

March 2017

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

President: Peter Woods

## NEWSLETTER

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Secretary: Meg Lee

### UPCOMING EVENT

**Saturday, 22 April**

As our contribution to the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival there will be a walk, **Remembering Fitzroy**, on Sat, 22 April. It will commence at 2pm from the steps of the Fitzroy Town Hall in Napier Street, and take approximately an hour and a half.

Taking in areas to the north and south of the Town Hall, the walk will use two early photographs taken from the Town Hall tower in the 1880s and in 1920 to note the buildings retained and those gone.

The event is advertised on the National Trust website at:  
[https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf\\_event/remembering-fitzroy/](https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf_event/remembering-fitzroy/)



**Title: View south from the Fitzroy Town Hall tower, c1880, [Fitzroy Local History Photograph Collection, FL 1561]**

### RECENT EVENTS

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 8 September in the Reading Room at the Fitzroy Town Hall.

Following the short formal meeting, the guest speaker was long-time member Lina Favrin, who is the Digital and Community Learning Librarian at the Fitzroy Library. Lina showed a number of unusual items from the Local History Collection in the Fitzroy Library. Four such items from her talk, **Treasures From the Fitzroy Local History Collection** are outlined below.

#### **Grand Concert Fan, 1905**



A "Grand Concert" was held in aid of the establishment of the Epileptic Colony Appeal. Lady Talbot, (wife of Sir Reginald Talbot, Governor of Victoria, 1904-08), was the first president of the subsidized charitable institution the Talbot Colony for Epileptics that was opened at Clayton in 1907. She had ensured the success of the new venture'. From 1908 the Lady Talbot Milk Institute dispensed wholesome, 'pure' but unpasteurized milk to approved needy recipients. In March 1907 she officially opened the College of Domestic Economy for which she had fought.

#### **Honour Certificate for Corporal Walter Robert Bunker**

The first honour certificates were presented in 1915 and 1916 to men who had yet to leave Australia, as a form of public acknowledgment as they marched off to camp. The certificates were designed by graphic artists working out of well-established metropolitan publishing companies in Eastern Australia. They were printed in colour on cardboard and were large enough to be

framed. Although they were presented to the soldier, they were most often framed and displayed by his family at home, where they were a tangible memento of his patriotism. They became a source of pride for the family and a daily reminder of the absent one.

#### **The Oak and the Plant**

This item is the printed text of "The Oak and the Plant", a cantata composed expressly for the first hearing of the Town Hall organ at a concert given in the Fitzroy Town Hall, 29 Sep 1874, by Mr. T A Ewing, JP, Mayor. Written by Mr. Edmund Finn, composed by Signore Paolo Giorza.



## Ernest Harridence Family Postcard Album



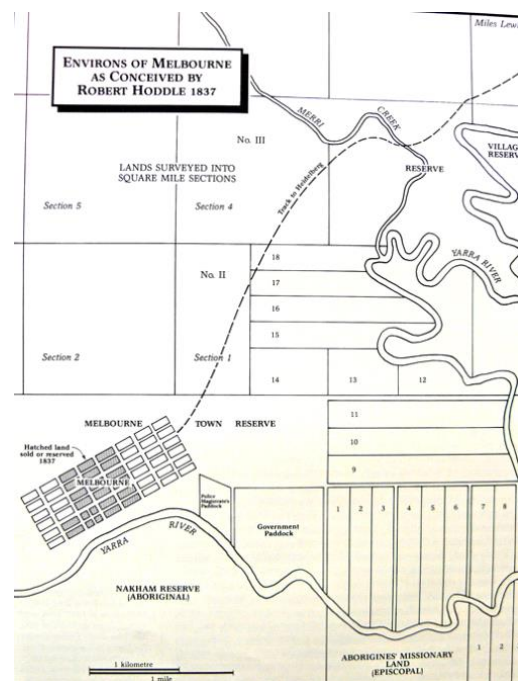
Ernest Harridence was appointed Fitzroy Librarian in 1948, at the age of 73. He had been a former secretary of the Fitzroy ALP and had started his working life as a coachbuilder. In 1969 he was still working and saw no reason to retire, although aged 93. He died in 1971.

