



NEWSLETTER



Sandgate & District Historical Society & Museum

Opening Hours: Wednesday & Sunday 9:00 am – 1:30 pm
(other times by appointment)

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

June 2026 - Vol 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members and Friends

Our Annual General Meeting was held in May, providing an opportunity to reflect on the year's achievements and look ahead to the future.

I would like to congratulate and thank the members who have accepted positions on the Management Committee for the coming year: Barbara Bow (Patron), Elaine O'Brien (Secretary), Pattie Tancred (Vice President), Clive Porritt (Treasurer), Mike Chamberlain, Barbara Kulpa and Robert Perrott (Committee Members), and I am very pleased and grateful to have been re-elected as President.

Volunteering for these roles requires a significant commitment of time and energy, and the society is fortunate to have such dedicated people willing to contribute. We wish them all the very best for the coming year

It has been a busy and rewarding year.

Our "A Century of Love" wedding exhibition was extremely well received and attracted wonderful feedback from visitors. Our walks program has returned strongly, with many events selling out, while our morning teas continue to be incredibly popular. In fact, many of these events now reach capacity, demonstrating a strong level of community interest in local history.

Speaking of behind-the-scenes work, one of the most significant projects currently underway is the indexing and digitisation of our collection. While this work may not be immediately obvious to visitors, it is one of the most important long-term projects we have undertaken. A special thank you must go to Colin, Clive, Graham, Cheryl, Hope and all the volunteers involved in this enormous task.

The society has also benefited from a number of grants during the year. These funds have enabled us to purchase new filing cabinets, chairs, presentation equipment and a range of other improvements that make the museum a better place for both volunteers and visitors.

The Bluewater Festival train rides were once again a great success and remain one of the fundraising highlights of our year. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the event and supporting the society.

One of the biggest focuses moving forward is the future of our museum building. During the year we launched our "Save Our Museum" fundraising campaign and GoFundMe initiative. This is about far more than preserving a building. It is about protecting the stories, collections and history that have been entrusted to us, and ensuring they remain available for future generations.

While there is still a great deal of work ahead, I believe the society is heading in a very positive direction. We have a dedicated volunteer base, strong community support and a growing number of people engaging in our programs and events.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported the society throughout the year. Your contribution, whether large or small, helps ensure that the history of Sandgate and the surrounding districts continues to be preserved and shared.

I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the year ahead.

Regards

Zac McHardy

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Congratulations to the new Management Committee who were elected on Sunday 17 May at the museum's Annual General Meeting.

Zac McHardy (President), Barbara Bow (Patron), Elaine O'Brien (Secretary), Pattie Tancred (Vice President), Clive Porritt (Treasurer), Mike Chamberlain, Barbara Kulpa and Robert Perrott (committee members).

We wish them all the best for the coming year.

SHORNCLIFFE RAILWAY STATION REFURBISHMENT TALK

50 people attended the museum on Sunday, 19 May, for an update on the restoration of Shorncliffe Station.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Project Manager, Helena Hill, and her team for an engaging and informative presentation on the history, details and progress of the project.

The talk was followed by a lively question time and a chat over afternoon tea.



GUIDED HISTORY WALKS

The museum has hosted two very successful walks over the past two months thanks to our volunteer, researcher and guide, Pattie.

The Bald Hills Cemetery Walk in April was followed by a picnic morning tea in the grounds.

Our Flinders Parade walk in May ended with a delicious morning tea on the verandah of well-known Sandgate house, Meridan.



More walks are planned over the next few months with the next Bald Hills Cemetery walk occurring on Saturday June 27 at 9:30 am.

Tickets can be purchased via the link below:

<https://square.link/u/eX9BwZHq>

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and our Website for further details.

SAVE OUR MUSEUM - GO FUNDME

Want to join us in ensuring the sustainability and longevity of the Sandgate and District Historical Museum?

