



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>

September 2026 - Vol 3

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear members, welcome to the society's September newsletter. As ever, museum volunteers have been active and engaged over the past few months. Our stall at the Einbunpin Festival attracted lots of interest and we enjoyed meeting and talking to passersby and answering their questions about Sandgate history (what IS that lion head column at the end of Alexandra Street all about? Volunteer Elaine has a very interesting theory!)

We have also continued our historic walks program – along Flinders Parade and in the Bald Hills Cemetery. While these events aim to inform (and entertain), they allow us to connect with people interested in Sandgate's past and are also valuable in providing us with another perspective. At the last Flinders Parade walk, for example, we were thrilled to meet six descendants of notable early Sandgate residents, George Phillips and Charles Jeays, including 97-year-old Dorothy Gaskell. At another we were joined by some family of Edward Dyer who enjoyed morning tea on the veranda of Meridian, which the Dyer family owned for much of the 20th century. It was delightful for us to hear what they had to tell us about their famous forebears.

Another group we met in August was the Taigum Probus Club who visited us for a special morning tea and talk on local history.

In addition to hosting groups at the museum, we enjoy our visits to other organisations such as Deagon Village where we went in June to meet residents and give them a rundown on Deagon history.

Our monthly morning teas continue to draw history/scone/trivia enthusiasts. Speakers for upcoming teas are volunteers Clive, Bob and Hope, who all have fascinating topics for discussion.

While these are the fun aspects of our work, most of our recent efforts have been geared towards

fundraising. In July we wrote to over 100 Sandgate businesses asking for donations towards our GoFundMe campaign. It is fair to say that the response was not as optimal as we would have hoped, although a massive thanks to those who have supported us, especially Bubba Gump, Lift HQ and Councillor Jared Cassidy. Sadly, if we cannot raise the required funds to refurbish and update the museum building, we will be facing some hard decisions in the near future.

As always, a very profound thank you to our volunteers; there are not enough of you but your work, whether fundraising, cataloguing, indexing, researching, catering, dealing with admin or just being there, is what keeps us going.

Regards,
Pattie Tancred

EINBUNPIN FESTIVAL

We'd like to thank all who visited our stall at the Einbunpin Festival and bought books, historical prints and raffle tickets.



Congratulations to Susan, the winner of our raffle of the painting of the Town Hall donated by local artist Ian Kulpa, aka Cliffsketcher.



SHORNCLIFFE RAILWAY STATION OPENING

Historic Shorncliffe station reopened on Monday 27 July 2026 following the completion of a major renewal project and accessibility upgrade.

The project's completion has brought the historic Shorncliffe station back to its former glory, with the local landmark first built in 1897 as a resort station for turn-of-the-century holiday makers.

The station, the final stop on the Shorncliffe line, had been closed since November 2025, for the restoration and accessibility upgrade.

New features include 90 metres of high-level platform raising to accessible boarding points, the addition of hearing augmentation loops, tactile ground surfaces, accessible ramps and toilet and additional features like new security cameras, customer information screens and lighting.

The refresh was successfully completed all while ensuring the preservation of the station's historic past, with the old station building delicately repositioned into the carpark on temporary footings and then moved back to its original location.

Before construction began, archaeological work uncovered hundreds of historical artefacts beneath the station's ticket office, including a steam-era slush lamp, metal tins, stamp handles and a sailor's cap.

Some of those items will be permanently displayed at the station within a purpose-built cabinet, ready for customers to enjoy while they learn more about Shorncliffe station's history.

Queensland Rail Head of Southeast Queensland, Neil Backer, said the restoration works and accessibility upgrades add to Queensland Rail's rich rail history all while delivering safer, more modern facilities for customers.

"We're passionate about preserving our rail history, so it's great to see how crews have spruced up the old station, restoring it to its original charm," Mr Backer said.

"We're looking forward to welcoming back our customers to the iconic Shorncliffe station and seeing it enjoyed now and for generations to come."

Station features include:

- 1914 heritage footprint and existing awning restored
- 90 metres of high-level platforms
- accessible ramp, toilets and seating
- new wayfinding and platform signage
- improved station building and facilities
- accessibility-compliant ticket window
- improved seating and new platform shelter
- upgraded hearing augmentations loops and tactile ground service indicators
- lighting and CCTV throughout the station and carpark.



