



December 2018

www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au

President: Peter Woods

NEWSLETTER

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REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

We held our AGM in the Reading Room of the Fitzroy Town Hall on 15 August. There being no additional nominations from the floor, the following were declared elected as committee members for the coming year;

President/Convenor – Peter Woods

Secretary – Meg Lee

Treasurer – Brendan Mitchell

Membership secretary – Andy Lanskis

Newsletter editor – Graeme Pritchard

Social media – Peter Heading

General committee – Mike Moore

In the week following the AGM Terry Nott volunteered and was accepted as an additional committee member.

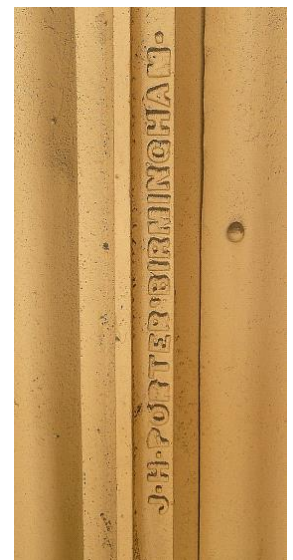
After the formalities, we had a presentation from the guest speaker Professor Miles Lewis who spoke on *The Portable Buildings of Fitzroy and the World*.

Miles has a long-established interest in portable buildings in early Melbourne. He presented photographs, plans and sketches of different types and manufacturers of portable buildings in Victoria, several of which remain and are in various states of repair and of modification.

One portable building raised in the presentation is the 1853 J. H. Porter Prefabricated Iron Store located in the Yarra Council depot in North Fitzroy (the Gasworks site). The depot is the subject of development proposals and intense debate within State Government, Local Government and local protest groups. The Porter building is one of the few remaining portable buildings in Melbourne, and the only known standing structure J. H Porter building in the world. Miles stressed that the development of the site must be carried out respecting the heritage importance of retaining the building unaltered. The meeting voted in support of retaining the building in its current location.



J. H. Porter building in the Yarra Council depot. It has been on this site since at least 1944.



J. H Porter brand on a stanchion

CRIME WALK

On Sunday 23 September there was a joint walk with Melbourne Historical Crime Tours led by Michael Shelford. About 40 attendees visited sites connected with early crimes or crime figures.

Michael Shelford and Meg Lee addressing participants in Fitzroy St, outside the hall of the Christian Israelites.



PAST EVENT

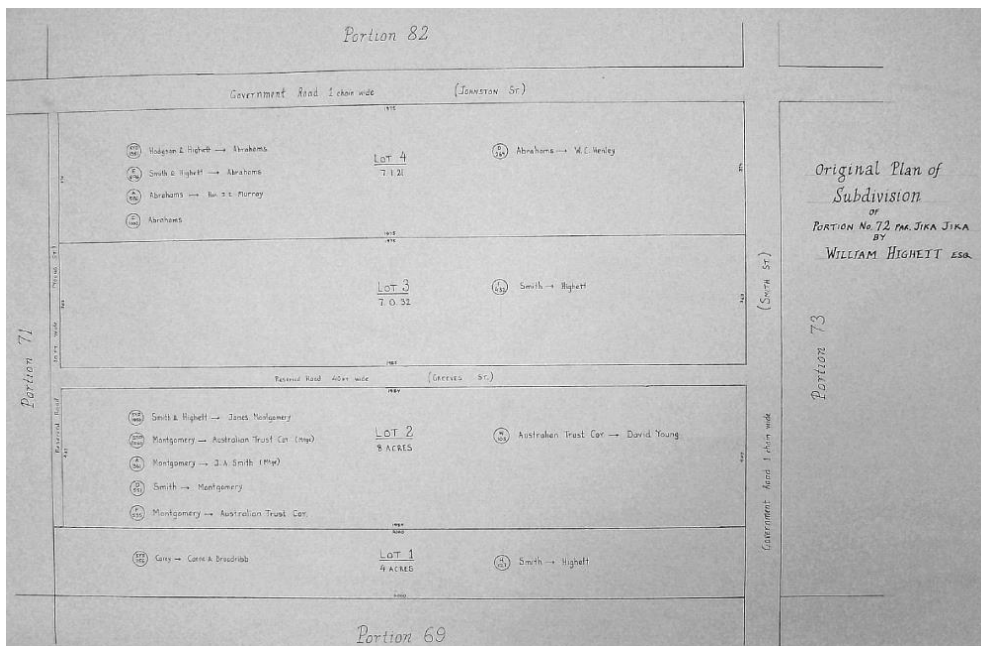
Ken Smith's talk on Gordon Sandeman's Lot 72 .

