

# Fitzroy History Society Newsletter

January 2012

## Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Nth Fitzroy Walk

**Sunday 26 February  
11.00 am**

Meet at Edwards Place, the park at the intersection of Scotchmer, Michael & Falconer Streets.

Gold coin donation

Tim Gatehouse will lead a walk around the surrounding streets taking in some of the major architectural and historic highlights of this area. The walk is a part of a published North Fitzroy Historic Walks Maps commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of North Fitzroy into the municipality of Fitzroy.

**Publication was sponsored by the City of Yarra.**

## Exhibition at Fitzroy Branch of City of Yarra Library

Remember the article in Melbourne Times last year featuring long time residents of May Street, North Fitzroy?

Carmel Davies's coordinated stories and photographs of each resident in May Street, North Fitzroy and these will be on display in the Fitzroy Library from the 2nd- 29th February.

Every resident was photographed and asked to write down their stories. Photographs may be viewed at the Fitzroy Branch.

## Art Deco & inter-war Fitzroy Walk

**Sunday 25 March 2012  
11.00 am**

Meet on the corner of Nicholson & Victoria Streets outside the Tankerville Arms.

Join us on a heritage walk developed by the City of Yarra, in which we will look at some of the most significant Art Deco buildings in Fitzroy dating from the 1920s and 1930s.

Gold coin donation



The D. and W. Chandler Ltd. Despatch Office, later Bulk store at 107-109 Victoria Street Fitzroy, constructed in 1925 and 1935.

## Save the Date Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> Brunswick Street: Lost and Found

In association with the National Trust

**2pm-4pm** Walk with Miles Lewis, Architectural historian; Professor in the Faculty of Architecture, Building & Planning at the University of Melbourne and founding member of the Fitzroy History Society will lead us throughout the southern section of Brunswick Street.

Meet at St Vincent's Plaza Tram stop

**5pm- 7pm** Presentation of recent research by members on the foundation, personalities and development of the south end of Brunswick Street.

Venue for the talk is the National Trust registered former 1888 Kendall's Veterinary Hospital

**Gold coin donation for each event**

## AGM Report Lyndon Arnold's talk, "Three treks through Fitzroy."

Lyndon's presentation covered the arrival, life and interactions of the HEFFERNAN, BENNETTS and DELBRIDGE families, dating from 1839 in Fitzroy.. He is a direct descendent of these families. His fascinating talk was graphically supported with portraits of family members, pictorial records of life and residences in Fitzroy and diagrams of family associations and interconnectedness. It was the first time that the Society had used the facilities of St Vincent's Public Hospital Board Room to meet and we appreciated the state of the art technologies available.

Lyndon subtitled his talk 'Three treks *through* Fitzroy' as each of the families began their family life and businesses in Fitzroy progressively they moved away to other parts of Melbourne. We look forward to the full publication of Lyndon's research into these three family groups in the near future.

A highlight of the night was a presentation made by Dr Ted Heffernan's presentation of the silver trowel and tulipwood mallet to the City of Yarra's local history collection. Cr Jackie Fristacky was at the meeting to witness the presentation. Dr Heffernan had traveled from Geelong to be at the meeting to make the presentation.

The significance of these artifacts is the connection to the laying of the foundation stone of the Fitzroy Town Hall. In 1873, Edward Delbridge was mayor. The Delbridge and Heffernan families were related by marriage. The memorial stone, a bluestone block, weighing over three and a half tons came from the Footscray quarries and was mortared in place with the silver trowel. The tulipwood mallet was used to tap the stone three times, before declaring it well and truly laid'. Argus 9 July 1873

The photograph below was taken of our Local History Librarian's display in the Fitzroy Library.



The following is a list of buildings erected by Delbridge in the period 1850-70. (Extract from the Burchett Index of building applications lodged over that period).

Edward Delbridge built or rebuilt eight houses for himself along Moor St in 1855 (1), 1857 (2), 1859 (1), 1861 (2), 1869 (2). He is listed as living at 25 Moor, earlier numbered as 138 Moor, from 1858 to 1865: Nos 21, 23, 25, 27 appear now as a matching terrace, and he probably owned all these.

He also built three houses for himself in Kerr St, near Brunswick St, in 1859 (1) and 1865 (2); These were probably Mythian Terrace, now No's 101-103-105. He is listed as living in Kerr St in 1866.

In 1858, he built the Wesleyan Church, now still standing at 408 Fitzroy St. In 1860, he also built the new Wesleyan Church in Brunswick St, now demolished. In 1864, he built a vestry near the Fitzroy St church.

He built for the Bennetts family - two houses for Mrs A Bennetts in King William, near Fitzroy St, in 1859; two houses in Moor St for W Bennetts in 1865; an additional storey to the corner building in 1865, at the corner of Moor & Brunswick.

**FHS has increased costs with printing and postage of the newsletter. By receiving it by email you reduce the likelihood of an increase in membership subscription – and help the environment.**

Please email  
fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au  
with your email address to receive  
the newsletter electronically.

## Tom Petsinis Talk Report

Thursday 8 September 2011

We were privileged to hear a talk by Tom Petsinis, one of Fitzroy's most famous contemporary sons, on his formative years in Fitzroy and the effect they had on his writing.

Tom is a well known poet, playwright and novelist. He is also a lecturer in mathematics at Victoria University. He was born in Macedonia and raised in Fitzroy and North Fitzroy. In his talk Tom contrasted his early childhood in a fenceless village in Macedonia with his later childhood in the long narrow houses in which he grew up in Chapel Street Fitzroy and McKean Street North Fitzroy.

Tom's literary output draws heavily on his memories of those places, playing football with his cousins and friends in the Edinburgh Gardens, the Easter ceremonies of the Greek Orthodox Church and his visits to the Fitzroy Library, then located in the Reading Room at the Town Hall.

The regimented books with gold lettering on the spines reminded him of what he had read of the disposition of the troops of Alexander the Great (of Macedon).

Tom's talk demonstrated how his combined heritages, Macedonian and inner suburban Melbourne, inspired his writing and highlighted the diverse experiences of so many migrant families in Melbourne, and the effect they had on the communities in which they settled.

Thanks Tom for such a fascinating insight into the inspirations of your work.

## Old Colonists' Village Walk Report

On Sunday 9 October Pat Miller and her fellow companions at Sumner Hall in the Old Colonists village hosted approximately 80 FHS members and visitors. We were treated to an interesting history of George Coppin and the Association before being lead by in walking groups by residents around the village. The homes are all part of Old Colonists Association of Victoria formed in 1869 and established through a State land grant. The Association included prominent Melbourne identities lead by George Selth Coppin, an actor, Member of Parliament and philanthropist to care for elderly people who were far from home. The first cottage was built in 1870 and progressively since. There are 134 individual cottages with heritage overlay.

The walk leaders introduced us the history of the site, its conceptual development and the architecture styles of houses within the village. We appreciated being amongst their wonderful gardens.

The generosity of the residents throughout the visit was very much appreciated and is acknowledged here. Importantly, we acknowledge the spirit of those residents who kindly opened their up their homes to many visitors – through rain, hail or shine.

Anne Marsden, author of the book 'The Marsden's of Melbourne -the rise and fall of a family's fortunes 1841- 1941' has kindly donated a copy to the Local History Collection at the Fitzroy Library. Anne will talk about her findings published in the book at a Fitzroy History Society function in July.

