



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

Summer 2018-2019

Rare Dutch honour conferred on Noel Jackling

Retired lawyer and Friends of the Auburn Tower member Noel Jackling, was invested on 6 March 2018 as a Ridder (Knight) of the Order of Oranje-Nassau of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This award was for 'his longstanding and dedicated work on the promotion of the Uiver story, and the preservation and extension of the now heritage-listed Uiver collection at the Albury Library Museum'. The Ambassador in Australia for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Her Excellency Mrs Erica Schouten, (below with Noel) travelled from Canberra to Albury to bestow the Ridder honour on Noel.

Noel is one of about eight Ridders in Australia. For some years he has been researching the Uiver, a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Douglas DC-2 that flew in the 1934 London to Melbourne MacRobertson International Centenary Air Race. Thanks to the swift and innovative actions of several Albury men, the Uiver was able to survive a fierce electrical storm by making a safe emergency landing on the Albury Racecourse at 1:17am on 24 October 1934. A few hours later, after the bogged Uiver was manually dragged to drier ground, it took off, finished the race and won the handicap prize.

Noel first became associated with the Auburn Church when in 1959 he joined the Methodist Youth Fellowship.



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Inside this Newsletter:

<i>Rare Dutch honour conferred on Noel Jackling</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Annual General Meeting</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>A story of the pianos at Auburn Uniting</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Save the Date</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Friends' Visit to Longacres, Olinda</i>	<i>3</i>

Annual General Meeting

About 20 members and guests attended the AGM on Monday 29 October 2018. All office bearers and committee members were re-elected unopposed. After the AGM, despatched with customary speed by the President, we enjoyed a fascinating illustrated talk by architect Fred Batterton, on St Aldates Oxford – Re-purposing after 1000 years. The number of questions was evidence of the audience's interest in the subject. The evening concluded with a delicious supper, prepared in the newly-refurbished Kitchen. The kitchen refurbishment was made possible by a generous donation from the family of the late Friends member, Pheng Ng.



St Aldates, Oxford after its repurposing

A story of the pianos at Auburn Uniting Church

Sunday 23 December 2018 saw the dedication of the piano which was donated to Auburn Uniting Church by Mrs Shirley Fraser. Mrs Fraser is a niece of the late Mack Jost, a renowned Melbourne pianist and piano teacher, and is a friend of long standing of Friends members Ruth and Graham Bartle.

The piano, a Kawai KG-1, was made in Japan and purchased new for Mrs Fraser in 1984. She is now unable to accommodate the piano, and has generously donated it to the Church for use in the sanctuary. The Friends of the Auburn Tower are planning a series of concerts in 2019 to display the versatility of the piano, both as a solo instrument and accompanying singers and instrumentalists. It is hoped that the opening recital will be given by organist and pianist Lachlan Redd, of St Paul's Cathedral.



Bruce Macrae at the Kawai KG-1 Grand Piano

The piano now in the Pawsey Room was bequeathed by the late Mrs Joyce Lee. Joyce was a long-standing member of the congregation, the choir and of the Friends. The piano, a Rönisch upright grand, was made in Leipzig in about 1912, and was brought to Australia by Joyce's maternal aunt when she emigrated from Germany, at about the time of Joyce's birth in 1913.

The piano formerly in the Eileen Pawsey Room, now in the Hall, also has an interesting history. It was made by Krauss for the German Kaiser, and won the Cannes Piano Competition in 1906. After the fire of 1970 destroyed the former Denham Street (Hawthorn) Methodist church, the congregation began to meet in the hall, and needed a piano. The late Rev W J Johnson located the piano, and acquired it for the church. With the closure of that church in 1989, the piano and stool were fully restored with money bequeathed by an honoured and loved member of that congregation, Mrs Joyce Mason, and moved to Auburn.

The Church and the Friends acknowledge with gratitude the generosity of these three ladies who, over the course of some 35 years, have added greatly to the musical life at Auburn.

Alan Chuck

Save the Date

Organist Dominic Perissinotto, director of music at the Basilica of St Patrick, Fremantle WA, and mezzo-soprano Eva-Marie Middleton, have agreed to give a joint concert at Auburn when they next return to Melbourne, on **Sunday afternoon, 21 July**. Dominic is well known to Melbourne audiences, having grown up here, and his wife, Eva-Marie, is from Perth. This should be an excellent concert, so please put the date in your diary now. Also, pianist **Lachlan Redd** has agreed to give the opening recital on the new piano on a date yet to be fixed. **Watch this space!!!**

Friends' visit to Longacres, Olinda

Sunday the 18th November was a perfect mild, sunny day for the visit of the Friends of the Auburn Tower to Arthur Streeton's home at Olinda.

Set on approximately 5 acres of land, Streeton built the original dwelling in 1923-4. Just wandering in the gardens was pleasant, marvelling at the blend of structure and the exuberance in the arrangement of the many plants and trees. The studio, which has been kept very much as he would have left it, helped to form an idea of how his days there would have been spent.

After our enjoyment of the grounds, we were treated to a well-rounded talk by Friends' member, Julie Dodd-Streeton (who is now the curator of the property and widow of Arthur's grandson, Roger) about the property from all perspectives, concentrating mostly on the gardens, with interesting inside knowledge of the artist himself. The fact that Streeton was such an accomplished and well-informed gardener was a surprise to some of us and added to his mystique.

Afternoon tea, largely provided by Daphne, was enjoyed in the gallery which was added to the house in 1939. The paintings lining the walls were a delight in themselves. The many and varied accompaniments to the tea and coffee were difficult to choose between, so not only were we quite spoilt for choice, but a number of us would have found it difficult to contemplate dinner that night.

with thanks to Maureen Jenkins



Clockwise from Above: National Trust status for Arthur Streeton's studio; Japanese maple and statuary in the garden; the extended cottage;

Streeton's studio in the garden with "love birds" bird bath in foreground; Julie Dodds-Streeton with Daphne Arthur and friend; Listening to the history of Longacres whilst enjoying afternoon tea.

