



# Sandgate & District Historical Society & Museum

Opening Hours: Wednesday & Sunday 10 am to 3 pm

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## August 2024 – Vol 3



Dear Members and Friends of the Sandgate Historical Society

I am delighted to share that our recent raffle at the Sandgate Einbunpin Festival was one of our most successful events to date! This achievement was made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of our community and local businesses, who donated over \$3000 worth of prizes. Your support is invaluable to us, and it reinforces our belief that the Sandgate Historical Society thrives on the dedication and involvement of our community. We cannot thank you enough for your contributions.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful volunteers who helped ensure everything ran smoothly on the day of the festival. Your commitment and hard work are greatly appreciated, and we look forward to returning next year for another successful event.

During the festival, we encountered many visitors who expressed their long-held desire to visit the Society but often forget to do so. To those individuals, we warmly welcome you to come down, explore our facilities, and ask any questions you may have. We would love to share our history with you.

Since the event, we have had the pleasure of welcoming a few locals who brought in some amazing family photographs. We encourage others to share their stories and treasures with us as well. Together, we can continue to preserve and celebrate the rich history of our beloved Sandgate.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Zac McHardy

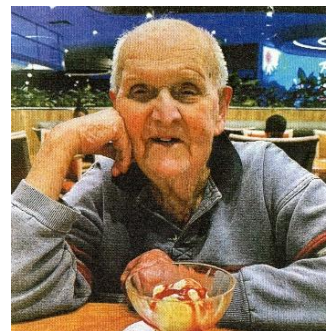
## VALE ROBERT WILLIAN WEST

(5 September 1928 – 4 June 2024)

In June, we were very sad to see the passing of one of the museum's original pioneers, Robert West, also known as Bob. Bob and his wife, Doris became members in 1986, and both worked tirelessly over the years to promote the Sandgate & District Historical Society.

Bob served as President from 1989 to 1991 and was the museum's patron from 2009 – 20012. He was responsible for organising many successful bus trips for members over the years and was recognised as an expert stall worker.

The museum acknowledges all the hard work done by Bob throughout the years and he will be sadly missed.



## ACU PARTNERSHIP



Joel Stopforth, history student and intern at the Australian Catholic University who has been utilising the museum's resources has completed his study of homelessness, *Between Pity and Fear: A view of homelessness in Sandgate and its wider surrounds during the Depression and post-war years.*

Congratulations Joel, we know it will generate much interest to our members and community.

Joel plans to present his report with a talk at the museum in the future – will keep you posted.

## GERMAN KRUPP GUN



Our museum records show that a 75-millimetre German Krupp field gun was captured by the 11th Light Horse Regiment at Galilee in September 1918 and brought back to Australia.

It was unveiled by Governor Sir Matthew Nathan on 4th August 1923 on the cliff top adjacent to Signal Row, Shorncliffe.

Sometime later it was taken from Shorncliffe to New Farm Park and mounted there without its wheels.

In 1982 the Lions Club of Sandgate placed a cairn at the cliff top location, showing the directions to prominent geographical features.

The gun has since been restored and is now on display at the Light Horse Museum at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.

## GUIDED HISTORY WALK

The museum will be hosting a guided history walk along Flinders Parade. Come and learn something about Sandgate's historic homes and the people who lived in them. Morning tea on the verandah of historic Meridian will be included.

Saturday 12 October 2024 – 9:00 am

Cost: \$30.00 includes morning tea

Meet: At the old Baptist Church

Bring: Hat and water bottle

Numbers limited - bookings essential.

Phone or email the museum.



## CABBAGE TREE HATS

Do you know of anyone who owns a cabbage-tree hat, or do you have any information on local manufacture of these hats?



Traditional hats made from palm trees, Cabbage tree hats were made as far back as 1799 and were still being worn at the end of the 19th century by bush workers and farmers in parts of New South Wales and Queensland.

The hats, woven from narrow strips of cabbage tree palm were light, and stood up to hard wear. They cost up to £3, depending on quality. Many country women were expert hat-makers.

