



August 2014

www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 180, Fitzroy, 3068

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Fitzroy History Society

Annual General Meeting

18 August 2014

7pm

Reading Room, Fitzroy Old Library (entrance off Napier St.)

Dr Charles (Chips) Sowerwine

'History, History Societies and Preservation in a Neo-Liberal Society'

Professor Charles Sowerwine is currently a member of the RHSV Council and editor of History News



ANNUAL DINNER

Haskins Restaurant

North Fitzroy Arms Hotel, corner of Rae and Reid Streets, North Fitzroy

Friday 5 December at 7.00 pm

A la Carte Menu

We welcome all members

RSVP by 31 October to fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au

FITZROY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Fitzroy History Society has recently been successful in receiving Sponsorship from the Clifroy Bank for \$3000 to conduct an Oral History Project. Members of the Fitzroy History Society have begun planning the conduct of the project and are most interested to know if you would like to contribute either by assisting with the project or by being available to be interviewed. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please contact the Society at fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au

FORTHCOMING EVENT

As part of Anti-Poverty Week, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and FHS are organizing a walk that will look at the history of social justice campaigns in Fitzroy. Led by FHS members Brian Stagoll and Barry Pullen, it will be on the morning of Saturday 18 October. Check our website nearer the time for more details and booking information.

NEWS FROM YARRA LIBRARIES

Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb has been reprinted.

The City of Yarra has reprinted 100 copies of the book, *Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb*. The books have been delivered and will be available for purchase in the near future through Fitzroy library.

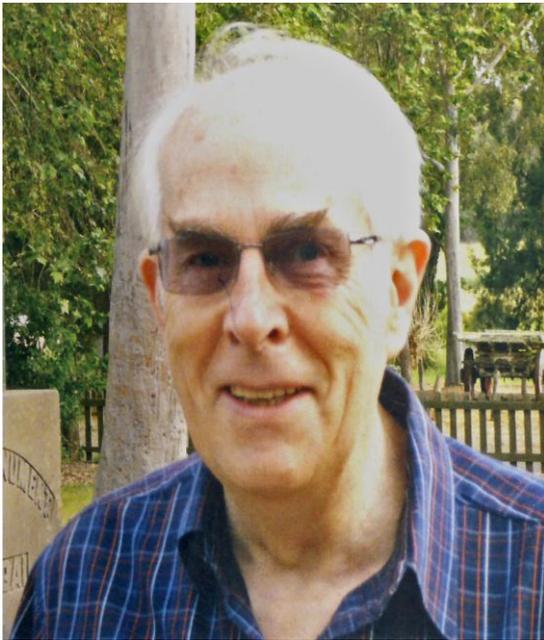
Celebrate Family History Month at Yarra Libraries

An introduction to the rich archival collection housed at the Victorian Archives Centre. A speaker from the Public Record Office Victoria will guide you through the types of records held in their collection.

Location: Fitzroy Library Meeting Room

Event date: 6:30 pm Wednesday 27 August 2014

TREVOR HART (1942–2014)



Trevor Hart, who is credited with being the founder of the Fitzroy History Society, died on 30 April, aged 71. FHS records indicate that the Society originated from a public meeting held at the Fitzroy Town Hall on 17 June, 1982, and the constitution was adopted on 9 November 1982. Trevor Hart was convenor at the first AGM in August 1983.

His memorial service was held at Camberwell Grammar School on 14 May, and the following biographical details are taken from a eulogy prepared for that service by G. Boag and R. Green.

In the mid-1960s Trevor joined the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Genealogical Society of Victoria. He was a councillor of the Royal Historical Society for fourteen years and its treasurer for eight years, and a councillor of the Genealogical Society for eleven years, its secretary for two years, its librarian for two years and secretary to the Heraldry Group for four years.

In 1972 he established the Caulfield Historical Society and became its first secretary. In the early 1980s he moved from East Brighton into an unrenovated house in Kerr Street, a few doors from Brunswick Street. In 1982 the Fitzroy History Society was formed. Also in 1982, he formed the Southern Metropolitan Regional Historical Society.

Around 1990 he moved to Camberwell and became president of the local history society for three years, and for a number of years up to the time of his death was editor and compiler of the Society's newsletter.

