

KARORI HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on

Tuesday 3 June 2014

at St Ninian's, Newcombe Crescent, Karori

at 7.45 pm.

Members and friends welcome

Business

Annual Report and Accounts

Election of Officers:

President, Vice-President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer

Election of Committee

Election of Honorary Auditor

General Business

Speaker

Priscilla Williams will speak about her role as President of the Bolton Cemetery and its history.

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of Priscilla's talk.

March Meeting

At our last meeting Judy Siers gave a very lively and interesting presentation about the work she has done preparing for the publication of her forthcoming book called

Arrivals: Six Wellington Stories

I am sure the story of these early settlers will increase our knowledge and interest in local history.

Visit to Te Papa

A group of 12 members were taken behind the scenes to view some of the exhibits which are held in the Museum's textile 'vaults'. It was a fascinating visit and I think we were privileged to see some of the treasures that are stored there. The curators explained their criteria before accepting or rejecting an article – because space is at a premium they are very selective. Amongst the exhibits we were shown was the flag of the United Tribes of New Zealand. We also saw a waistcoat which probably belonged to Captain Cook, and a wedding dress possibly

made of silk, together with matching shoes. There was also a display of shoes of various styles and dates – some of which looked very modern.

We hope to make a return visit in the not too distant future.

Fitz – The Colonial Adventures of James Edward FitzGerald by Jenifer Roberts

Jenifer Roberts is a direct descendant of FitzGerald, and although she lives in England, has spent considerable time in New Zealand researching material for this book, including our KHS archives in the Karori library.

FitzGerald, who was an orator, writer and politician, made a major contribution to the early history of Christchurch where he became the first superintendent of the province of Canterbury, first leader of the general government, and founder of the Press newspaper; and in his old age was auditor-general of the colony.

Fitz and his family lived in Karori from 1867-74, renting Chesney Wold from Stephen Lancaster. Fitz's wife Fanny was a talented musician who wanted to improve the singing in the newly-built St Mary's Church where hymns were sung to the sound of a tuning fork. Their daughter Amy rode her pony from house to house to teach people to sing. Fitz designed two transepts and an ornate wooden tower to help strengthen the church in high winds, and raised funds for the project by organising a concert in the church to which he invited the elite of Wellington. The family later moved to a house they built in Oriental Bay.

Very well-written and entertaining, this illustrated biography reads like a novel and gives us an in-depth view of an extraordinary man who played a major role in public life through fifty years of New Zealand history.

Available from Marsden Books and Karori Lotto Shop RRP \$40

The information about the above book has been given to Jan Heynes by the author. It sounds as if it would be a fascinating book to read, especially as the FitzGerald family lived in Karori for eight years and were very involved in some of the suburb's affairs while they were here.

Nominations for the Committee

All the committee members are available for re-election. There is no limit to the number of committee members, so if you would like to become more involved with the running of the Society please consider putting your name forward. Ring the president, Judith Burch 476 4400 or email artybees@actrix.co.nz for further information. We are always happy to welcome new members to the committee so if you feel so inspired, or know of someone who would be willing to become a committee member, please let us know.

Subscriptions Due

Subscriptions are due for the coming year and an invoice is either enclosed with paper copies of the Newsletter or will be sent in a separate email.

We look forward to seeing members and their friends on Tuesday 3 June 2014.