...

OUR REMARKABLE RESEARCHER

Story Leanne Palmer

History becomes available to us by a process involving many steps: bearing witness, recording, storing, researching and presenting. In many cases, the real key is knowing how and where to find information.

This month our local community is showing its appreciation for an extraordinary historical researcher – Grace Beecher – by recognising and honouring her work with the installation of memorial plaques in Bracken Ridge and Sandgate.

Grace was born in Ipswich in 1930 and moved to Nashville at the age of five. She attended Sandgate State School, started working at 14, and married at age 24. Her life was busy raising three sons, three adopted girls, and helping run the family poultry farm at Bracken Ridge.

Her interest in researching began when she and her two nieces started delving into the family history, travelling weekly by bus to the State Library and Ipswich Cemetery. From then on, it was one project after another.

"I loved it. I would ride my pushbike from Bracken Ridge to Deagon, catch the train to go to the library, then back again at night, exhausted, but I

just loved it," Grace said.

The Sandgate Historical Society appointed Grace as a researcher in 1986. Very few photographs were held at the time, but by appealing through the local newspaper she was able to uncover many privately-owned images that are now iconic in our historical memories of Sandgate.

She contributed thousands of hours of voluntary research over many decades, combing the State Archives, John Oxley Library, and other resources for the Windsor, Nundah, and Chermside Historical Societies as well.

Grace was always generous in sharing her findings, providing copies of talks, research, and photographs with individual families and institutions such as the State Library. She never drove a car, nor used a typewriter or computer – almost unimaginable to us now – yet her contributions are enormous.

For many years she wrote a history column in the Bayside Star, and travelled to make presentations on the Centaur, the hospital ship sunk off Moreton Island in 1943. Now aged 90 and living in Rothwell, she still produces a newsletter for residents of the care home. She is unstoppable.

SANDGATE WAR MEMORIAL

At present the Sandgate War Memorial Park is undergoing extensive works.

A historical note:

(from "By the Seaside" No 46 23.10.1989)

- Within two (2) weeks of the Armistice (11.11.1918) a committee was set up in Sandgate to consider the question of erecting a Memorial monument in honour of those Sandgate volunteers who had fallen during the war. The chair of the committee was Alderman W H Bowser
- Funds were raised from screenings by Sandgate Pictures syndicate, band concerts by the Sandgate Town Band, concerts, raffles, collection boxes
- Badges were struck by Wallace Bishop. Shilling size badges quoted at 1/1d to sell at £1 (*the museum has a number of these badges*)
- The stone in the memorial was cut from Bowser & Lever's quarry and Lowther & Sons tendered for the erection of the monument
- The committee decided the inscription below be placed on the memorial stone (29.05.1923)



Committee & Mrs Mitchell

*They died, and yet in memory shall they live
That we may know the worth of sacrifice
Know that their death in Freedom's cause
Stands, as a beacon light, to point the way
To paths of peace.*

*So let us think. And, as our thoughts arise
We draw anear the souls of those who died;
And listening, we shall hear the spirit voice
Of Anzac's Dead.*

Written by W H Lister, one of the committee set up to arrange for the erection of the Memorial. It appeared in "Thoughts for Tonight" entitled "Anzac's Dead."

- On 14 July 1923 Governor Sir Matthew Nathan laid the foundation stone
- The unveiling of the Memorial (by Governor Nathan) on 24 February 1924 was a grand affair with Anzac choir, Sandgate Town Band and Churches and Sunday schools were invited. The Rev A C Plane of the Sandgate Methodist church performed the dedication. Mr S J Drew sounded "The Last Post".

The park has seen some changes over the years. The wooden fence that was in place around the park at the time of unveiling was replaced by the present concrete posts and chains. The gravel paths have been upgraded. Time has seen the growth of the palm trees. Garden beds have come and gone and many changes have taken place around the area. One thing has been constant is the Memorial Stone.

FROM “BY THE SEASIDE” No 159 28.07.97

“Three major quarries have been worked in Sandgate over the years, the white clay quarry, and a red clay quarry on the north western edge of Nashville Hill. Most of the clay from this quarry was used as filling behind the sea wall extending north west from the Sandgate Pier to 9th Avenue. This quarry owed its beginning to the removal of red clay for the stable at Shepherd’s soft drink factory in Rainbow Street. The quarry was started by H Kielly who worked at the factory and who lived in Hoskin Street just a short distance from its location. The clay was hauled in two-ton trucks with hand-operated winches after being filled by relief workers with shovels.

The third quarry was in Lascelles Street, Brighton. It contained a blue-grey clay. Most of the fill from this quarry went behind the wall along the sea front from 9th Avenue to 18th Avenue. From there on to the mouth of the Pine River the fill came by levelling the hillside of several farms adjacent to the area. This filled-in area formed the foundation for the RAAF Barracks and later Eventide Home. The third quarry and work on the sea front was mainly carried out by men on relief work.

In 1912 land on the southern side of the Post Office in the vicinity where the Sandgate Railway Station now stands was filled into a depth of five feet when the station was moved from Curlew Street. The station was first called Sandgate Central then when the terminus which had been shifted to Shorncliffe from Curlew Street was known as Sandgate and then Shorncliffe. Sandgate Central then became Sandgate.”

SHORNCLIFFE STATION PRECINCT HERITGE RESTORATION

Queensland Rail are currently undertaking an archaeological dig at the Shorncliffe Station as part of the heritage restoration project.



You can view a short video of the excavation process and findings Niche Environment and Heritage have uncovered so far on the [Shorncliffe station project page](#).



Shorncliffe station was called Sandgate station when it was built in 1897

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