The museum has existed for over 40 years as an organisation operating as an incorporated Association with a Management Committee. It is a membership-based entity, staffed by volunteers, and is widely recognised within the community as a key resource for those seeking historical information, photographs and artifacts from the local area.

A key aim is to be a highly respected resource for research, preservation and education about our local history. It does this through collecting, assessing, conserving and displaying historical items and photographs. It is a place where historians and members of the community can conduct research, attend regular educational activities such as the monthly Morning Teas with History, special event historical talks, and regular community walks and talks.

The museum owns the building from which it operates on Rainbow Street, Sandgate. It is totally self-funded, relying on membership fees, fundraising activities and events, and supplementation through approved government grants. These funding arrangements have proven to be a challenge when considering extraordinary expenditure items such as building maintenance and the like.

For example, a recent building inspection has identified the need to carry out some much-needed restoration work due to:

- the aging of the building, which is compounded by termite damage in the building's structure
- the building was designed at a time when attention to principles of equity and inclusion in the design of community buildings was uncommon, and the Management Committee is determined, in accordance with government and community expectations, to make the museum a space that is safe and accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities. Consequently, there is an immediate need for the museum to implement a building improvement project - Saving our Sandgate Museum.

Phase 1 of this project, Planning, Design and Approvals, will include activities such as assessing feasibility, surveys, design, and certification. It is estimated that this phase will cost approximately \$25,000. The work is foundational to the commencement of the actual restoration work.

It is the funding for Phase 1 which is the subject of this Saving our Sandgate Museum fundraiser. We are seeking your support in funding Phase 1 of the Saving our Sandgate Museum fundraiser and any donation will help to make an impact.

Thanks in advance for your contribution to this cause which means so much to the Museum and the local community.

To donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/saving-our-sandgate-museum>



VALE DELL PURTILL

We recently received the sad news of Dell Purtill's passing. Her loving daughter, Jennifer sent us the following words to share:



"To all members who may have met or known my mother, Dell Purtill, over her long association with the Sandgate Museum and History Society.

Dell passed away peacefully on Wednesday 20th May. Mum was 100 years old plus five months and eight days. And yes, mum did receive her Congratulatory Birthday Card signed by King Charles and Queen Carmilla. Dell lived a very full life and overcame many challenges. After moving from country life to life by the sea in 1961 with six young children, mum happily volunteered her time over six decades to assist many organisations.

During Dell's long life she made significant contributions to her Sacred Heart Church and community in Sandgate as a church organist for decades and through the pastoral ministry. Dell was a qualified librarian, and in 1984 began volunteering to support the running of the Braille House Library for the vision impaired in Annerley. Through diligent application to the task, Dell set about improving procedures and processes which led to an improved functioning of the library.

Mum is credited with saving the Moon Library from becoming extinct. Mum retired her services around 2018.

Another significant contribution of Dell was made to the Guiding Movement. When the local Sandgate Brownie Pack put out a call for a new leader or Brown Owl around 1962, Mum put up her hand and remained as Brown Owl for about 17 years.

Mum had a love of reading books from a young age. She amassed a library of her own books on numerous subjects and especially loved travelling through the histories of many countries.

Dell enjoyed attending the Museum's Good Friday Devonshire Tea and Scones events and the interesting talks given at both the Sandgate Museum & History Society and the Brisbane History Group over the years.

She loved wearing a variety of hats most anywhere even to the theatre. Mum felt her outfit was incomplete without a hat.

Mum eventually received an OAM for her volunteered contributions to the different community groups over a good many years."



