

The Fitzroy History Society Inc. Newsletter

August 1999

Tour of St Mark's

The story of the restoration of the 1853 Anglican church in George Street, Fitzroy—from a building severely showing the years of inattention to its present day glory—was delightfully told in an address to the Society in June. For nine painstaking years, and much fundraising, the physical task was tackled by a group of architects, builders and craftspeople.

Floors were taken out, walls stripped, pews re-waxed, building rewired, drainage repaired and the leaking roof fixed.

But it was the people of the congregation and also the wider community who provided the inspiration, determination, and financial assistance that made the restoration a reality.

Father Tony Noble paid tribute to these people as well as describing fascinating details about the church. We learnt that the beautiful windows date from about the 1930s. A very recent one is that of St Francis of Assisi, which depicts Australian animals. For example, lorikeets, found in the gardens of St Mark's sit on his shoulder. The carved rood screen was designed as a World War II memorial. The gallery, not used for at least 50 years is again accessible.

Soon, a Harrison organ acquired from St Luke's in Oxford, England, will be installed.

We again thank Father Noble for the opportunity to learn about this wonderful building which is such a part of Fitzroy's

Seeking help

Mrs Barbara Lewis is researching Mr Cyril Cecil Lewis who lived at 193 Holden Street, North Fitzroy with his wife Jessie. Barbara tells us that Cyril:

- was a councillor, Justice of the Peace and Mayor of Fitzroy (1913)
- was a member of the Fitzroy, Northcote and Preston Tramway Trust
- has his name on a plaque on the bridge over Merri Creek in St Georges Road.

If you have any information please call the Editor on 9419 8868.

Mystery of Fitzroy's chimney stack

Fitzroy resident Matt Chamberlain is researching the history of property in the block bounded by Nicholson, Moor, John and Bell streets. Of particular interest is the brick chimney stack looming over the surrounding block of flats?

For a university assignment in historical archaeology, Matt would like to know what the chimney was used for.

If anyone can help, please call Matt on 9417 3836 (ah) or write c/- 5 Garfield Street, Fitzroy.

Snapshot of Fitzroy 1894

From the Victorian Municipal Directory (1894, Arnall & Jackson, Melbourne)

There are three local papers, seven churches, branches of banks, gasworks, boot, coach, furniture, brush, spice and clothing manufacturers. There are over 6,400 dwellings including many terraces and palatial residences. Religious institutions, including a convent, are numerous.

The Town Hall, a commanding and ornamental building, includes a free library containing over 4,000 volumes, a school of arts, lecture hall and complete suite of offices, together with a courthouse and quarters for police, which can be fairly said to be second to none in the colony as municipal buildings. Waggonettes run to Melbourne, fare: 3 pence.

Don't forget the Oral History Conference

When: 2-5 September, 1999

Where: State Library

Contact: Aghi Maisano at PO Box 16 Ascot Vale or tel. 9372 7182 for brochure and registration form

Program: Alistair Thomson will speak on learning from oral history around the world; workshops on transcribing and accessing your life stories; a wide range of speakers sharing the triumphs and challenges of working with oral history. Be there!

Calling all Glowave workers

The Society is interested in hearing from anyone who worked at the Glowave factory. Perhaps you're one of the workers in the photo?

Come to the meeting on Wednesday 18 August at the Community Centre, Edinburgh Gardens in North Fitzroy and share your memories (and see the original photo). Everyone welcome.

Local photo competition—what Fitzroy means to you

The Provincial Hotel, well-known for its photographic competitions, is searching for suitable subjects for its 2000 calendar. The competition calls for black and white photos of 'what Fitzroy means to you'.

My mind immediately goes into overdrive as I conjure up images of cobbled lanes, colourful signs, cast iron filagree decoration on balconies, 1950 Customliners cruising Brunswick Street, tubs of every-hued flowers outside Vasette, buskers, dogs waiting patiently for their owners to finish dining, factories, outdoor cafes, the No. 11 tram, old hotels, people. History and history in the making. Now if only I could take a good photo!

Get involved—have fun:

Join our committee

Join our committee and enjoy the camaraderie of people interested in the history of Fitzroy. Have a hand in preparing the programme of activities for 2000. Share your ideas for things to do, places to go and people to meet. Help shape the future direction of the Society.

Committee membership involves attending a meeting every two months, contributing to the newsletter and helping with publicising events.

If you're interested, contact John Senyard on 9417 2839 and come along to the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 18 August.

Executive Committee—1998-1999

Convenor: John Senyard
Treasurer: Harold Mackrell
Secretary: Annabel Barbara
Publicity: Margaret Lee
Editor: Jill Robertson (9419 8868)

The History of the Gloweave Factory

plus

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18 August 1999

The Fitzroy Historical Society perpetuates the legacy of industrial Fitzroy through a presentation and discussion on the Gloweave factory, led by the Chairman of Gloweave, Mr Saul Same.

Fitzroy was once a thriving industrial suburb, home to industries as diverse as bootmaking, timber, furniture, engineering, wireworks, confectionery, brushware and margarine. These factories helped shape the economic, social, political and architectural landscape of this inner-city suburb.

Gloweave, a clothing manufacturer and part of this environment, still exists, (recently moved from its well-known Brunswick Street location to Smith Street) and is still very much a part of the neighbourhood. The Gloweave factory has a rich history of industrial initiative, good practice and community engagement in Fitzroy.

Come and hear Saul talk about the factory, its workers and its place within the Fitzroy community.



Factory workers on the job at Gloweave, Fitzroy (Photo courtesy Gloweave)

7.30 pm sharp: Annual General Meeting and election of officers

8.00 pm: History of Gloweave

Community Centre, Edinburgh Gardens, North Fitzroy

(Next to the grandstand. Note change of venue from that advertised in the Society's program of events brochure distributed in February.)

Members \$2 ————— Non-members \$3