

MELBOURNE'S REETS

EXHIBITION FROM 5 APRIL 2006

~~ RUBBISH ~~~~ GARBAGE, JUNK FILTH, SQUALOUR

FEEDIRTIER SIDE & CITY GALLERY MARVELLOUŠ MELBOURNE AND HOW THE CITY HAS MANAGED ITS RUBBISH FROM 1840 TO THE PRESENT

TONE EXHIBITION STONE EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION DATES 54PRIL 24 JUNE 2006

- MELBOURNE TOWN HALL - SWANSTON STREET MELBOURNE

GALLERY HOURS MONDAY IOAM — 2PM TUE to THU II RM - 6 PM FRIDAY IOAM - 6.30PM SATUDAY IORM - 4PM

FROM THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY VEEPERS WERE ~~~ TO CLEAR THE CITY OF DUST AND RUBBISH

FOR MUCH OF THE ~

WAS A MUCKY CITY -

VERY DIFFERENT FROM BOTH THE

<u>'MARVELLOUS'</u>

CITY OF POPULAR IMAGINATION AND 'LIVEABLE' CITY OF

°SEWAGE ™ TRADE WASTE ¹

POLLUTED THE CITY'S WATERWAYS

CENTURY

SWEEPING THE STREETS HOSING THE FOOTPATHS FINE THE SHINGTHE STREET CHANNELS WITH DISINFECTANT

A BRIGADE OF 'ORDERLY' OR 'SCOOP' BOYS AGED **COLLECTED HORSE MANURE** ~ AND OTHER LITTER ~

RESIDENTS FIND TRADERS HOWEVER. WERE LEFT WITHOUT REFUSE COLLECTIONS

SMOKE INDUSTRIES SUCH AS FROM INDUSTRIES SMELTING — AS WELL AS FROM DOMESTIC HEATING —

THICKENED THE AIR

EMPTY TINS AND BOTTLES

KITCHEN SCRAPS

OYSTER SHELLS. OLD BOOTS

AND OTHER RUBBISH CLOGGED THE CITY'S LANES AND VACANT BLOCKS

'DISPOSED OF' RUBBISH BY DUMPING THEIR BACKYARDS ON STREETS 88 ANY VACANT BIT OF LAND

GARBAGE WAS ALSO BURIED IN BACKYARD **CESSPITS** – or fed to – PIGS

SCRAP MERCHANTS SUCH AS MARINE STORE DEALERS AND 'BOTTLE-OS' COLLECTED COMMON RUBBISH SUCH AS GLASS, METAL AND RAGS

IN 1864, FITZROY BECAME 🎟 FIRST MUNICIPALITY IN MELBOURNE (AND ONE OF THE FIRST IN AUSTRALIA)
TO ESTABLISH REGULAR ~~~ although optional ~~~ COLLECTIONS FOR DOMESTIC RUBBISH

THE OF MELBOURNE ITSELF LEGISLATED FOR RESIDENTS TO LEAVE THEIR RUBBISH IN BOXES IN THE EARLY 1870S, BUT RUBBISH WAS STILL REGULARLY THROWN INTO LANES

LEAVING THOSE PLACES AND OFFENSIVE CONDITION AND POISONING THE ATMOSPHERE WITH NOXIOUS EFFLUVIA **EDECOMPOSING ANIMAL**

ONE COUNCILLOR

OBJECTING TO THE PLAN

PARTLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS BORROWED FROM SYDNEY,

ALSO CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS

'A CLEAN CITY LIKE MELBOURNE

TO ADOPT THE BASKET SYSTEM

##: MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY COUNCIL
COLLECTIONS WERE SUPPLEMENTED
BY A RANGE OF OTHER DISPOSAL METHODS

THE SALVATION ARMY AND BOY SCOUTS COLLECTED NEWSPAPERS FOR RECYCLING WHILE FISH AND CHIP SHOPS AND GREENGROCERS WOULD BUY NEWSPAPERS TO FORWRAPPINGAND