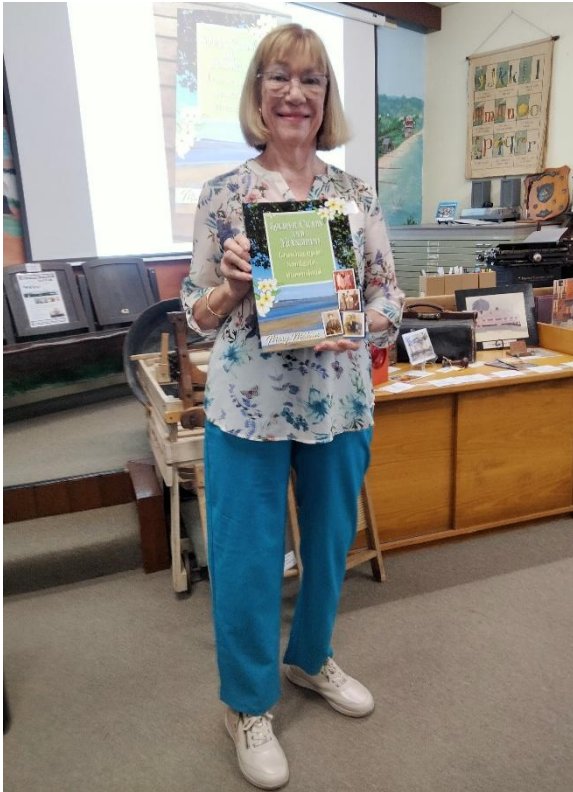
Dell was known to many people, friends and strangers alike, as the "Hat Lady".

Dell's funeral service was held on Monday 1 June at the local Sacred Heart Church.

Here is a link if you wish to view the service:
<https://www.qualitymemorial.services/dell-purtill>

BOOK LAUNCH – MARY MAHON

One of our members, Mary Mahon, recently launched her latest book, *Soldier Crabs and Frangipani – Growing up in Sandgate Queensland* at the museum. Copies are available at the museum.



NEW PUBLICATION

Dr Deborah Cronau has published her latest book, PAAF the Pigeon which celebrates local wartime heritage after she was inspired by the area's connection to World War 11, particularly the former RAAF Sandgate Station at Brighton.

Dr Cronau has kindly donated copies of her book to the museum to assist in fundraising for our Save our Sandgate Museum GoFundMe campaign.

MOWING SERVICES



Thank you to Gary from VIP Mowing for keeping our rear lawns tidy. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

We're looking for a new mower person, if interested please contact the museum.

BLUEWATER FESTIVAL

A big thank you to all who have supported us over the past few months by visiting our wedding display attending our Good Friday Devonshire tea and donating at the train ride at the Bluewater Festival.

The museum relies on your support to continue to preserve the history of our district.



Congratulations also to Lilly Cartwright of Burpengary who won our "For Richer or Poorer" raffle prize drawn at our wedding display on Easter Sunday.

Thank you to all who supported us by purchasing tickets and visiting the display.



GREAT DEAGON TOWNSHIP

Deagon, a northern Brisbane suburb, was developed on Turrbal and Jagera Aboriginal land. It was named after William Deagon, a Cobb & Co hotelier and 1880s Sandgate Mayor. Developed slowly from the 1860s, it boomed after World War II and is now a quiet residential community.

The suburb's colourful history is defined by a few distinct local legends and sites.

Deagon's history truly took off when the railway line pushed through toward Sandgate in 1887. The area remained largely large-lot pastoral land until piecemeal residential growth occurred before and after WWII.

