



Sandridge in the 1860s painting by Henry C. Gritten shows the beach area and the pier. In the distance is the Victorian Sugar Works. On the land side can be seen the Freemason's Hotel on the corner of Stokes St. and the three storey building of the ship's chandler and flagmaker. Dominating the skyline is the red Customs flag. Picture Collection SLV



Beginnings of 'the Borough'

Port Melbourne - the early years

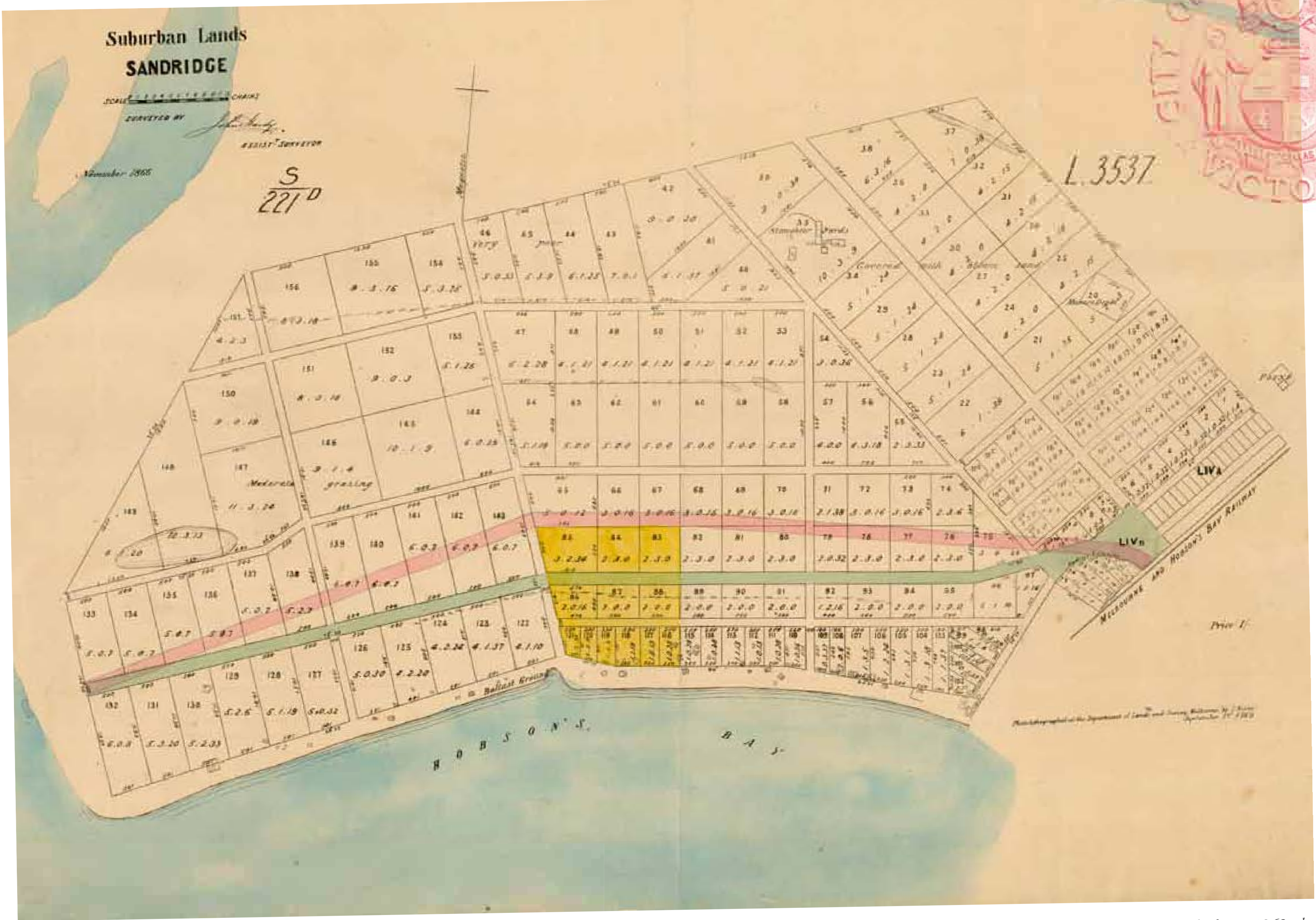
This exhibition celebrates the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Municipal District of Sandridge on 13 July, 1860.

Sandridge has a unique place in Australian history. As the port for colonial Victoria it was the main place where immigrants first touched the soil of their new home. As the site for the first industries of the growing Melbourne settlement, it provided many with work and a place to live.

The exhibition reflects on the growth of this passionate community which has always affectionately called Port Melbourne 'The Borough'.

The City of Port Phillip Library and Curatorial Services and Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society have collaborated to create this exhibition.

*The Chairman of the
Mun. Council*



A plan of Sandridge subdivision west of the railway line in 1866. When this land was annexed to Sandridge in 1863, the Council had plans to sell building lots. This did not eventuate. The area close to the beach was called the Ballast Ground and had been home to a number of the boatmen employed in the Port. PPCC pm1544



This crest was probably in use from 1867 or earlier. In 1861 a municipal seal was purchased, this would have had a crest. In 1867 the Council minutes record a flag was purchased with the 'Borough Arms'. In 1872 a replica of the crest on the masthead of the local newspaper the 'Record'. PPCC pm0473



Port Melbourne Town Hall postcard c 1910
PPCC pm1416

From Borough to City

The area of Sandridge was defined by the lagoon, the railway line and the beach front. This area of 760 acres was expanded to 2,700 acres when Fishermans Bend was annexed in 1863 following a petition to the Government to extend the municipal boundaries.

Initially Sandridge was part of the Lonsdale Ward, along with Emerald Hill and St Kilda, of the City of Melbourne. Residents of Sandridge were eager to be independent, disgruntled by the tolls and fees collected in the area being used elsewhere in the city. Although the Municipal Institutions Establishment Act enabling local government was passed in 1854, residents waited a further six years to celebrate their independence and elect their first council.

As the population grew Sandridge made the transition from minor municipality to city.

- 1860** Proclamation of Municipality of Sandridge
- 1863** Proclamation of the Borough of Sandridge
- 1884** Sandridge changed its name to Port Melbourne
- 1893** Proclamation of the Town of Port Melbourne
- 1919** Proclamation of the City of Port Melbourne
- 1994** Port Melbourne became part of the City Port Phillip.