MELBURNIANS

COULD RETURN

EMPTY BOTTLES TO A

LOCAL SHOP

~~~~ OR ~~~~

BOTTLE DEPOT

AND REFILLED

PACKAGING **COUNCILS ALSO ALLOWED** RESIDENTS TO USE BACKYARD

~ for regular ~

BURN OFFS OF LEAVES AND OTHER RUBBISH

INCINERATORS

## THE EDITOR THE ARGUS

AFTER AN ABSENCE OF ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF FROM MELBOURNE MANY OF MY FRIENDS ASK ME WITH PRIDE IN THEIR EXPRESSION

WELL DO YOU THINK **OF THE CHANGE IN** MARVELLOUS MELBOURNE?

> **CROCKERY** ~ .56 % ~

CHANGES, BUT I ALSO ## **MOST UNTIDY HABITS** HOUT FEAR **OF CONTRADICTION** THAT MELBOURNE AND ITS SUBURBS, TAKEN AS A WHOLE, RIVAL ANYTHING I HAVE SEEN ON THE CONTINENT OR IN GREAT BRITAIN FOR CARELESS UNTIDINESS — DIRTY TINS, PAPERS, BROKEN BOTTLES **ARE EVERYWHERE** 

CERTAINLY I SEE WONDERFUI

BY TRAMCAR FOR MILES AND NEVER LOSE SIGHT FOR AN INSTANT OF Waste Paper...

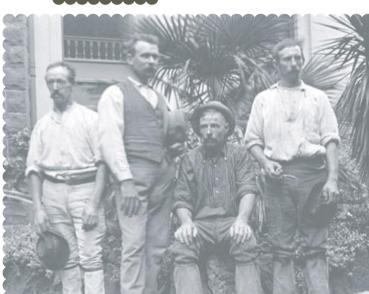
J. COSMO NEWBERY, ARGUS, 21 JANUARY 1889, 6

STRAW

OR FIBRE

~ 1.63 % ~

~ .33 % ~



RECYCLING RUBBISH

IN 1987, A NEW LITTER ACT FOCUSSED ON INDIVIDUALS ROLE IN DISPOSING OF RUBBISH RESPONSIBLY PENALTIES FOR LITTERING

THE LATE 1980s MANY MELBOURNE COUNCILS HAD INTRODUCED KERBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO RECYCLE THEIR BOTTLES RECYCLABLE MATERIAL EFFORTS MELBOURNE'S STREETS - AND TO PREVENT FREM GETTING SO MESSY

**COLLECTED FROM** 

MELBOURNE

**HOUSEHOLDS WAS** 

IN THE FIRST PLACE -  $rac{ ext{FORMY}}{ ext{FORMY}}$ IN THE LEAD UP TO THE RECENT COMMONWEALTH GAMES WERE ENCOURAGED TO CLEAN UP AT THE GAMES

BY PUTTING THEIR

RUBBISH IN BINS

CINDERS ~ 26.55 %

OLD TINS

BROKEN

GLASS

~ 1.44 % ~

SCREENINGS SAND, OR FINE DUST ~ 42.81 % ~

CLINKER, STONES, &C. ~1.32 % ~

/EGETABLE MATTER ~ 13.28 % ~

COMPOSITION OF MELBOURNE

HOUSE GARBAGE AND CHANNEL REFUSE

{not including street sweepings} IN 1900

**PAPER** ~ 7.36 % ~

A MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL FOOTPATH SWEEPER, C. 1980

~ 1.03 % ~

~1.68%~

**EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY** OF WILLIAM SEXTON ASSISTANT OF NUISANCES FOR THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

A GROUP OF MELBOURNE SCAVENGERS C. 1890 {CITY OF MELBOURNE ART + HERITAGE COLLECTION}

TUESDAY, 4 JANUARY 1898: REFUSE EMPTIÉD ON VACANT LAND EAST TO VACANT LAND SIDE **OF 83 NEWRY STREET** 

COULD NOT FIND WHO DID IT. GAVE NOTE TO DRIVER OF FOR MR TO HAVE RUBBISH REMOVED

FOWLS KEPT. YARD DIRTY. CAUTIONED

LIME WASH ~ and ~

**REMOVE RUBBISH** — VERY OFFENSIVE'

TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 1899: FROM RESTAURANT ™ OYSTER SHOP OCCUPIED BY LIVINGSTONE 132 SPENCER ST ₩ LAND ON NORTH SIDE OF PREMISES; ~ MR LIVINGSTONE NOT IN ~

 LEFT WORD WITH MRS L TO SEE THAT II PLACED **TRECEPTACLES** REMOVED THREE TIMES A WEEK 'A FOUL SICKENING

STENCH

AT YESTERDAY'S MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DUNKLEY REPORTED THAT HE HAD VISITED

ETTEBELONGING TO THE CITY COUNCIL and SITUATED WITHIN ~ THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK ~

IT WAS, HE SAID, A DUMPING GROUND FOR REFUSE and GARBAGE CITY

15 LOADS WERE DEPOSITED # EVERY DRY, AND A FOUL, SICKENING STENCH AROSE FROM IT, WHILE A STREAM OF FILTH WATER TRICKLED FROM ITS BASE INTO 🎟 MOONEE PONDS CREEK WHICH IS ABOUT IT YARDS AWAY

THE TIP WAS QUITE UNCOVERED WHEN HE INSPECTED IT ON THE 13TH INST., AND HE NO SEE AN'