The long narrow leaves of the palm were soaked in hot water for a few minutes and partly dried. Each leaf was then shredded with a hand shredder, the teeth of which were set about 1/8 inch apart for fine grade hats, and 3/16 inch for coarser hats. The strands were plaited by hand into suitable lengths for working and rolled up on an oval spool until required. Four of the broader strands were used for the cheaper hat and six of the finer strands for the better hat. The flat plaited strips of cabbage leaf were worked round and round and stitched through by hand with stitches about 1/4 inch apart.

Sometimes a basin was used to shape the crown. The finished hat was lined throughout with a strong red or green material.

## ALL ABOUT LIVING MORNING TEA

In early July, a small group from All About Living enjoyed a wonderful Devonshire morning tea followed by a history talk and presentation at the museum to further their knowledge of the local area.

Following the viewing of one of our videos, "Voices from the Past" many stories and memories were shared.



## THE SANDGATE DRILL HALL

By Barbara Bow - 1999

The building was always referred to as the “new Drill Hall”.

At a meeting in April 1900 during the Boer War, Captain Clatworthy advised that B Company, Moreton Regiment had its headquarters at Sandgate. Development of recruitment and military training in the Sandgate area was advocated. The troops were under the control of the Queensland Defence Force.

Tenders for the erection and completion of the new Drill Hall, offices and fencing were called for in February 1915.

At the completion of the work, Mr Alder, Inspector of Works, reported in early December 1915, “the grounds immediately surrounding the Sandgate Drill Hall are very low and flat, and for some time after rain, the water lies. Nearly the whole of the recently acquired land is much below the rest of the reserve, Water lies in places to a depth of 10 to 12 inches. The whole of the enclosure needs filling in places, levelling and grading with about 300 cubic yards of soil and draining at an estimated cost of 40 pounds.” This report was submitted to the department of Home Affairs early January 1916. An order came from the Federal Department, No 3B, authorising the levelling and draining of the grounds.

At the end of the month, Inspector Alder again advised his department that, with respect to a balance of money left over from the construction work of the Hall that this balance be kept in reserve for further adjustment after the filling had been allowed to settle, since it was 12 to 15 inches deep in the low-lying areas. Approval was granted in June 1916.

The Drill Hall was used for many purposes during the recruitment and training of men for the First World War. An adjunct on the northern end towards Hancock Street was a small-bore rifle range for practice purposes by troops associated with the Hall's existence. The .310 Cadet single shot rifle was used in the early part of the century for drill purposes.

The Hall was utilised for other activities during the years like Sandgate State School Balls, roller skating etc.

As early as 1960, when National Service Training concluded, concern was expressed about the future of the Drill Hall.

Members of the Apex Club and Lions Club made overtures towards gaining possession of the Drill Hall should it not be required by the Army. It was envisaged using the hall as a Youth and Community Centre. The clubs were advised that the hall was not available at that time.

However, in 1969, it was announced that the Army planned to increase its Citizen Military Forces quota and invited local recruits to attend parades each Tuesday evening.

In 1993, rumours began to circulate about the possible sale of the Army Reserve Depot in Bowser Parade. Alderman Murray was quoted as saying the residents of Sandgate would welcome the move as it would allow the future development of the Sandgate Shopping Centre Zone.

In February 1996, soldiers of the 9th Battalion, Royal Queensland Army Reserve held an open training day at the barracks.

Early in 1999, Mr Pat O'Keefe, of the 9th Battalion Trustees, fearing the possible demolition of the building, applied to have it heritage listed.

Despite much public lobbying to retain the Drill Hall at Sandgate, plans were made to remove the building to a site in 7th Brigade Park, Chermside where it would become a part of the historical precinct and house a museum of army memorabilia.

*The former Sandgate Drill Hall building maintains its military links as it is the location of the 'Milne Bay Memorial Library and Research Centre' that was established by the 9th Battalions War Memorial Museum Collection and Property Trust.*



Circa 1920

## MUSEUM UPDATE

### Significance Assessment Report

Queensland Museum's Josh Tarrant presented his final report to the museum. The management team and volunteers will endeavour to implement many of the strategies over the coming years. A copy of the report can be obtained from the museum.

### Conservator Training

An informative series of three workshops, training museum volunteers in the preventive conservation of historic materials was conducted by Conservator Melanie Fihelly in June. Many useful and valuable tips were exchanged and already we have had volunteers following Melanie's advice.