In his professional life Trevor joined the ES&A Bank in 1958, and continued with the ANZ Bank after the merger in 1970, principally in mainstream banking. He began assisting the Bank's archivist and in 1983 he became ANZ Group Archivist and was manager of the project to establish a banking museum. This opened in 1985 in the heritage building in Collins Street that had housed the head office of the ES&A Bank. It is still the only banking museum in Victoria and one of only two operating in Australia. In 1985 he also became Manager of the ANZ Art Collection.

Trevor completed a Graduate Diploma in Information Management in 1989 and in 1998 obtained a Master of Arts degree in Archives and Records from Monash University. In 2000 his positions at the ANZ Bank were abolished and he became an archivist with the University of Melbourne Archives. He also became archivist for Camberwell Grammar School. After seven years with the University of Melbourne Archives he took up part-time consulting. As well as archivist at Camberwell Grammar he became archivist at Ruyton Girl's School, and held both these positions at the time of his death. Trevor published and presented an extensive and varied range of work. He was invited to contribute entries on early banking identities to the Australian Dictionary of Biography, and the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, England.

Trevor is survived by his wife Louise (née McLister), whom he married in 1987, and their two children Nyree and Nicholas.

APRIL EVENT DURING THE NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Travelling to Fitzroy in 1841: The Journey of Sarah Bunbury. As our contribution to the Heritage Festival a guided walk was conducted on 26 April to reconstruct the journey made by Sarah Bunbury in 1841.

The two-hour walk followed the journey of Sarah Bunbury, husband Richard and family, from their place of disembarking from the steam packet *Governor Arthur*, (which had ferried them from the *Argyle* in Hobson Bay) to their first residence near the south end of Brunswick Street. Research for the event was based on Sarah's unpublished letters and the published journal a friend, Georgiana McCrae, kept of their journey and beginnings in the colony. Their writings give descriptions of early Melbourne, its "strange" vegetation and initial impressions of indigenous people.

The event began at the barque, the *Polly Woodside* which is approximately the same size as the *Argyle*, and gave the group a good idea of the living conditions on board an emigrant ship in 1841. Sarah gave birth to her second son during the voyage. In two groups of twelve persons we crossed the Yarra at Queens Bridge, to the landing place for all early arrivals at Melbourne. A rock barrier here prevented the further passage upstream of all craft at that time. The Bunburys landed and were transported in a two-horse open carriage along Collins Street where Sarah was surprised at the extent of commercial development in a settlement only six years old. The group inspected plaques in Collins Street commemorating the earliest settlers in Melbourne, then travelled by tram up Collins Street. The walk was completed in front of the Australian Catholic University forecourt



in Brunswick Street, the location of the Bunbury's New Town (Fitzroy) house from where Sarah painted watercolours of everyday scenes in her neighbourhood.

The Bunbury family lived for about four months in Fitzroy before moving firstly to a farm on Darebin Creek in what is now Preston, and then to Williamstown. Richard and the baby born on the *Argyle* were to die in Melbourne, but Sarah and five of her children returned to England. Her letters and some paintings and are held by the State Libraries of Victoria and NSW.

Yarra Libraries subscribes to the British Newspaper Archive.

Access is available from within the library only. Just go to the Library's Local History page at: <http://www.yarracity.vic.au/Libraries/Local-history/> and click on the link to the British Newspaper Archive.

The British Newspaper Archive contains newspapers from 1603 to the present day, from both Britain and further afield. Until now, the only way to view these newspapers was to visit the British Library, and, of course, it was not possible to search them. You can now search hundreds of millions of articles by keyword, name, location, date or title and watch your results appear in an instant.

The scale of the newspaper publishing industry from the early 19th century onwards is enormous, with many cities and towns publishing several newspapers simultaneously. The first stage of this project focused on runs published before 1900 and titles from cities such as Birmingham, Derby, Manchester, Nottingham, Norwich, Leeds and York, along with local titles from London boroughs. Newspapers which aimed for county circulation - from Staffordshire to Sussex - also feature prominently, providing an unrivalled picture of provincial life spanning the whole of the 19th century.