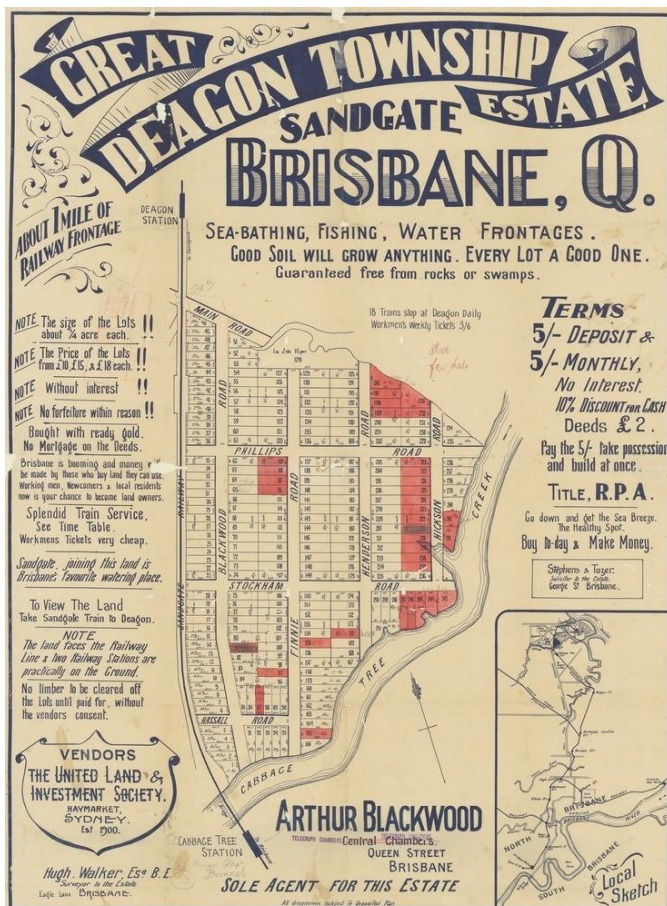
Deagon Racecourse was established in the 1880s as the Sandgate Amateur Turf Club. The course was eventually taken over by racing kingpin John Wren. During the 1920s and 30s, it hosted wild motorcycle races before returning to horse racing and eventually becoming an elite horse training facility.

This real estate map from 1911 advertises 251 allotments of land for sale at the Great Deagon Township Estate located in the Brisbane suburb of Deagon.

Allotments were advertised as being about a quarter of an acre in size and priced between £10 and £18 each.

The allotments were situated on Blackwood Road, Phillips Road, Finnie Road, Henderson Road, Stockham Road, Hickson Road and Hassall Road. Prior to the sale extensive publicity was published in Brisbane newspapers.

"Railway station on the ground. Sea bathing. Rich soil. Fish for breakfast... Fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters, from the North, the South, the East, the West, buy a block this day, and make money..." (*Brisbane Courier*, 16 September 1911, p.8).



Great Deagon Township Estate, Sandgate, Brisbane, 1911.
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

AWAKE THIS HAPPY MORN
and call for a plan of the

GREAT DEAGON TOWNSHIP ESTATE,
NEAR SANDGATE.

254 lots, about $\frac{1}{4}$ acre each, £10, £15, £18 each.
RAILWAY STATION ON THE GROUND. SEA BATHING. RICH SOIL.

FISH FOR BREAKFAST.

Water frontages a few minutes from lovely Sandgate. Title, R.P.A. Guaranteed free from Mortgage, bought with ready gold. Note the terms, 5/- deposit, 5/- monthly. No interest. No forfeiture within reason.

Fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters, from the North, the South, the East, the West, buy a block this day, and make money. If you live in the country, send me the 5/-, and I will select you one. If you do not like it when you inspect it within three months, your money will be returned in full.

This is a money-making estate. Working men can never have a better chance.

A SPLENDID TRAIN SERVICE,

Cheap fares. You can pay the 5/-, take possession, and build at once. Our salesmen will be on the ground every day, from 2 o'clock to 5 o'clock. Come out next Saturday, when a great crowd will be on the ground, and make your own selection.

EVERY LOT IS TO BE SOLD WITHIN ONE MONTH.

Solicitors to the Estate: **STEPHENS & TOZER,**

Advertisement for the Great Deagon Township. Published in the *Brisbane Courier* on 16 September 1911, p.8

The opening day sale was held on Saturday, 16 September 1911.

The following week advertisements for the estate boasted that 117 allotments had been sold for £1,400.

SPECIAL HISTORICAL DEVONSHIRE TEAS

Looking for a venue to celebrate your birthday, catch up with a group of friends or simply enjoy a morning tea together?



