



**November 2017**

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

President: Peter Woods

## **NEWSLETTER**

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Secretary: Meg Lee

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Annual Dinner**

Our Annual Dinner will be held on **Friday 24 November** in the private function room of **Bon Ap'**, French bistro at 193 Brunswick Street. The meal will include a fixed selection of tastes for the entrée and a choice of two main courses. This allows the kitchen to prepare and serve all meals together. Price is \$45 for the two courses excluding drinks. These are ordered as required.

All members welcome.

Please RSVP by 17 November to [fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au).

#### **HALF-DROWNED or HALF-BAKED, a seminar on North Fitzroy history**

Sunday, 3 December 2017 2pm to 4pm in the large meeting room at the new North Fitzroy Library (Bargoonga Nganjin).

Several members of the FHS have been researching aspects of early North Fitzroy. This has brought to light much of interest, such as:

the local role of William Thomas, Guardian of Aborigines;

the unique English-made iron building, now in the Council's Queens Parade depot;

the development of the Yan Yean pipe track and its forgotten railway along Nicholson Street and St Georges Road;

the planned but unexecuted subdivision of Merriville (about the site of the Edinburgh Gardens), based upon New Town, Edinburgh;

the process of residential subdivision in the later nineteenth century;

the career of Emma Bagshaw, property owner and brush manufacturer;

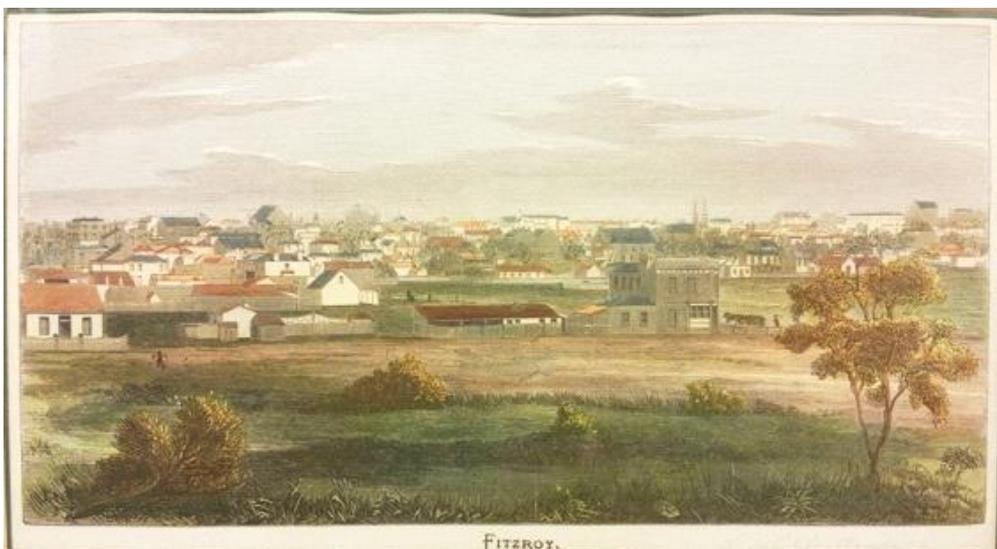
the rise and decline of retail dairies in the suburb; and

the role of the Gasworks in manufacturing military vehicles for World War II.

This work will be presented for the first time, both in the publication to be launched on the day, and in live presentations with opportunities for discussion.

The seminar is open to both members and non-members and should be of particular interest to North Fitzroy residents.

Please advise your attendance by 1 Dec, to [fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au)



**Rudolf Jenny's etching is looking south from the height of Queens Parade in about 1870. The swamp in the foreground was cleared by the Reilly Street Drain, and the Gasometer Hotel (still standing) identifies its proximity to the Gas Works in North Fitzroy. (image supplied by Gil Langfield)**

## FITZROY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The FHS oral history project was entered in the Oral History Victoria annual award competition. It was one of four entries that was short-listed for the award. On 26 October Meg Lee presented the FHS entry, *The Life and Times of Fitzroy from the 1960s*, to the judging panel at the Awards Ceremony. Each of the short-listed entries was "Highly Commended for innovation in creating and using oral history. These are fine examples of projects that are working with memories to make histories with contemporary relevance."

The citation for the FHS entry read:

*The Fitzroy History Society has drawn upon extensive local contacts and collaborations to generate a series of impressive oral history interviews about the past half century of life and times in Fitzroy, with a particular emphasis on local involvement in urban development issues. Unusually for a community project, the online archive makes the full audio and transcript of each interview fully accessible and each online interview is complemented by superb personal photography.*

The award went to the entry, *Across the Water*, which combined refugee interviews with original classical cello music.

