



# NEWSLETTER



Sandgate & District Historical Society & Museum

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

Phone: 3869 2283 Email: [info@sandgatemuseum.com.au](mailto:info@sandgatemuseum.com.au) Web: <http://www.sandgatemuseum.com.au>  
<https://www.facebook.com/SandgateHistoricalMuseum>

April 2021 Vol 2

## MUSEUM NEWS

The AGM was held on Sunday 18 April 2021 and the following members were elected to the Executive and Management Committee.

Hon President	Pam Verney
Hon Vice President	Katrina Tyler
Hon Secretary	Barbara Bow
Management Committee:	David Kerr, Stirling Hinchcliffe, Lexi Edwards
Patron	Yvonne D'Arcy
Auditor	Jason O'Connor



Atkin Monument Restoration Project:

Project Manager	Pam Verney
Treasurer	David Hill

*\*\*David Hill was awarded Honorary Life Membership for his continued services to the Historical Museum.*

## COMING EVENTS

Saturday 15 May	1.30 pm	Launch of "Voices from the Past"
Monday 17 May	9.30 am	Management Committee Meeting
Tuesday 18 May	8.30 am	Laurie's Guided Beach Walk
Saturday 29 May	9.30 am	Historical Homes Guided Walk
Thursday 17 June	9.00 am	Laurie's Guided Beach Walk
Monday 21 June	9.30 am	Management Committee Meeting
Saturday 26 June	9.30 am	Pier & Moora Park Guided Walk (BLHN)
Thursday 1 July	9.00 am	Laurie's Guided Beach Walk
Monday 19 July	9.30 am	Management Committee Meeting
Sunday 25 July		Einbunpin Festival
Saturday 31 July	9.30 am	Bald Hills Cemetery Guided Walk

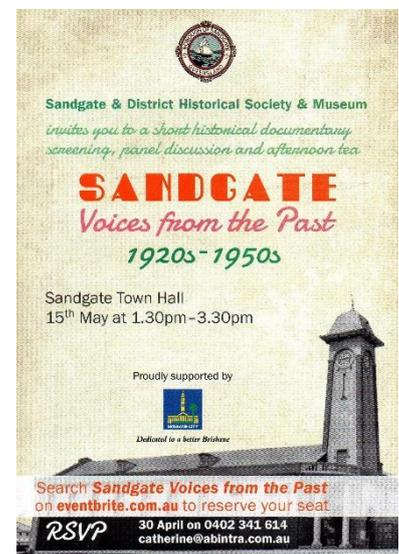


## EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

*The President, Pam Verney, presented her Annual Report.  
(If you'd like a copy of the full report, please contact the museum)*

The biggest project for this past year, which is about to come to fruition on May 15 is the "Voices from the Past" project. We began back in August 2019 with an afternoon tea for our seniors to meet and consider the project. Stirling Hinchcliffe financed this wonderful social gathering. We received a \$10 000 History Grant from the Brisbane City Council and have worked with Catherine Cox, member and film maker extraordinaire to produce a 20 minute documentary showing what the area was like through the eyes of the locals who lived in Sandgate between 1920 and 1950. The project involved interviewing and filming some of Sandgate's seniors and integrating their stories with images of Sandgate.

It has been an outstanding success and will be launched by the Lord Mayor on Saturday 15 May in the Town Hall. The documentary will be available for viewing on YouTube, on the museum website and in the museum.



We have continued with the Robert Travers Atkin Monument Restoration. The project had its beginning in April 2016 when Judge Peter Applegarth published an article in the Australian about an 1872 monument in Sandgate which needed restoration. More than \$40 000 in gifted funds later, we are almost finished. The monument has been cleaned and stabilized, the area landscaped and a viewing shelter shed built. The final stage, the addition of story-boards on the shelter shed walls will be completed hopefully by mid-year. It will then be possible to hand over the Atkin account and the records to St Margaret's Anglican Church.

A second project has been the recognition of the work of Grace Beecher, researcher extraordinaire. A plaque has been placed on a bench seat outside the Bracken Ridge library and another on a seat on the walkway along the path beside the former Post Office, thanks to Councillor Jared Cassidy and Councillor Sandy Landers.

Our volunteer base of 95 members is an eclectic, vibrant bunch with Wednesday morning teas being quite a social gathering.