~ rats about it, ~ BUT THERE WAS HITTER THAT THEY WERE THERE...

II ALMOST USELESS FOR HOUSEHOLDERS TO CLEAR THEIR PREMISES

OF THE VERMINIFNO PROPER EFFORT IS MADE TO EXTERMINATE THEM

- at the tips ~

THE AGE. 22 MARCH 1900

## **AT SIXPENCE** A HEAD

THE INSPECTOR BRIGHTON REPORTED TO THE LOCAL COUNCIL ON MONDRY

THAT 888 PREMISES ~ had been visited ~

721 OF WHICH WERE FOUND CLEAN 🎫 WITH DRAINS IN **GOOD ORDER** WERE WITHOUT DRAINS
44 Has DRAINS AND 79 YARDS HAD ACCUMULATIONS

OF RUBBISH...

DANG

per head ~

**THE AGE, 9 MAY** 1900

THERE THOUSANDS THE HEALTH OF THE TOWN

HAD PURCHASED BY THE COUNCIL HE MOVED THAT THE PRICE SHOULD BE RAISED TO 6D.

**BOTTLE-0** 

IN EVERY TOWN IN EVERY STREET LIKE A P'LICEMAN MS BEAT. THERE GOES A MAN YOU'RE SURE TO MEET, HE IS THE BOTTLE-O OF BOTTLES HE CAN'T GET ENOUGH, HIS SACK WITH THEM HE LOVES TO STUFF, AND IN A VOICE THAT'S LOUD AND GRUFF, **HE CALLS OUT BOTTLE-0 MD AS HE'S DRAWING NEAR** THESE RING IN YOUR EAR, BOTTLE-O, BOTTLE-O ...'

ELLA OGILVY, 'BOTTLE-O'



~ purchase of ~ **MOTOR-SWEEPERS** 

THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 1898:

CAUTIONED TENANT

TO KEEP RECEPTACLES IN YARD AND SEE TO IT THAT DUSTMEN

TWO MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL ARBAGE COLLECTORS, C. 1980

REFUSE REGULARLY

AFTER AN INSPECTION **CITY COUNCIL'S** NEW MOTOR SWEEPER AT WORK ON DUSTY ROADS, THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE YESTERDAY RECOMMEND THE PURCHASE OF

REE MORE ~~ MACHINES, AT A COST OF £1,125 EACH

THE MOTOR SWEEPER PROMISES TO REVOLUTIONISE  $\sim$ **STREET-CLEANING METHODS** ~~ IN THE CITY ~~

~ THE CITY ENGINEER ~ [MR H. E. MORTON SAID YESTERDAY THAT MOST 5 HAD BEEN MADE ON ST. KILDA ROAD. SYDNEY ROAD, FIND WELLINGTON PARADE

EARLY STREET-CLEANING, HE SAID, "KNOCKED UP" HORSES BY 9 O'CLOCK # MORNING **AFTER RAPIDLY COMPLETING ONE OF THE MAIN CITY STREETS** SPED OFF, II IS MILES AN HOUR TO BEGIN THE CLEANING OF ANOTHER LONG THOROUGHFARE

**ARGUS,** 7 **JUNE** 1922

## TIN ON WHEELS **FND HAND BRUSH'**

'TO CHARLIE JACKSON. EX-OVERSEER OF COLLINGWOOD CITY, OUR BEST WISHES FOR A LENGTHY ME PLEASANT term of retirement ~~~~~~~~

CHARLIE COMMENCED WORK IN THE MUNICIPAL SPHERE IN 1902 AS A SWEEPER 🟗 MELBOURNE CITY COUNCII AT THE PRINCELY WAGE OF ELEVEN SHILLINGS PER WEEK WITH AN ADDED ONE SHILLING FOR WORKING SATURDAY AFTERNOONS HIS RUN FROM FLINDERS STREET OVER PRINCES BRIDGE FINE THEN FLINDERS STREET TO RUSSELL STREET

AUTO-EDUCTOR (MOTOR VEHICLE) ATTENDANT \$40.25 {per week}

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES [MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL] award, 1968

AUTO-EDUCTOR (MOTOR VEHICLE) \$46.50 {per week}

BULLDOZER **OPERATOR** ~ GARBAGE TIP ~ \$50.20 {per week}

STREET SPRINKLING, PICK-UP MACHINE

PICK-UP MACHINE

PICK-UP MACHINE \$48.00 {per week}

[MOTOR VEHICLE] **COMPACTION TYPE \$46.85** {per week}

FOREMAN

\$53.00 {per week}

GARBAGE

MUNICIPAL LABOURER \$39.90 {per week}

(MOTOR VEHICLE) ~~~ OTHER ~~~ **\$44.35** {per week}

TRUCK DRIVER \$41.50 {per week}

TIPMAN **\$42.30** {per week}

WATER FLUSHER (MOTOR VEHICLE) **\$48.00** {per week}

**EMPLOYEE** 

DISINFECTING PITS ME LANES **\$38.70** {per week}

THE COUNSELLOR: OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FEDERATED & SHIRE **EMPLOYEES' UNION <b>運 AUSTRALIA** 

RUBBISH TRUCK OUTSIDE THE MELBOURNE TOWN HALL DURING A STREET CLEANING

