



October 2004

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2004 AGM & Your Committee for 2004—2005

Over 30 people attended our AGM on 12th August. Annabel presented her Convenor's Report which reviewed our activities over the last year. The Treasurer's Report showed that we had income of \$1807, expenditure of \$2643 and a 30th June balance of \$3406.

Jill Robertson, our guest speaker, spoke entertainingly of her experience in researching, writing and publishing her recent book, *MacRobertson, the Chocolate King*.

At the AGM the following committee was elected

Mike Moore (Convenor)
Annabel Barbara (Secretary)
Harold Mackrell (Treasurer)
Keith Ross (Minute Secretary)
John Senyard (Membership)
Sue Bradshaw
Peter Coyle
Lina Favrin
Chris Friday
Tim Gatehouse
Heather McRae
Tom O'Brien
June Senyard
Mike O'Brien (Newsletter)

Forthcoming Functions: Dates for Your Diary

Our next scheduled function is a visit to the Christian Israelite Church at 193 Fitzroy Street on Friday 5th November. We want to assemble outside the Church at 4pm, for a start at 4.30pm sharp. The suggested donation is \$5 or a gold coin.



The Christian Israelite Church

Did you Know?

The first name of Brunswick Street, Fitzroy was Great Brunswick Street. Why don't we change it back!



Our ANNUAL DINNER will be held at 7:30pm on Friday, 3rd December at Dante's function room (upstairs), 150-156 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy. We have arranged a two course menu for \$32 or three for \$38. For this function, we ask that you RSVP as soon as possible to Tim Gatehouse on 9489 2357 or Sue Bradshaw at bradshaw@rabbit.com.au by not later than Friday 26th November.

Fitzroy Town Hall Reference Group

The City of Yarra has been both refurbishing the Fitzroy Town Hall and coming up with guidelines for the use of public spaces within it. They have set up a Reference Group and asked us to supply a member. The Reference Group has not yet met but is scheduled to do so

later in October. Our views depend to some extent on what Council proposes. However our initial thoughts are that historic spaces (such as the old Library Reading Room) would be enhanced if they had copies of historic Fitzroy photos (suitably captioned) on display on the walls. We feel that the Fitzroy History Society may be able to help by researching the photos and their captions, with an appropriate grant being sought from or through Council to reproduce and frame them. We are also cooperating with the Friends of Fitzroy Library in this Reference Group so we can assist each other. Our representative is Mike O'Brien and he'd welcome your thoughts through our email address.

The Quiz Night

In August the Fitzroy History Society (FHS) hosted a Quiz Night focusing on past people, sites and events of significance in Fitzroy and Fitzroy North since Fitzroy became Melbourne's first suburb.

The night was well attended by over 40 people with a varying knowledge of Fitzroy and Fitzroy North. The Quiz Night – the first of such an activity organized by FHS – was not for the faint hearted. The questions and answers demonstrated just how impressive Fitzroy, Melbourne's first suburb, has been and continues to be.

The Quiz Night allowed FHS and the residents who participated in the event an opportunity to uncover and discover the famous people, events and landmarks in Melbourne. It is remarkable that Fitzroy and Fitzroy North can have so many things that a good general knowledge and enquiring mind can appreciate.

For those of you who did

not attend, here are a few of the questions that were asked on the night. See which ones you can answer! (Answers below.)

1. Which Australian Prime Minister was born in a house in George Street on 3 August 1856
2. In the 1960s a slum clearance took place which resulted in the high rise apartments built on the border of Gertrude, Brunswick and Napier streets. What was the name of the demolished street after which the apartments were named?
3. Who am I? I was born in 1906 and died in 1988. I was the first Aborigine to represent Victoria in Australian Rules football. I established the Churches of Christ Aboriginal Mission in Fitzroy in 1947. I was the first Aborigine to be knighted. I became Governor of South Australia in 1976.
4. A famous Australian and his wife visited the Fitzroy Town Hall on 7 November 1975 for the All Nations Ball. Who were they?
5. What famous phrase is written at the end of the Fitzroy Swimming pool?
6. Which community organisation in Fitzroy instigated what is believed to be Australia's first opportunity shop and the first senior citizens club. They still occupy the same site in Brunswick Street.
7. Which famous Fitzroy footballer was known as the 'Bradman of football' and was a triple Brownlow Medal winner?