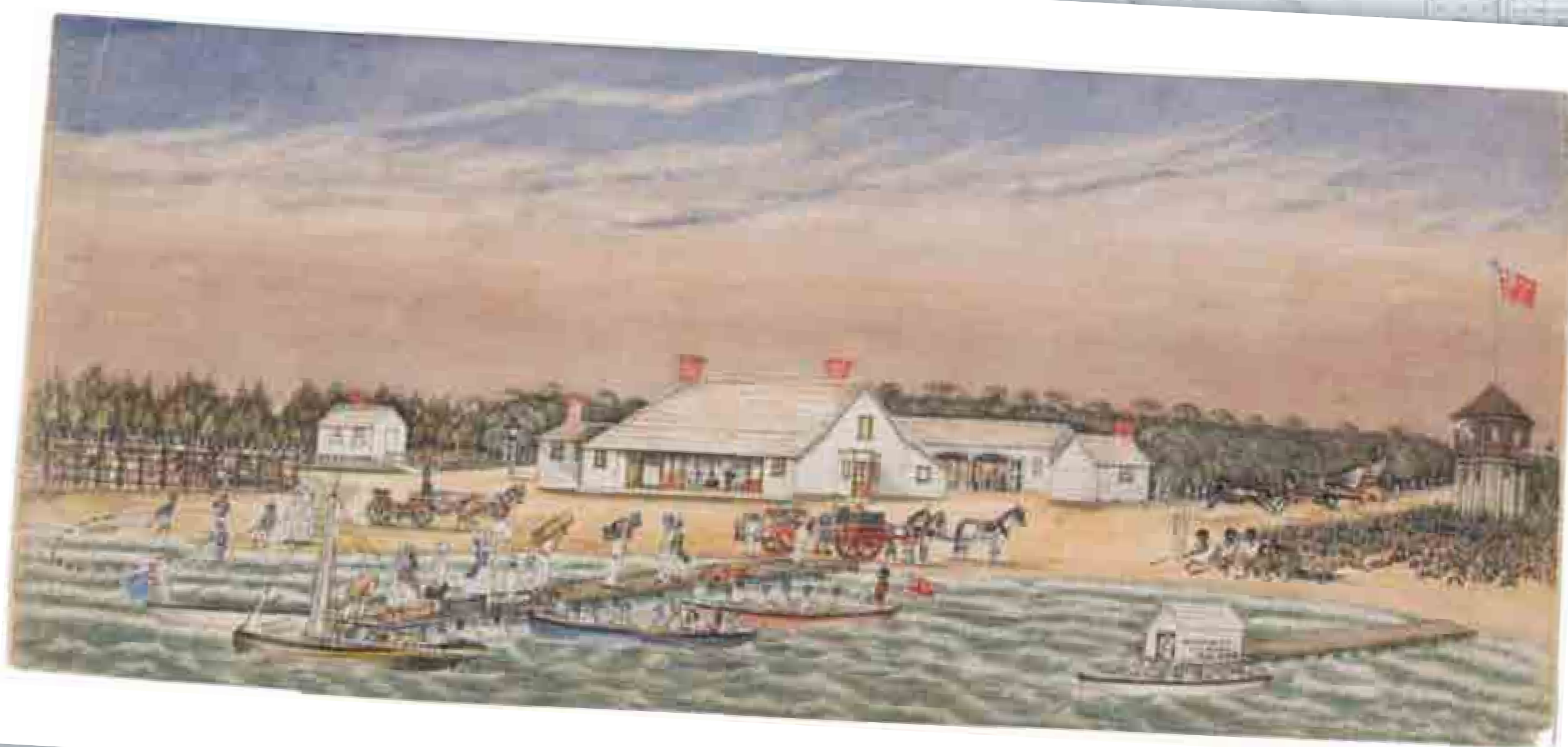


This painting (above) of Surveyor Darke's camp, Sandridge by W.F.E. Liardet shows the area as it would have been in 1839. William Darke can be seen with his tripod near his caravan. He brought his wife along on his surveying trips and a small piano. The keg marks the track to Melbourne. The group on the beach are making smoke to guide a boat across from Williamstown.

Liardet's Beach and hotel in its heyday in the 1840s, from a painting by W.F.E. Liardet. The first Pier Hotel built by Liardet and his sons is in the centre. In the foreground is Liardet's jetty, the only one along the bay at Melbourne.

The smaller jetty is his own private one. The building on stilts was Liardet's summer house, where watch was kept for incoming ships. To the left is his cattle yard. The track to Melbourne, later Bay Street, can be clearly seen.

Picture Collection SLV



People and Places

THE FIRST PEOPLE

The Yalukit-willam people were the earliest inhabitants of the area now known as the City of Port Phillip. They were members of the Bunurong, one of the five clans the Kulin nation. Their territory included the extensive coastal wetlands which stretched from Port Melbourne to St Kilda. Teeming with wildlife this area provided not only a place for clan gatherings but a plentiful supply of food from the lagoon, swamps and shores of the bay.

SANDRIDGE – THE NAME

In 1838 the Government Surveyor, Robert Hoddle, proposed a village development at Sandridge, or what was then called 'The Beach'. In March the following year a detailed survey was undertaken by William Wedge Darke, who called the area Sandridge after the line of prominent sand dunes along the beach. The village scheme fell through and 'The Beach' remained mostly untenanted until the arrival of the Liardet family at the end of 1839.

THE LIARDETS OF THE BEACH

Wilbraham and Caroline Liardet arrived with their large family on the ship 'William Metcalfe' and set up home at the beach which was soon renamed 'Liardet's Beach.' Liardet and his elder sons made a number of improvements to the area, including building a jetty and instigating a mail run from the port. Wilbraham Liardet is called the 'Father of Port Melbourne', for his many innovative and entrepreneurial ventures.

LAND SALES

Much of Sandridge had been part of Benjamin Baxter's pastoral lease which extended from Port Melbourne to St Kilda and beyond. The Land Sales Act was passed in 1842 making this land available. Prospective land owners were deterred by the high prices and it wasn't until May 1850 that the first land sales occurred, with further Government land sales the following year. Most of the sales were half acre allotments.

*The Chairman of the
Municipal Council
Sandridge*



Thomas Swallow was elected to the first Council in 1860, Mayor in 1861, he retired in 1862 and was re-elected in 1869. PPCC



William Morley was the first Chairman of the Sandridge Council in 1860. He was on the Council until 1862 and re-elected in 1864. In 1867 was again Mayor and is shown here wearing the Mayoral robes he purchased for the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh and which he wore to the Civic Fancy Dress ball in Melbourne. c.1867, Morley Family



David Thomas was elected to the first Council in 1860. He was re-elected twice and was Mayor in 1865. In 1868 he was elected to the Victorian Parliament as the MLA for Sandridge. PPCC

Agitation, Separation and Elections

Many Sandridge residents united in their desire for self-regulation. They were annoyed with the City of Melbourne which they felt had been content to take money from the tolls, fees and licences they had imposed on the Port but had spent little money in return. Typical of Melbourne's disregard for the Port was Beach Street, an "unnavigable mess of lumber, old iron and rubbish".

The Sandridge Separation Committee, formed early in 1854, made many petitions to both the Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne for separation from the City. The creation of a separate ward for Sandridge, named Macarthur, in July 1856 did not placate the residents who demanded autonomy over their own district.

Despite a last-minute petition **against** the separation sent from the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Melbourne to the Government, Sandridge officially became a municipality on 13 July 1860.