The results of the FHS project can be viewed and heard on our website at <https://oralhistory.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au/>



**Meg Lee presenting the FHS oral history project to the judges on 26 October.**  
(Photo: Mary Lewis)

## PAST EVENTS

### Trivia Night

On 31 October we held our first Trivia Night for some years. The venue was Bad Frankies bar in Greeves Street, with FHS member Seb Costello as Quizmaster, and attended by about 40 people. Questions were put together by a small team including Seb, Mike Moore and Lina Favrin. As is the case with a trivia night, some questions were simple (what are the two most famous chocolate bars to come out of Fitzroy?) and some were more difficult (what is the total area of Fitzroy in hectares? Or where is this date marker?).



After five rounds, a runner-up team and a winner were declared, and prizes, donated by Seb were awarded to those groups. From the noise generated during the night, the event was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Seb and Bad Frankie.



By coincidence, Bad Frankie has just featured in the November issue of the RACV magazine, *Royal Auto*. On page 26 there is a photo with Seb in the background behind the bar.

## FITZROY FEATURED ON SBS

On Tuesday 26 September Fitzroy was featured on the SBS social history series *Secrets of Our Cities*. The Perth-based production company, Joined Up Films, invited assistance from FHS in their researching for this documentary. We received over 25 requests for information from Joined Up Films. Thank you to those FHS members who were contacted and who provided input to the program.

If you missed the telecast, the program can be viewed from the SBS On Demand website at

<https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1045037635815/secrets-of-our-cities>

The Newsletter is commonly written by members of the Committee, but we welcome contributions by other FHS members. If you need help in how to get started, speak to a member of the Committee.

## FACEBOOK

FHS is now on FACEBOOK Find us at [www.facebook.com/fitzroyhistorysoc](http://www.facebook.com/fitzroyhistorysoc)

**Tom Horan cricketer, lived at 294 Fitzroy St, Fitzroy over at least 1868-87**

It is well known that test cricketer Neil Harvey and his brothers grew up in Fitzroy, but there was an earlier, almost forgotten cricketer, who lived in Fitzroy.

The following comes from Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom\\_Horan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Horan)):



**Thomas Patrick Horan** (8 March 1854 – 16 April 1916) was an Australian cricketer who played for Victoria and Australia, and later became an esteemed cricket journalist under the pen name "Felix". The first of only two players born in Ireland to play Test cricket for Australia, Horan was the leading batsman in the colony of Victoria during the pioneering years of international cricket. He played for Australia in the game against England subsequently designated as the first Test match, before touring England with the first representative Australian team, in 1878. Four years later, he toured England for the second time and played in the famed Ashes Test match at The Oval.

An aggressive middle-order batsman renowned for his leg-side play, Horan supplemented his batting by bowling medium-pace in the roundarm style common to his era, and once captured six wickets in a Test match innings. During a season disrupted by financial disputes and a strike by leading players, he captained Australia in two Test matches of the 1884–85 Ashes series, but lost both games. Horan's form peaked between the ages of 26 and 29 when he scored seven of his eight first-class centuries, including a score of 124 in a Test match on his home ground at Melbourne in January 1882.

In 1879, Horan began writing a weekly newspaper column that continued until his death 37 years later. He established himself as the first Australian cricket writer who had played the game at the highest level, thus paving the way for many players to enter the media. Bill O'Reilly, the noted Australian player-writer of the twentieth century, described him as, "the cricket writer *par excellence*". Horan's documentation of the early years of Australian cricket are the basis for many works on the subject: Gideon Haigh wrote that any, "serious scholar in the field ... should probably acquaint himself with Tom Horan." An anthology of his articles was published for the first time in 1989 when he was posthumously inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame for his writing. In part, his citation read, "... it was as the first nationally known cricket writer that he made his major contribution to the game."

Wikipedia records that he attended Bell Street School in Fitzroy.

The Horan family had arrived from Cork in July 1857 on the *Lady Milton*, but father James presumably came separately. Over 1868-84 they lived opposite the Standard Hotel, at 186 (now 294) Fitzroy St, adjacent to the lane.

**186 Horan, James  
Bell st**

Sands & McDougal  
Directory entry.



**THE Friends of Mr. JAMES HORAN** are respectfully invited to follow the remains of his late son James to the place of interment, Melbourne General Cemetery.

The funeral to move from his residence, Fitzroy-street, opposite Standard Hotel, Fitzroy **THIS DAY**

The Argus, Fri. 6 March, 1868, p.8.

Victoria, Australia, Rate Books, 1855-1963 for Thomas Horan  
City of Fitzroy > 1879-1880

4	Horan	James	Barpenke	Horan James	1874	5
5	Horan	Thomas	Barl Sonant	do	1876	5
6	See	...	...	...	...	...

**CRICKET**

**DEATH OF MR. TOM HORAN**

**AN INTERESTING CAREER**

On April 16 there died one of Victoria's greatest cricketers, Mr. Thomas Patrick Horan. The famous old batsman succumbed to an attack of dropsy at the age of 62 years. Horan has been a veritable landmark in the cricket world. He was busy at the game on Bell street reserve, Fitzroy, in his school days, nearly half a century ago. Carlton junior grounds knew him in the earliest seventies, and senior cricket in the middle seventies. Horan played for Carlton and South Melbourne before settling down at East Melbourne. His name has been associated with the Jolimont club for over 40 years. In a memorable match against South Melbourne, in 1874-5, Horan made 119 not out and 41. He continued on the active list until 1893, when his record for the club read:—154 innings, 34 not-outs, highest score 250 not out, total runs 4452, average 37.12; bowling, 6822 balls, 2297 runs, 208 wickets, average 11.09.

