

The Fitzroy History Society Inc. Newsletter

November 2000

October activity

Photographing Fitzroy

Our October activity was an armchair photographic tour of Fitzroy led by photographer Steve Robertson. He first raised our interest and curiosity by asking us to identify five mystery shots of places and sites around Fitzroy; later there were prizes for the keen-eyed winners.

Drawing on his experience as a professional photographer and travel writer, Steve explained to us the value of photographing locally as good experience for later (perhaps overseas) photo opportunities. We learnt of SLR and point-and-shoot cameras, film types, photocomposition, angles and lighting. Why are we taking this picture - as a photographic record, for the mood and emotion, or for the dramatic and artistic impact?

Then he showed the practical results in a series of slides taken recently all around our suburb - Royal Terrace with floral foreground, Edinburgh Gardens and the football grandstand, Brunswick Street public art, old terraces and decorative details, the old and the new juxtaposed, the varying surface textures. There were many dramatic examples of the good lighting for photographs available in the hours after dawn and before dusk. Questions followed on details of lighting and film types.

Finally, to the accompaniment of mood music, we had a slide presentation on Impressions of Fitzroy, during which we admired all, and recognised most, of the 80 odd shots. They featured the details and angles of churches and terraces, the colours and tracery of trees and flowers, and the contrasting impacts of various lighting circumstances. We saw empty lanes interspersed with crowded street life. With 25 locals in the audience, there was a succession of 'sighs of recognition' as first we admired the photo and then recognised its identity near where we live. Collectively we felt proud that, with the perceptive photographs of a professional, we live in a suburb of picture postcard quality.

And the competition prize winners? June Senyard and the runners-up shared Cherry Ripes and Freddo Frogs, first made locally here in 1924 and 1930 respectively.

Michael Moore

Sandalwood factory

Have you ever wondered about the origins of the cream brick Spanish-looking building on the corner of Nicholson and Victoria streets, Fitzroy (next to the Tankerville Arms hotel)? It intrigues me, not only because I'm a relative newcomer to Melbourne, but because it looks to me as if it is almost newly built. I fossicked around the Fitzroy Library's Local History collection and found what I was looking for. A few years ago Matthew Churchward led a walk around the factory and industrial sites of Fitzroy and subsequently documented them in a small book. Here is what he wrote:

'218 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy is an unusual building with very distinctive architecture. It is unique among Melbourne industrial sites. It could be described as Moorish or Spanish Mission and is more common in residential architecture. It was built in 1933 for the FitzPatrick Brothers, designed to function as both a butter factory and retail dairy outlet. It operated initially under the name Avon Butter Factory. The firm of Fitzpatrick Bros first originated in 1919, previously operating from 20 Pitt Street Carlton.

There was an open yard between the factory and the Tankerville Arms which may have been used for the horses which made the milk deliveries. In 1939 the site was taken over by Metropolitan Dairies Ltd., renamed the Pura Butter Factory. It continued to operate the factory until 1961 when it was sold to W. H. Blakely & Co. Pty Ltd. This firm had a long history, having operated as a saw maker and importers since 1867. They left the site in 1990.'

Atlas of the Aborigines

Monash University has recently published an atlas which maps the known groups of Aboriginal people of south eastern Australia. Based on historical records such as blanket distribution records, surveyors reports and government documents, the atlas also includes biographies of community leaders, census data, and territory descriptions, as well as maps of gatherings and place names. Available from the Publications Secretary, Monash University PO Box 11A, VIC 3800 at a cost of \$27.50 plus \$5 postage and handling. Fax 03 9905 2948 or email: gary.swinton@arts.monash.edu.au

Thanks and Welcome

'Thank you' to everyone who has recently renewed their membership or joined as new members.

Last newsletter for 2000

What a year this has been. Our numerous activities have been very well supported and we have welcomed quite a number of new members.

Thanks to all the people who have suggested possible activities for next year. The committee is now in the throes of sorting through the suggestions and planning the program. The brochure of events will be posted to you with the first newsletter for 2001 in late January.

To celebrate our achievements join us at the Himalaya Dhaba restaurant for our Christmas get-together. It's also a good opportunity to 'talk history' and suggest ways to improve our Society. (See overleaf for details.)

The Newmans of Fitzroy

In last month's newsletter we published an advertisement for Arthur Bowman's jewellery shop in Brunswick Street. This prompted Society member Barbara Stroud of Wagga Wagga to write to us to explain how Bowman fitted into her family tree.

Bowman had married Elizabeth Peacock, one of Samuel and Susan Peacock's nine children. The Peacock family migrated to Melbourne, all settling in Fitzroy. Bowman's sister-in-law Ann and her husband Charles Taylor Newman (1821-1913) arrived in 1853 and established a bakery and confectionery business at 159 Brunswick Street. This shop is still standing although it changed number several times and is now 187.

