



Annual General Meeting 15 July 2018

Presidents Report

The Society has enjoyed another successful year during which we held six events.

In late October we held our first Trivia Night for some years. The venue was Bad Frankie's bar in Greeves Street, and attended by about 40 people. From the noise generated during the night, the event was enjoyed by all.

Our major event for the year was the launch of the book 'Half-Drowned or Half-Baked, Essays in the History of North Fitzroy' on 3rd December at Bargoonga Nganjin the new North Fitzroy library. Over fifty people attended to hear each of the authors summarise their chapters. A few remaining copies of the publication are still available, and the book is about to be uploaded onto our web site to be available to all.

Our Annual Dinner in December was again enjoyed by many of us at the nearby 'Bon Ap' restaurant in Brunswick Street.

In March, Terry Knott led a walk visiting current and past industrial sites around North Fitzroy. The walk allowed Terry to tell us about the many and varied factories which provided employment to many between 1890 and 1970, the subject of his work on the recently published North Fitzroy book.

A small group visited the Police Museum in South Melbourne in April. The curator has since forwarded photographs of the staff at both the Fitzroy and North Fitzroy police stations from the 1930's.

In May we paid a return visit to Harry Evans billiard-table manufacturing workshop and the MAYGAR centre on Gertrude Street.

Our Oral History project under **Meg Lee's** drive which was launched last year continues, although at a reduced pace. Some further interviews are under way. We have entered the results of the initial project in the RHSV Community History Awards which are to be announced shortly.

Brendan Mitchell has continued with the important role of Treasurer in addition to his efforts in placing items on our Web site. The treasurer role involves much and continuous effort. As tonight marks the beginning of a new year for the Society, I would like to remind everyone that subscriptions are now due. As forecast at last year's AGM, we have found it necessary to increase the annual subscription subject to the agreement of those attending

the AGM. The balance in our bank account has just remained in the positive for some time now and we need to feel a higher level of comfort in planning for future events. For those who have already paid subscriptions for the year, the \$10 subs are accepted. To simplify collection of monies, our favoured method of payment will be by direct payment to our bank account the details of which are contained elsewhere.

Four newsletters have been produced in the year and **Graeme Pritchard** is to be thanked for the production of these. The trend to email distribution rather than by Australia Post is continuing, saving us postage costs.

Peter Heading continued with the role as the “Facebook” manager and the site continues to receive ‘hits’.

The Society’s membership secretary **Andy Lanskis** advises that our list of contacts shows 159 names of which 81 are financial members. Several of the other contacts are City of Yarra Councillors, long-time members who have moved away from Fitzroy, and some are those we have not seen over recent years. Andy continues to review the list.

The City of Yarra has recently completed improvements to the World War 1 ‘Sportsmans’ memorial in the Edinburgh Gardens. The Society spent considerable effort in identifying those names included on original but lost plaques, and we recommend a visit to the memorial to see the changes that have been made.

Over a number of years, residents of Fitzroy have researched the history of their houses. **Mike Moore** in particular has provided much assistance to individuals and organisations in this regard. We are conscious that these histories are valuable and should not be lost. The committee are considering how best to store these history’s electronically so that they remain available for everyone to enjoy. This work continues and we will advise our solution within the next year.

The Society relies on the help and interest shown by **Lina Favrin** of the Fitzroy Library. Lina fields all incoming emails and passes along all requests for assistance in historic research from the wider community. We thank Lina each year for this valuable input and this year is certainly no exception.

Finally, all organisations need renewal to remain vibrant, and we welcome anyone who has an interest in becoming a member of the committee.

Peter Woods Convenor/President

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