The first elections were held over two days at the All Nations Hotel assembly rooms in Nott Street on 1 and 2 August. The second of these meetings turned into a shambles with the crowd turning violent and police overpowered.

Next morning the results were announced; the following were elected from 19 candidates:

- William Morley, produce and coal merchant
- David Thomas, chemist and druggist
- Thomas Swallow, manufacturer
- Andrew Plummer, M.D.
- Samuel Isaacs, land and estate agent
- Joseph Weaver, hotel keeper, Sandridge Inn
- Henry Glynn, hotel keeper, Freemason's Tavern

At the Councils' first meeting on 16 August, William Morley was elected chairman. Within a week Councillor Plummer resigned and Richard Elworthy, a butcher, was elected in his stead.

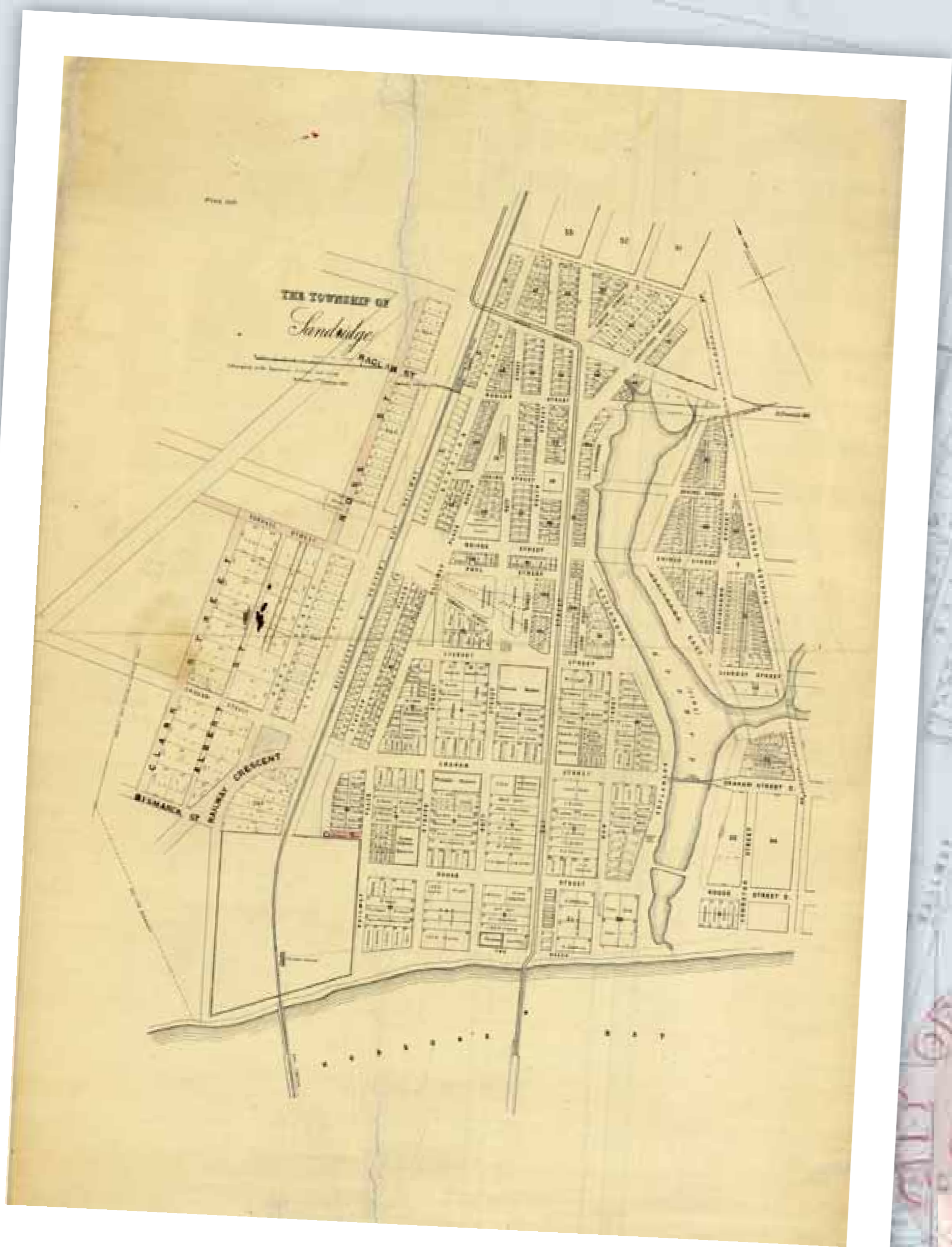


William May, butcher, elected to the Sandridge Council in 1862, Mayor in 1868. His business was located in Bay Street from 1852 until the 1880s. PPCC pm0368

