

A Brown Slouch Hat continued



historians who arrived in 1940's army uniforms and parked their army hats on top of the piano. Several gentlemen arrived wearing their own brown slouch hats and one or two guests proudly wore their relatives' military medals.

And let's not forget the food! The closest we got to dried egg and milk was reading on the back of the menu the list of weekly rations allowed in wartime Britain. The catering team of Daphne Arthur, Jan and Rachael McCluskey, Pat Rogerson and Norma Lupton conjured up a delicious and varied menu. The 1940s dinner kicked off with a choice of soups (lamb shanks and barley; leek and potato) followed by Woolton Pasties (our interpretation of Woolton Pie, the wartime vegetarian pie named after Lord Woolton, Britain's wartime Minister of Food), corned beef with parsley sauce and cottage pie accompanied by mounds of vegetables.



After the cabaret, a cornucopia of puddings was served including sherry trifle, baked apples stuffed with prunes and bread and butter pudding, followed by tea, coffee and chocolate slices.

Congratulations to President Ted Baillieu, Vice President Alan Chuck, Committee Members Bruce McBrien, Daphne Arthur, Jan McCluskey, Pat Rogerson and Noel Jackling, Executive Officer Cheryl Pisterman and everyone else who helped make this event such a resounding success. The event raised approximately \$1,500.00 towards the Auburn Tower Restoration Fund. Watch this space for details of the next event – and don't forget to book early. **Wendy Hughes Chuck**



From Top: Jan McCluskey and Daphne Arthur dish up a forties feast; Bruce McBrien (far left) and his troupe of entertainers; Brown Slouch Hats parked on the piano.

What the British ate during WW2

Rations for one adult per week were:

Bacon and Ham 4 oz	Milk 2-3 pints. Dried milk was available, 1 packet every 4 weeks
Meat to the value of 1s.2d (5p in today's money), the cheaper the meat you bought, the more you got! Sausages were almost unheard of.	Sugar 8 oz
Butter 2 oz	Jam, marmalade 1 lb every 2 months
Cheese 2 oz (sometimes it rose to 4 oz)	Tea 2 oz (leaf tea, teabags weren't invented!)
Margarine 4 oz	Eggs, 1 shell egg every week, if you were lucky. 1 packet dried egg every 4 weeks
Cooking fat 2-4 oz	Sweets 12 oz every month

Items from this Newsletter may be reproduced with due acknowledgement



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

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Friends pull it off with A Brown Slouch Hat



If you didn't come to "A Brown Slouch Hat," the Friends' tribute to Australia's role in the Pacific War held on 1 May, you missed a rare treat. For a while it looked as though this musical evening combined with a 1940s style dinner was not going to take off but the bookings poured in during the last week in such numbers that eventually the organisers had to turn people away.

The 80 or so people who had secured their table bookings arrived to find the Church Hall transformed into something akin to a 1945 victory celebration with red, white and blue streamers, balloons and table decorations with 1940's style army recruitment posters on the walls. Former Friends Committee Member Bruce Chinnery was the creative genius behind this transformation who put his years of experience with David Jones to good use.

An experienced group of musical entertainers led by Friends Committee Member Bruce McBrien with musical accompaniment by Norman Camm, performed an hour-long cabaret which told the story of Australia's role in the Second World War. The other members of the group were Charles Bratton, Eileen Nelson, Ron Paddon, Dorothy Peden and Mary Scott. Each development in the war was announced by a member of the cast in the role of a radio newsreader. The historical details were fleshed out with dramatic interludes such as an "interview" with the Australian heroine of the French resistance movement, Nancy Wake, and of course some spirited renderings of many of the wartime songs that had the audience joining in with gusto.



Top: The Hall transformed into a 1945 victory celebration; Above: Libby Owens and WW2 veteran Les Fenwick who wore his medals

"Run Rabbit Run", "Kiss me Goodnight", Sergeant Major", "We'll Meet Again", and even some songs from the First World War like "Pack Up Your Troubles" and "Lili Marlene" got an enthusiastic airing.

Many in the audience responded with enthusiasm to the theme of the evening. Table 1 was occupied by a group of military

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The Committee of the Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc.

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2010 Concert Programme

Sunday 6 June 2010 2.30 pm	Andy Vance Trio	Andy Vance piano, Greg Ambroisine trumpet, Andy Price bass provide jazz interpretations of popular hymns and other sacred music
Sunday 1 August 2010 2.30 pm	Showcase Choristry	Music for a cappella choirs, including songs from Vaughan Williams's Shakespeare Songs
Sunday 5 September 2010 2.30 pm	The Australian Boys Choir	This group of beautiful voices returns to Auburn to bring us Fauré's Requiem and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms

Postponed until 2011

2010 Concert Season

The Friends' 2010 Concert Season opened with Trio Anima Mundi presenting piano trios by Mozart, Hurlstone and Piazzolla on Sunday 21 March. This concert was recorded by 3MBS, and the recording will be broadcast on **Sunday 30 May at 8.30 pm**, introduced by Zara Thompson.

