

The Fitzroy History Society Inc. Newsletter

August 2002

Social Justice Walk

On Sunday 30 June the Fitzroy History Society held its second in a series of social justice walks. The Social Justice Walk of North Fitzroy was organised by Annabel Barbara, Convenor of the FHS, Brian Stagoll and Barry Pullen – residents and activists in the area who were involved in many of the social justice issues discussed on the walk.

The issues discussed were:

- Brookes Crescent and the fight with the Housing Commission
- the Isobel Henderson Kindergarten re-location
- the Freeway struggle
- the campaign that saved the Fitzroy Pool.

Resident activists involved in the struggles during the 70, 80 and early 90s spoke at each critical 'struggle location' about the issues involved.

Each speaker contributed their valuable knowledge and personal stories about the complex issues and residents actions to save important aspects of the local community. Many of these struggles shaped public policy in positive ways, having far reaching impacts that still continue to shape government decision making.

The walk ended at the Fitzroy Pool where donated Jasper coffee was enjoyed by residents.

A special thank you to Brian and Barry for organising much of the event, gathering inspiring residents to retell their experiences for the purpose of exposing the origins of social justice struggles – struggles that continue to be fought and won by residents because of the amazing efforts and skills of those who have struggled before.

Alice Lovell Clarke kindergarten

Does anyone have any knowledge, stories or photographs of this kindergarten which operated from 1918 in Leicester Street?

Please let us know.

Thank you

It's wonderful to receive letters of thanks. We really appreciate it. This month we reprint a letter we received about the Social Justice Walk.

'Thank you for organising such a great even last Sunday. It was informing and moving to hear of those past battles. I was involved in the freeway fight and the kindergarten move, but never knew all the details of the Brookes Crescent and pool campaign.

It was terrific to relive those times and to be in the company of the fine men and women who devoted their time and energy over many years to causes that have made a difference to the lives of all of us who live in the inner suburbs.

I was also pleased that there was an acknowledgement of the contribution made by the people who are no longer with us. Their spirit lives on!

Keep up the good work.'

Old post boxes

Have your say

Have you noticed those old red post boxes scattered around Fitzroy where you can't actually post a letter?

There are approximately 180 of these boxes scattered around Victoria. Australia Post is currently reviewing its policy on which ones are to be retained and which ones are to go.

They have invited the Society to have a say about those in the Fitzroy/North Fitzroy area.

The ones we know about are along Victoria Parade and Brunswick, Moor, Gertrude, Leicester and Freeman streets and on the corner of Nicholson and Moor streets, and in St Georges Road near Holden Street.

Do you know of any others? Do you have a view on their retention or removal? Perhaps someone may like to photograph them.

Please let us know by:

- writing to the Society at PO Box 180 Fitzroy 3065
- email m.moore@bigpond.com or annabel@bigpond.net.au

Join the committee

Committee positions are now vacant and we are calling for people to nominate.

Enthusiasm is always high at our meetings and it's fun to share new ideas and plan activities with other interested people.

Contact Annabel on 9419 6186 to find out more or you can fill in a nomination form at the AGM. (You don't have to have someone nominate you, you can nominate yourself!)

We would love to hear from you. Even if you're not sure how you can contribute, please put your name forward or speak to a past committee member.

An invitation

You are invited to attend our planning day on Sunday 22 September. Please let Annabel know if you are interested (9419 6186). We need ideas about walks, talks, publicity, publications, developing our website and more!

Subscriptions

Our records show that some people have not renewed their subscription this year. Your subscription pays for the preparation and postage of the newsletter, so please go through your files and make sure you are a current member. Otherwise, this newsletter may be your last.

On the wrong side of the law in 1874

From the *Argus*, 27 August 1874

At the Fitzroy Court on Thursday:

- Kate Richardson, for allowing disorderly persons to assemble in her house in Gertrude Street, was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for three months.
- Chin Wing of Smith Street, Ah Yick of Brunswick Street, and Kong Him of Smith Street were charged with the unlawful sale of lottery tickets. The Bench fined each of the defendants £20.
- The transfer of the licence of the Rose Hotel from the present tenant Robinson to Miss Williams was refused. [The report did not say why.]

Executive Committee —1998-1999

Convenor: Annabel Barbara
Treasurer: Harold Mackrell
Secretary: Keith Ross
Editor: Jill Robertson (9419 8868)

Famous and infamous Fitzroy landlords

Tony Birch is a historian and writer who is currently completing a Ph.d thesis on Fitzroy. In this talk he will discuss the complex economic and social relationship that existed in postwar Fitzroy, resulting from the black market and cash economy of rental accommodation when space in Fitzroy was both at a premium and difficult to come by.



(an angry landlord, not Tony Birch)

* Note the meeting also includes the Annual General Meeting.

When: Thursday 15 August 2002

Where: Dodgshun House, 7 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

Time: AGM: 7.30 pm (sharp!) - 8.00 pm
Meeting: 8.00 pm - 9.30 pm

Entry: Members \$2 Non-members \$3