



**June 2020**

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

President: Peter Woods

## **NEWSLETTER**

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Secretary: Meg Lee

### **Researching your Fitzroy House**

We hope you have had a chance to explore the history of your house and some associated stories and or characters.

This is a reminder that if you have used the online resources and discovered interesting facts, we would love to hear from you. A recent email to members included a template for you to record your findings. If you are still searching, the FHS has prepared a resource guide that is available on the website. at <https://fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au/research/>, then look under Branch Local History Collection, Researching history of your house in Fitzroy. On the internet, we can access land records, probate documents, other databases, on-line newspapers, etc. Further, the Fitzroy Library has an excellent collection of resources to assist in researching your house - directories, rate books, maps, heritage studies, indexes, etc. So have some fun in exploring and benefit the Local History collection by completing the template and emailing to: [fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au)

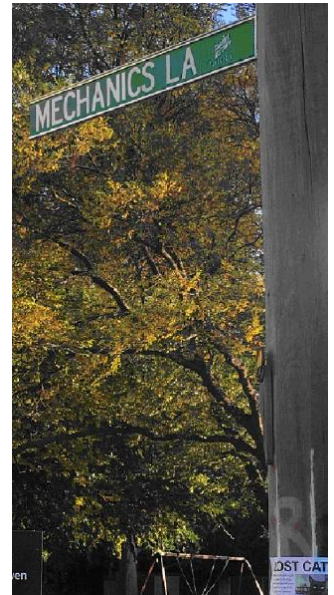
### **The Indigenous History of Fitzroy**

On 3 June Jacinta Parsons afternoon program on ABC Radio 774 had a short segment with historian Yves Rees on the story of indigenous Fitzroy. The aboriginal influx in the 1920s was centred on the corner of Gertrude and George Streets and she believes that this history warrants a monument being erected at this intersection. The podcast can be accessed at: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/melbourne/programs/afternoons/indigenous-fitzroy/12316720>

### **Garryowen**

Recently two lanes adjacent to Garryowen Park in Leicester Street, have had sign posts erected.

Garryowen was the pen name of Edmund Finn (1819-98) a chronicler of early Melbourne. See the article in the FHS March 2019 Newsletter (available on-line at: [fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au/newsletters/](http://fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au/newsletters/)).



Photos: M.M

### **The Royal Exhibition Building**

The World Heritage Strategy Plan for the Royal Exhibition Building (REB) and Carlton Gardens World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA) is currently undergoing a review. A draft plan was produced in April 2020 by Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd in partnership with HLCD Pty Ltd. for the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning. Fitzroy History Society was among a number of community groups that were invited to respond to the plan. Following is a summation of our response.

Fitzroy History Society (FHS) supports the review of the World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA) and preparation of a new Strategy Plan and improvements to conserve and protect the World Heritage values of the Royal Exhibition Building (REB) and Carlton Gardens.

In the adjoining residential zones, it is imperative that mandatory height controls be implemented with reference to the World Heritage listing of the REB & Carlton Gardens, particularly when housed within the WHEA. FHS welcomes the recent Planning Amendment processes in the City of Yarra for mandatory control in key heritage areas.

FHS supports a Statement of Significance becoming applicable to the total Buffer Zone. It is important that the historical criteria to preserve a Georgian/ Victorian city landscape remain in high profile and be strongly referenced to the total buffer zone.

(continued .next page)

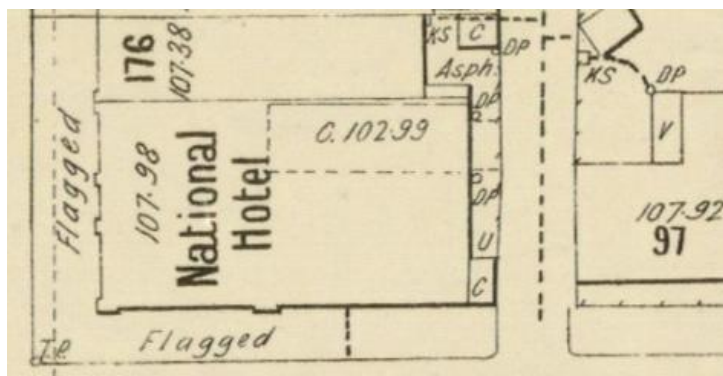
FHS supports planning controls being implemented to protect key views and vistas to the REB Dome from various vantage points from within the gardens and importantly from outside the WHEA boundary at precincts within Fitzroy such as Marion Lane.

The linkages between the Dome and gardens are integral to Fitzroy in that the Morton Bay Fig in Carlton Gardens was an important urban destination for many Aboriginal people within the gardens. This is recognised by the City of Yarra and City of Melbourne and is a demonstration of WHEA as an extension of the local community. This is particularly significant for our indigenous population.

FHS agrees to the proposal to retain Melbourne and Yarra Councils as the responsible authority for planning but to implement the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria as a formal referral authority. However, (an independent sole-purpose body or) the State Government ultimately needs to be the responsible authority, in some form, for any certainty of retention of values associated with WHEA with the exact implementation mechanism to be addressed in areas of planning statutes and long-term conservation of Victorian landscapes.

