



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 Web: <http://www.sandgatemuseum.com.au>
<https://www.facebook.com/SandgateHistoricalMuseum>

July 2021 Vol 3

MUSEUM NEWS

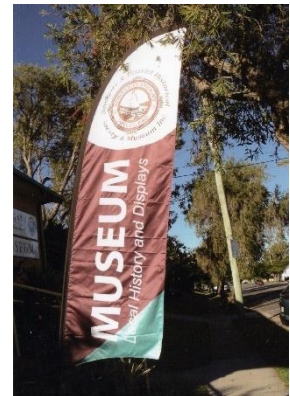
Have you noticed our new advertising?

Thanks to Brisbane City Council Historical Organisations Assistance Grants, the Sandgate Museum has purchased some new banners and flags to help promote the museum.



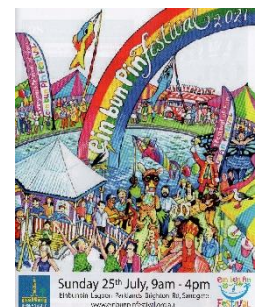
We have also made a number of improvements:

- new smoke alarms
- sensor light over the front door
- sliding door at rear (allowing easier entry to storage)
- disposal of surplus chairs
- building check on stumps completed
- fire safety check
- installed the Check-in Qld QR Code
- garden improvements
- pest control service (thanks to DSE Pest Management)
- consultation with Brisbane City Council Access and Inclusion Section re access
- installation of special individual laptop (with headphones) to view programs – includes “Voices from the Past”



COMING EVENTS

Monday 19 July	9.30 am	Management Committee Meeting
Sunday 25 July	9.00 am	Einbunpin Festival
Wednesday 28 July	7.00 pm	KSBA 50 th Celebration – Town Hall
Saturday 31 July	9.30 am	Bald Hills Cemetery Guided Walk
Sunday 15 August	2.00 pm	“Voices from the Past” - review & discussion at the Museum
Monday 16 August	9.30 am	Management Committee Meeting
Tuesday 17 August	9.30 am	Laurie’s Guided Beach Walk
Saturday 28 August	9.30 am	Guided Walk – Historical Homes
Saturday 16 October	5.00 pm	Chamber of Commerce – Long Table Dinner on the Pier



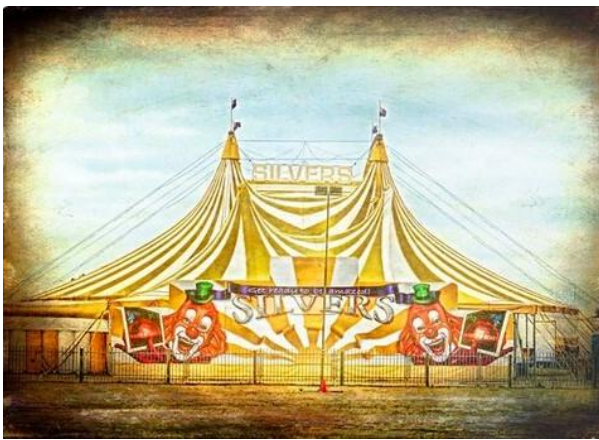
WHEN THE CIRCUS CAME TO TOWN

Extract by W O J Kielly in "By the Seaside" - 22/04/1996

'Twas a small, up country town, when we were boys at school.
There came a circus with a clown and with a bucking mule.
The Clown announced a scheme they had – The mule was such a king
They'd give a crown to any lad who'd ride him round the ring.

And gentle reader! Do not scoff,
Nor think the man a fool:
To buck a porous-plaster off
Was pastime to that mule.

From the "Bulletin Reciter" - 1901
When Dacey Rode the Mule



Our out of town correspondent, David Absolon has provided a humorous account of a visit by an early Circus to Sandgate about the 1930's.

For the record, several open air circus shows came to Sandgate. One I remember in particular was 'Silver's Circus' held in the open air as their Big Top (tent) had been burnt while touring in the southern states. They were in a small way, had performing horses, clowns, trapeze actors etc. It was rumoured that one of the trapeze artists, whether from this circus or some other outfit, had had a fall and because they could not afford a safety net, she had been paralysed. Admission was generally by a coin, and

those who could not pay as the depression years were on us, sat in on a free show. The events were usually held on vacant land at the rear of where the Girl Guides Hut stands and adjacent to the tennis courts below the school hill.

And so, on with David's story.

