



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>

December 2023 - Vol 5



As we gather around the warmth (heat?) of the holiday season, we are reminded of the enduring spirit of Christmas and how it can invoke memories of past friends, relatives and events that all make up our own rich personal histories.

On behalf of the Sandgate Historical Society and Museum, I extend heartfelt wishes to all our members for a joyous and meaningful Christmas.

This year we have been busy.

Our “Tea with History” morning teas have gone from strength to strength due in no small way to the efforts of Lynne, Michael and Paul (and others ... you know who you are). Elaine, Barbara, Patti, and Katrina have also managed the impossible by organising some quite magnificent student/group visit days at the museum. Just think about it. These ladies have braved the wrath of inquisitive children to show them what life was like well before they were born.

Likewise, volunteers such as Marie and Alan have kept the wolf from our door with some solid accounting skills and not forgetting the artful writing skills of David when it comes to preparing grant applications.

Others like Barry and Colin are behind the scenes men who just keep showing up. If it wasn't for these two people, our museum grounds and our website would look quite shabby.

Mike and Angie Chamberlain have also managed to do an enormous amount of work for the Society and to this day, I don't know how they fit it all into their busy lives; but thankfully they do.

This year we have also witnessed some extraordinary changes within our society.

At the AGM, our long-standing President of eight years, Pam Verney decided to pursue other interests and handed over the presidential cudgel to “yours truly”. This year also saw the death of our beloved patron, Yvonne D'Arcy.

But within all these changes, Christmas is also a time when traditions connect us to our heritage, bring us closer to our roots and cause us to ponder “why we do what we do”.

Why are we part of an historical society and why do we maintain our museum?

Throughout this year the Historical Society has strived to honour our shared heritage, safeguarding artefacts, documents, and memories that shape our identity.

A small band of dedicated volunteers have worked diligently to preserve the stories of our ancestors and to provide a platform for future generations to learn from those experiences. Our worth is not in what we achieve now but in what future generations learn from our collection of stories and memorabilia.

Spoiler Alert: We have big things in the pipeline. Next year, through our planned exhibitions, talks, and community events, we aim to foster a renewed appreciation for the past and inspire a collective sense of pride in our shared heritage.

But that's next year. As this year ends I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to all our members, supporters and volunteers who have in their own way, tirelessly contributed to the success of the Historical Society and Museum.

And finally, at the risk of repeating myself, it is the especially unwavering dedication of a handful of volunteers that has ensured our Society and Museum continues to strive to keep alive our history for all to cherish. Thank you one and all.

Ian Kulpa

Thank You
and Merry Christmas

NEW PATRON – BARBARA BOW



We are very pleased to announce that Barbara Bow, erstwhile secretary to the Historical Society, has agreed to accept the position of the society's patron.

It is an honour for the society to be able to so recognise Barbara's 30 years of dedicated and sterling service, and also a way for the society to express its gratitude and appreciation to one of its longest-standing and most dependable members. If Barb is not in the museum first on Sunday or Wednesday, we know something major is keeping her away.

Barbara joined the society in 1993, when she retired from teaching, and immediately launched into making herself useful, learning the mysteries of archiving and becoming intimately familiar with the society's extensive archive of printed and photographic material, as a result of which she is the go-to person for researchers, volunteers and the merely curious. Barb became secretary in 1995, a position she has occupied with commitment and good humour, relinquishing it only upon accepting the patronship.

After growing up in Townsville and Mackay, Barb studied at the then Kelvin Grove Teachers College and began teaching in 1954, on her 21st birthday. She taught in Mackay, Moura and other country centres. Her final school was Boondall, where she taught for 23 years. She has educated generations of children and she has continued that vocation in her outreach work with the museum, being a mainstay of the society's work in bringing the delights of history to groups of school children both at the museum and in schools.

We are proud to have such a stalwart and talented patron, and are very appreciative of all that she has contributed to the Historical Society and Museum.

WE'RE ON THE MOVE

Forty-one years ago in 1982, the Sandgate and Districts Historical Society was formed and in 1993, the society moved into its "new" premises at 150 Rainbow Street in Sandgate.

Fast forward to 2023 and we now find ourselves facing another move.

After loyal service over the years, our building is now overdue for quite extensive, and expensive repairs. Based on advice from experts in their fields, our best options seem to be to either move to new accommodation or demolish and rebuild on the existing site.

After many discussions, management meetings and talks with local professionals and trades, we have decided that in the interests of the society it would be best for us to seek a new location.

This decision has not been an easy one to make and after we form up a definitive way forward, we plan to have a general members' session to explain the circumstances that have led us to where we are today and where we need to be.

One obvious question most members might ask is: Why do we need to move right now?