### Grants Update

The museum relies on grants to operate and develop its services. The museum has applied for a grant from the National Library of Australia to employ an expert to train volunteers in the organisation, digitisation and cataloguing of the wealth of historical records contained in our filing cabinets – we are eagerly awaiting the outcome.

A number of grant applications have been submitted and others are being prepared. Once again, we hope for positive outcomes.

### Building Update



**MORETON BAY DESIGNS**  
Designs for Queenslanders

The management committee have met with several local architects and building designers and are very pleased to have Michael Ingamells from Moreton Bay Designs offer his services pro bono to prepare some preliminary designs for renovations at the museum.

Thank you, Michael.

If you would like more information or would like to be involved in any of these activities, please contact the museum.

## BRACKEN RIDGE LIBRARY DISPLAY

Pop into the Bracken Ridge Library to see our local history display.

## EINBUNPIN FESTIVAL

Many thanks to all who donated raffle prizes and worked at the Museum's stall at the Einbunpin Festival. It was a very successful day, with many winners taking home great prizes from our raffle – all donated by local businesses. (See full list on the next page)



## SPECIAL HISTORICAL DEVONSHIRE TEAS



Are you interested in booking a special Devonshire morning tea with a dash of history for your friends, social club or group?

Contact the museum to arrange.

Cost: \$15.00 per person.

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

SANDGATE & DISTRICT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

# THANK YOU



TO ALL THE  
LOCAL BUSINESSES  
WHO SUPPORT  
OUR LOCAL  
COMMUNITY  
FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Snap Fitness Sandgate  
Body & Soul Chiropractic Brighton  
Zac McHardy Harcourts Real Estate  
Tru Pest Management Shorncliffe  
Nash St Mechanical  
PFD Seafood  
Iremia Sandgate  
Viroga Yoga  
Sandgate Post Office Hotel  
Whisky Social Sandgate  
Wallflower Deagon  
Deagon Bulk Meats  
Kylie Bevan Norwex Sandgate  
Manila Grill Deagon  
Coco Pintura  
Shelley Inn Shorncliffe

The Candle Pitt Sandgate  
Capulet & Co Sandgate  
Bangin Beans Sandgate  
Mugshot Espresso Sandgate  
Myrtle & Blossom Sandgate  
Willow Coffee Brighton  
La La Noon Sandgate  
Bluenose Betty Sandgate  
Sands Sandgate  
Claire Kidu  
She Knows Coffee Plants & Pantry  
Studio Pilates Sandgate  
Jazzercise Sandgate  
Boogie Bounce Brisbane North  
Dominos Pizza

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US



[www.sandgatemuseum.com.au](http://www.sandgatemuseum.com.au)



(07) 3869 2283

## VALE BERTRAM JAMES MIDGLEY



Sandgate Historical Society Life Member, Mr Bertram (Bert) James Midgley passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, at Cardwell. Bert was born in 1929 and was a long-term resident of Sandgate. For many years he lived with his family in a house he

built in Best Street, Brighton. His house was a treasure trove of tools, maps, sailing gear, awards and photographs of his family and caravan travels.

A gentleman and a family man, with his wife Norma he had three sons and one daughter. Norma passed away twenty years ago. He was a good husband, although almost certainly at times a handful. When married, for their honeymoon Bert took Norma, and they hiked the full length of Moreton Island!

Bert enjoyed good health well into his later years, enabling him to maintain an active involvement in the community. He took great pride in the maintenance of his house and yard.

In September 2020 Bert had a cerebral haemorrhage. After a two week stay in hospital where he enjoyed the meals and the care from staff he returned home to Brighton. However, he needed increasing assistance and in early 2021 Bert went to live with his son, Andrew on Magnetic Island. Needing more care, Bert then went to live out his remaining years at Rockingham Aged Care, Cardwell.

As a boy Bert grew up in Sandgate. With a thirst for adventure and exploring he criss-crossed the streets, paddocks, bushland and waterways of the district. He tells stories about his life and that of Sandgate in the two short movies available on the museum's website - *Bay of Lights (2018)* and *Voices from the Past* produced by the museum and Abintra Creations in 2021/22.

