



NEWSLETTER



Sandgate & District Historical Society & Museum

Opening Hours: Wednesday & Sunday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
(other times by appointment)

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

September 2023 - Vol 4



I have some breaking news involving the curious case of vanishing Society members.

Esteemed historians, time travellers, and enthusiasts of all things quirky. It is I, your President, back again with another captivating edition of "The President's Report".

Today, we delve into the mysterious realm of dwindling membership numbers, an enigma that has befallen our beloved society like a particularly stubborn historical fog.

The Great Disappearing Act

I must admit, dear members that the situation at hand has left us scratching our heads more vigorously than a flea-ridden historian attempting to decode ancient manuscripts (and no ... it's not the termites).

It appears that our once-thriving society (130 members back in the 80's) is experiencing a peculiar exodus of members. Now, before you start imagining secret tunnels leading to hidden treasure in Bramble Bay or aliens abducting our fellow enthusiasts, let's explore some plausible explanations.

Wandering Historians

First on the list is the theory of the "Wandering Historians." It seems our members may have taken on the spirit of explorers, venturing far and wide to unravel the mysteries of distant lands. Rumour has it that some were last seen re-enacting historical, well, memorable anyhow, events at The Full Moon, while others seem to

have embarked on a quest to find the lost city of "wherever the road takes us". Kudos to their adventurous spirit, but we do miss their presence.

The Digital Abyss

In this age of digital distractions and infinite cat videos, it's no wonder our membership numbers have taken a hit. The allure of online platforms, with their instantaneous gratification, may have captivated the attention of many a potential historian. They've traded dusty archives for the infinite scroll and historical lectures for binge-watching dramas. Who would have thought that a historical society could be outshone by memes and viral videos? Alas, the times they are a-changin'.

The Mystery of the Missing Tea and Scones

Now, dear readers, let us not overlook the potential role of tea and scones in the grand scheme of member disappearance. Could it be that our notorious tea and scones sessions have become too irresistibly delicious for some? Could it be that they've overstuffed themselves and are currently stuck in a scone-induced stupor? We may never know the true extent of the power of our tea and scones, but Lynne shall continue to bake them with love and hope they lure back our lost comrades.

A Call to Arms

Fear not, for all is not lost. The Sandgate Historical Society, in its infinite wisdom, is in the process of devising a cunning plan to breathe new life into our dwindling membership numbers. We shall embark on a quest to capture the imagination of the present generation (well any generation really). Historical events with a modern twist, immersive virtual reality experiences, and TikTok tutorials on historical fashion tips are just a few ideas that have been floating around. Thankfully some will never see the light of day. But nevertheless, we shall adapt, evolve, and make history as we go.

Join the (R)evolution

To all our members ... we need your help. Seek out friends, rellies, history enthusiasts, curious minds, and lovers of all things peculiar, and extend them a heartfelt invitation to join our ranks! The Sandgate Historical Society is more than just a gathering of history buffs; it's a community of kindred spirits who revel in the joy of unearthing the past, sharing stories, and creating lasting memories, whilst having a good time doing it.

When you ask them to join our society, ask them to also imagine the thrill of discovering forgotten artefacts, deciphering cryptic manuscripts, or even organizing historically themed costume parties where you can channel your inner Marie Antoinette or dashing knight. OK, maybe not straight away; but you get the idea.

Remember, dear members, history is not just a subject confined to textbooks; it's a vibrant tapestry woven with tales of triumph, tragedy, and everything in between. Together, we can breathe life into the past, ensuring that the stories of our ancestors are preserved for generations to come.

So, grab your magnifying glasses, dust off your top hats and bonnets, and embark on a remarkable recruitment journey for the Sandgate Historical Society. Find both those seasoned historians and history novices, their unique perspectives and passion will make invaluable contributions to our society.

My message for you to take to your friends and family...

Join us, and let us make history, one laugh, one discovery, and one tea and scone at a time.