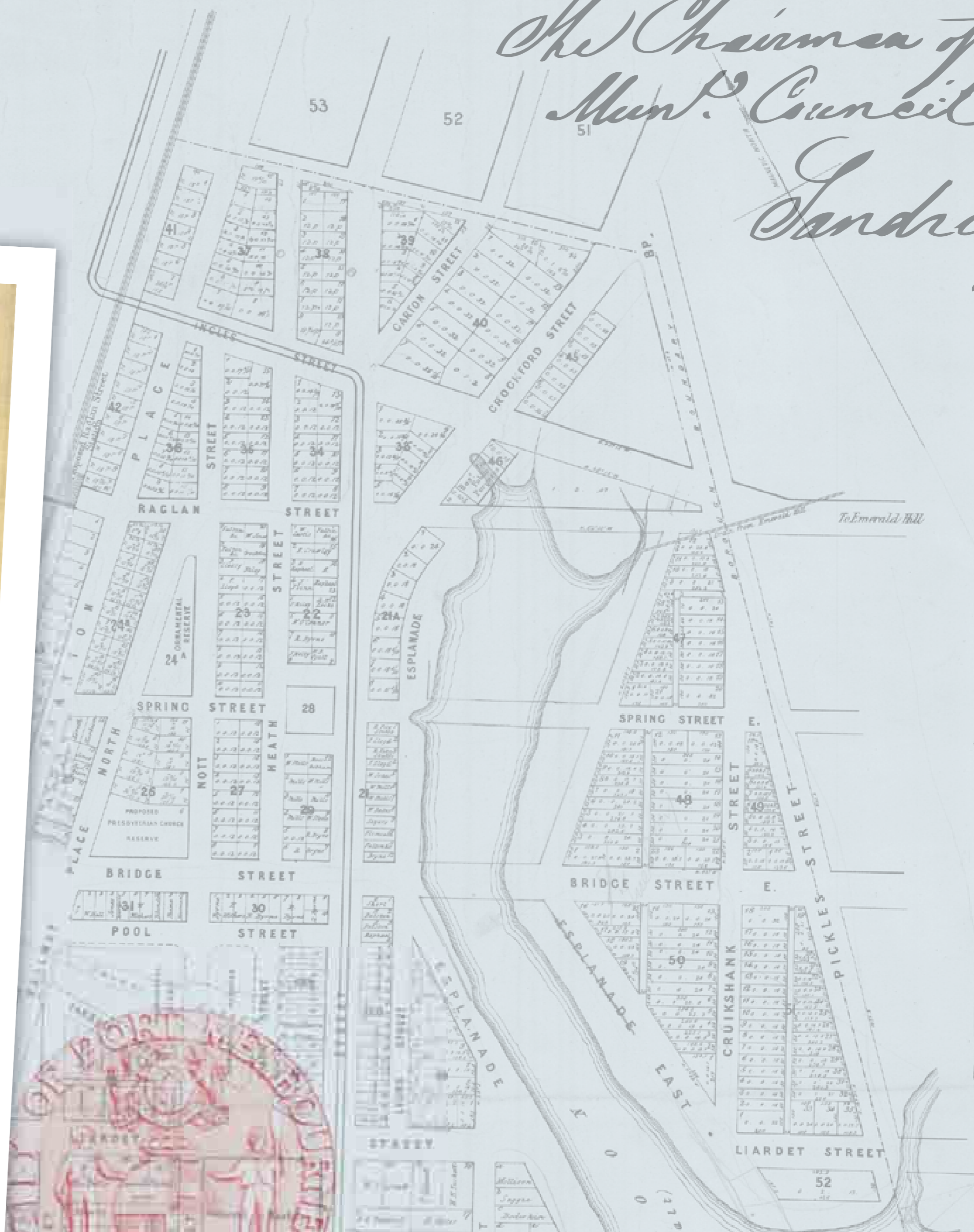


In 1868, when Alexander Aitken was Inspector of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Nuisances and Revenue Officer, he was given three months notice because there was no money to pay his salary. Aitken became a Councillor in 1873. PPCC pm0365

*The Chairman of the
Mun. Council
Sandridge*



Plan of Sandridge 1860. This shows how confined the new municipality was, bordered by Raglan Street to the north and the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay railway to the west and the Sandridge Lagoon to the east. The Lagoon was not cut through to the sea at this time. PPCC pm0606



Early Council

The Council's first task was to establish a place for their meetings, redress the apparent neglect of the Melbourne City Council and to appoint staff to undertake the work. The Government granted the Council one thousand pounds for this and other works. Some minor but pressing problems to be dealt with early on were, draining a swamp in the middle of the town, exterminating snakes and confining the goats and pigs roaming the streets. A continual problem was clearing the streets of sand drifts.

On 16 August 1860, the first Council meeting took place at the old police court house. Having no fixed meeting place, the Council gained Government permission for future meetings to be held in the newly erected Petty Sessions Court House in Bay Street. The Council continued to meet in the Court House until the opening of the Town Hall in Bay Street in 1883.

The first Town Clerk, Edward Clark, and the first Surveyor, Frederick Bull, were appointed within weeks of the election and located in separate offices in Graham Street.

A continual problem for Sandridge was the salt water Lagoon. Emerald Hill's main drain emptied into it

making it smelly and unhealthy. In 1870 the Council asked the Government for funds to improve the Lagoon by cutting an opening into the bay. Unfortunately the Government refused to assist and it was left until 1889, when the Port Melbourne Lagoon Act was passed, that improvements commenced.

A major scandal erupted in 1863 when Councillor John Pickles was kidnapped, taken out to sea and held for some hours by two boatmen. They had been paid to make him miss voting in the election of a new chairman. Suspicion fell on some of the other councillors, but nothing was ever proved. Pickles resigned the next day, not wanting to be associated with such improper behaviour.



This photograph shows the Court House facing Bay Street. Council meetings were held here until the new Town Hall was opened in 1883. On a few occasions when the building was undergoing repairs, the Council met in the Sandridge Inn. The small brick building at the back facing Graham Street was the Council offices. In between the two can be seen the fire bell tower. PPCC pm0434



Edward Clark the first Town Clerk of Sandridge. He held this position from 1860 until he retired in 1882. PPCC pm 0359

*The Chairman of the
Municipal Council
Sandridge*



Elworthy and Dobbin butchers, of Beach Street provided meat for consumption on board ships. They were noted for the quality of their salted meat, sometimes having been in barrels for over six months on long voyages. PPCC pm1193.2



Mrs M. Faulkner of Bay Street sold hats and bonnets. She also advertised herself in 1868 as a dyer and straw hat maker. PMHPS

*In 1859 a refinery or 'Sugar House' was erected at the Sandridge Sugar Works. This was the large quadrangular building. A new distillery was also built, capable of producing 5000 gallons of spirits a week. In 1875 fire completely destroyed the works.
Picture Collection SLV*

Early Industry

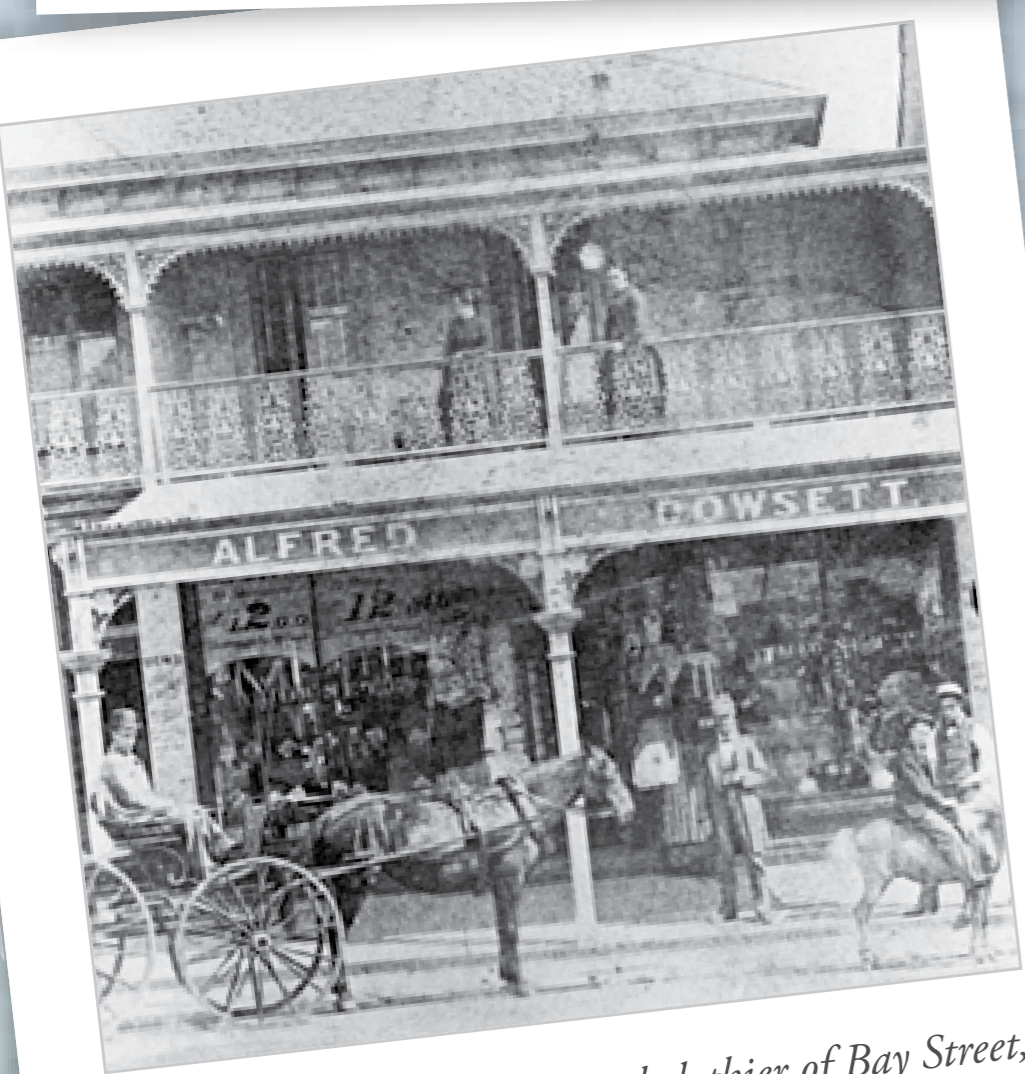
In the 1850s a number of manufactories were established and provided work for large numbers of local residents. Three of these, producing soap, sugar and biscuits, continued production into the 20th century. By 1869 there were sixteen factories in the district, eleven of them using steam power.

