



3rd November 2006

CHAMPAGNE SIPPING AND STRAWBERRY DIPPING AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF 'FANNY'S FLAT'

"I have a tingly feeling that Fanny was a champagne sipping, strawberry dipping kind of songstress in her day," Tiffany Titshall said of the well-accessorised and extremely fictional ghost who is often spotted polishing trinkets and straightening colourful shoes in the little Talbot boutique called 'Fanny's Flat'.

"So from around 2pm (Talbot Farmers' Market pack up time) on SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER we plan to pop a few bottles of bubbly and tear open a few punnets to celebrate the return of wearable treasures to this romantic little room at the back of what was once the Commercial Hotel."

Fanny, a breathy, brunette and bosomy chanteuse and butterfly brooch collector, arrived in the Victorian goldfields during the late 1840s (or was it the 1870s?) to kick-off the Commercial's popular song and dance season. Sometimes dressed in a modified-to-the-curves men's jacket and her great grandmother's kid gloves, Fanny was the source of much friendly gossip and fascination as she graced the dance-floor or promenaded down Fyfe Street arm-in-arm with the butcher's and baker's wives.

"Fanny's Flat is for all the fascinating ladies out there, just like Fanny, who search high-and-low for an almost one-off retro dress for the race season, a better-than-Gucci '70s belt, or an always handy \$10 cardy," Tiffany said while hanging an apple green ball-gown by the Fanny's Flat fireplace.

Tiffany – local artist, shop keeper and '40s frock collector – opens the Fanny's Flat doors between 10am and 4pm on Saturdays and until 3pm on Sundays and is especially busy on the third Sunday of the month during the popular Talbot Farmer's Market. A 'Friends of Fanny' emailing list will be developed to keep regulars informed of special finds and sale days.

"It's the perfect day-trip – from Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, Lal Lal," she said while moving the just-polished trinkets in the glass cabinet back to their former positions. "After stocking up the fortnightly supply of country-fresh spuds, asparagus and fine local wine, pop into Fanny's to find a pretty accessory to brighten a back-to-work Monday outfit.

Recently a satisfied weekend customer was heard saying that every time she wears her Fanny's Flat twin suit to work her office colleagues ask her jealously where she found such a lovely and original outfit.

"Fanny would approach each new Monday with a bright accessory."

Fanny's Flat is a boutique (petite store!) of vintage and modern clothing, new accessories, occasionally revamped originals, gladraggs and collectables on Fyfe Street in Talbot

Talbot is in the Goldfields of central western Victoria, 15 minutes from Clunes or Maryborough, 30 minutes from Creswick or Avoca, 40 minutes from Ballarat or Daylesford and 60 minutes from Bendigo. If you're coming from Melbourne, allow 90 minutes from Westgate Bridge on the Western Highway but why not take a little more time and visit Creswick and Clunes: together with Talbot they are the Villages of the Old Goldfields.

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