Cheers
Ian Kulpa

BARROW ON LOAN

We're both thrilled and sad to announce that the Sandgate Museum is lending a remarkable collection item to the Queensland Steam and Vintage Machinery Society.

A replica of an iconic concrete wheelbarrow used during the construction of the Hornibrook Bridge will be on display at the Society's Museum in Petrie for a limited time.



This example of an incredible piece of history offers a unique glimpse into the past and the monumental efforts that went into building the Hornibrook Bridge that linked Redcliffe to Brighton.

Can you imagine the countless loads of concrete these barrows carried? They would have witnessed the hard work of the construction workers who turned a long held (bridge) dream into reality. Now, it's Petrie's chance to see this piece of engineering history up close.

The loan period is for twelve months, so if you missed seeing the barrow at the Sandgate Museum, mark your calendars and make sure to plan a visit to Petrie's Queensland Steam and Vintage Machinery Society Museum to check it out first-hand.

The Petrie Museum, located at old Petrie Town, 901 Dayboro Road, Whiteside and is renowned for showcasing a fascinating historical machinery collection.

FLAG POLE RESTORATION

If you have driven past the Museum recently you may have noticed Fabian from Power Building Group working on restoring the flag pole. Fabian kindly donated his time to restore the pole, which began its life as a light pole on the original Shorncliffe Pier. Thanks Fabian, our flag pole is looking new again.



UNVEILING HISTORY

US Researchers Attempt to Unearth Secrets of (second) Airacobra Plane Crash at Bramble Bay in 1942

In a captivating quest to uncover the mysteries of the past, a team of researchers from the United States have embarked on a remarkable journey to Australia, and specifically Sandgate's Bramble Bay, in search of information about two Airacobra plane crashes that occurred in the Bay in 1942.

With a background in historical and maritime archaeology and cultural heritage management, Professor Jennifer McKinnon, from North Carolina University, and her team, aim to shed light on an event that had long been shrouded in obscurity.



As part of her research, she visited the Sandgate Museum where Museum curator Katrina Tyler and other society members were able to provide the researchers with artefacts from the plane wreckage and also other documentation, photographs and local knowledge on the possible site of a plane wreck in the bay.

The Airacobra plane crashes in Bramble Bay, Australia, during World War II had faded into the annals of history, largely forgotten by the passage of time. However, the second of these two fateful incidents held a special significance for the researchers. Commissioned by the American Defence Department, the researchers are attempting to piece together the fragmented narrative of the second plane crash which was one of two plane crashes on the same day.

The researchers have delved into a multitude of resources, meticulously examining archived newspapers, military records, and personal accounts of the time. The museum's collection of photographs offered a glimpse into the aftermath of the crash, capturing the devastation and the efforts made to salvage the wreckage. These visual cues served as poignant reminders of the human toll and the sacrifices made during wartime.

Through their relentless efforts, the researchers will, no doubt, discover compelling details about the Airacobra crashes.

The ill-fated flights were part of a training exercise conducted by the United States military during the early stages of World War II. The crashes claimed the lives of a pilot and co-pilot, casting a sombre shadow on the already tumultuous period.

The team also ventured out into Bramble Bay in search of plane wreckage and with every intention of repatriating any remains back to America. It is believed that weather conditions and mechanical failure were potential factors contributing to the tragic events.

Beyond their search for answers, the researchers recognised the importance of preserving the historical significance of the Airacobra crashes. By documenting their findings and agreeing to share their research and stories with the Museum, they have ensured that the memory of those involved would not be lost to the passage of time.

It is worth noting that the Sandgate Museum played a vital role in this endeavour, acting as a guardian of the past. Its commitment to collecting, preserving, and interpreting local historical artefacts and information enabled the researchers to add more pieces to the puzzle and shed light on an event that had long remained in the shadows.

The visit to the museum not only helped the researchers' quest for knowledge but also initiated a separate visit by Dr Richard Weltz, a senior Archaeologist from Dunedin, Florida who was also interested in the crashes.



