

The Fitzroy History Society Inc. Newsletter

October 2002

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held at Dodgshun House, 7 Brunswick St, with 35 attending, including two of our local councillors Greg Barber and Jackie Fristacky.

Our guest speaker, historian and writer Tony Birch, spoke on his PhD research on landlord and tenant relationships of 50-100 years ago in the Fitzroy area. This was followed by some stimulating discussion, including contributions from a former Minister of Housing and from a displaced tenant of decades ago.

The committee elected for 2002-03 is

Convener	Annabel Barbara
Treasurer	Harold Mackrell
Secretary	Mike Moore
Peter Coyle	Shelley Young-Coyle
Chris Friday	Heather McRae
Tom O'Brien	Keith Ross
John Senyard	Jane Senyard

Jill Robertson retired after several years on the committee and as editor of this regular newsletter. We thank her for her significant contribution over that period.

21 Years of the FHS

It's 21 years since the formation of the Fitzroy History Society in the early 1980s. We have had a steady membership of 90 to 100 over those decades.

Our major achievements have been

- several publications including the classic local history titled *Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb, the Fitzroy Public Library 1877-1997*, and the *Bibliography on Fitzroy history sources*;
- creation of the Fitzroy Photographic Collection held at the local library;
- a program of regular walks and talks to publicise the history of our city;
- action as needed to preserve the heritage of our area.

FHS Members Honoured

Congratulations go to our members Harold Mackrell OAM and Miles Lewis AM who received recent honours in the Order of Australia.

New York Historical Society

Meg Lee, one of our former convenors, has now been in New York for a year at AUSSIE (Australian United States Services in Education). She has recently sent us a postcard, with best wishes, and a brochure on the New York Historical Society.

That society was founded in 1804, has its own four storey building on Central Park West, and its museum and library collection includes 6 million objects.

See www.nyhistory.org

Can You Help

Letters requesting historical information come regularly from nearby, interstate and overseas. Do you know anything of, or can you undertake local research on:

- O'Neill family at 70/72 Falconer St (1880-1960)
- Roach & Broadfoot coachbuilders at Fergie St
- Davies family at 121 Brunswick St (1861-1916)
- Morath family
- Dyall family at 292 Smith St grocer shop

Boston Villa & William Candy

Boston Villa at 119 George Street, Fitzroy has recently been auctioned, and this enabled many of us to see inside this interesting house. Records indicate that it was built in the mid 1860s by William Candy. He had earlier lived at Gertrude Street, near the north west corner of Young Street, where he was a statuary and marble mason. Then for 20 years he was a herbalist with his business in Bourke Street and residence at Boston Villa. He died there in 1897, and for his last ten years there his occupation was a 'dripstone filter maker.'

We are seeking more information on Boston Villa and William Candy. Can you help?

Canvas Documentaries

In Fitzroy: Melbourne's First Suburb, we have read of The Fitzroy Cyclorama in Victoria Parade from 1889 to 1927. Now Mimi Colligan has authored *Canvas Documentaries, Panoramic Entertainments in Nineteenth-century Australia and New Zealand*, just published by Melbourne University Press. Congratulations to Mimi, a member of our Fitzroy History Society.

City of Yarra Heritage Review

The City of Yarra is currently undertaking a Heritage Review which when accepted will be incorporated into the Yarra Planning Scheme as a series of Heritage Overlays. The development guidelines for sites subject to a Heritage Overlay will include Precinct Maps, Local Area Policies, and Statements of Significance. Across the City of Yarra there will be 31 such Heritage Overlay Precincts, one of which covers almost all of South Fitzroy, and another covers almost all of North Fitzroy. Elsewhere across Collingwood and Richmond, the Heritage Overlay Precincts are small and localised.

The Fitzroy History Society provided comments a few months ago on an early draft of the Heritage Review, our comments being principally on matters of historical accuracy, and the factual accuracy of their maps.

After consideration by Council during October, the Heritage Overlay material will be placed on exhibition for public comment. Watch for Council's invitation for public comment, probably in November. Express your views and help to protect the special heritage that is Fitzroy.

For further information, or to see the draft material already available, contact the secretary as below.

Annual Dinner 6 December 2002

This year's annual dinner will be opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our 21 years.

Put the date in your diary, contact members from the last two decades to join us, and phone now to indicate that you will be coming.

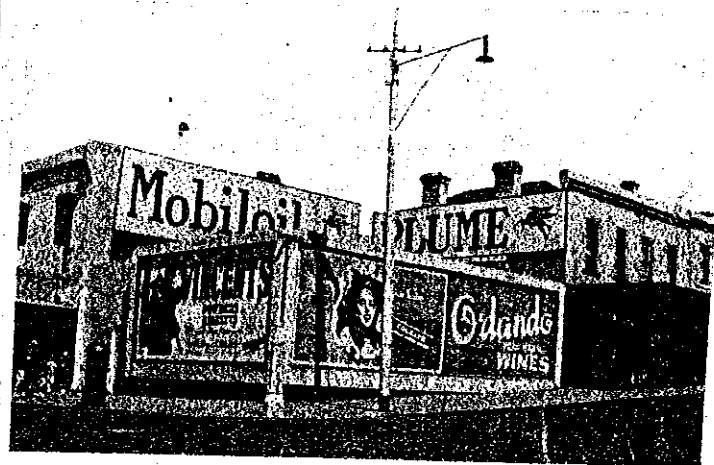
We have booked at the Old Colonial Inn, 127 Brunswick Street. This historic hotel dates from at least 1854

Committee Contacts

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For Better or For Worse? Fitzroy Fifty Years On – A Walk Based on the 1948 Report, “Reclamation of an Industrial Suburb.”



Fifty years ago the Fitzroy Council commissioned a study into the building stock in the city. This study, popularly known as “The 1948 Rating Survey”, concluded:

“In recent years Fitzroy has achieved an unenviable reputation as a blighted slum city.”

The authors supported their case by publishing eighty photos of much of the worst (and some of “the best”) of old Fitzroy.

These pictures are a unique visual record of Fitzroy fifty years ago.

Many of the buildings in the survey no longer exist. Some have been changed beyond recognition.

This walk will look at over forty of the buildings photographed in 1948, starting at the Town Hall and ending in Brunswick St.

We will compare photos from 1948 with what is there today.

What was Fitzroy like fifty years ago? What has changed? Have the changes in Fitzroy been for better or for worse?

Date: Sunday October 27th.

Time: 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon.

Meet on the steps of the Fitzroy Town Hall (Napier St.)

This walk has been devised by members of The Fitzroy History Society – John Senyard, Tom O’Brien and Michael Moore.

Walkers will receive a handout containing photos of and information about the sites to be visited.

Cost \$5 for non-members, \$3 for members.