They are now also adding a wealth of material from the 20th century, right up to the 1950s.

Street Names in North Fitzroy

In April 1868, the Borough Council of Fitzroy considered and approved the names of 23 streets and two parks in North Fitzroy.

At the Council meeting on 1 April 1868, which was attended by mayor Michael, and councillors Rushall, Scotchmer, Grant, Best, Falconer, Rowe, McKean and Delbridge, the Public Works Committee reported that "they had remitted the naming of the streets in North Fitzroy to the select committee, with a recommendation that they be named after the members of the council." (*The Argus*, 3 April 1868, p. 7). At their next meeting on 29 April the report of the select committee on the naming of the new streets was considered and adopted.

The Age of 30 April in its report of the council decision on the street names appeared unimpressed.

The members of the Fitzroy Borough Council have come to the resolution of handing down their names to future generations. At the meeting of the council last evening, a report from a select committee, submitting the names proposed to be given to certain streets in North Fitzroy, was adopted. In the list figures the aristocratic sounding name of "Rushall-crescent," as well as the more commonplace appellation of "McKean-street." Each and every one of the worthy councillors has his name thus given to a street, and even the borough surveyor was not forgotten. Many of the more remarkable residents in the district have been similarly favoured. For example we are to have "Edwards-place," and another locality has been honored by having bestowed on it the title of "Langton-street."¹ But two other thoroughfares have been more signally honored than the others; and it is to be hoped that the "Collingwood flats" who may abide therein will be capable of appreciating the compliment. These are "Yorke-street," and "Newny-street." If the erection of a new common school in the district be at any time decided on, the site will be appropriately selected in "Yorke-street" in remembrance of the learned equerry, who so pertly pronounced upon the ignorance, not only of the Victorian youth, but the adult population who entertained him as a guest.

In naming Langton² and Edwards³ as examples of "the more remarkable residents in the district", it could be interpreted as an ironic comment, but both men were notable public figures, so perhaps the writer was offering his approval. However, the article overall was restrained compared with the ire displayed in a letter from "A disgraced ratepayer" of Rushall Crescent, that appeared in *The Argus* of 6 May 1868 under the heading *Naming Streets*.

Sir, —Can you inform some thousands of Fitzroy people upon what principle streets should be named or who have

the right of naming them? Our Fitzroy councillors have undertaken the nomenclature of some two dozen streets in this borough; the nine best of which they have named after themselves, the remainder after sundry grocers, publicans, and money lenders of their acquaintance. Now as some of these people are far from respected by the public, we naturally feel very indignant at this last Fitzroy farce, and are anxious to know whether we can upset this nice little job, and get respectable patronymics for our streets. Just imagine our children asking who such and such a street or crescent was called after—who was McKean, Watkins, Groom⁴, Scotchmere (sic), Rowe, or any other celebrity whose surname is to grace the street corners of North Fitzroy? Notorious as Fitzroy councillors have ever been, this last stroke of vulgar ambition is too much to be borne, even by those who have been long accustomed to their vagaries. Can you advise us? Will we be under the necessity of white-washing the name-plates when they are put up! Or should we hold an indignation meeting?

The comments in the newspapers did not appear to affect the councillors' resolve, because the names were published in the *Victoria Government Gazette* of 12 June 1868, p. 1125. This issue can be viewed on the State Library of Victoria website at: http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/view.cgi?year=1868&class=general&page_num=1113&state=V&classNum=G72

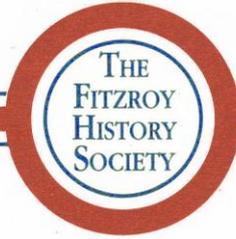
¹ Langton Street was the extension of Napier Street, to the north of Alexandra Parade; now named Napier Street

² Edward Langton (1828-1905), was born in England and came to Victoria in 1852. In 1859-65 he ran a butcher shop with his brother in Brunswick Street, but subsequently became an accountant. He was involved in the campaign for Fitzroy to separate from Melbourne Council and was a councillor 1858-60 and Council chairman in 1859-60 (the first mayor was in 1862). He was an MLA 1866-77, Treasurer briefly in 1868 and Treasurer and Postmaster-general 1872-74. An advocate for free trade, he was proprietor of the *Spectator*, a free-trade weekly from July 1865 to March 1867, and was a director of several companies. He was a trustee of the Public Library, Museums and National Gallery, Victoria from 1874, and president 1896-1905.

