



July 2018

www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au

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NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 15 August in the Reading Room at the Fitzroy Town Hall.

Following the short formal meeting, the guest speaker will be Professor Miles Lewis AM. The title of Professor Lewis's address is *The Portable Buildings of Fitzroy and the World*.

CRIME IN OLD FITZROY

Join us on Sunday 23 September beginning at 10.00am for a walk in the Napier-Fitzroy-Nicholson Streets locality that will look at buildings associated with past criminal activity. We will be joining with the organisers of Crime Tours Melbourne for this walk. Meet outside Royal Terrace in Nicholson Street.

ANNUAL DINNER

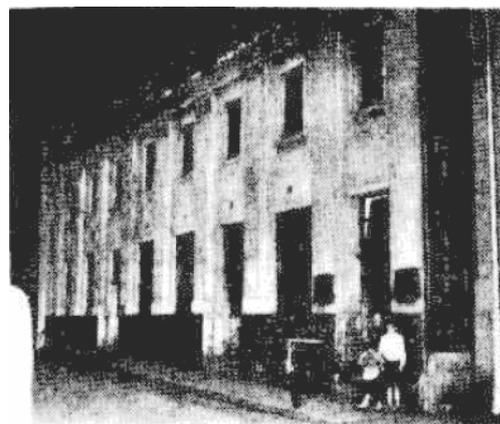
Our Annual Dinner will be held on Thursday 29 November at the **Standard Hotel**, 293 Fitzroy Street. Make a note in your diary. More details later

The Standard Hotel was first licensed in 1865 to James G Burrell.

The site was owned by the Burrell family from 1859 to 1921. Mrs. E. Burrell was licensee from 1875 and the son, Harry G. Burrell from 1881; M.A. Burrell was licensee from 1896 and Mrs Mary Burrell from 1897 to 1906. Harry G. Burrell was mayor of Fitzroy in 1894-95. The rate book recorded the property as a brick building with 8 rooms in 1871 and a brick building with 12 rooms in 1891.

From 1921 to 1955 it was operated/owned by Annie and Frank Cooke. On his death in 1955, the property worth £30,000, was bequeathed to the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

In the 1920s it was enlarged and rebuilt with a new Art Deco façade, with Harry Norris as architect.



From *The Argus*, Wed. 28 Sept. 1955, p.1.

PAST EVENT

A visit to two Gertrude Street establishments

On Monday 28 May, a group of thirteen members spent an interesting and informative hour in the showroom and workshop of Harry Evans and Sons at 206 Gertrude Street, billiard table manufacturers and restorers. Established in 1895, the business moved to Gertrude Street from Elizabeth Street in 1957. The first Harry Evans was a champion billiards player who came to Australia from England in 1882. The fifth generation of Evans' is now involved in the business.

David, (of the fourth generation of Evans'), explained the various types and sizes of tables, and how a genuine billiard table is made. The tables are made to order with the frame and legs made from either silky oak, Tasmanian Oak or New Zealand pine, and the slate for the table-top coming from Wales, Brazil or Queensland. David's father, at 93 still applies the French Polish to the tables. The workshop is the set used in the 'Jack Irish' series of TV shows, partly because the machinery looks and is old. If you are looking for a billiard table, Evans and Sons would be happy to manufacture one to your liking, or they have a number in storage waiting for a new owner.



206 Gertrude Street



David Evans (second from left) explaining the process of making a billiard table.

A second hour was then spent a few doors west at 'Maysar' (Melbourne Aboriginal Youth Sport and Recreation Co-operative). Our guide was David Shannon, the manager of the centre, who explained the aims and some of the programs offered to young aboriginal people, providing assistance in both non-traditional and traditional skills such as young men learning to play the didgeridoo and young women basket weaving. We visited the gymnasium in the building's basement where a boxing ring has been installed as well as various gym equipment for the benefit of local aboriginal people. The centre has the support of a Board of Directors and the City of Yarra provides financial assistance.

After viewing the recently unveiled Memorial to the Stolen Generation (*Remember Me* by Kamilaro/Gamilaroi artist Reko Rennie) in the Atherton Gardens Estate at the corner of Brunswick and Gertrude Streets, we adjourned for coffee and talk.



Mural in the foyer of the Maysar building.

Gymnasium in the basement of the Maysar building.

FITZROY GAS LAMPS



We have a project running to record street furniture from the past. In particular we are developing a date base of the remains of gas street lights installed by the Collingwood, Fitzroy and District Gas and Coke Company and in use from 1861 to when electric lights became the accepted form of lighting. While most of the bases were removed at that time, several of the original bases were retained and still exist. They were cast by Anderson and Ritchie in their Fitzroy foundry, or by Edwards Lighting Engineers, Ballarat.

