



May 2018

[www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au)

President: Peter Woods

## NEWSLETTER

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Secretary: Meg Lee

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Monday 28 May from 2.00pm

Join us for a visit to two of Fitzroy's long-standing establishments: Harry Evans billiard table manufacturers and Maysar Gym, part of the aboriginal support services, both in Gertrude Street.

Meet at Harry Evans showroom at 206 Gertrude Street, near Gore Street at 2 pm.

Several good coffee shops nearby will also welcome us after the visits.



### PAST EVENT

On Sunday 11 March about 25 members and friends joined a walk led by Terry Nott entitled *Made in North Fitzroy*. It looked at previous manufacturing sites in the southern part of the suburb. Included were the sites that Terry detailed in his chapter in FHS's recently published book *Half-Drowned or Half-Baked: Essays in the early history of North Fitzroy*.

Among the sites viewed were:

- the Valve House on the N.E. corner of Alexandra Parade and George Street in the former Gas and Fuel property. This was the control point for the flow of gas from the site. On the northern side of the same property on Queens Parade was the Retort House.
- also on Queens Parade, within the Yarra Council Depot is the heritage listed J H Porter prefabricated iron building. It was relocated to the site, probably around the early 1940s.
- Shoemaker Lane and Bootmaker Lane off Grant Street, with former shoemaking factories on Grant Street and McKean Streets.
- the former Goods Yard and National Can factory near the intersection of Jamieson Street and Alfred Crescent.
- former factories and Foundry on Queens Parade between Jamieson and Grant Streets, and
- the former K.G Luke factory on Queens Parade between Brunswick Street and Napier Street

From the early 1890s to about 1914, the British company Pullan and Co. used the building as a foundry. They produced tannery and wool-scouring equipment, repaired steam engines and machinery, and worked with sheet metal. Subsequent occupants of the building included manufacturers of press knives for shoe making, garden secateurs, safety boot steel caps and the beautiful 'Bates' bicycles.

Part of the plaque on the apartment building at 144 Queens Parade.

Images taken on the *Made in North Fitzroy* walk



Terry Nott speaking at the corner of Jamieson Street and Alfred Crescent near the site of the former goods yard and National Can factory (left) and at a converted factory at 120-122 Queens Parade (right).

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### Godfrey Buildings, 266-274 and 263-275 Brunswick Street

The impressive building at 266-274 Brunswick Street (on the south east corner of Victoria Street) has the name "Godfrey 1" on the corner parapet. Almost opposite at 263 Brunswick Street is a 3-storey building with the name "Godfrey 2" on the parapet, part of a group of buildings, the others being 2-storied, that extended to no. 275 at Victoria Street.



Godfrey 1 on the east side of Brunswick Street.



Godfrey 2 on the west side of Brunswick Street.

As shown by the newspaper and Sands & McDougall extracts below and on the following page, the buildings on the east side of Brunswick Street were built in 1887, while those on the west side were erected some time between 1890 and 1895.

**T**WO Sand Carters.—Pure, white, coarse Sand required; large quantity. Apply Godfrey's buildings, Brunswick-street, Fitzroy.

The Age, Mon. 23 May 1887, p.8.

**P**LASTERER and Improver wanted. Godfrey's buildings, Brunswick-st., Fitzroy.

The Age, Tues. 23 Aug. 1887, p.7.

**NOMINAL RENT.**—Handsome **SHOP**, commodious dwelling, extensive Workshops, all contained in one immense new building, Brunswick-street, near junction Johnston-street, Fitzroy centre, to LET. Apply on the premises, Godfrey's-buildings, to Mr. Delbridge, clerk of works.

The Argus, Tues. 23 Aug. 1887, p.12.

## THE BULLI COLLIERY DISASTER.

### VICTORIAN RELIEF FUND.

The Mayor of Melbourne acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following additional donations in aid of this fund:—

President of the Shire of Wodonga, amount of local contributions .. .. .	£3	2	6
Workmen employed on Godfrey's buildings, Brunswick-street, Fitzroy .. .. .	2	10	0
Edmond Cleary .. .. .	1	0	0

The Argus, Mon. 27 June 1887, p.6.

Early occupants, of the Godfrey Buildings from the Sands & McDougall directories.