C. T. NEWMAN,
PASTRY COOK
AND
CONFECTIONER,
Muffin and Biscuit Baker,
159 BRUNSWICK ST., COLLINGWOOD.
Cakes, Tea, Buns, Mince Pies, Trifle, etc. etc.,
in great variety.
BRIDES' CAKES ALWAYS ON HAND.
PIC-NICS & SOIREES SUPPLIED.
Country Orders Promptly Attended To.

From the Temperance League Almanac 1861

Executive Committee—2000-2001

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

End-of-the-year Celebration

Join us at the **Himalayan Dhaba Indian Restaurant**, 85 Johnston Street, Collingwood

To book

- For reservations and enquiries please call John Senyard on 9417 2839.
- To assist with catering, reservations should be made no later than Monday 4 December.

When: Friday 8 December 2000

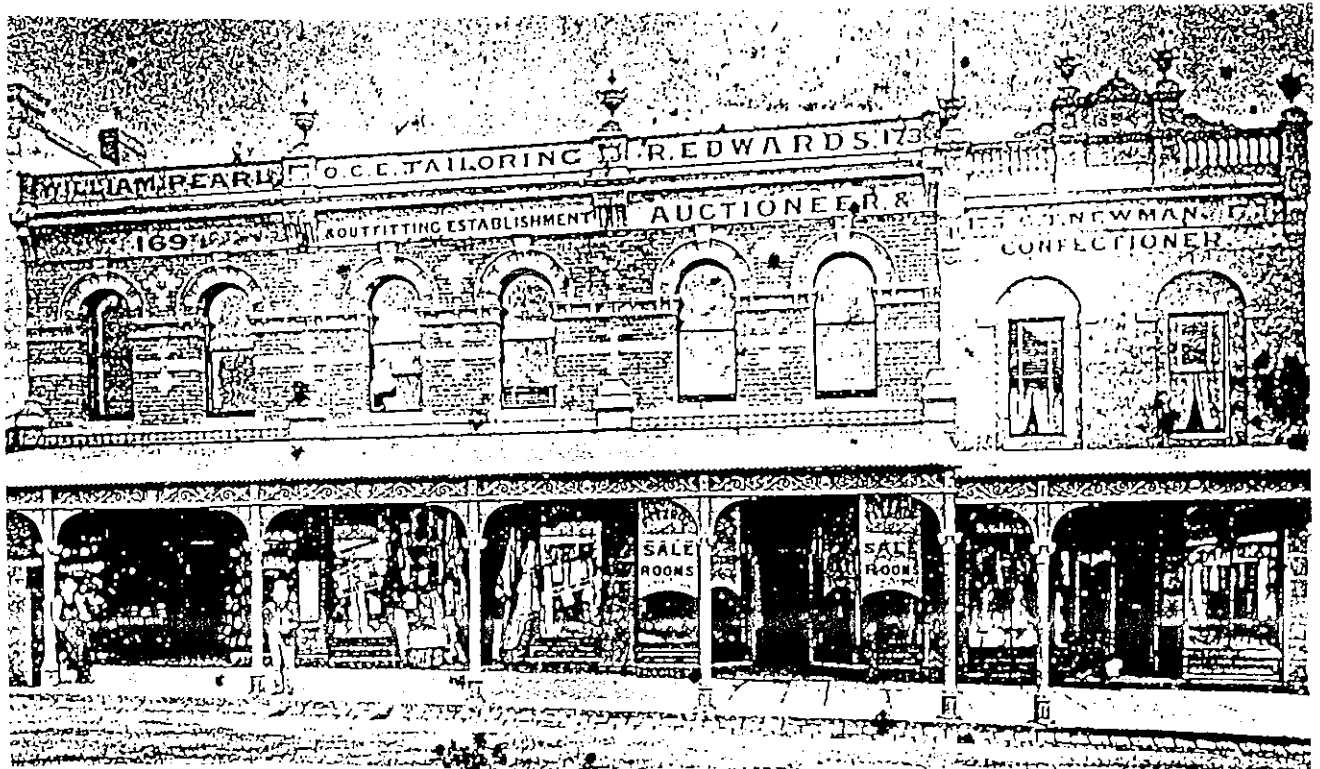
Time: 7.00 pm drinks
7.30 pm eat!!!

Food: Northern Indian
Try the tempting tastes of samosas, beef vindaloo, palat lamb, makhani chicken, fish, Tandoori chicken, rice, breads, raitas, salads and much more.

Cost: Mains around \$10-\$15
Set menus for \$18.50 and \$22.50

Drink: The restaurant is licensed but you can also bring your own drinks.

Thank you to Barbara Stroud for supplying this photograph and the advertisement overleaf.



Charles Taylor Newman's shop in Brunswick Street c. 1881, at this time number 175.
Newman also owned 169-173.