"I don't know why, but we never seemed to have a circus call in at Sandgate, perhaps our population was smaller as it was. Possibly the effort to erect the big top not worth the income. Whatever it was some seventy years ago, one ventured a one-night stand.

In the menagerie we saw elephants, lions and tigers, monkeys, zebras, donkeys and mules. Many horses. You name it – all that makes circus animals. This was something like seventy years ago.

The show started with a brass band supplying the music. Pretty girls standing up on the horses' backs as they ran around the ring. The various clowns and their capers. Lions jumping through burning hoops, trapeze artists working high up in the air, doing their death defying stunts. Elephants doing their acts and the band played on etc.

Then came the bucking donkey – five pounds (ten dollars) – who could ride him for two minutes. Now this appeared easy money when the basic wage was a little over two pounds. So quite a few came out to try their skill. As they got on, the donkey put his head down and bucked. One by one they bit the dust.



In due course it was Mr Alec McKeagues turn. Alec had worked with horses most of his adult life, from ponies, sulky horses, Clydesdales etc but I don't think, donkeys. So it was his turn. To everyone's surprise he straddled the donkey back to front. That is, his back was towards the animals head, and his face towards the tail. He crossed his ankles under the animals belly and held firmly onto the tail. The donkey bucked, and the more it did, he pulled its tail. After a few bucks the donkey gave up and Alec, time being up, slipped off the animals back and collected his five pounds."

Well, I guess you are wondering how Dacey got on with the mule. The poem records that he rode the animal alright, and the clown gave him the promised crown, but, it was a paper crown.

Now this upset said Dacey and he
For vengeance on the show,
Ascended to the monkey's cage, and let the monkeys go.
The blue tailed ape and chimpanzee he turned abroad to roam
And it is faithfully recorded in the poem
And from the beasts that did escape the bushmen all declare
Were born some creatures partly ape and partly native-bear
They're rather few and far between; the race is nearly spent
But some of them may still be seen in Sydney Parliament.



(And all this happened back before 1901)

KEEP SANDGATE BEAUTIFUL'S 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Public Lecture by Professor Richard Fuller



Conservation Biologist and Head of the Fuller Lab at University of Queensland will discuss the interactions of people and nature in urban settings. Richard is an engaging speaker with a passionate interest and knowledge of biodiversity, conservation planning and our wonderful migratory shorebirds.

Sandgate Town Hall
Wednesday 28th July - 7pm

Book through Evenbrite (limited seating)

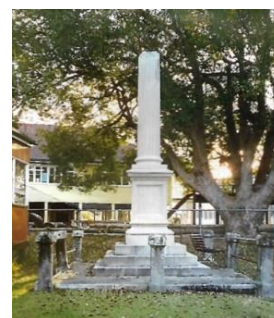
NEWS ON THE ATKIN MONUMENT RESTORATION

The "Notice of proposed update to citation of local heritage place St Margaret's Anglican Church to include the Atkin Monument" should be finalised by July 23 2021.

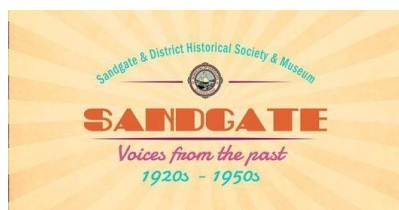
Story boards have been made and are about to be installed.

Next stage – installation of sandstone plinth.

Watch for a grand opening and celebration.



VOICES FROM THE PAST



Sunday 15 August @ 2.00 pm

Revisit the documentary – discuss the production

Meet and greet others and enjoy afternoon tea.

RSVP: The Museum

Phone: 38692283 or email: info@sandgatemuseum.com.au

DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM

- Receipt/invoice for production of yabbie pump
- First Day stamp issue celebrating Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht race
- Can you identify the items in the photo?



FOR SALE: SHORNCLIFFE PIER TIMBER CLOCK



If interested in obtaining a clock made from Shorncliffe's old pier contact Barry Clark, President of the Bribie Island Historical Society.
Contact details: Barry Clark: bc2020bc@bigpond.com

VOLUNTEERS

At our most recent function "Voices from the Past" run by volunteers at the Town Hall in May we had Heather Glazier (age 101) and Audrey Bernard (age 12).



Volunteers are not paid,
not because they are
worthless but because
they are priceless.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Your membership is vital for the museum to run, we seek your renewal because without your assistance the society could not function.

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



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