Well, it all started with a speck of mud appearing in a corner of the ceiling of the museum. Over a short period of time, we watched that mud "grow" until a pest inspection confirmed our worst fears, termites!

The result of that inspection was a report highlighting extensive and long-term termite damage to the sub structure and internal walls, floor and ceiling of the building. Damage that needed immediate and expensive attention as a duty of care to our members and visitors.

Faced with this expense, we were also confronted with an immediate need to safeguard the property, from a public safety perspective, in relation to the refurbishment of several retaining walls and provision for disability access. Add to this an additional expense regarding rectification of drainage and sewerage issues in the building and it became increasingly obvious that we were facing enormous costs if we were to decide to stay where we are.

Over the Christmas period, we will be investigating several options for an alternative location for the Museum and Historical Society but rest assured, we will be making our collection and invaluable records our top priority when it comes to any relocation.



WHAT THE HECK IS AN OPERATIONAL REVIEW

In 2022, the Historical Society was rightfully concerned about their longevity in the face of diminishing membership numbers, increasing operating costs, limited funding, and an ever-increasing difficulty in marketing our role and important place in the community.



Like most big problems, we all had ideas on how to resolve our issues. However the management committee of the day decided to engage expert consultants in the museum/historical society industry to provide us with some direction and assistance on how to not only survive, but thrive into the future.

After extensive consultation, the consultants produced a blueprint on how we as an organisation could survive in the longer term. Their report was called an Operational Review and it was very specific in what it provided the society ie key activities that would support a more financially sustainable museum and society.

The activities that were suggested in the report were grouped into three areas which were believed to be top priority. Those areas were 1) Fundraising activities 2) Suggested events on which to focus our efforts and 3) Possible merchandise that we could sell to promote the museum aims.

Many additional suggestions were also presented in the Operational Review but the consultants emphasised that we are a group with limited current resources. Whilst there are other acknowledged interests and opportunities that could be investigated, the consultants suggested that the society would do well to remain focussed on the identified priority areas for the immediate future.

In 2024, we plan to take the recommendations of the review and implement them across our museum and society. Members can expect to see many changes in the coming months all designed to keep our Historical Society and Museum relevant and resilient.

If anyone would like to read a copy of the Operational Review, please contact the museum.

AN HISTORIC CHRISTMAS DAY



State Library of Queensland, ca. 1890

The former Sandgate Baptist Church was opened on Christmas day 1887 replacing a small chapel built in 1872.

A church member, George Phillips, donated a triangular piece of land near the sea front on the corner of Flinders Parade and Cliff Street and the church was built to the design of prominent Brisbane architect, Richard Gailey.

A local builder, William Street, built the new church with the spires being erected by steeplejack, Mr Collins. It originally had a shingled roof and was lit by kerosene lamps.

The church seated 350 and was used as a meeting place by various organisations, including the Freemasons.

Renovations were carried out in 1928, 1945 and 1986. The roof was replaced with slate, then iron sheeting and finally with coloured metal sheeting. The structure, however, remains substantially unchanged since its erection.



Former Sandgate Baptist Church, 2014

STUDENTS EXPERIENCE EARLY DAYS



At the beginning of November, the Museum was delighted to have a visit from 45 students from Sandgate State School Year 3A & 3B classes. The children enjoyed a short history talk about our area and were given a variety of hands-on experiences of life in the early days of Sandgate. The morning was enjoyed by both students and volunteers.



CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Museum will close for the Christmas/New Year holidays from Thursday, 14 December 2023 and reopen on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a relaxing and safe holiday season.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

It's not too late to buy your Museum Christmas cards (\$3:00 each or four for \$10:00)



MUSEUM CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Pop in to the Museum and buy a ticket in our Christmas raffle - \$2.00 a ticket or three (3) for \$5.00 - drawn on Wednesday 13 December.



COMING UP IN 2024

Monthly Management Meeting

Wednesday 17 January 2024
9:00 am

Tea with History

Thursday 25 January 2024: 10:00 am



TEA WITH HISTORY

Come and enjoy a cup of tea with a historical twist for just \$10.00.

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

Bookings necessary as numbers are limited.

Phone: 3869 2283 or email us at:

info@sandgatemuseum.com.au



CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Looking for a Christmas gift? The museum has a number of books, prints, tote bags and memorabilia available to purchase.

MUSEUM CHRISTMAS DRINKS

To thank our volunteers and members we will be meeting at the Full Moon on Friday 15 December at 4pm.



GARDEN UPDATE



After the recent rain our front garden is looking very refreshed. We must thank Barry Smith, one of our volunteers, for the many hours of work he has

contributed to our grounds and garden over the past few months.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

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 or cash 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.
(due to limited volunteers, hours may vary)

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

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Matthew Thomas Café

DSE Pest Management
Power Building Group

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



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