We have volunteers who work in the management of the operation of the museum, maintaining financial records, cataloguing and accessioning collections, maintaining archives, digitising photos, preparing newsletters, and maintaining a Website and Facebook page.

Others are involved in meeting and greeting visitors, displays in libraries and businesses, public relations, street stalls, restoring tools, building maintenance, gardening, and more.

Within the museum one of the major achievements has been the ongoing cataloguing, accessioning and storage of our collection and the digitising of images now accessible via spreadsheet.

We will miss Bert Midgley who has moved to Townsville to be with his family.

Sadly, we lost Linda Paddon who died in May 2020 aged 105, and Eileen Plant who died earlier this year. Eileen was President of the museum for several years.

## **HERBERT VICTOR HOLZ – 16/08/1916 – 1996**

*Sandgate's Inventor, Poet, Hermit, War Serviceman and "Bogey Man"*

(From Northside Chronicle 1990 and Bayside Star 1996)

One of seven children born to Francis and Auguste Holz, Herbert Victor Holz was a colourful character to say the least.

Often seen peddling his bicycle around Sandgate, the 80 year old was something of a bush poet. He lived in the bush off Depot Road for many years and in 1985 moved to a property in Burralong Street Deagon.

The "Herbie Holz Park" is in Burralong Street in his memory.

Herbie lived a hard life. As a youngster he helped mend fences and collected firewood on the family property before leaving home during the depression years to work in Gympie, Biloela and the Atherton Tablelands.

When he returned to Brisbane he bought a timber truck and carted wood for wood stoves. When wood stoves began to peter out he bought a taxi.

Herbie served 11 years as a non-commissioned officer in WW11 in Papua New Guinea and Borneo and then with the occupation forces in Japan. He was discharged in June 1953.

What is now standard equipment on all motor vehicles, the compulsory head rest was Herbie's invention. Whilst owner driver of a Yellow cab in Sandgate in the mid-1950s, he conceived the idea and had a Commonwealth patent.

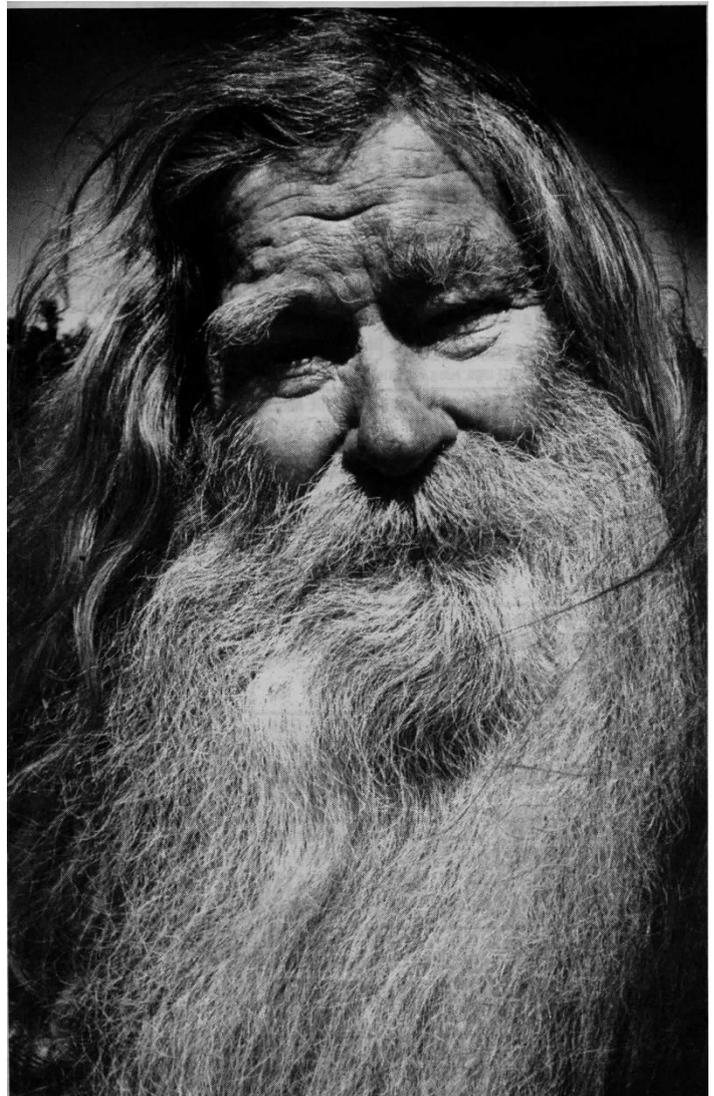
"The idea first came about when I used to sneak a spell or two from the driving by rolling up a coat and dropping my head on to it" Herbie said.