On 25 October 2018 Ken presented the early history of Lot 72, the area bounded by Young, Johnston, Smith and St David Streets. It was a welcome return from Ken, after his talk in 2016 on Lot 50 (bounded by Young, Webb, George Streets and Victoria Parade).

Gordon Sandeman, a Sydney speculator, initially purchased the 28 acres in 1839 and within a few years it was bisected by Greeves St (first named Hanover St until about 1853). The northern half was later owned by Wm Highett who soon advertised 90 blocks for sale, and Highett Place remains there still.

The southern half was owned from 1843 by early solicitor James Montgomery, and he had sold it to David Young by 1853. Montgomery's cottage was sited where 269 Gore St now stands. David Young, an early Melbourne City Councillor was responsible for the naming of Young Street and St David Street.

Ken had prepared plans indicating the original early narrow streets and housing sites. In the 1850s these were changed when Gore, George and Napier Streets were extended north of Webb St as the wide streets that we know today.



Ken Smith's recreation of the plan by William Highett of the subdivision of Lot 72 in the parish of Jika jika showing the early purchasers.

In Memorium

We have recently lost two long-time members and a friend of FHS:



Barry Leeder, died on the 12 August, aged 75. Barry lived and worked in Fitzroy and North Fitzroy all his life. He had a great knowledge of former businesses and buildings in Fitzroy from his earlier employment as a delivery driver. We extend our sympathy to his family of four daughters, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Marjorie Home died suddenly, on 9 October, while on tour in Sicily with husband Rod. Our condolences to Rod, their children Damien, Simon and Karina, and the six grandchildren.



Willys Keeble a heritage architect and North Fitzroy resident for many years, died after a prolonged battle with cancer on 27 August, aged 70. Willys is pictured leading a walk for FHS looking at Art Deco buildings in South Fitzroy in 2012.

SPORTSMENS WAR MEMORIAL, EDINBURGH GARDENS

On Sunday 9 September 2018, Yarra Council organised a ceremony at the memorial to recognise the recently completed restoration and enhancement work. The memorial was erected in 1919 in memory of members of the local sporting clubs (cricket, football, bowls, tennis and baseball) who died in the First World War. When erected, the memorial was a freestanding walk-through entrance to the gardens, but it is now hemmed in by an electricity sub-station and the rear wall of the bowling club

The memorial originally displayed 38 names on six brass plaques attached to the columns of the memorial, but all except two plaques have been lost. FHS members Mike O'Brien, Peter Woods, Mike Moore, Andy Lanskis and Gil Langfield undertook the task of identifying the 25 missing names. There was also a porcelain wreath attached to one column. This wreath now hangs in the Fitzroy Town Hall, but a replica made by the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation has been installed on a wall of the memorial, along with the 38 names. On the rear wall there has been added an enlarged photograph of the Australian Training Units team that played an exhibition match in London in 1916.



Mike O'Brien speaking at the Memorial ceremony.



In the photo (standing, fourth from right) is Jack Cooper the Fitzroy captain in 1912. He was also a regular player with the Fitzroy Footballers Cricket Club. He died in the Battle of Passchendaele less than a year after this photograph was taken.

REPLACEMENT OF THE M41 WATER MAIN



On Wednesday 12 September a number of members were given a guided inspection of the replacement work in Bennett Street North Fitzroy. The original pipe, which is almost 100 years old, is being replaced between the Merri Creek at Holden Street and Wellington Parade. The pipeline supplies water to about 350,000 residents and businesses in inner Melbourne.



The old pipe (left) and new pipe (right).