The album dates from February 1904 to the mid-1950s and contains family photographs, invitations to Mayoral balls and other social events, Christmas cards, a small number of letters, some dance cards from social gatherings and sympathy cards on family bereavements. In particular there are some cards and letters from World War 1.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF MELBOURNE AND ITS EARLY SUBURBS

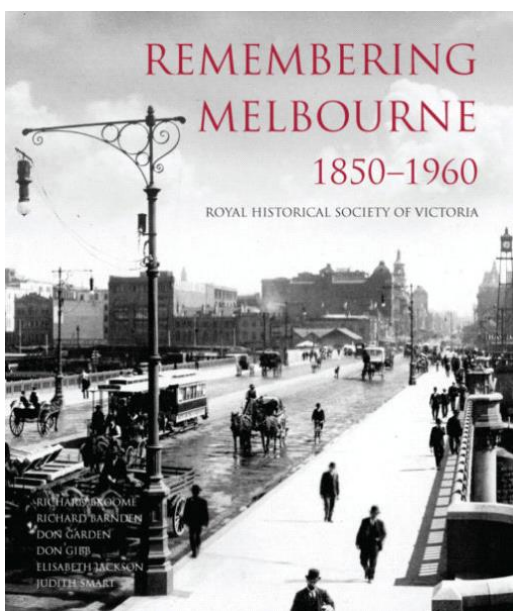
On Tuesday, 18 October 2016, Ken Smith, a member of the Port Phillip Pioneers Group, gave a talk at the Fitzroy Library meeting room. Ken, who has researched the detail of early land sales and Subdivisions across Fitzroy and neighbouring areas, shared his extensive knowledge on the development of Melbourne and its suburbs prior to 1851.

From Lewis, M. in 'Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb', p.8.



## REMEMBERING MELBOURNE 1850-1960

This large format book of 366 pages, was published by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in November 2016.



It captures what has been lost and forgotten, concealed and overlaid, demolished and reborn, in the transformation of a city's buildings and street-scapes. It reveals in over 700 photographs the face of fourteen of Melbourne's finest streets, and also its lanes and little streets, its parks and gardens, and the Yarra. Besides this, it presents key buildings and street-scapes of twenty of Melbourne's suburbs.

Each street and suburb is introduced by a short essay written by an expert, catching the essence of that precinct. These authoritative introductions, written by over 30 history practitioners working pro bono, provide a context for the magnificent photographs to follow. There are also introductory chapters on Aboriginal Melbourne, on how the city was shaped, on the city and suburbs as a whole, and on how Melbourne and suburbs were captured by the camera, which was born at the same time as the city.

Every photograph is identified and explained in extended captions written by over 75 volunteers from twenty suburban historical societies and the RHSV. Caption writers also assisted in the final selection of photographs.

The eight page chapter on Fitzroy, compiled by Mike Moore and Peter Woods of the FHS, has 16 photographs taken from the history collection in the Fitzroy Branch of the Yarra Library. Miles Lewis introduced the chapters on Elizabeth and Lonsdale Streets.

The RHSV on-line bookshop indicates that the book is no longer available at their bookroom, but may be available through QBD Books (<https://www.qbd.com.au/rememering-melbourne-1850-1960/various/9781925385274/>). The price is \$35. Yarra Libraries has copies in its collection.



## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

As we age, so too do others in the community. The Oral History Project Group was formed to capture and record the experiences of long term residents of Fitzroy under the banner of 'The life and times of Fitzroy' dating from the 1960's. The Fitzroy History Society (FHS) joined the Oral History Association of Australia and conducted the Project according to their recommended standards of operation.