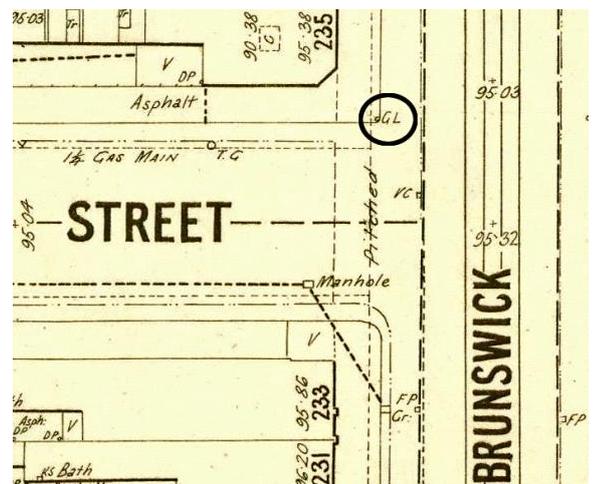
Modern lighting of some streets in Fitzroy use reproductions of the light bases, but several of the cast iron bases still exist, and are filled with concrete.

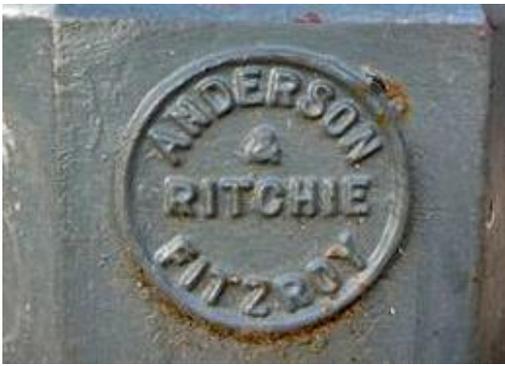
If you know of any of the existence of any original gas light bases, please email us at:

www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au

Likewise if any horse troughs still exist we would like to add these to our records.

MMBW plan 1193 of 1900. Gas lamp shown as 'GL' (circled) at north-west corner of Bell and Brunswick Streets in The lamp base has since been moved to the south-west corner of the intersection.





Base of lamp-post with manufacturers' name

Lamplighters' Wages.—Recommended —That the rate of wages of the four lamplighters other than the foreman, be increased from twenty shillings to twenty-two shillings and sixpence per week.

The adoption of this Clause was seconded by Cr. Renfrew

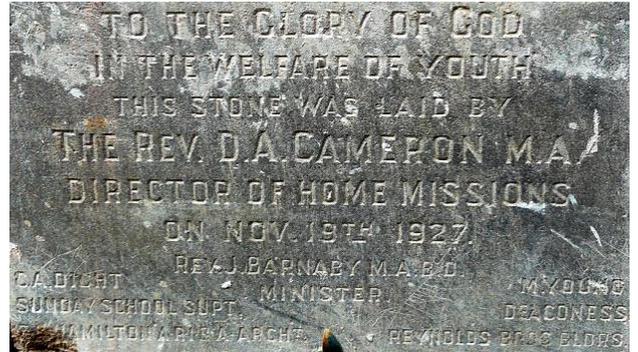
From a report of a Fitzroy Council meeting in *Fitzroy City Press*, Fri. 22 Nov. 1901, p.3.

FORMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NAPIER STREET

The former church buildings are being converted into units and a new building is being constructed on the north side of the property. Recently the owner/developer, Glen Morris, invited a group from FHS to inspect the progress of the development. The bluestone church building is being turned into three units over three levels. The stained glass windows in the building are being retained. During the work on the rear building its foundation stone, laid in 1927, was uncovered. It names the church's then minister Rev. J.B. Barnaby, deaconess M. Young, social work director, D.A. Cameron, Sunday school superintendent C.A. Dight, the architect R.B. Hamilton and the builders, Reynolds Bros. The newspapers of the time record the laying of the foundation stone and other information about the church.

The Rev. D. A. Cameron, the leader in the social service work of the Presbyterian Church will lay the memorial stone of the new building for the advance of social work in Fitzroy at 126 Napier street on Saturday at half-past 3 o'clock. About £700 is still required to defray the cost of the buildings (£4,500). The architect is Mr. R. B. Hamilton, and the contractors are Messrs. Reynolds Bros.

The Argus, Tues 15 Nov. 1927, p.6.



MISSION SCHOOL BUILDING.

HOLIDAYS FOR MOTHERS
Country Rest Home

There are many mothers in Melbourne who never have a holiday. Year in and year out they toil within the four walls of their small suburban homes. Their only respite is when a new baby arrives and they go into hospital.

For many years Deaconess Young, of the Napier street Presbyterian Settlement, has been nursing a project to help the tired mothers of Fitzroy, whose difficulties she has grown to understand so well during her long period of work in that district.

A home in the country where parties of women can have a complete fortnight's rest. That is the scheme that was put into working order about two months' ago by the Presbyterian Church. Providence House, a roomy bungalow situated on the heights of Cockatoo, stands as a monument to Deaconess Young's sympathetic and persistent efforts on behalf of the mothers. It was officially opened this afternoon by Mr A. L. N. Walter, M.L.A., in the presence of about fifty people—guests of the committee of the Presbyterian Settlement, of which Rev John Barnaby, M.A., B.D., is president, and Miss Annie Todd, honorary secretary.