~~~~ SELECTED ~~~~

THE ITINERARY OF OUR DAYS

BEST, ALLEYN THE HISTORY OF THE MUNICIPAL Employees N VICTORIA 1885-1985

BROWN-MAY, ANDREW, KEW VIC.: MELBOURNE **MELBOURNE STREET LIFE:** SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING, ~ 1998 ~

25 **DECEMBER** 1897-3 **JULY** 1899 **CARLTON VIC.:** FEDERATED & SHIRE EMPLOYEES' UNION IN AUSTRALIA

~ VICTORIA DIVISION, 1986

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE VICTORIA

VPRS 9448, UNIT I, DIARY OF THE

ASSISTANT OF NUISANCES,

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS special thanks to ~~~

CITY I

DR ANDREW BROWN-MAY **DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY** THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE;

ANNE-LOUISE MUIR, ~ HERITAGE VICTORIA ~

 \sim and most of all \sim

DESIGNED TO ROUND

~ EDDIE ~ BUTLER-BOWDEN

HIS EQUIPMENT WAS A TIN

HAND SCOOP AND BRUSH

TO A TIN ON WHEELS

ADVANCED

HAND BRUSH

HOCKEY,

~ CITY OF ~

MELBOURNE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FEDERATED MUNICIPAL SHIRE EMPLOYEES' UNION OF AUSTRALIA MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN EDITION, VOL. 6, NO. 3 (1959): 15

THE COUNSELLOR:

JASON BENJAMIN

EMERALD HILL {SOUTH MELBOURNE} QUICKLY FOLLOWED AND N 1865WAS **EMPLOYING MEN** TO CLEAN THE STREETS AND COLLECT RUBBISH

VEGETABLE MATTER.

FROM PRIVATE PREMISES \sim IN 1913. AS PART OF A \sim STREET CLEANSING CRUSADE'

THE MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL DECIDED TO PURCHASE GALVANISED BASKETS **Ⅲ PLACED ON STREET CORNERS**

町 NOT EVERYONE APPROVED OF THIS INNOVATION

IN MORE RECENT YEARS THE THE FOCUS HAS MOVED INCREASINGLY TREDUCING THE

IN THE 1960S, A STATE-WIDE ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN LED TO THE CREATION ff KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL (VICTORIA) IN 1967 ~~~~~~

™ ALUMINIUM CANS A STREET LITTER BASKET