A number of 'noxious trades' started on the undeveloped Crown Land west of the Hobson's Bay railway known as the Bend. One of these was the soap and candle making factory of John Kitchen and Sons. Kitchen had started his business in a populated area of Sandridge in 1859, but a disastrous fire led him to relocate to the Bend in 1860.

In 1869 the Sandridge Council's Health Officer Henry Curtis, reported that the various establishments there, were in a 'most unsatisfactory state...with no drainage and putrescent refuse'. Kitchens' was the only one in an acceptable state.

The Swallow and Ariell Steam Biscuit factory was established to make ship's bread and biscuits. Thomas Swallow started it in rented premises in 1854 and built a factory at the corner of Rouse and Stokes Street in 1858. The following year Thomas Ariell became a partner. The firm won a number of prizes for ship, fancy and dessert biscuits at various intercolonial exhibitions.

The Victorian Sugar Works was formed in 1857. Edward Knox was appointed Superintendent and arranged a refinery to be built at Sandridge to supply refined sugar to Swallow and Ariell's factory. The sugar works covered two acres of land with boundaries at Rouse and Beach Streets. Sandridge Council used ashes produced by the Sugar Works in the construction of footpaths.



Alfred Dowsett, draper and clothier of Bay Street, called his large premises 'London House'. He employed dressmakers and milliners. The business started in the 1860s and was sold in 1886. PPCC pm1204.1

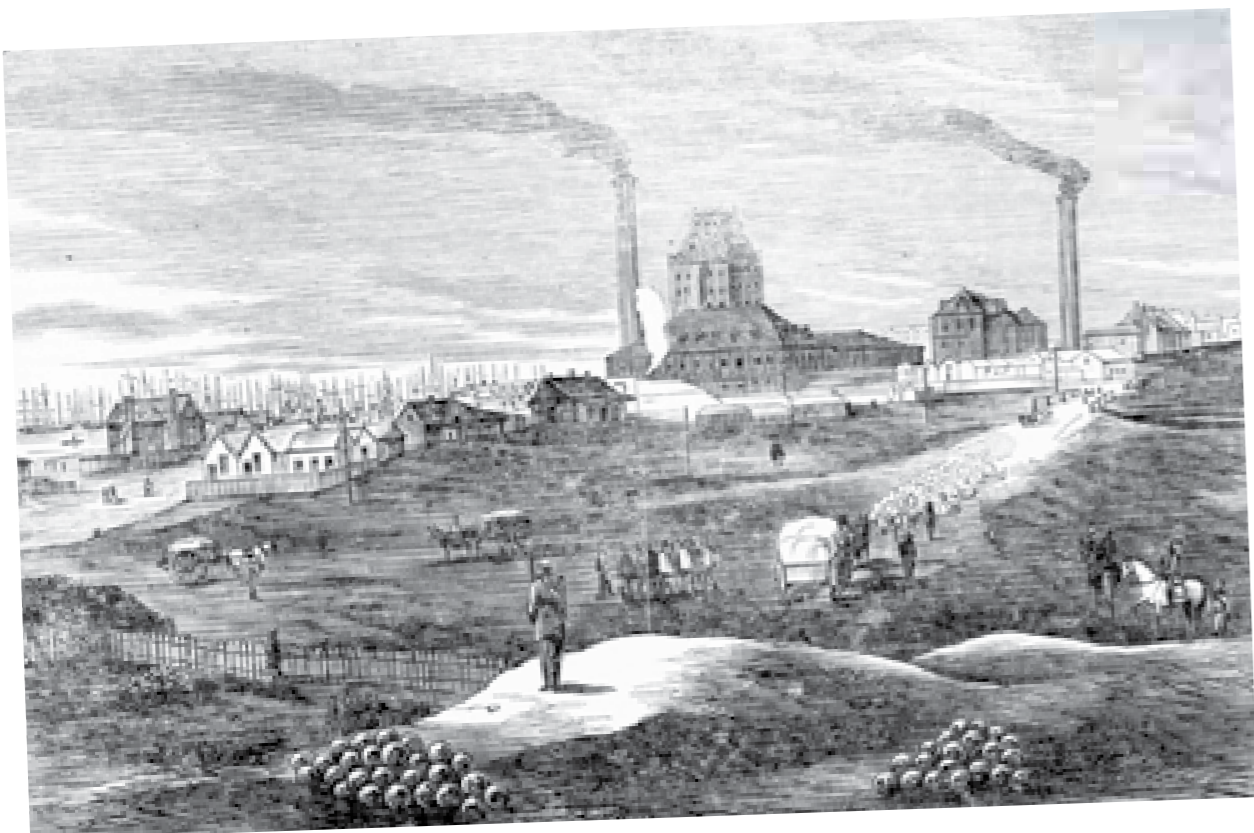


*A modern picture of the 1858 Swallow and Ariell building on the corner of Rouse and Stokes streets.
A.Rowan*

*The Chairman of the
Municipal Council
Sandridge*



In 1854 the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company ran the first Australian passenger train from Melbourne to the port at Sandridge. The line was opened with great fanfare by the Governor of Victoria Sir Charles Hotham. The rail line proved a boon in the gold rush days with the hundreds of immigrants landing at the port. SLV



An 1862 sketch shows cannon balls at the Sandridge Naval Battery to the east of the Lagoon. A member of the volunteer Naval Brigade is in the foreground. The rifle butts were here also, and a red flag would be hoisted when rifle practice occurred, so that shipping could avoid the area. Picture Collection SLV



Another view from the Sugar Works showing the Town Pier with the old customs sheds. In the distance can be seen the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay railway pier erected in 1854. On the right is the Pier Hotel. PPCC pm0350



The corner of Bay and Rouse Streets shows the back of the two storey Post and Telegraph Office and across the road in Rouse street can be seen Mrs Litchfield's restaurant. Down Bay Street on the left can be seen Councillor Thomas' shipping druggist premises. PPCC pm0340

Life in the 'Borough'

Sandridge in the 1860s was a thriving bustling seaport. Shops, stores and offices were all geared for the convenience of shipping and marine interests. Port Melbourne's association with the sea and its history as a port is reflected in its motto, first used in 1861, 'post tot procellas portum' which translates as 'safe harbor after many storms'.