This inaugural Quiz night was a great success and the Fitzroy History Society would particularly like to thank its members Jill and Steve Robinson for their energy and vision in preparing for the night. Jill's research for the questions and organization of the event made it a very informative and jam-packed event, whilst Steve as MC made the evening fun and entertaining. A big thank you to you both for such a successful event.

Have you expired?

Please look at your address label. In the top corner we have printed the date your membership expires. Please renew if you are not financial so we can continue to send you these Newsletters.

Future FHS Functions

We would welcome any suggestions you might have for FHS functions in 2005. Why not use the feedback form on our address label page?

Congratulations

To Annabel (our former Convenor) & Tim, a beautiful baby boy, Tullio Delany Barbara, weighing 4.1kg.

Quiz Answers

1. Alfred Deakin (1903/4; 1905/8; 1909/10)
2. Atherton Street
3. Sir Douglas Nicholls
4. Gough and Margaret Whitlam
5. Aqua profunda
6. The Brotherhood of St Laurence
7. Hayden Bunton Senior

Fitzroy Members of the Victorian Contingent to the Boxer Rebellion¹

ALEXANDER, GEORGE ROBERT. Born 31 March 1876 at Richmond, son of George Ezekiel Alexander and Eliza Jane (née Gordon). Confectioner, Able Seaman, Williamstown Naval Brigade, 46th Battalion 1st AIF 1915-1917. Married Edith Garrett Jones in 1899. Confectioner in Fairfield. Died 12 August 1929 in Prahran, aged 52. Edith died 1958 in Melbourne.

On Enlistment (1900). Address: 24 Greeves St Fitzroy. Rank: Able Seaman. Religion: Pres. Height 5 ft 4½. Chest: 34. Hair Fair. Eyes: Hazel. Build: Prop.

STEPHENSON, ANDREW GEORGE. Born 9 Nov 1872 at Sandhurst, son of William Stephenson and Susan (née Lawson). Saddler. Married Grace Gambetta (née McLean) in 1899. Children: Andrew George, born 1906 at Preston (died in infancy).

On Enlistment (1900). Address: 235 Gore St Fitzroy. Rank: Able Seaman. Religion: Pres. Height 5 ft 10. Chest: 37. Hair: Dark. Eyes: Brown. Build: Slight.

¹ Justin Corfield, *The Australian Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Boxer Uprising 1899-1901*, McCrae Victoria: Slouch Hat Publications, 2001.

Extracts from *The Examiner and Melbourne Weekly News*

No. 257. – Vol V. Saturday May 31, 1862

An attempt has been made by certain narrow-minded persons in Fitzroy to prevent the inhabitants of Melbourne and suburbs from enjoying the benefits the street tramways which have been so long promised are likely to confer on them. A numerously-signed petition, emanating originally, we understand, from several proprietors of cabs, has been presented to the Municipal Council of Fitzroy, soliciting that body to rescind the consent they gave some time ago to the construction of the tramway through Nicholson and Gertrude streets. We are happy to say that the council has declined to accede to the prayer of the petition.

No 256. Vol. V. Saturday, May 24, 1862

VITAL STATISTICS OF MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS

The following are extracts from the registrar-general's report for the month of March and the quarter ended 31st March 1862.

Number of persons of all ages

- Melbourne proper 23,740
- Fitzroy Municipality 11,795
- East Collingwood 12,654
- Total Melbourne & suburbs 139, 991

No 287. Vol. V. Saturday, December 27, 1862

The city coroner held an inquest on Saturday, at Fitzroy, on the body of John Watson who was forty, who was killed on Friday by falling from his horse and fracturing his skull. The evidence showed that the deceased, who was a bricklayer by trade, borrowed a horse, known to be quiet, from Mr Carter, a neighbour, and was seen riding along by the corner of Johnson-street, where the horse backed and fell, the deceased galloping and flogging the animal at the time. He died before the bystanders could get him into a house. Verdict, "Accidentally killed by a fall from a horse."