

# ANNUAL DINNER

The Fitzroy History Society Inc. invites you to its annual dinner at  
The Standard Hotel, 293 Fitzroy Street (between Moor and Bell Streets), Fitzroy on  
Friday 4 December, 1998 at 7.30 pm.

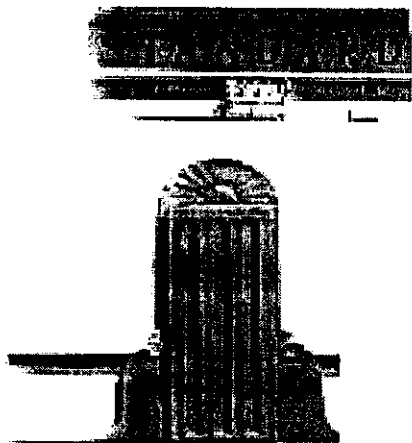
## Particulars

- 2 courses \$23 per person  
3 courses \$27.50 per person
- For reservations and enquiries please call  
John Senyard on 9417 2839.
- To assist with catering, reservations should be  
made no later than Sunday 29 November.

Come and enjoy the company of fellow Society members at our annual Christmas get-together. Renew friendships and meet new members.

Savor the scrumptious food. Perhaps an entrée of smoked trout & pickled pear terrine, soup of the day or homemade pumpkin & pistachio nut gnocchi. You might like to follow this with a main course of kangaroo fillet, rack of spring lamb, fish of the day or grilled chicken and couscous. Of course there'll be blackboard specials on the night.

Room left over for dessert? Check out the blackboard for dessert or select the cheeses and fruit. Complimentary tea and coffee a bonus!



The Standard Hotel was built in 1868 with additions and alterations over the years, including a new façade in the 1920s.

(As you arrive, take a look at the building next door. It's an example of one of the first factory conversions in Fitzroy. The huge red brick building now divided into two stylish apartments with a large central courtyard was originally a shoe factory.)

# Fitzroy History Society Inc. Newsletter

## December 1998

### October's activity

Was it a demonstration, a rally or a protest? Nothing of the sort, though local residents must indeed have been wondering as 100 people took to Fitzroy's streets on Sunday 11 October under the guidance of Margot Huxley from RMIT to learn more about Fitzroy's history of urban development.

We saw one of the first flats in Fitzroy, the 1930s heritage-listed *Cairo* in King William Street, looking dark and mysterious behind tall trees. We then contrasted rows of workers terraces from the 19th century with examples of units from the first wave of gentrification in the 1960s and 1970s.

Then it was on to the former MacRobertson's confectionary factory in Kerr and Argyle Streets. Many of the buildings have now been converted to apartments. Our group was lucky to be invited to inspect one conversion and we thank Mr and Mrs Hunter for their generous offer.

A quirky touch by the architects in this complex is the planting in the common space of coconut palms and cherry trees (commemorating MacRobertson's famous cherry ripe chocolates), and the patterning of the courtyard bricks in the MacRobertson tartan (a tribute to the building's origins).

### Can you help?

We've recently received the following requests:

- Does anyone know about William Kennedy, born 26 November, 1863 at 328 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy?
- Information and photographs are wanted of Ezekiel and Frances Sawers who were married on 20 April, 1881 at the registry office in Gore Street, Fitzroy.

Please call the editor on 9419 8868 if you have any snippets of information, photographs or can help in any way with these two requests.

### We are not amused...

So reads the plaque on the solid grey pedestal in the middle of a garden bed in the Edinburgh Gardens. As reported in the October newsletter, plaques have been fixed to a number of sites in the garden. This one tells us that a statue of Queen Victoria, presented to the people of Fitzroy in 1901 by George Godfrey MLC, once adorned the pedestal. Some stories say it fell and was damaged, others say it mysteriously disappeared. Whichever is correct, the statue is no longer with us. The plaque includes a 1907 photograph of the statue. The original photo is in the Mead Album in the La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria.

### What's in a name?

Street names fascinate me. While most names stay the same, some are changed by events or circumstances. For example, some names are changed to commemorate worthy local citizens. The following origins are taken from Suzanne Dance's appendix in the book *Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb*.

*Brunswick Street:* Named after Captain Brunswick Smythe who owned one of the first subdivisions.  
*Gertrude Street:* Named after the Captain's daughter  
*Smith Street:* Named for J. T. Smith, a hotelier, theatre-owner, Mayor of Melbourne and a Fitzroy alderman. (Previously called Eastern Road)  
*Scotchmer Street:* Named for W. Scotchmer, a real estate agent and a Fitzroy councillor 1867-1870  
*Westgarth Street:* Named for William Westgarth, a member for Melbourne in the first Legislative Council. (Previously called New Street)  
*Alfred Crescent:* Named after Queen Victoria's son, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh

### Catholic celebrations

This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fitzroy's All Saints Catholic Church. Sixty years ago, the church purchased the former Methodist Sunday School in King William Street and founded a chapel of ease. In 1959 it became All Saints parish church.

### Plans for '99

The Committee is planning a very exciting year of talks, walks and displays. A brochure outlining next year's program will be sent to you with your next newsletter in early February. We are always looking for ideas so if you have any suggestions for activities please call the editor.

Also call if you have any comments, ideas, articles or information you would like to include in our bi-monthly newsletter.

### Society membership

The Society is made up of people who are interested in the history of Fitzroy. We organise activities such as walks, tours, visits and lectures and are active in preserving the historical aspects of Fitzroy. Everyone is welcome. You don't have to live in the area to become a member. Subscriptions are \$5 per annum. Send to the address overleaf.

### Self-guided heritage walk

Next time you're out on a Sunday walk check these sites in North Fitzroy. All have been placed on the City of Yarra's list of heritage places with special local provision under the Yarra Planning Scheme.

- Former Fitzroy Gas Works valve house and store, corner George & Alexander Parade
- State School, corner Fergie & Alfred Crescent
- Railway sub-station 863 Brunswick Street
- Fitzroy Cricket Club complex (grandstand, timber gatehouse, entrance gateway, brick gatehouse) corner Freeman & Brunswick Streets
- Haselmere, 96 McKean Street
- Uniting Church, corner Church & Nicholson Streets
- Old Colonists Home, Rushall Crescent
- York House, 131 St Georges Road
- Post office, 251 St Georges Road

### Executive Committee - 1998-1999

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