



May 2015

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

President: Peter Woods

## NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 180, Fitzroy, 3068

[fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au)

Secretary: Meg Lee

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### GALLIPOLI CENTENARY WALK

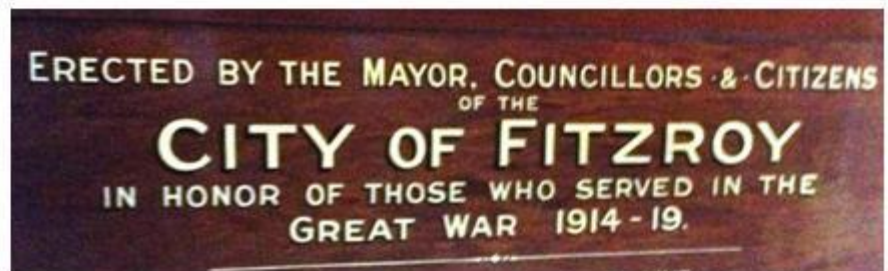
A walk to commemorate the Fitzroy volunteers who served and died in 1915

24 May 2015, 10.30am (preceded by 10am morning tea at the Fitzroy Bowling Club)



The walk will move from the band rotunda memorial in the Edinburgh Gardens to the Fitzroy Town Hall, passing and pausing at the homes of several of the 1915 casualties, to learn something of their backgrounds, their family situations and life in Fitzroy a century ago.

At the Fitzroy Town Hall from noon onwards, the walk will finish with an opportunity to inspect the WW1 Honour Boards in the central foyer, and 'The Great War' exhibition in the Library below.



If coming for the 10am morning tea, please RSVP by email before 20 May to: [fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au)

If you are interested to see who in your street volunteered in WW1, check the listing of around 3000 volunteers on the FHS website under the WW1 tab.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 11th August in the Reading Room at the Fitzroy Town Hall.

The speaker at the AGM will be Tim Gatehouse, who will talk on **The Beale Family and Their Garden in Fitzroy**

Opposite the Fitzroy Town Hall is the site of St. Helena Cottage, the house and garden established by Anthony Beale in 1839. Anthony Beale's diary records the development of the garden, with lists of plants, plans, sketches and the work done by various members of his family, and even the contribution of the family's tutor. It is probably the earliest documented garden in Victoria.

Several generations of the Beale family had lived on the island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean since the 1670s in the service of the East India Company. However, when Anthony Beale was retrenched he was obliged to emigrate, and after sojourns in England and Launceston, began a new life in Port Phillip in 1839. With very little capital left after the purchase of the Fitzroy land, and with only the proceeds of the sales from the water cart brought from Launceston for income, the family was supported largely from the produce of this small estate of less than three acres. On it fruit and vegetables were grown, (and flowers as an indulgence), and cows, fowls, a goat and the precious horse that drew the water cart were kept.

#### FITZROY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Members of the Fitzroy History Society have begun interviewing long time residents of Fitzroy. It is proving most interesting. If you would like to contribute to the project either as an interviewer or an interviewee please contact the Society at [fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au). We plan to interview up to 20 residents by October 2015.

We appreciate the support of the City of Yarra Library for maintaining the data base of interviews and related documents.

We look forward to hearing from you.

— Meg Lee

## RECENT EVENTS

### THE LAUNCH OF THE SELF GUIDED WALK OF THE FITZROY SECTION OF THE INNER CIRCLE RAILWAY LINE



Crossing at St Georges Rd, view north. Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 12600 P3, ADV/0482

On Sunday morning 22nd February 2015 twenty five members enjoyed walking the old railway track with Terry Nott, the walk leader and key researcher for several years on this Project.

This was a significant day as Terry's research culminated into a professionally produced self-guided walk which is now available for downloading from our website - [www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au) The Fitzroy History Society was able to achieve this through the receipt of a Public Records Office Victoria grant of \$3000.

Although beautification and housing development on the circular land area of the track has now occurred Terry was able to highlight remnants of the rail infrastructure from the remains of old original rail stations, rail pylons and railway gates that existed across major north-south roads, especially St Georges Road. To be able to re-imagine the area including grain silos and large factory infrastructure was to know and appreciate the redevelopment.

We noted some areas of concern given the disappearing evidence of old tracks with the creation of bike paths and general asphaltting of the area. There was also overgrowth on the old weighbridge and insufficient signage to alert people to the old history of how the land was previously used. The Fitzroy History Society is considering approaching the City of Yarra regarding these matters.

The Society is pleased to document and publish Terry's research for all.

### CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF FITZROY: MELBOURNE'S FIRST SUBURB



To mark the 25 years since the publication of **Fitzroy: Melbourne's First Suburb**, a reunion with a number of the authors was held at Bad Frankie's Bar on Sunday 8 March, 2015.

An endeavour was made to contact all authors and the front cover artist. The authors present were Suzanne Dance, Jim Davidson, Anna Fratta (who assisted her mother Caterina with translation), Laurie O'Brien, Tom O'Brien, June Senyard, and Carole Woods. Apologies were received from authors Jenny Carew, Mimi Colligan, Jane Lennon, Miles Lewis, Janet McCalman, Chris McConville and John Spierings. Authors no longer with us are Eleanor Harding, Caterina Fratta, Jennifer Phipps, Peter Smark and George Tibbits. No contact was made with Maryanne McCubbin, or Shurlee Swain.

The book, produced by the Cutten History Committee of the Fitzroy History Society with funding from the Cutten Trust, has been a valuable reference for the History of Fitzroy. The members of the Cutten History Committee were June Senyard (convenor), Suzanne Dance, Rosemary Kiss, Mary Lewis, Chris McConville, Andrew Moore and Laurie O'Brien. The first edition was published in 1989 by Hyland House Publishing Pty Limited and a reprint in 1991 was published by Melbourne University Press. As announced in an earlier Newsletter, the book was reprinted by Yarra Libraries in 2014, and is available for purchase from the Yarra Libraries for \$55.

Speaking at the reunion, June Senyard remarked on the collaborative effort that completed the book in a remarkably short time and the help in its compilation from the Social Planning Office.

Photos of the event are shown below and on the following page.





#### ERRATUM

In the printed version of the February 2015 Newsletter, in the article at the bottom of page 2 **Fitzroy 1853 – Remaining houses and vanished streets**, the bottom two lines were missing from the right-hand column. The lines were present in the emailed version. The complete last paragraph appears below with the missing words underlined:

In 1854, the Fitzroy Ward Improvement Act provided funds and authorisation for the wide streets that we have today. When the land for Gore Street was resumed, Young was compensated £50 for part of his house, plus the garden and vineyard extending from Greeves St to St David St.

— Mike Moore