*Godfrey's buildings*  
 266 Rich, C., & Co., bookslrs  
 268 Jones, Ben., auctioneer  
 270 Hatch, Robt. P., impt  
 272 Hagan, Peter  
 274 Brown, Edward, & Co.,  
 furn warehouse  
*Victoria st*

1890 east side

*Mary st*  
 257 Marshall, Morris W.,  
 crockery store  
 259 Cassidy, P. J., bootmkr  
 261 Dawson & Elliott, iron  
 workers  
*Victoria st*  
*Johnston st*  
 297 .. .. .

1890 west side. Nos 263-275 not yet occupied

263 Bulley, Mrs A., fcy repy  
 265 Love, Fredk., tobinst  
 267 Webb, Wm. A., butcher  
 269 Allen, Alfred W., confc  
 271 Hearnden, F. W., tailor  
 273 Dyall, Peter R., grocer  
 275 Gillespie, Alex., draper

1895 west side now occupied



**George Godfrey**, a solicitor, was a leader of the investigators and liquidators of land boom companies in the 1890s, exposing some of the scandals. (from 'The Land Boomers' by Michael Cannon, 1967).

The following account of George Godfrey's life was published on p. 6 of *The Argus* on 23 August 1920:

"Mr. George Godfrey, who died on Saturday, was one of the oldest practising solicitors in Victoria. He was born in London in 1834, and after having studied for the law came to Australia in 1858 in the ship *Herald*, the passage taking 122 days. He was articled to the firm of Attenborough and Bellas, and was admitted to practise as a solicitor in 1865. He opened an office in Collins street, and later joined Mr. G. Bullen in partnership, the firm being known as Godfrey and Bullen. In 1900 he took his two sons into partnership, the new firm being Godfrey and Godfrey, and until the last two months Mr. Godfrey was actively engaged in business. In 1874 Mr. Godfrey unsuccessfully contested the North Melbourne seat in the Legislative Assembly, but 21 years later he defeated Sir J. M. Davies for the Melbourne South seat in the Legislative Council, and retained it until the House was reconstituted in 1904. Three years later he stood again for Melbourne South, but was defeated.

**PLASTERER** and Improver wanted. Godfrey's buildings, Brunswick street, Fitzroy.

The Herald, Tues 23 Aug. 1887, p.4.

**BOOTMAKERS.**—Grand Shop, Commodious Residence, Splendid Workshops, all under one roof To Let. Rent nominal. Godfrey's Buildings, Brunswick.

**SADDLERS, Harness Makers.**—Grand Shop, Commodious Residence, Splendid Workshops, all under one roof, To Let. Rent nominal. Godfrey's Buildings, Brunswick street.

**HATTERS.**—Grand shop, Commodious Residence, Splendid Workshops, all under one roof. to let, rent nominal. Godfrey's Buildings, Brunswick street.

**CABINETMAKERS.**—Grand Shops, Commodious Residence, Splendid Workshops, all under one roof, to let, rent nominal. Godfrey's Buildings, Brunswick street.

The Herald, Wed. 12 Oct. 1887, p.4.

Mr. Godfrey was a member of the Melbourne City Council for Lonsdale Ward from 1885 to 1891. He had been very closely associated with the committee of the Melbourne Hospital, having been a member of the committee since 1885, and hon. treasurer of the Institution for over 20 years. He was a director for many years of the Universal Building Society and a director of the Federal Mutual Insurance Company and the Melbourne General Motor-bus Company. He was a member of the committee of the King Edward Memorial Fund.

He took a great interest in mining in past years, and was for many years a director of the Long Tunnel Extended Co. at Walhalla. He leaves a widow, who is a sister of Mr. D. Martin (late secretary for Agriculture) and Mr. I. Martin (late sheriff of Victoria), and three sons and three daughters.

On his death in 1920, his estate was valued at £36,000 real estate and £112,000 personal property. His real estate included "Land at Brunswick Street having a frontage of 245 feet on which are erected 11 brick two storied and three storied shops, £14,000".

He was the original purchaser in 1875 of several blocks of land on Kneen Street and Rushall Crescent, North Fitzroy.