One of his stories relates to an incident during World War 2 on the bay foreshore near Eventide. An American bomber had made a forced landing and then after patching up and reducing weight, the aircraft just managed to take off...being watched avidly by young Bert. Around the same time, while "wagging school" to go fishing on the Shorncliffe Pier he witnessed an American Airacobra fighter crash into Bramble Bay.

In the 1950's Bert was a member and leader at the Sandgate and Brighton Scouts. His scouting days included leading a group of Rover Scouts up Mount Tibrogargan, in the Glass House Mountains where his group found the remains of a missing hiker.

He was also a keen and competitive dinghy sailor and regularly raced in the bay from the Sandgate Yacht Club in Cabbage Tree Creek. As typical of Bert he knew how to build things and fix them. He was accomplished in using boat rigger's and sail maker's tools and materials.

In early 2020, coinciding with the start of the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht race there were plans to have a boating display at the Sandgate Museum. Bert had offered to give demonstrations to "yachty" visitors on the traditional use of tools for sail making and rigging. Unfortunately, that never eventuated as Covid19 caused cancellation of the yacht race and temporary closure of the museum and many public places across the city and beyond.

Bert was an active member and volunteer for the Sandgate Museum. He was a legend at selling raffle tickets, always selling more than anyone else. During his time, he was a dedicated member and supporter of the museum's management committee and was appointed a Life Member for his contributions.

Bert loved Sandgate and loved life. He expressed his feelings and humour in the following poem, penned as a teenager around 1940.

*IN OUR BOROUGH BY THE BAY - By Bert Midgley*

*Where the people live down by the sea,  
The people they work with a will all day long.  
And at night they're so happy and free!*

*In our town by the bay.*

*We are proud of our arts and our sports,  
We have fields, we have baths,  
And pictures and courses and courts.*

*We've planes that have motors,  
And others that glide.*

*And if you play marbles we are sure to oblige,*

*In our town by the bay.*

*In our town by the bay,*

*We have girls with beauty to spare.*

*They're dimples so rosy and fair,*

*They rate with film stars of that have no fear!*

*They're better than film stars 'cos our girls live here on  
the shore.*

*In our town by the bay,*

*The boats can be seen at weekends.*

*Sailing round off the shore,*

*As you sit and you watch with a friend.*

*Your girlfriend will say "What a beautiful sight!"*

*But she can't hear the crews swear with all of their  
might*

*On our shores by the bay,*

*Where the people live down by the sea.*

This tribute was prepared by Barry Smith, David Hill and David Kerr, July 2024.

## TEA WITH HISTORY

Come and enjoy a cup of tea with a historical twist for just \$15.00.

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

Bookings necessary as numbers are limited.

Phone: 38692283 or email us at:

[info@sandgatemuseum.com.au](mailto:info@sandgatemuseum.com.au)



## COMING UP IN 2024

### *Tea with History*

Thursday 29 August - 10:00 am

Cost: \$15

### *Monthly Management Meeting*

Wednesday 18 September - 9:00 am

### *Guided History Walk*

Saturday 12 October: 9:00 am

Cost: \$30 Bookings essential.



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Membership is vital for the museum to function; without your assistance the society could not operate. We appreciate your continued support.

Membership fees for 2024 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 for direct debit)

## VOLUNTEERS

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



## FACEBOOK & WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out our Facebook & Website pages:

[www.facebook.com/SandgateHistoricalMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SandgateHistoricalMuseum)

[www.sandgatemuseum.com.au/](http://www.sandgatemuseum.com.au/)

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

We have several publications for sale at the museum – for more details, pop into the museum or check out our website:

[www.sandgatemuseum.com.au/](http://www.sandgatemuseum.com.au/)



## MUSEUM OPENING HOURS

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

(hours may vary according to volunteer availability)

## MUSEUM ENTRY FEES

Adult: \$5.00

Child: \$3.00



## NEWSLETTER

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

## SUPPORTERS

Taybian Marketing & Design  
Power Building Group

Full Moon Hotel  
Arthouse Northside  
Moreton Bay Designs

Tim Mead Accounting Services  
Dr Deborah Cronau

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