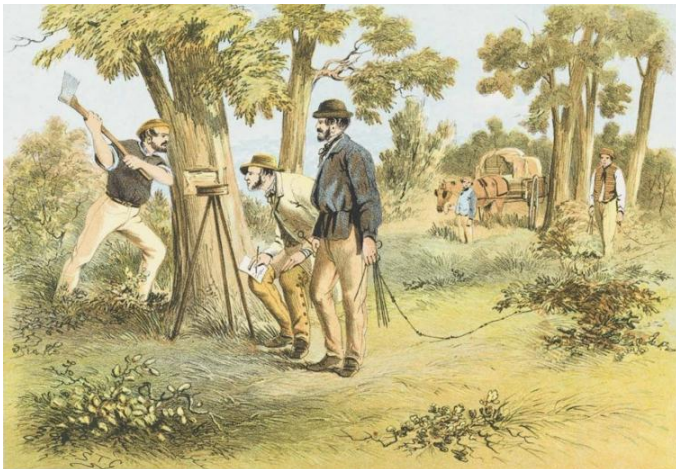
There is more information about the project on the [Shorncliffe station renewal project and accessibility upgrade](#) page on the Queensland Rail website.

HISTORICAL TALK:

SURVEYOR JAMES CHARLES BURNETT AND THE SHORNCLIFFE BORA RING

The museum will be hosting an historical talk by Frank Box, who has been researching Surveyor James Burnett's first survey of Shorncliffe.

In 1954, an article in the Sunday Mail made passing reference to a bora ring at Shorncliffe, the only written reference that we know of. Was there really a bora ring at Shorncliffe, where was it and what might have been its purpose? This talk will attempt to answer those questions through an interpretation of the first survey of the area by James Burnett in 1852, based on what we know of the man and his life.



When: Sunday 18 October 2026
Time: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Cost: \$10.00 (includes light afternoon tea)
Where: Sandgate Museum (150 Rainbow Street, Sandgate)
Numbers: Limited (45)
Tickets: Use link or QR code to pay via card
<https://square.link/u/hR5yjojP>



Note: Tickets non-refundable but may be gifted or resold

GUIDED HISTORY WALKS

The museum has hosted five very successful walks in 2026 with the last one for the year, the Bald Hills Cemetery walk, scheduled for 26 September.

There are still a few tickets available.
<https://square.link/u/tSoEt66y>

Many thanks to our volunteer, researcher and guide, Pattie for her endless hours spent on presenting these walks.

Our Flinders Parade walks finish with a delicious morning tea on the verandah of well-known Sandgate house, Meridan.



The entertaining Bald Hills Cemetery walk is followed by a picnic morning tea in the grounds.



Due to popular demand, we plan to recommence these walks the autumn of 2027.

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

BANDSTAND – SANDGATE BAND: 92 YEARS AT MOORA PARK

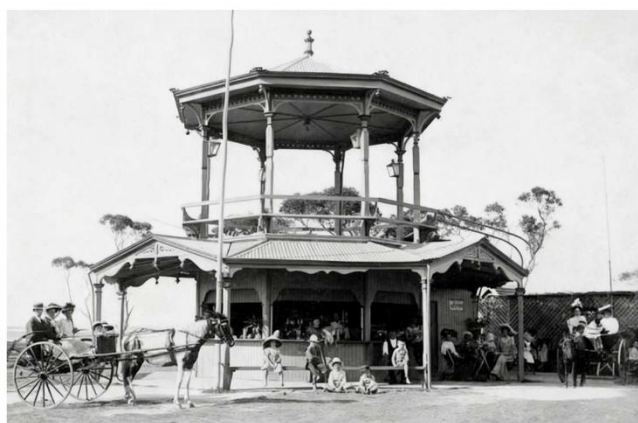
by: John Tunney and Ann McGlinn (2026)
(Ann and John were members of the band for more than eight years during the 1970s)



Sandgate Town Band C 1900

The Sandgate Band, originally established in 1887 as the Sandgate Town Band, entertained the Shorncliffe and Sandgate community for more than 92 years.

Moora Park, Shorncliffe served as the band's home from 1897, when a two-storey structure was built featuring a band rotunda on the upper level and a kiosk below.