His next move after experimenting a while was to make a headrest of rubber.

"I encased it in basil (sheepskin leather) and strapped it on the rug rail, that chromium-plated bar that used to go across the top of the seat".

After he sold his taxi in 1960 he chose a hermit life.

For almost 20 years Herbert Victor Holz dwelt as a hermit. He lived in a tumbledown shack with 12 cats and a dog on four hectares of swampy land. There was no electricity, no water, no sewerage and certainly no television.



*Herbert Victor Holz - Photo by Glen Male*

At night Herbie sat with his kelpie called “Red” and churned out robust poetry by candlelight or just sat looking out over the fields where he played as a boy.

He saw foxes slinking by in the moonlight, red bills and wild ducks over the mangroves.

He never married and said he simply had a gutful of the rat race.

His only contact with humanity was his daily expedition to the shops to get supplies and unwelcome visits from small boys who went to see the “the bogey man”. He said he never minded the names kids called him because of his luxuriant hair and whiskers and often referred to himself as a vintage bodgie.

He quit shaving about 1977 because one of his cats broke a window and the draught dried his shaving cream before he could scrape it off. He then combed his hair with a horse brush – “the only thing tough enough for the job”.

In 1979, Sandgate based artist Catherine White-Sullivan painted his portrait which took first prize in the portrait section of the Pine Rivers Show.

In 1981 Herbie inherited a forgotten fortune - \$115 960 – a windfall from the sale of an 8ha block of land at Aspley that was left to him by his father.

Herbie said at the time “I’ve been living this life for so bloody long, I couldn’t change if I wanted to, but I might let my head go and buy a bathtub and have my shack hooked up to town water. When I want a wash I go down to an old soak and rub myself down with an old shirt.”

Herbert Victor Holz died in 1996.

The following dedication in verse was submitted to the Bayside Star in 1996 “in memoriam” of Herbie Holz...



*In a sleepy little suburb  
Close down by the sea  
There was a unique fellow  
Known to you and me.*

*Bush beard, belly and bike  
Jeans and flanos  
A bit of a sight.*

*Poetry like you’ve never heard  
Yes you guessed it ... our old mate Herb*

*Local legend one of a kind  
A scene reminiscent of another time  
Cycles around at a leisurely pace  
Refusing to submit to the modern race.*

*Herb you will be missed, but not forgotten.*

## NEWS

Our surplus of chairs was gratefully received by the Caboolture Hub for Participants in Skilling Queensland. They were revived by Reclink Australia and are in good use.

## THE BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL (BCC) HISTORICAL ORGANISATION ASSISTANCE GRANT

Without the BCC Historical Organisations Assistance Grant (HOA) we would not be operating. We received a HOA Grant which commenced in 2020 of \$11 000 per year for three years. This grant enables us to cover operational expenses (approx. \$12 000 per year).

## VOLUNTEERS

Can you help??

Without the people to operate and maintain the museum, the size of the building and money don't matter!!



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual membership fees were due April 1 2021

Single: \$20 Family: \$30

Payment options: At the museum by card, cash or cheque, or direct debit (BSB 084 365: A/C 52 501 9521)  
(Please use your name as a reference on direct deposits)

## ENTRY FEES

Entry fees to the museum have increased:

Adult \$5

Child \$3



*Mangle on display in Museum*

## DISPLAYS

Please check out the displays in the community and the museum.

Keep an eye out for displays in The Professional's windows in Brighton Road and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue as well as the Zillmere and Bracken Ridge libraries.

## FACEBOOK CHANGE

Check out our new Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SandgateHistoricalMuseum>

### Thanks to our Local Sponsors

D&S Gage

Full Moon Hotel

Northside Marine

DSE Pest Management

Stirling Hinchliffe MP

McKeering Real Estate

Sandgate & District Historical Society & Museum Inc is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*