³ John Edwards (1836-82), who lived in Fitzroy since coming from Tasmania as a boy, was a Fitzroy councillor in 1859-60 and Council chairman in 1860. A solicitor, he was MLA for Collingwood in 1861-67. He was council chairman at the meeting on 21 November 1860 (the others present were Brennand, Dalziel, Falconer, Fergie, Garner and Groom), when council resolved, by a majority, that the part of the municipality north of Reilly Street would be "for the future called North Fitzroy".

⁴ Now Jamieson Street. Henry Groom was a councillor for the Fitzroy ward of Melbourne council in 1857, and a Fitzroy councillor between 1859 and 1865.

The other street gazetted in 1868 that has since been renamed is Harker Street, which was the section of Brunswick Street between Alexandra Parade and St Georges Road. It was changed to Brunswick Street North about 1890 and then to Brunswick Street in 1905. George Harker was a Fitzroy councillor 1862-65 and MLA for Collingwood 1856-59, 1864-5, 1871-74 and MLA for Maldon 1859-60.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

Date _____

Subscription is payable at \$10 per person, per year, renewable annually on 1 August.

Please pay via <http://www.trybooking.com/FJRX>
or in person at the AGM,
or by post to PO Box 180, Fitzroy, 3065

As well as the information regularly available at www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au
I would prefer to receive the newsletter by email (), or
by postage of a printed copy ().

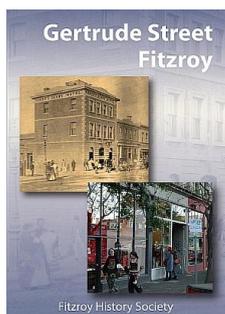
Optional
We welcome your general feedback,
and/or your suggestions for events or activities.

My interest in Fitzroy history is:
local history () family history ()
local heritage () social activities ()
other () details are.....

I can contribute the following information / knowledge on Fitzroy history:

FHS PUBLICATIONS

Two books published by the Society are now available from Horton's books in Smith Street, Collingwood and the Brunswick Street Book Shop, as well as from the Fitzroy Branch Library. They are:



Gertrude Street Fitzroy by Jill Robertson. 80 pages.

A history of Gertrude Street with information about all its buildings including the 14 pubs that have existed on the street.

TRAVELLING TO FITZROY
IN 1841
The journey of Sarah Bunbury

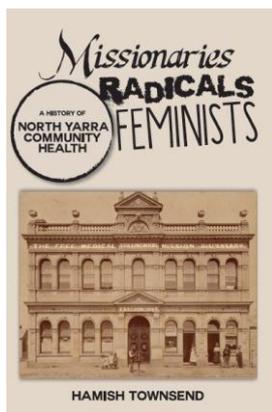


Travelling to Fitzroy in 1841: The Journey of Sarah Bunbury.

Produced to accompany a guided walk during the National Trust Heritage Festival in April, 2014, the 16 page booklet tells the story of Sarah Bunbury's journey from England to Fitzroy in 1841, using her unpublished letters and the journal of Georgiana McCrae.

NEW PUBLICATION

A history of a local institution has recently been published.



Missionaries, Radicals, Feminists is the story of North Yarra Community Health. Established by John Singleton in 1869 in gold rush Melbourne and based on British models, the Collingwood Free Medical Mission Dispensary was among the first of its kind in Australia. Singleton's was the first place in Australia to employ women doctors and was associated with many other reforms in health care, especially after it evolved into Collingwood Community Health Centre in the 1970s. These included campaigns around lead in petrol, cigarette advertising, free needle exchanges, welfare rights, and work injuries. Later amalgamations with Carlton and Fitzroy Community Health Centres created today's North Yarra Community Health.

The book reflects the traditions, triumphs and struggles of a Community Health Centre in providing quality clinical services, while building community trust and participation, enabling the empowerment of women, reducing barriers to care caused by social marginalisation, and advocating for prevention and health promotion legislation.