For many years entertainments were held at the assembly rooms or concert halls of the more reputable hotels; the Naval Brigade Orderly Room was also used for social occasions. Social life in Sandridge was limited in part by the lack of a gathering place and so the construction of a hall on the Town Hall site in 1869 was a notable addition.

Other entertainments included competitive shooting amongst suburban rifle clubs carried out at the rifle butts adjacent to the Sandridge Naval Battery near the beach. Model yacht racing began on the Sandridge Lagoon in 1865.

James Watson, a newcomer to Melbourne, describes a Sunday afternoon in 1864, 'Sandridge Pier was the popular place... crowds of people were promenading... the ladies wearing the immense crinolines then in vogue... a special attraction ... being the

brass buttoned apprentices, always spoken of as 'middies,' who in great numbers were on the many sailing ships ... looking to make acquaintance with any who were willing'.

By the end of the 1850s four National Schools and churches of the major protestant denominations had been established. Fire was an ever present danger both on ship and shore so the Sandridge Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed in 1863. Charity was not neglected and a group of prominent ladies established the Sandridge Dorcas Benevolent Society in 1868.

Thousands of sailors every year passed through Sandridge and it was not unusual for them to be drugged, robbed or kidnapped. When a Sailors' Mission was established in 1860 with areas for social and welfare activities, their lives ashore improved greatly.

A view of the Lagoon from the Sugar Works. There are two bridges one at Graham Street and one at Rouse Street. The little wooden houses in the foreground were typical of worker's cottages. The congested area of little houses and sheds is also typical of the growth of the area in the days before building regulations. PPCC pm 0348