An Airacobra similar to those that crashed

For members of the Society, the visit from our American friends served as a timely reminder of why we are in the Society and the importance of preserving and understanding our collective heritage.

VALE YVONNE D'ARCY



With the death of our Patron, Yvonne D'Arcy, on 12 September, the Historical Society lost one of its longest-serving and most steadfast members.

Yvonne was born in Brisbane in 1931, one of five daughters of John and Vivian Conlon. After a wartime stint in Texas, the family moved to Sandgate, living first at *Meridan* flats and then at *Zenda* in Third Avenue. As a girl, Yvonne was a competitive swimmer, winning the under-12 and under-13 Queensland freestyle championships. She also enjoyed water ballet.

In 1952, after two years of nursing training, Yvonne married Ivor D'Arcy and they bought their home in Bernard Street, Brighton.

In 1956, they moved to Cloncurry where Ivor worked with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Later they moved to Mt Isa where Ivor was the chief radio operator at the RFDS base. By then, Yvonne and Ivor had four children.

TERMITE INSPECTION

As many of you may have heard, the Museum had a recent pest inspection and termites were detected.

We would like to reassure all members that the Management Committee have met and are presently undertaking the necessary steps to have the termites eradicated.

We will keep you updated of any further developments.

Ian Kulpa
President

After their move back to Brisbane, Yvonne worked at Eventide for eight years. Ivor's family had long and historic links with the sailing community and he and Yvonne kept up the tradition, enjoying boating in Moreton Bay and sailing several times up to the Whitsundays.

Yvonne joined the Historical Society in 1982, one of our earliest members and, over the years, one of the most enduring and dedicated. She participated in all aspects of the society's activities, especially the fundraising street stalls.

She contributed generously to the museum's holdings of material, particularly our photographic archive. In 2014 she very graciously consented to become the society's patron.



The members and volunteers of the Sandgate Historical Society and Museum extend our deep condolences to Yvonne's family. She will be greatly missed by us all.



COMING UP

Tea with History

Thursday 28 September:
10:00 am

St Patrick's Year 11 Art Excursion to Museum

Wednesday 4 October

Monthly Management Meeting

Wednesday 18 October - 9:00 am

Sandgate Primary School Year 3 Excursion to Museum

Friday 3 November



SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

A Blast from the Past

Last holidays, children enjoyed an array of old time activities at the Children's Holiday Program at the Museum. Some tapped away on old manual typewriters, others tried their hand at using the hand sewing machines while others listened to their great grandparent's favourite records being played on the old wind-up gramophone.

Many thanks must go to the volunteers but especially to Elaine O'Brien, the Events Coordinator for organising such a wonderful event. Thanks also to Sandgate Real Estate for their support with this event.



TEA WITH HISTORY

Come and enjoy a cup of tea with a historical twist for just \$10 for all.

*The last Thursday of every month
at 10:00 am.*

Bookings necessary. Please phone: 3869 2283
(Numbers are limited)

*We are very mindful of difficult economic times
and have reduced our price for the remainder of
the year.*



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Membership is vital for the museum to function - without your assistance the society could not operate. It's not too late to renew your membership. We appreciate your continued support.

Membership fees for 2023 **were due in April.**

Single: \$20 Family: \$30

Payment options: by card, cash or cheque at the museum or by direct debit.

(BSB: 084 365 Account: 52 501 9521)

(Please use your name as a reference with direct debit)

MUSEUM OPENING HOURS

Sunday and Wednesday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

MUSEUM ENTRY FEES

Adult \$5

Child \$3



FACEBOOK

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SandgateHistoricalMuseum

NEWSLETTER

If you are still receiving the newsletter in hard copy and would like to receive by email instead, please contact the museum.

Thanks to our Local Sponsors

The Full Moon Hotel
Matthew Thomas Café

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Power Building Group

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



Dedicated to a better Brisbane