



Hotham History Project Inc.

Estab 1995

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Hotham History News

March 2013

Dear friends and supporters of the Hotham History Project,

Welcome to another year of history related activities. We hope you have all survived the summer heat and are looking forward to joining us on some of the events we have planned for you in 2013.

Burchett Index completed

Many thanks to all those members who assisted Guy Murphy in digitising the Notices to Build in the City of Melbourne (also known as the Burchett Index). This is a key historical research resource for identifying the construction date, architects and contractors for buildings erected within the City of Melbourne before 1915.

Guy, in particular, put in a huge effort to complete the index by the end of last year. The information from the database has been incorporated into the Australian Architectural Index and may be searched by going to the following website:
<http://www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural.html>

Then click on the link 'Log into Australian Architectural Index'.

A launch is planned and we will send an invitation when the launch details have been finalised.

Ratebooks digitised

Ratebooks are a wonderful resource tool but they can be very tedious to research, especially on microfiche. The wonderful news is that the Melbourne Library Service has had the City of Melbourne ratebooks digitised and they will be available on the Public Record Office website: prov.vic.gov.au/ in the next six to twelve months. In the meantime, you can check out the digitised version on the local history computer at the North Melbourne library. The library is trying to work out an index to make the records more easily accessible

ACTIVITIES FOR 2013

A talk by Mimi Colligan on Billy Edwards, a West Melbourne Identity

7.30pm Tuesday 26 March

Marion (Bill) Edwards (1874-1956), trans-sexual barman, pony trainer and bookmaker, frequented the pubs of West Melbourne from the 1920s. Although neighbours knew she was female they described her later as an 'old gentleman'.

Dr. Mimi Colligan is an expert on the history of theatre in Australia. She also writes on

19th century popular culture and biography and is the author of the entry on Marion (Bill) Edwards in *The Australian Dictionary of Biography*.



Marion Edwards in male attire

Venue: Dewey Common, Bastow Institute of Educational Leadership, 603-615 Queensberry St, access from Union St.

A talk by Geoff Leach on historical subdivisions

Ever wondered why our single fronted terrace houses tend to be 16 feet 6 inches wide? Or why some of the long blocks in North Melbourne are 165 feet deep? Have you wondered who owned your house back to when it was built?

Geoff Leach will discuss how the original crown lot subdivision into quarter blocks relates to the widths of single,

one and a half and double fronted houses. And how the LANDATA database can be used to trace the timeline of subdivision and development back to the original crown land sales.

As part of the activity we aim to have a workshop where people can do their own searches, focussing on a particular place or block of interest to them or perhaps a group. Geoff will show how he traced the block on which his house was built in Dryburgh Street to the six allotment block originally bought by William Corris in the 1850s.

This is dependent on the Bastow Institute's public networking facilities being commissioned which have unfortunately been delayed.

If you are interested in attending this session, please contact us at: info@hothamhistory.org.au or 9329 5814 and we will advise you when we know the date.

Temperance Walk

2.00pm Saturday 4 May

During the 19th century there were pubs on many street corners in North Melbourne (79 pubs opened in North Melbourne and 38 in West Melbourne). Temperance advocates argued that there were too many pubs and a local option poll conducted in 1902 voted for a reduction, resulting in hotels closing in 1904, 1912 and 1925. (See examples of reasons for closure under "Not required in the locality"). With the gentrification of the area in recent years, many more hotels have been demolished or converted to apartments. This year we are proposing to do a temperance walk instead of a pub walk, wandering past the sites of many of these old de-licensed pubs and perhaps finishing at one of the few that

remain. The Legion of Mary at 456 Queensberry Street has generously agreed to open their building for us so that we can see inside the old Temperance Hall, built in 1874 for the Hotham Temperance Hall Company.

Meet outside the North Melbourne Library, Errol St about 1.50pm.

A talk by Mary Chapman - Mineral Mt Somers to Marvellous Melbourne: The use of NZ limestone in Melbourne

2.00pm Saturday 27 July

St Mary Star of the Sea is one of the landmark buildings in North & West Melbourne, and many of us have followed its restoration with great interest – none more so than Mary Chapman. On a trip home to her native New Zealand she noticed limestone at a quarry near Oamaru stockpiled awaiting shipment to St Mary's, West Melbourne for use in the restoration of the exterior. Mary will talk about some of the magnificent buildings in Melbourne that have used New Zealand limestone – and in particular our own St Mary Star of the Sea.

Venue: The Crypt, rear of St Mary Star of the Sea, Howard St, West Melbourne

Annual General Meeting

2.00pm Saturday 12 October

Guest speaker and venue to be advised.

"Not required in the locality"

Freemasons Hotel, cnr Victoria & Curzon Sts, closed 1904

Frequented by young men, especially on days of suburban races. Husband of licensee runs a tote on the premises, for which he was fined on 11th December, 1902, but still continues it...Not a well-conducted house.

King's Arms, cnr Curzon & Queensberry Sts, closed 1904

A very awkwardly-constructed house. Looks much better outside than inside, having the appearance of being a much larger house than it is... Bathroom very dirty, unfit for use. The house generally seems to have been neglected, and is scantily furnished. Fairly conducted.

Souter Johnnie, (Curzon St) now Institute of Postcolonial Studies, closed 1904

Medium-sized house, poorly furnished. Does a fair rough bar trade. No provision for supplying meals, and very little for lodging. ...This house is much frequented by railway employees. ...Not well conducted at present.

From: A Return of all Licensed Premises under Victuallers' Licenses in the Flemington Road Licensing District, 1903.

(37 of the 57 hotels in the Flemington Rd District were found to be no longer required.)

The recommendations were not always followed. For instance, the Town Hall Hotel, one of our few remaining hotels was recommended for closure because of the proximity of other hotels and the coffee palace in Victoria St (demolished after a fire in the early 1970s and now a car park). The Volunteer Arms, (cnr Howard & Victoria Sts), recommended for retention, closed instead.

We look forward to seeing you at some of the above activities. If you have a query, please contact us at: info@hothamhistory.org.au.