The Committee of FHS successfully applied for a Community Grant of \$3000 from Clifroy - Bendigo Bank in Queens Parade and later another of \$1300. These grants have enabled us to have transcriptions made from audio tapes of interviews.

The City of Yarra Library management, Mia Mikin and our Local History Librarian, Lina Favrin have been involved in the project from the beginning. Their support and assistance has been exceptional in maintaining a data base of tapes and transcripts for security and safe keeping.

Two interviewers from the Project Group attended each interview, which was held wherever the interviewee felt most comfortable. The audio tapes were then professionally transcribed. To date, 23 interviews have been conducted, generally over the course of one hour. The Society wishes to thank the following participants for their generosity of time and

effort and their thoughtfulness in the interview commentary:

Tony Birch, Rosemary Brondolino, Tony and Mary Carol, Rose Chong, Paul and Margaret Coghlan, Sue Dance, Ivy Dawson, Pat Durango, Chris Friday, Michael Gawenda, Brian and Renate Howe, Dorothy McInroy, Sam Marasco, Laurie O'Brien, Bruce Pitts, Margaret and Barry Pullen, Ted Rush, Minka Simmonds, The Academy of Mary Immaculate – Sister Bridget and Sister Rosina, Missionaries of Charity – Sister Fidelius and Sister Amalia, Sam Stasinopoulos, Val Noone, and Peter Williams,

The Oral History Project Group includes; Marion Glanville-Hearst, Alison Hart, Meg Lee, Mary Lewis, Hilary Mc Phee, Rosa Simonelli and Marijana Vanevski. Our sympathies are given to the family of Meryl Hyde who passed away during the Project. The Project is very fortunate to have Tony Knox join us as photographer, and he is progressively making photographic records of all persons interviewed.

The Project results will be launched in August this year in the Reading Room of the Fitzroy Town Hall. The collection of interviews, recordings and transcripts will then be available from the Local History Collection of the City of Yarra Library.

## YARRA LIBRARIES LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION POLICY

The City of Yarra are updating their Local History Collection Policy

*including a public comment process, to be conducted every four years to ensure that the collections are managed in accordance with contemporary professional standards in line with community expectations.*

A draft has been produced for public consultation, and input has been requested by late February. It is available at:

<http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/DownloadDocument.aspx?DocumentID=11569>

The Policy considers that the purpose of the collections is

*to serve the community through the acquisition, cataloguing, classification, preservation and provision of access to a well-organised and balanced collection reflecting Yarra's diverse cultural heritage,*

*and meeting the needs of its diverse demographic profile.*

The Policy states that

*the materials in this collection are intended for both general education purposes and specialised research, and that it is preferable to include material in digital format subject to copyright reproduction and budget constraints. This includes the digitization of materials already held by the Yarra Libraries in order to maximize access to the collection. Opportunities to apply for grants to enable this will be pursued.*

The Fitzroy History Society committee has reviewed the draft policy and forwarded comments to the Digital and Community Learning group of Yarra Libraries for their consideration.

## GASOMETER HOTEL



The Gasometer Hotel is on the south east corner of the Smith Street – Alexandra Parade intersection, so it is on the wrong side of Smith Street to be part of Fitzroy. However, it currently displays a sign of historical interest. Recently the building to the south of the hotel was demolished, revealing an old sign for the hotel and for Carlton Bitter. Graffiti vandals have scribbled on the exposed wall, but fortunately have not yet defaced the old sign. The hotel name is a reminder that in the past there were two gasometers diagonally opposite the site on the north west corner of Alexandra Parade.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

Do you want to learn more about our local history and how it can be accessed? Want to see other avenues pursued? Want to assist in research projects? Want to see a more informative newsletter? These could be all good reasons for joining the Committee. For further information contact committee members Peter Woods (peterwoods7@bigpond.com), Mike Moore (m.moore@bigpond.com), or Meg Lee (meglee44@bigpond.com).

