

**Tullamore (The Eastern Golf Club)**  
**459 Doncaster Rd., Doncaster.**

Sir Thomas Naughton Fitzgerald (1838-1908), surgeon, and claimed to be “unquestioned leader of the medical profession in all the Australian colonies” last century,<sup>74</sup> was the first owner of this residence built for him in 1886-87.<sup>75</sup> Its site had been purchased the year before from the developer, Frederick Burkamp.<sup>76</sup> In 1890, Fitzgerald’s Doncaster property was described in district rate records as a twelve-roomed brick house on 74 acres in Doncaster Road and had the huge valuation for house and land of 600 pounds.<sup>77</sup>

The site was originally part of Robert Campbell’s subdivision of the Carlton Estate and comprised allotments purchased by David Mitchell (Madame Melba’s father) and James Smith.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> Cemeteries Section File H CEM 516; *Doncaster and Templestowe News* 18 Sept. 1979  
Gov. Gazette

9 Nov. 1988.

<sup>74</sup> *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 4, p. 180.

<sup>75</sup> Shire of Bullneen RB 1886 Doncaster Riding No. 148 (NAV 70 pounds); 1887 No. 188 (NAV 165 pounds).

<sup>76</sup> Shire of Bulleen RB 1886 Doncaster Riding No. 148.

<sup>77</sup> Shire of Bulleen RB 1890 Nos. 96, 99, 100.

<sup>78</sup> *Plan Shewing Subdivision of Portion C of the Carlton Estate*, n.d.; *Plan of Bulleen*, Parish of Bulleen Plan 526 B, 1874.

Fitzgerald named his Doncaster property Tullamore after his birthplace in Ireland. He arrived in Melbourne in 1858 and soon embarked on a distinguished medical career. Opening in private practice in Lonsdale Street, Fitzgerald became senior surgeon at the Melbourne Hospital. In 1884, the first clinical lectureship in surgery was created for him by the University of Melbourne at the Melbourne Hospital. In the same year, he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. In May 1897, Fitzgerald was knighted, the first Australian to be honoured for eminence in the medical profession. He was president of the Medical Society of Victoria in 1884 and 1900, of the surgery section of the first International Medical Congress in 1887, and of the Australasian Medical Congress in Sydney in 1889.<sup>79</sup>

Fitzgerald and his wife, Margaret, enjoyed an affluent lifestyle. They lived in an Italianate town house, Rostella, in Lonsdale Street (now demolished) and spent weekends and holidays at Tullamore, their country home. Fitzgerald also bred horses at Tullamore, racing them under the name of T. Naughton. The stables at Tullamore survive. He was surgeon for many years to the Victorian Racing Club. Other interests included a collection of paintings of which "Chloe", which once hung at Rostella, has been a notable feature of Young and Jackson's Hotel in Melbourne for many years. Fitzgerald died in 1908 on a trip to Cairns and was buried with R.C. rites in the Melbourne General Cemetery.<sup>80</sup>

The second owner of Tullamore in 1909 was William Stutt,<sup>81</sup> (1827-1912), MLA and hotelkeeper. Born in Inniskillen, Ireland, the son of a miller, Stutt arrived in Melbourne in 1853. He made a number of land speculations and in 1862 became the licensee of the Melbourne City Buffet Hotel. MLA for South Grant, south of Geelong, from 1867 - 1871, Stutt later came to Doncaster. Here he ran the Doncaster Hotel (once known as the Racecourse Hotel and Stutt's Hotel) and became President of the Licensed Victuallers Association.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> *ADB vol. 4, pp. 180-181.*

<sup>80</sup> *ADB vol. 4 pp. 180-181.*

<sup>81</sup> Shire of Doncaster RBB 1909-1910 Doncaster Riding No.315 (NAV 155 pounds)

<sup>82</sup> Kathleen Tomson and Geoffrey Serle, *A Biographical Register of the Victorian Parliament 1851-1900*,

After Stutt's death in 1912,<sup>83</sup> Tullamore remained in the family for some years. In 1924, a committee of the Box Hill Golf Club under the leadership of Dr. Benjamin Richards leased Tullamore from Mrs. Julia Stutt<sup>84</sup> and laid out an 18-hole golf course. Tullamore became the club house. In June 1924 Stanley Bruce, P.M., opened the newly-formed Eastern Golf Club. This club had its origins in 1896 when a Surrey Hills Golf Club was formed which in 1914 became the Box Hill Club. After a loss of interest in golf throughout Victoria in the 1920s depression, the Eastern Golf Club became part of the 1930s revival. In 1935, Doncaster joined the Victorian Golf Association followed by Ivanhoe and Rosanna. By 1939, twenty clubs were affiliated with this body which administered club golf on public courses in the metropolitan area.<sup>85</sup>

Tullamore and its stable are of *regional historical significance* as the country home in 1887 of Sir T. N. Fitzgerald, surgeon, a leader of the medical profession in the Australian colonies, and as demonstrating the lifestyle of successful professional men and their families in the nineteenth century. It was important later for its associations with William Stutt, MLA and publican.

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<sup>83</sup> Thomson and Serle, p.204.

<sup>84</sup> Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1924-25 Doncaster Riding No. 163.

<sup>85</sup> *Tullamore* Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society Newsletter Nov. 1974; Garry Mansfield *A History of Golf in Victoria*, Victorian Golf Association, 1987, pp.89,101.