M. Lee

## National Hotel, 174 Brunswick St — the building, its owners and its publicans



Edward Wills arrived in 1844 as an assisted immigrant sponsored by Mr Webb who owned the 28 acres of land, Webb's Paddock, in early Fitzroy. By 1849 Wills lived on Brunswick St, owning two sites there, and by 1859 he owned most of the sites northwards from King William St towards Moor St.

From August 1857 he built, for himself, two adjacent 3 storey shops, later identified as 174 Brunswick St and 95 King William St. Together they comprised the National Hotel.

Fitzroy became a separate municipality in 1858 and early meetings of the new Fitzroy Municipal Council were held on 4 and 18 October 1858 at the hotel. Many other public meetings, with 100 or 200 attending, were held at the National Hall, part of the National Hotel, through to the formation of the Fitzroy Cricket Club there in November 1861.

In March 1860, the National Hotel with its large hall was advertised for a 3 year lease. Jacob Gartside Holdsworth secured a 5 year lease (at £300 pa and dated 3 April 1860) and his publican license was granted in September 1860. Initially married in England in 1848, he had come to Melbourne via Wisconsin and California, USA and had been a grocer in central Melbourne. He had no legal children, and "was generally known as and supposed to be a single man" in Melbourne. He died at the hotel in April 1862, aged 43. The inventory associated with his probate lists the 500 items (stock, furniture and fittings) then in the hotel's 6 bedrooms, bar, 2 parlours, sitting room, billiard room, bagatelle room, kitchen and cellar. The associated National Hall had 10 wood chairs and 30 wood benches. His nephews, James and William Whittaker applied for transfer of the license, but the succeeding licensee from April 1864 was William Smith.

Succeeding publicans were Thomas Howard Bond (1869-), George Eldridge (1879-), George Potter (1885-), Robert Glen (1888-91), Miss Katie West (1895-), Mary Doyle, Miss Emma Foy (1898-), and Mrs Ellen Campbell (1910-).

Barnett Isaacs owned the National Hotel from before 1879, until his death in London in August 1884. Barnett Isaacs, together with Mark Moss and Henry Fergie, had also jointly owned the Rob Roy Hotel, valued at £5000 in 1884.

His son Woolf Barnett Isaacs was then the owner through to 31 December 1899, although he had become insolvent in 1895. Woolf died on 5 June 1905, age 62, leaving no real estate and less than £1000 of personal assets.

Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980 for Violet May Reading  
 Victoria > 1919 > Batman > Fitzroy South  
 Reading, Nov Stade, 21 King William st., Fitzroy, carpenter, M  
 Reading, James Ernest, 95 King William st., Fitzroy, carrier, M  
 Reading, Violet May, 174 Brunswick st., Fitz., lodging-housekeeper, F

Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980 for Violet May Reading  
 Victoria > 1937 > Melbourne > Fitzroy  
 Reading, Catherine, 51 Newry st., home duties, F  
 Reading, James Ernest, 95 King William st., Fitzroy, carrier, M  
 Reading, Sydney William, 57 Newry st., clerk, M  
 Reading, Violet May, 174 Brunswick st., Fitz., lodging-housekeeper, F

James Ernest Reading, a carrier, was the occupant at 95 King William St from 1914 until his death in 1940. His wife Violet May Reading was the lodging-house keeper at 174 Brunswick St from 1916 until 1954.

M. Moore

Entries in the Electoral Rolls for 1919 (top) and 1937 (below).



## 44-46 Brunswick Street — A Brief History

Prior to 1878, numbers 44 – 46 Brunswick Street had a variety of uses including livery stables, printers, a piano factory, and sewing machine depot. The current two storey building on number 44 was erected in 1880 for owner John Mann. The centre-opening shown on the photograph led to livery stables at the rear, with shops on either side and rooms above. From 1879 to 1880, the rate book valuation of the property increased from £14 to £90, and the 1880 property description was "livery yard, & Brick Stone 2 shops, 8 rooms" In 1885 the southern shop was occupied by the Albany Milk Depot, and at



No 44 during the time of Charles Marshall

Charles Marshall was born in New Zealand in 1864 and came with his family to Melbourne in the early 1870s. Initially a gas fitter in Gertrude Street, his expanding engineering and metal working business transferred to 44-46 Brunswick Street by 1925. It remained at this location for at least five decades before moving to 451 Burnley Street, Richmond.

The Charles Marshall P/L company remains in operation today. An extract from their website follows:

*Charles Marshall P/L is a family run business based in Richmond, Victoria, Australia. Charles Marshall established his engineering business in Fitzroy, Victoria in 1880. Over one hundred and thirty years on, the company has grown, prospered and is still owned and run by the Marshall family.*

*Our flagship product is an extensive range of FITZROY Ball Bearing Sliding Track systems. This unique patented system covers a vast range of applications from light-weight kitchen drawers up to giant one tonne door installations and beyond. Developed in 1932, the unique FITZROY system provides a reliable and simple solution to the challenge of finding a durable sliding door track.*

*A FITZROY system was fitted to the bronze doors in 1932 at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Today, that same system shows negligible wear and is still operating with effortless ease.*

The life story of the founder, Charles Marshall is at

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/family-tree/person/tree/46193833/person/6901389153/story>

### Inventor of Early Traffic Signals

Charles Marshall is credited as the inventor of the first operating traffic signals in Melbourne, in 1937.