## FACEBOOK

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

## Become a Member

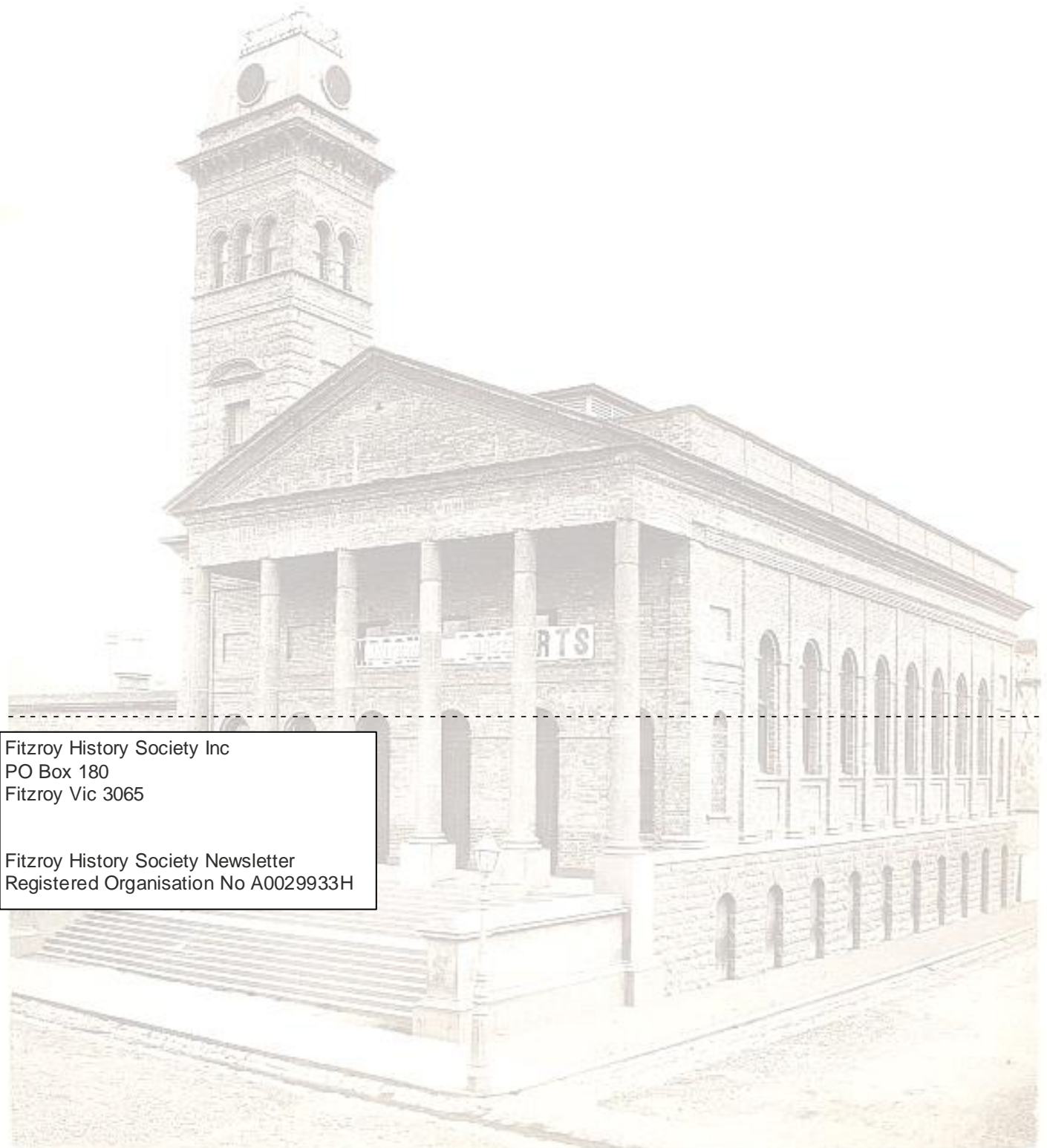
Membership costs just \$10 per person per year.

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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