*The Chairman of the
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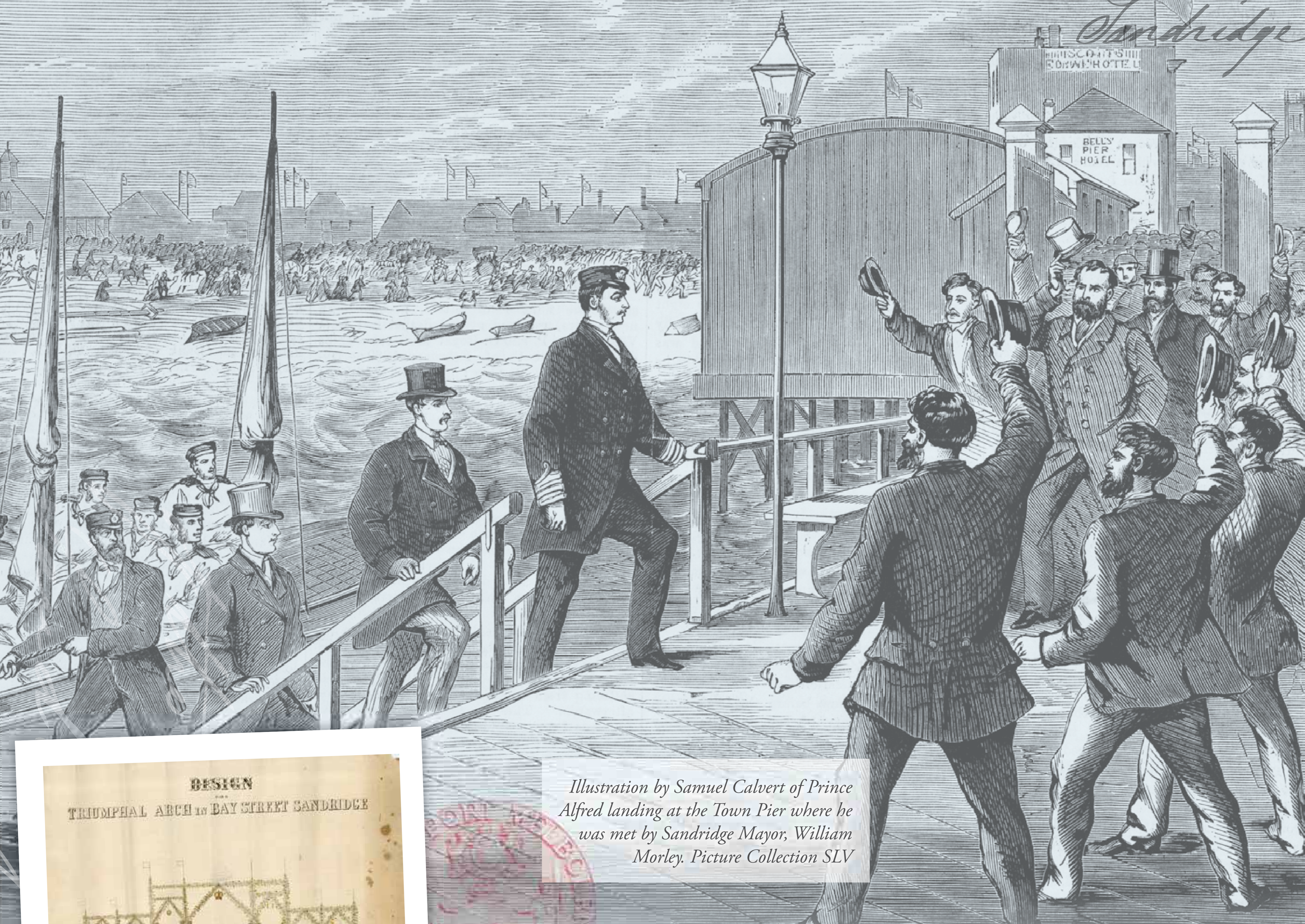
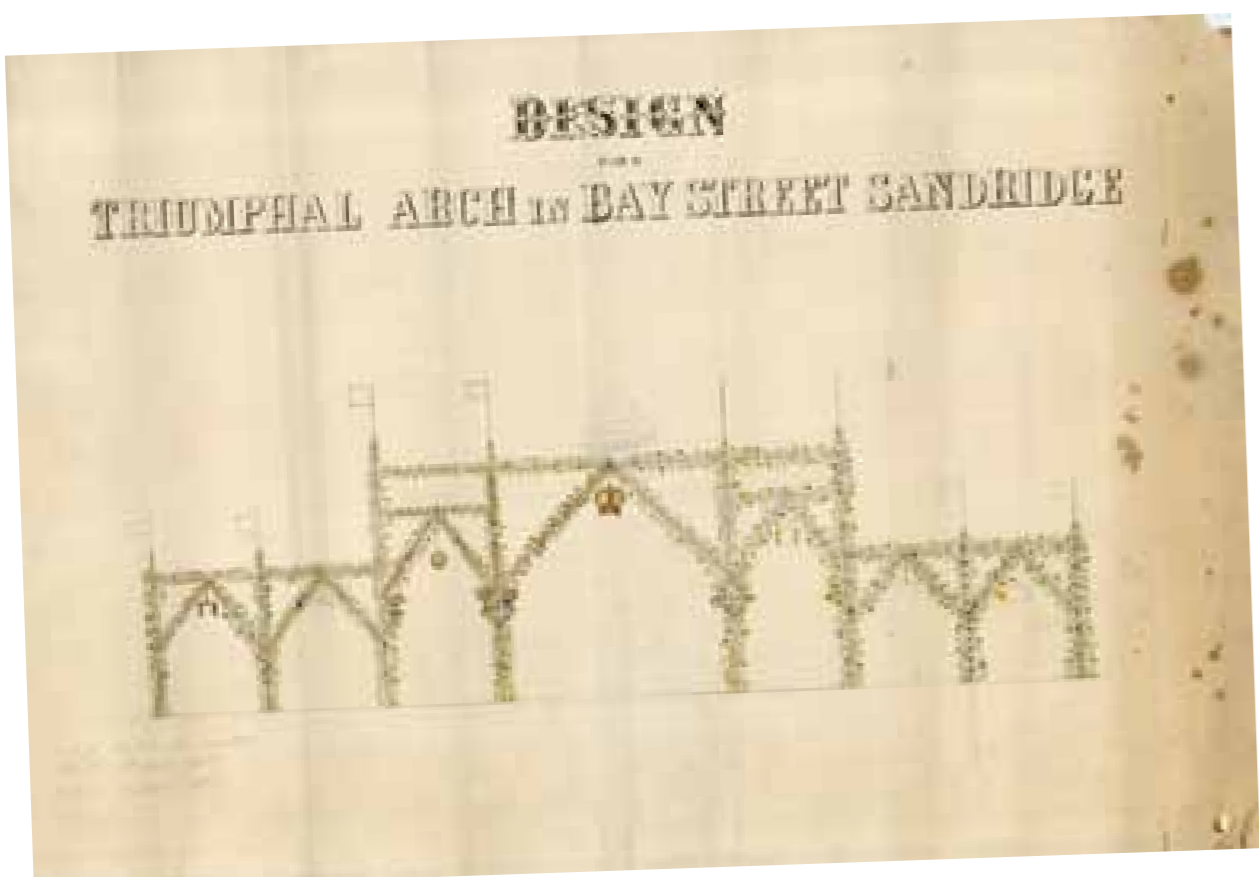
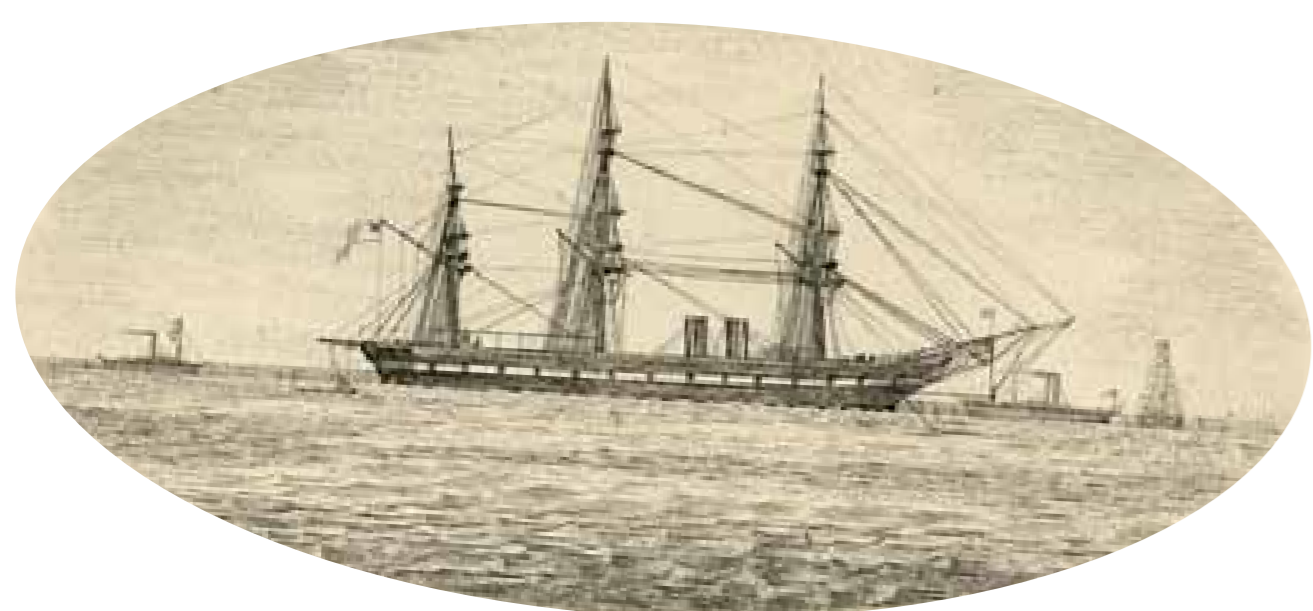


Illustration by Samuel Calvert of Prince Alfred landing at the Town Pier where he was met by Sandridge Mayor, William Morley. Picture Collection SLV



Welcoming arch at the junction of Crockford and Bay Street near the Fountain Inn. PMHPS



Prince Alfred's ship 'The Galatea' in Hobson's Bay 1867. The ship travelled via South Africa, making first Australian landfall at Glenelg in South Australia. PPLS



Prince Alfred Duke of Edinburgh, second son of Queen Victoria made three visits to Australia and Melbourne in the 1860s. PPLS

The First Royal Visit

The first member of the royal family to set foot in the Australian colonies was Queen Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh; his visit engendered enormous interest. The Prince, a naval captain, arrived in his ship the 'Galatea', in Hobson's Bay. The official landing took place at Sandridge two days later on 25 November 1867.

The Prince was met at the shore end of Sandridge Pier by the Sandridge Borough Council. The Mayor, Councillor William Morley and Edward Clark, the Town Clerk, presented him with an address mounted on purple velvet in front of a crowd of some four thousand people. After the official welcome a guard of honour, composed of members of the Sandridge Naval Brigade, presented arms.