Moora Park, Shorncliffe Band Rotunda and Kiosk C 1905

Following the formation of the Brisbane City Council in 1925, the ensemble became known as the Sandgate and District Citizens Band.

In 1932, the kiosk was demolished and the original band rotunda was lowered closer to ground level.



Moora Park, Shorncliffe Band Rotunda C 1960

In about 1973, the rotunda received a modest refurbishment, including a new concrete floor and stairs. Aside from these alterations, the structure remains largely unchanged from its original form.

Champion Band

In 1974, the band won the prestigious 'A' Grade Brass Band State Championship held in Bundaberg, marking a significant highlight in its long history.

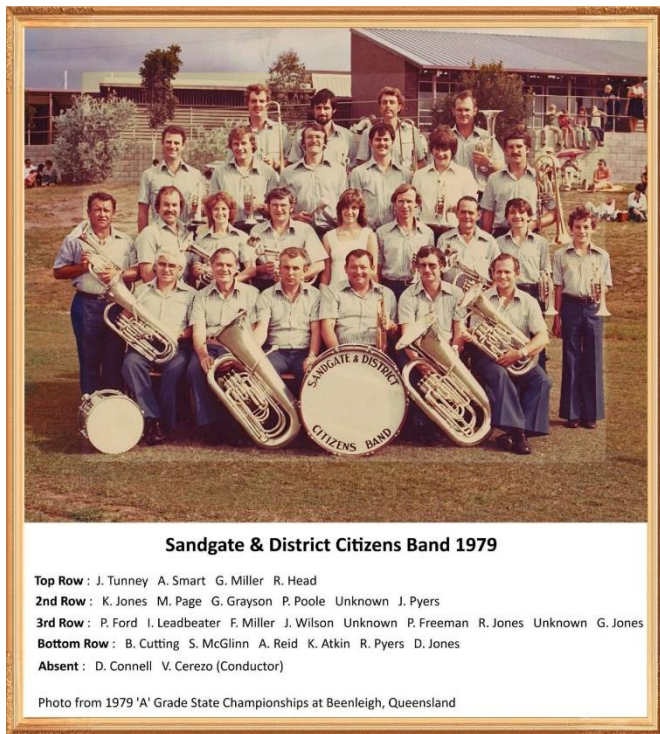
Under the leadership of Bob Cerezo, who conducted the band for over 17 years, the group achieved its ultimate success with wins in both the set test and own-choice pieces.

The contest also showcased standout individual performances. Ron Head and Kevin Atkin captured the open duet title, while Ann McGlinn delivered a remarkable series of victories taking out the under-16 ladies' solo, champion Bb cornet, and junior champion.

She capped off her achievements with a strong third place in the Champion of Champions.

The End of an Era

In 1979, the Sandgate & District Citizens Band closed a long and proud chapter in its history, a moment preserved in the final ensemble photograph below. The band continued for a short time as the Valley Concert Band before joining with the South Eastern District RSL Band, a union that gave rise to Brisbane Brass in 1981.



The story of the Sandgate Band is one of dedication, community spirit, and musical excellence. From its beginnings in the late nineteenth century to its championship triumphs in the 1970s, the band played a defining role in the cultural life of Shorncliffe and Sandgate.

Its rotunda at Moora Park became both a landmark and a symbol of local pride, standing witness to generations of musicians who shaped the ensemble's character and sound.

Although the band's independent chapter came to a close in 1979, its legacy endures through the formation of Brisbane Brass and the many musicians who carried its traditions forward. More than nine decades after its founding, the Sandgate Band remains an important part of the region's musical heritage - a testament to the enduring power of community music and the people who keep it alive.



PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

We have several publications for sale at the museum and now have the facilities to reprint and bind publications that were previously out of print.