Become a Member

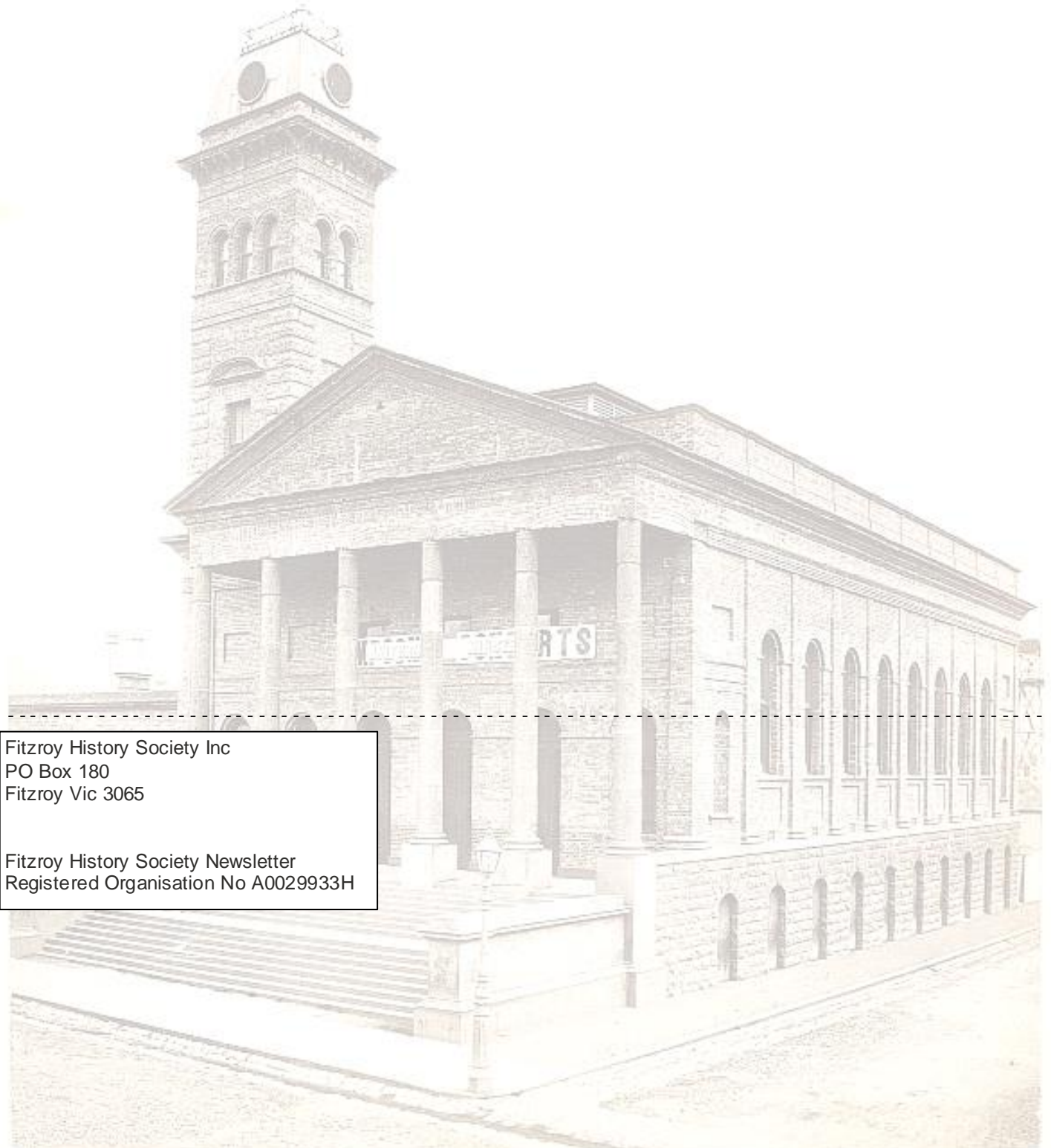
Membership costs just \$20 per person per year.

To make renewal easy, all memberships fall for renewal on 1 August each year (around the date of our AGM). If you would like to join or renew your membership, please complete the form found in this newsletter or on our website www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au and send it with the membership fee to PO Box 180, Fitzroy, 3065.

If you have any queries email us at fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au or write to us at PO Box 180, Fitzroy, 3065.

We look forward to having you as a member.

To help us keep our mailing costs down, please consider receiving your Newsletter by email.



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