The Argus newspaper reported that in Bay Street 'the procession passed beneath an arch of evergreens bearing the devices 'Welcome to Prince Alfred' and 'Sandridge Greets our Naval Prince'. By the time the cortege turned off beside the Fountain Inn there were fully 10,000 people in the procession'.

A committee was formed in October 1867 to plan the event, with a budget of two hundred pounds.

Amongst the decorations to be purchased were a flagpole and a white flag with the Borough arms on it. The question of official robes for the Mayor was also discussed; cost was the deciding factor. 'After some discussion it was moved...that the Mayor be expected to purchase his own robes of office'.

Both Williamstown Council and the Melbourne City Council wished to be in the forefront of welcoming the Prince and wrote asking Sandridge Council to relinquish its place in the official welcome. The Council stood firm and refused to discuss it.

The Prince left Victoria in January 1868, travelling from Melbourne by train to join his ship at Williamstown. Amongst the dignitaries accompanying him to Williamstown was the Mayor of Sandridge.

Nº 655 L 2336



Councillor Leslie Stanley Turner, Mayor on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations July 1960. Councillor Turner was elected in 1946 and served three terms as Mayor. He resigned in 1973 PPCC pm0573

The Chairman of the
Mun. Council
Sandridge



The RECORD

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CITY OF PORT MELBOURNE

COUNCIL CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY, 10th JULY
Combined Civic Service at Holy Trinity Church, Bay Street, at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, 12th JULY
Special Centenary Meeting of Council, Town Hall, Bay Street, at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 13th JULY
Naturalisation Ceremony—Port Melbourne Town Hall, at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, 14th JULY
Luncheon and Concert for Elderly Citizens, Town Hall, Bay St., at 1 p.m.

PPCC

In the presence of His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor of Victoria
LIEUT.-GENERAL The Hon. MR. EDMUND HERRING, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D.

CITY OF PORT MELBOURNE

Councillor Leslie Stanley Turner, J.P., Mayor.

NOTICE PAPER

for
Centenary Commemoration
Meeting of Council

to be held on
Tuesday, 12th July, 1960
at 8 o'clock p.m.

To Commemorate the Centenary of Incorporation of the Council of the Municipality, July, 1860.

PPCC



Receiving His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in the foyer of the Port Melbourne Town Hall on Tuesday night. L. to R.: His Excellency, Lieut.-General Sir Edmund Herring; the Town Clerk, Mr. A. T. Aasen; the City Electrical Engineer, Mr. J. P. Anderson; the City Engineer, Mr. G. S. Williams; the Mayoress, Mrs. L. S. Turner; and His Worship the Mayor, Cr. Turner

Port's Historic Moment Centenary Commemoration Council Meeting

Tuesday night, July 12, was an historic occasion in the Port Melbourne Town Hall when, before a representative gathering of official guests and citizens of the municipality, the Port Melbourne Council held a special Commemoration Meeting to celebrate the centenary of the incorporation of the Borough of Sandridge on July 13, 1860. The meeting was graced by the presence of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, Lieut.-General the Hon. Sir Edmund Herring, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Punctually at 8 p.m. the Mayor, Cr. Turner, opened the meeting with Prayer. He then, in a speech of welcome to His Excellency, briefly sketched the rise of the city from the original settlement of "Liardet's Beach" to the flourishing "Gateway to Victoria" which it is today, rich in its contribution to the Australian economy as a busy port and an industrial producer.

Cr. Turner spoke of the rightful pride that he—a Port Melbourne native, as was also the Mayoress—held, in common with his fellow Councillors and citizens, in the evidence of fine achievement presented by their city. He paid tribute to the pioneers who had sowed the seeds and faithfully nurtured the growth of Port Melbourne, and assured His Excellency of the unshaken and continuing loyalty of the city and its citizens to Her Majesty the Queen, which assurance he begged might be conveyed to Her Majesty.

His Excellency, in his reply, expressed the pleasure he felt at being present on such an occasion. To have reached a centenary of Local Government was, he said, a privileged achievement. It was through Local Government that the individual citizen was brought into close contact with the administration under which he lived; through Local Government that his needs could be voiced and his rights sustained, and through which his every day needs were met in any fields.

Reaching back into the past, His Excellency spoke of that great advocate and builder of Local Government, Hubert Walter, who in the England of Richard I and King John did so much to establish the governmental system under which we are today privileged to live. He assured the Mayor, Councillors and Citizens, that their expression of loyalty would be conveyed to Her Majesty.

Cr. Fennell, moved, and Cr. Hall seconded the motion of Thanksgiving:

"That this Meeting of the Council of the City of Port Melbourne assembled to celebrate the Centenary of the Constitution of the Municipality expresses heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God by whose beneficent guidance the City and its Residents and Ratepayers have prospered and progressed."

Cr. Letts moved, and Cr. Williamson seconded, the Motion of Loyalty:

"That this meeting desires to convey on behalf of the Citizens of Port Melbourne an assurance of devotion, loyalty and attachment to the Throne and person of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II."

Cr. Todd, M.L.C., moved, and Cr. Woodruff seconded, the Motion of Appreciation:

"That this Meeting of the Council of the City of Port Melbourne, convened this 12th day of July, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty for the purpose of celebrating the Centenary of Incorporation of the Municipality, desires to set on record its sincere appreciation and admiration of the pioneers, whose courage and spirit were both an example and an inspiration to those who have succeeded them, its grateful appreciation for the foundations so wisely and skillfully laid by the Councillors, who have over the years so successfully directed and developed the City, its gratitude for the legacies bequeathed of beauty and planning, its acceptance of full responsibility for maintenance of the standard set; and with faith in the future its determination to further extend and widen the field of benefits for the further progress of the City."

At the conclusion of the meeting, refreshments were enjoyed in the Mayoress's Room.

Centenary of Port Melbourne Council 1960

In its centenary year of 1960, Port Melbourne was still a busy working port and an industrial hub. There was plenty of work for the locals especially on the piers and in the vast aircraft and motor car factories at Fishermans Bend.

This was still the heyday of the passenger liners bringing in migrants from Britain and Europe and departing with hundreds of young Victorians embarking their first overseas trip. Cargo and passenger ships of all nations berthed at Princes and Station Piers.

At this time Port Melbourne was a noisy and smelly place. Industrial chimneys belched sweet and acrid odours of biscuits, soap and cheese-making from the Swallow, Kitchen and Kraft factories. Train and boat whistles announced arrivals and departures and the factory whistles signalled the changing shifts and lunchtime breaks.

Port Melbourne celebrated its Centenary with a week of festivities and the Town Hall

was illuminated for the occasion. The official celebrations started with a civic thanksgiving service at the Holy Trinity Church in Bay Street. A special Centenary Commemorative meeting in the Port Melbourne Town Hall was attended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir Edmund Herring, as well as government and municipal dignitaries and representatives of local sporting bodies, charitable organisations and youth organisations.

At a naturalisation ceremony twenty candidates received Australian citizenship and a special celebratory luncheon and concert for the senior citizens of the municipality concluded the celebrations.