We can cater for groups of between 12 and 25 at \$15.00 per person - with an interesting and entertaining talk on local history thrown in if you would like it.

Thanks to Lynne Ives and her welcoming band of volunteers who provide this wonderful service.

If you would like to help at one of our morning teas, please contact the museum – we are always looking for more volunteers.

SCHOOL & GROUP VISITS

We offer programs for visiting schools, social clubs and other groups. Our presentations are tailored to your specific interest in the Sandgate district.



On request we can cater morning or afternoon tea. School activities to support the curriculum can be presented at the museum or our volunteers can come to your school.

Please email or phone us for more details.

RESEARCH SERVICES

Are you interested in finding out more about the history of your house, a local family, past events or the general history of the Sandgate area?



The museum offers research services free to members. For non-members we request a donation and research for commercial purposes attracts a negotiated fee.

BOOKS & BOTTLES FOR SALE

Looking for a present or a light read? The museum has a wide variety of historical publications for sale. Please call in to peruse or check out our website for titles and prices.



We also have a variety of historic bottles for sale, donated by Queensland Rail following their archaeological dig at the Shorncliffe Station. You may like to take home a bit of local history for a small donation to the museum.

MUSEUM UPDATE

Indexing continues.....



Volunteers continue to index our collection of historical documents (all thirteen filing cabinets – almost finished) in preparation for assessing the significance of each document before digitising our records.

Following the successful acquittal of the 2025-2026 Brisbane City Council Historical Organisation Assistance (HOA) grant we have received grant approval for the next twelve months.

It is proposed to use these funds to purchase:

- A dehumidifier
- Wireless microphones
- Promotional materials
- A binding machine

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES



If you haven't already, don't forget to renew your membership. Membership is vital for the museum to function and help preserve the history of our community.

Membership fees were due on 1 April 2026.

Single: \$20 Family: \$30 Life: \$300

Payment options: by card or cash at the museum, or by bank transfer.

(BSB: 084 365 Account: 52 501 9521)

(Please use your **name** as a reference for bank transfer)

You can find more details and complete a membership form on our website or pop into the museum any Wednesday or Sunday morning.

NEWSLETTER

If you'd like to receive a newsletter by email instead of hard copy, please contact the museum.

FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & WEBSITE

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram and our Website:

www.facebook.com/SandgateHistoricalMuseum

www.instagram.com/sandgatehistoricalmuseum

www.sandgatemuseum.com.au/

COMING UP

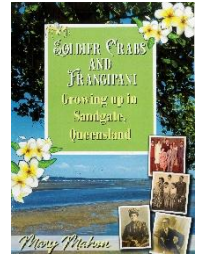
- Monthly Management Meeting
Wednesday 18 June – 9:00 am
- Tea with History
Thursday 25 June - 10:00 am
Cost: \$15.00
- Bald Hills Cemetery Walk
27 June – 9.30 am (bookings necessary)



NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

We have several publications for sale at the museum including Dr Cronau's and Mary Mahon's latest publications. For more details, pop into the museum or check out our website:

www.sandgatemuseum.com.au



MUSEUM ENTRY FEES

Adult: \$5.00

Child: \$3.00

Members: Free



OPENING HOURS

Sunday and Wednesday: 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.

(hours may vary according to volunteer availability)

VOLUNTEERS

The museum operates thanks to the hard work and dedication of its volunteers. There's always room for more! Please drop in on any Wednesday or Sunday to have a chat.



SUPPORTERS

Taybian Marketing & Design
Power Building Group
Dr Deborah Cronau
Damp Solutions Australia

Full Moon Hotel
Arthouse Northside
Gotcha Pest Control

Tim Mead Accounting Services
Moreton Bay Designs
Arlow Electrical Contracting
Round Table Coffee

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



Dedicated to a better Brisbane