The first installation of the Marshalite signals, (described popularly as 'clock' signals), was agreed to as a trial by the Fitzroy Council and was installed at the intersection of Brunswick and Gertrude Streets not far from the Marshall factory. The signals comprised four large circular faces mounted on a pedestal in the centre of the intersection with a single hand rotating continuously. The red or green colour on the clock face behind the hand indicated to drivers who had the right-of-way.

An original signal is mounted in the forecourt of RACV headquarters in Bourke Street Melbourne.

It was not until 1945 that the signals were officially approved. They were then installed at the Johnston Street–Brunswick Street intersection where they controlled traffic for many years.



44-46 Brunswick St. today



Parapet of 44-46 Brunswick St.

## 50 years of the Missionaries of Charity in Fitzroy.

Since 1970 the Missionaries of Charity have been part of Fitzroy, doing their charitable work among the lonely and the homeless.

Fri 12 Sep 1969 / Page 12 / Personal NEWS FLASHES

A group of Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, an Indian Religious Order, arrived in Sydney by air from Calcutta on Tuesday. They are shortly to come to Bourke to live in the St. Vincent de Paul Centre to assist Aborigines in the town and district.

Western Herald (Bourke NSW)

Mother Teresa founded the order in 1950.

A group of sisters went to Bourke, NSW in 1969 (see newspaper item, left) and in April 1970 Sister Fidelis and Sister Amalia were part of a small group who came from India to Fitzroy with Mother Teresa. They opened a community house in Gore St, since relocated to other houses in Gore St and George St.

In 1972, Mother Teresa visited again to open a novitiate here to train five Australians who had joined the order (see news item below from the *Canberra Times*, Sat. 25 March 1972, p.2.)



Mother Teresa

Sister Fidelis and Sister Amalia participated in the recent Oral History Project of the Fitzroy History Society, and their interviews, in both audio and transcript format, are on-line at <https://oralhistory.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au/> as the 16th of the 23 interviews there.

M. Moore

# A fight for dignity as well

**F**EET work nimbly on the grumbling treadle sewing machines in a corrugated iron shed on the outskirts of Bourke as Aboriginal women make garments to sell on a Canberra stall.

The women, supervised by five dusky Indian nuns, are working as much for dignity as for money.

For most of them, this is the first time they have had an opportunity to earn anything from the work of their own hands.

The money they earn will come from a stall run each Friday night and Saturday morning in Garema Place, Civic. The self-help project is the result of the stall organisers' proposal to assist the half-caste Aborigines living on the Bourke reserve.

Last August, Mr Les Shaw, a CSIRO technical assistant, of Dickson, reviewed for *The Canberra Times* the book "Something Beautiful for God".

It told of the work in Calcutta of Mother Teresa and the Missionary Sisters of Charity, an order she formed in 1950 to work among the

## as money

By **ROD KIRKPATRICK**



Mother Teresa at Fitzroy Mission in Melbourne this week.

old, the sick and the unwanted, "the poorest of the poor", as she put it.

Mother Teresa, who is 62, arrived in Australia on Thursday partly to visit the nuns at Bourke and to open a novitiate in Melbourne to train five

Australians who have joined the order.

Mr Shaw said the book had moved him and he had sent his reviewing fee, and a letter, to the order in Calcutta. He had received a reply telling him more about the

order's work; he learnt that it was supported largely by a lay group called the International Association of Co-Workers of Mother Teresa.

The order had five Indian nuns in Melbourne, running a house at Fitzroy for destitute alcoholics, and the five at Bourke, which is about 70 miles south of the Queensland border.

"They had gone to Bourke two years ago", Mr Shaw said, "because they had been told that there was poverty among our people as great as anything in the slums of Calcutta."

"One Aboriginal child was being buried every fortnight out of a population of about 200 half-castes at Bourke."

"One of the sisters who went there was a trained nurse, and she introduced hygiene to the Aborigines through the women and the children. There has not been an Aboriginal infant death there in the past 18 months, I'm told."

Mr Shaw, a Catholic, hopes now to interest a number of people from different denominations in forming a fully-fledged Canberra branch of the Co-Workers of Mother Teresa. He is its convening secretary.

### 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 usual date of our AGM).

If you would like to join or renew your membership, please complete the form available on our website [www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au) and send it to PO Box 180, Fitzroy, 3065 or via email to [andy.lanskis@gmail.com](mailto:andy.lanskis@gmail.com). The membership fee can be posted with this form, or preferably, paid into our Bendigo Bank account: BSB 633 108, Account Number 1516 20127, Account Name THE FITZROY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.