In 1922 his wife erected and endowed two cottages at the Old Colonists' Homes in Rushall Crescent, North Fitzroy in memory of her husband.

— M Moore

## Become a Member

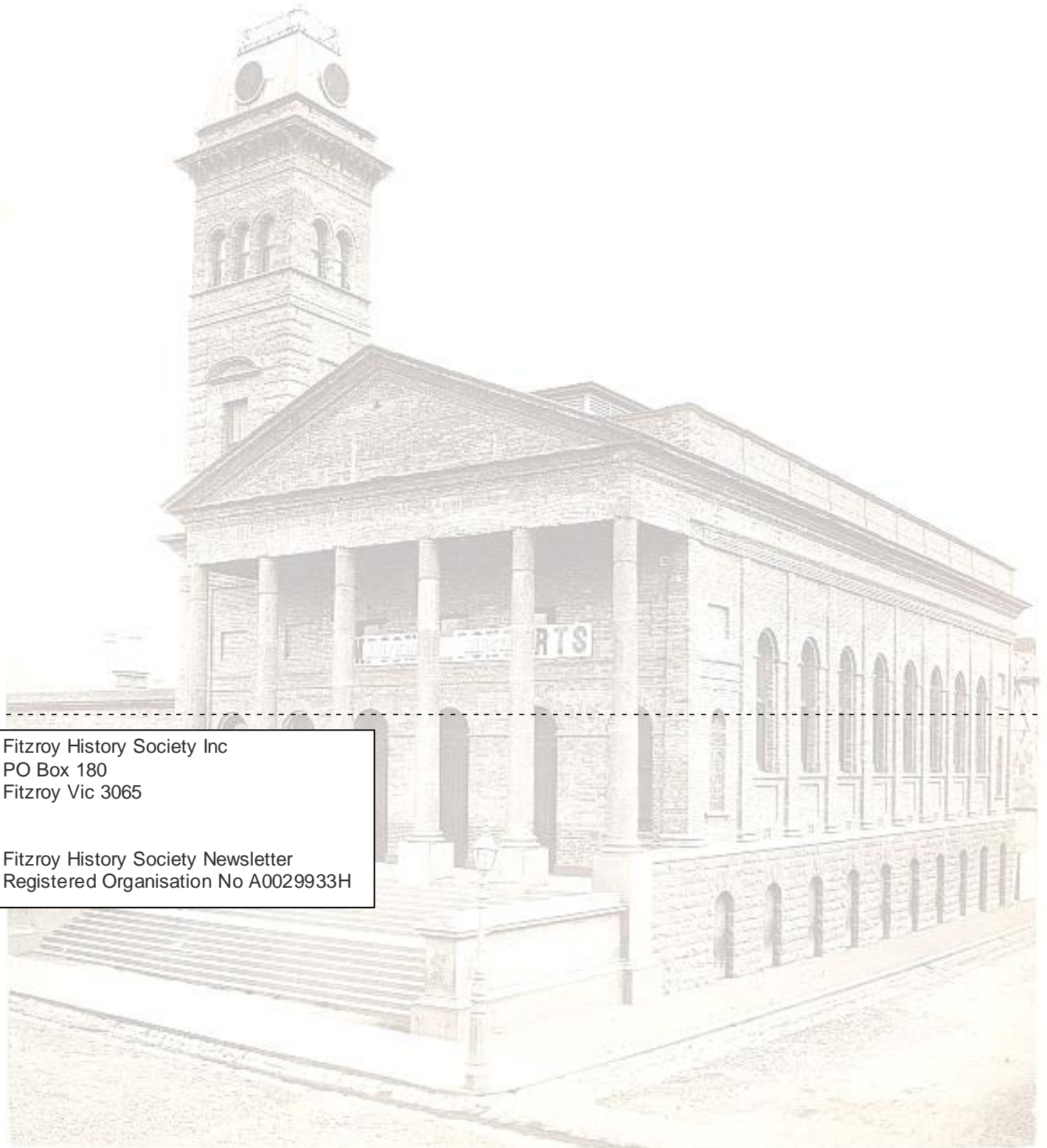
Membership costs just \$10 per person per year.

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](http://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](mailto:fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au) or write to us at PO Box 180, Fitzroy, 3065.

**We look forward to having you as a member.**

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