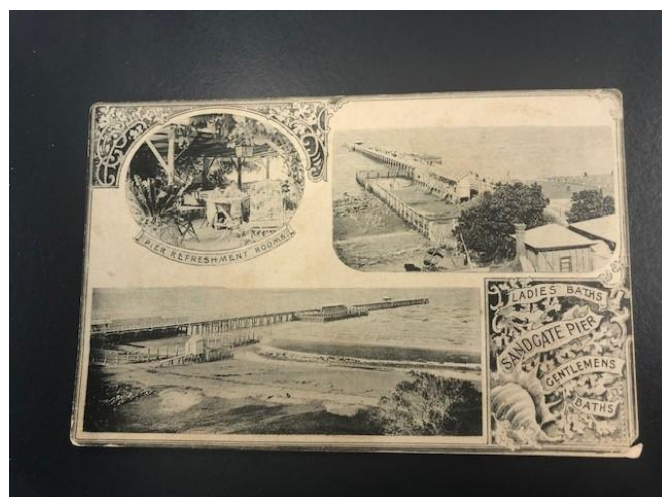
For more details, pop into the museum or check out our website. www.sandgatemuseum.com.au



POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Last week we were forwarded from the Nundah & Districts Historical Society a picture of an old postcard of Sandgate dated 1901.

The museum believes that many of our readers and residents of the Sandgate district would be familiar with this style of postcard. If you have any that you would like to share with us, please contact us at the museum or pop in any Wednesday or Sunday – we would love to see them.



Sandgate postcard dated 1901

BRIGHTON – EARLY DAYS

In its earliest days, Brighton was a quiet agricultural settlement defined by small crop farms, fruit orchards, and mangrove wetlands. Originally known as North Sandgate, the area was later named after the historic local pub, which in turn drew inspiration from the English seaside resort.

The Brighton Hotel, built by David Rowntree Somerset in 1866, is a landmark along Beaconsfield Terrace. After being acquired by Captain William Townsend, it was repurposed as a private residence and then an orphanage in 1893, eventually reopening as a hotel in 1912. In 1967 the original stone and timber hotel was demolished and replaced with a hotel/motel and a drive-in bottle shop.



In the early 1900s, the district was very isolated. Local children who attended school had to travel three to five miles over difficult roads to Sandgate. The suburb finally got its own primary school in 1920.



Opening of Hornibrook bridge - 1935

The coastal edges originally tailed off into mangrove wetlands. Land reclamation in the 1930s, with soil brought by trucks running on small tram lines, paved the way for the Hornibrook Highway across Bramble Bay to Redcliffe, opening in 1935.

During World War II, barracks were built on reclaimed Brighton land to house an RAAF Air Training School.

At the end of the war the area became the Demobilisation Wing of the Reception and Disposal Squadron Headquarters Hut 114. The last passing out parade was conducted in October 1946.



Demobilisation Building at Sandgate

In 1946 the barracks was repurposed into the Eventide Nursing Home, which accommodated over 700 residents. Today, the site is known as the Brighton Health Campus.

Locals still embrace the area's relaxed, historical bayside charm, making use of the foreshore for fishing, crabbing, and walking.



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 browse or check out our website for titles and prices.



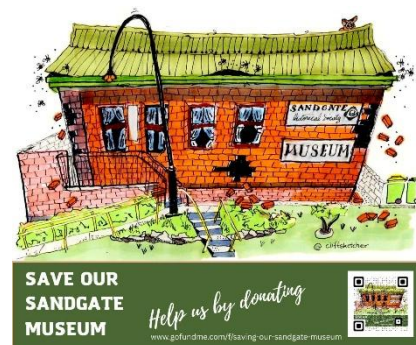
We also have a variety of historic bottles for sale, donated by Queensland Rail following their archaeological dig at the Shorncliffe Station. You may like to take home a bit of local history for a small donation to the museum.

MUSEUM UPDATE

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



The museum recently launched a GoFundMe campaign to repair and renovate our building.



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

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



- Tea with History
Thursday 24 September
10:00 am
Cost: \$15.00
- Bald Hills Cemetery Walk
Saturday 26 September
9.30 am (bookings necessary)
<https://square.link/u/tSoEt66y>
- Historical Talk
Surveyor James Charles Burnett
and the Shorncliffe Bora Ring
Sunday 18 October – Museum
2.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Cost: \$10.00
(includes light afternoon tea)
<https://square.link/u/hR5yjojP>

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
Round Table Coffee
Cliffsketcher

Tim Mead Accounting Services
Moreton Bay Designs
Arlow Electrical Contracting
Mazey Property Services

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



Dedicated to a better Brisbane