The caption under the drawing in *The Argus* of 22 Nov. 1927, p.13, read: 'An architects drawing of the new mission school; building for the Presbyterian Church in Napier Street, Fitzroy. It will contain kindergarten, gymnasium and other accommodation. On the right is the old church, of which Dr. Robert Hamilton, father of the architect for the present work (Mr. R. B. Hamilton) was the first minister in 1857.'

Already two groups of mothers have sampled the joys of a country holiday as well as two week-end parties of boys and girls whom Deaconess Young took up.

A permanent matron is out of the question just yet. The mothers will be looked after by voluntary helpers until finances are on a stronger basis. The bungalow—with its spacious verandah for sleeping out—will accommodate about fifteen.

The Herald, Sat. 5 Nov. 1927, p.14

Become a Member

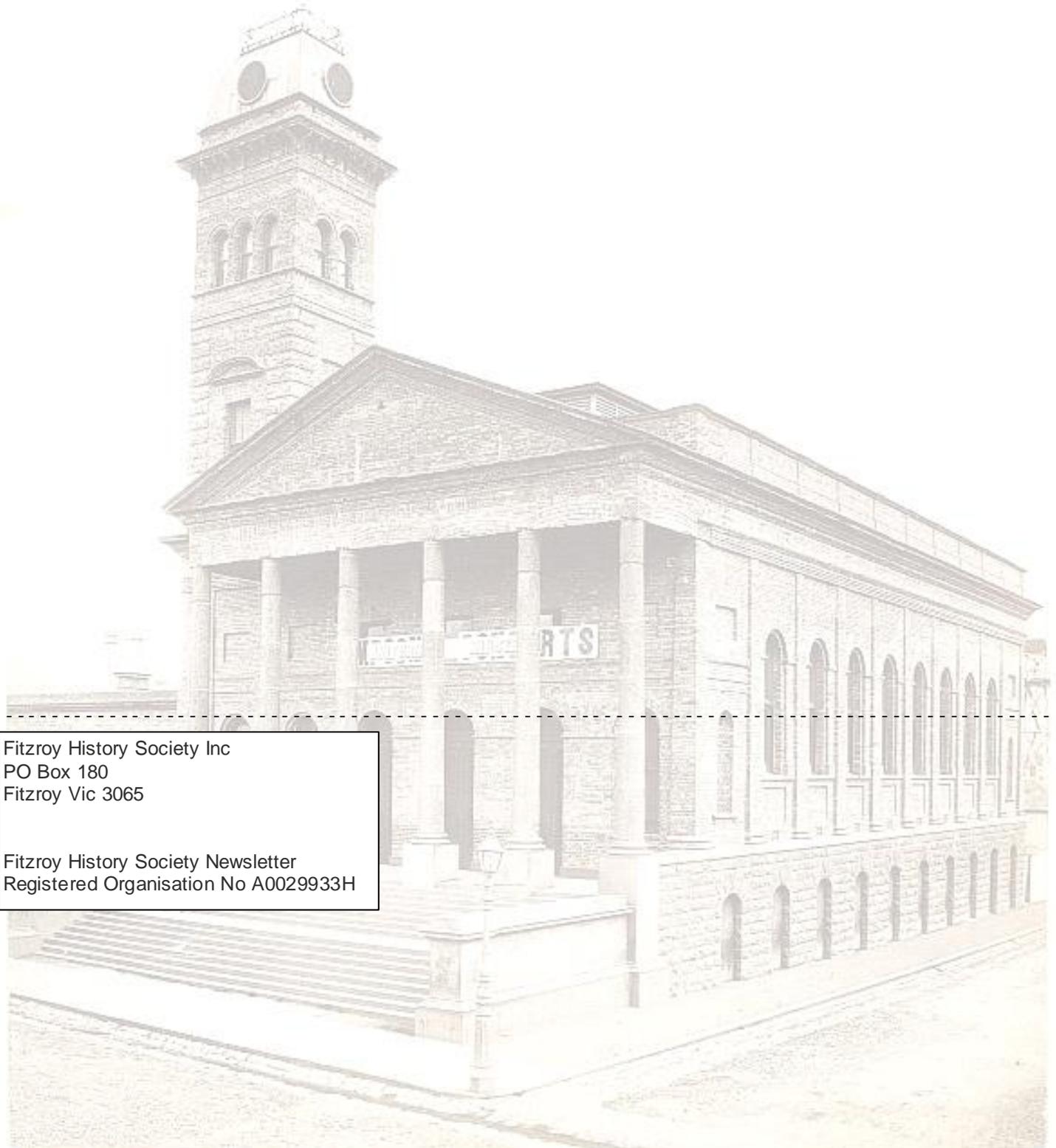
Membership costs just \$10 per person per year.

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 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.

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Registered Organisation No A0029933H