In 1879 Thomas Horan married Kate Pennefather. His father lived next door, and owned both houses until his death in 1895. James had built a house in Fitzroy St. in 1859.

Two of Thomas' sons, Thomas and James, played cricket for Victoria.

The beginning of a lengthy article on Horan in the Weekly Times of Sat. 22 April, 1916, p. 20.

## Become a Member

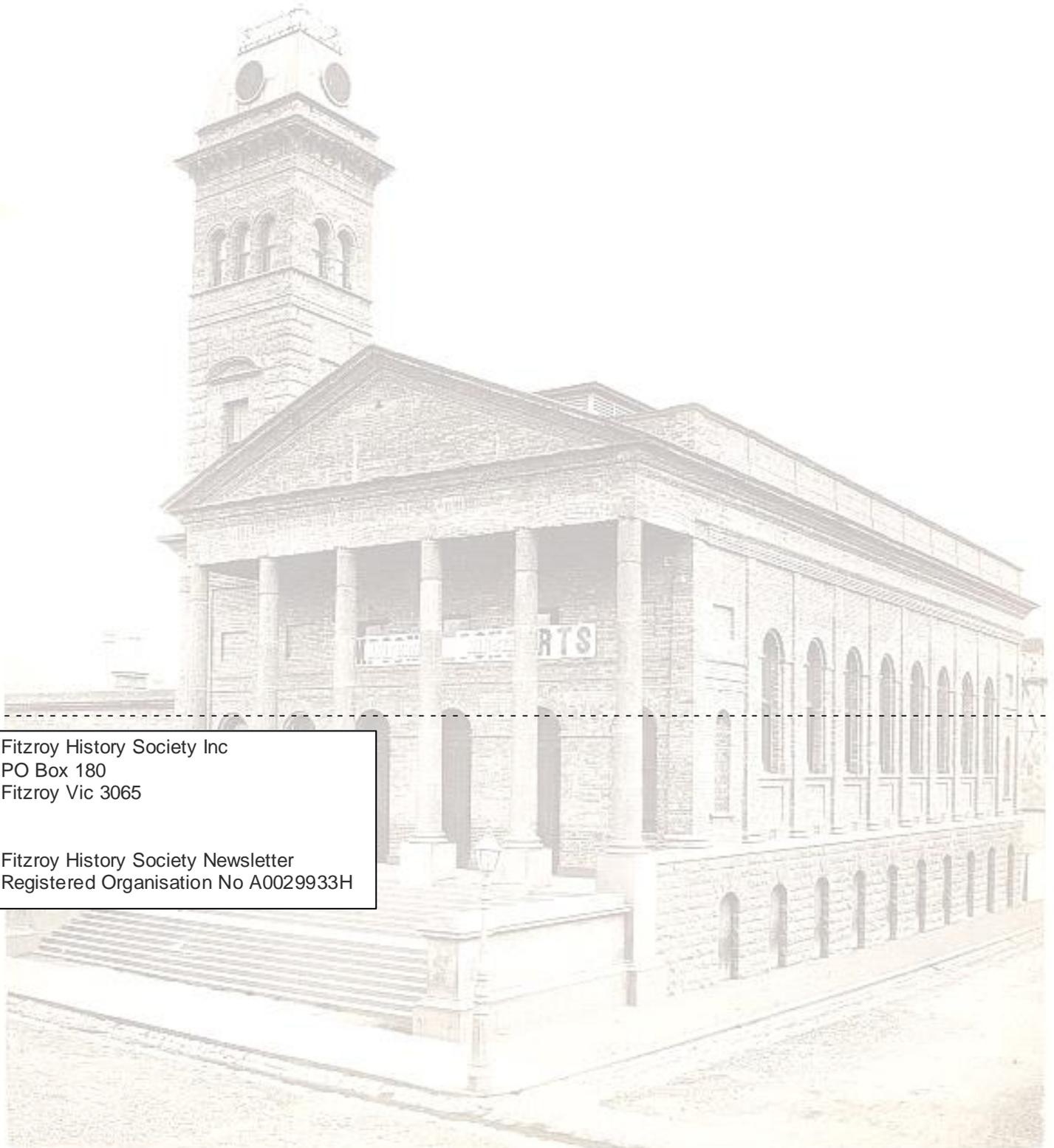
Membership costs just \$10 per person per year.

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.**

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



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