We regret to advise that the planned Andy Vance Trio concert on the 6th June has had to be postponed until the next Concert Season in 2011. Andy has advised us that his trumpet player, Greg Ambroisine (a pretty important part of a jazz group!) had an opportunity to perform overseas in June and rather than find a temporary replacement, and after much discussion, we agreed to hold this concert over until next year.

The final concerts for 2010 will feature choral music: on Sunday 1 August at 2.30pm, local group Choristry will present a programme of a cappella choral music, under the direction of Trevor Jones. The programme will include Vaughan Williams' Shakespeare Songs.

The annual Australian Boys Choir – Auburn concert will be on Sunday 5 September at 2.30pm, featuring Fauré's Requiem and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms. The choir will be accompanied by Calvin Bowman, organ; Delyth Stafford, harp and Tim Phillips, percussion, under the baton of artistic director Noel Ancell OAM.

Further information and booking details for all concerts may be found on the Friends' new website: www.auburntowerfriends.org.au

Around the "Friends":

Postponement of Government House Tour

Due to the damage caused to parts of the building and public areas at Government House by the freak storm Melbourne and its suburbs suffered in March this year, our tour had to be postponed.

The Friends Committee will be considering a new date suitable to the Governor and his wife. Friends will be notified in due course.



Glenferrie Festival

Pat and Alan promoted the Friends and the Appeal at the Glenferrie Road Festival. In April. Pictured at left is Pat after what was a long day - remember let's all support the Appeal!



FRIENDS OF THE AUBURN TOWER INC New Corporate Identity

As part of the planning for the National Trust Appeal brochure, the Committee of the Friends of the Auburn Tower undertook the design of a new logo and a new look letterhead. It was also decided that we register an independent domain name and create a simple (but informative) website with links to events, concerts, points of interest and, of course, the Appeal. Please visit: www.auburntowerfriends.org.au and let us know your thoughts on our new look.

Stop Press: Committee member and "A Brown Slouch Hat" organiser Bruce McBrien had a heart pacemaker fitted while in Cabrini Hospital, and is now recuperating at home.

A Tribute to Ruth Alison Krahnert

We learned in December of the passing of one of the original Friends, Ruth Krahnert. Despite their move away to Lara, Ruth and her husband Brian maintained their links with Auburn. The following is a tribute to Ruth at her funeral service.

Ruth Alison Hedges was born at Maryborough Victoria on October 29 1934, the eldest child of a family of six, born to James and Isabel Hedges.

Ruth was talented both with her studies and in a wide range of interests - hockey, tennis and especially swimming in which she excelled. As a teenager she held junior State Country Championships in both swimming and diving. She also studied piano and clarinet during her time at school. After leaving school she entered her father's printing business known as Hedges and Bell and there she learned the arts of book-keeping and office management..



Vale Ruth Krahnert

The family was active in the Methodist Church, where both her father and mother were organists - her father at the main Methodist Church and her mother at the second church. It was here that Ruth met her future husband Brian, a teacher at the Maryborough Technical School. They were married on January 16 1954, and the following year moved to Hawthorn where Brian was appointed organist and choirmaster at the Auburn Methodist Church. Here they established their family home, and brought up their three daughters, Suzanne, Brenda and Alison.

When the three girls were well established at school, Ruth returned to the work force, first as Secretary to John Kennedy, Principal at Swinburne Technical School, and well known coach of the Hawthorn Football Club, and later as a book-keeper in the large textile and clothing firm of Crestkmit, later known as Sportscraft.

Ruth never drew attention to herself or the quality of her service to others. But it was these very qualities that endeared her to all who knew her, and she was greatly loved by a wide range of people who knew her as church elder, Parish Treasurer, Sunday School teacher and Superintendent, chorister, tennis player, and in the wider community, a volunteer with "Meals on Wheels" throughout the City of Hawthorn.

In her later years, Ruth was able to fulfil a long cherished ambition to travel, and together with Brian, they planned and enjoyed several trips to Europe, staying a number of times with friends in England, and immersing themselves in the beauties of the Cathedrals and Churches throughout the UK and revelling in the rich liturgical heritage of the Christian faith. Her photographic albums remain as a testament to this deep interest that enriched these later years. *with thanks to Brian and family*

National Trust External Appeal

NATIONAL TRUST



The Friends – National Trust Appeal for restoration of the Tower was launched by Friends' President Ted Baillieu at a reception after the March concert.

The first donations were received on the day, and a steady stream has been coming in ever since. The total now stands at approximately \$2,100, still well short of our initial target of \$84,000.

A copy of the Appeal brochure is enclosed with this Newsletter. If you have already made your donation, please pass the brochure on to someone else who may be interested in supporting our work.

The work, which will involve erecting a temporary scaffold and screen around the tower arcade, will be carried out by painting specialists McElligotts, under the supervision of conservation architect Arthur Andronas. Arthur will first carry out paint scrapes to determine the authentic colour, which will then be confirmed with Heritage Victoria.