



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

Autumn 2012
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100 Not Out - Geoffrey Graham's Tour de Force



Entertainer Geoffrey Graham advertised his show as comedy, bush poetry, music and whip cracking Australiana over the years since Federation. Given the confined space of the Auburn Uniting Church Hall, there wasn't a lot of whip cracking. But there was however plenty of entertainment for the attentive audience.

This was an ambitious show. In a little over 2 hours of very solid performance, Geoffrey gave us a lesson in Australian history since Federation. He took on everything from the iniquities of the White Australia Policy to the role of immigrants in the building of

Australian infrastructure, and in particular, the Snowy Mountains Scheme. He covered the role of Australians in the wars of the late 19th and early 20th Century and the development of an Australian identity and national pride. The pioneers and legends, the role of women, sport and multiculturalism were all touched upon through yarns, comedy, drama, poems and songs. With rapid on-stage costume changes (and the assistance of his capable and put-upon prompter and lighting technician), Geoffrey took on the role of numerous characters in his quest to educate his audience and ask the question, are we there yet as a nation?

A sign of Geoffrey's success as an entertainer but also an educator perhaps was that there were many in the audience who commented over supper, "I didn't know that". The audience joined in as required on the responses and in spirited sing-alongs.

Once again, Daphne, Pat and their team excelled with their usual magnificent post-show supper. A cute touch was the serving of ice-cream in old fashioned "Dixie-cups" at interval. The evening was not just good fun but also a successful fund raiser.

At the end of his show, Geoffrey revealed that after packing up the show he then had to get himself prepared for the inaugural Melbourne Ironman competition the following day. A veritable Aussie Legend!

Review by Ian Scott

Electronic news! And social media!



Follow us on Twitter ... The Friends of the Auburn Tower now has its own Twitter feed: @AuburnTower – why not Follow us and keep up to date with events at and under the Tower.



Save a tree or three ... This Autumn edition of the newsletter will be the first distributed to those members who are happy to receive an electronic version. Each quarter we were posting out 100 copies; now with the majority of members electing to go "electronic" I calculate a

saving (at 60 cents each) of around \$30.00 minimum. **Cheryl Pisterman, Editor**

Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc
PO Box 583
HAWTHORN BC 3122

The Committee of the Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc.

Patron: Prof the Hon Evan Walker

Executive Officer:
Cheryl Pisterman
Contact: 9819 1899

President: John Herniman

Vice Pres. Alan Chuck

Secretary: Elizabeth Bethune

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Daphne Arthur

Noel Jackling

Bruce McBrien

Pat Rogerson

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Find us on:
www.auburntowerfriends.org.au

or follow us on Twitter:
[@AuburnTower](https://twitter.com/AuburnTower)

2012 Concert Season

Following the success of our first concert for 2012, below is a list of events and concerts for the Friends. We encourage you all to enjoy the programme for this year.

Sunday June 3 2:30 pm	Vivat Regina! A Grand Concert celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee featuring the Ashton Smith Singers of Australia, organist Thomas Heywood and soloists and brass ensemble.	The concert will include music from the 1953 Coronation and will provide for audience participation. Online booking is now available on www.trybooking.com/BDWJ
Sunday June 24 2:30 pm	Music's Praise The Australian Boys Choir and The Vocal Consort	This great collection of voices will present Britten's <i>Hymn to St Cecilia</i> and Michael Hurd's <i>Music's Praise</i> . Booking online preferred on www.trybooking.com/BHTM
Sunday September 9 2:30 pm	Troveresse consisting of Helen Dell (voice, organ, percussion); Alex Connelly (voice, recorder, percussion); Louise Horgen (voice, hurdy-gurdy) and Will Thompson (voice and medieval instruments)	Melbourne's acclaimed early music consort will be singing and playing the music of medieval Europe. www.trybooking.com/BHQE
Sunday November 18 2:30 pm	Organ Recital Australian born and internationally acclaimed organist Dr Gordon Atkinson plays the historic Fincham organ	Works by J S Bach, Jean Langlais and more www.trybooking.com/BHQF

2012 Open Day - Part of National Trust Heritage Festival

The Church and Tower will be open to the public on Saturday 12 May, from 1 – 5 pm, as part of the National Trust's Heritage Festival. See the full programme at www.natrust.com.au/heritage_festival If you have not yet exercised your Member's right to free admission to the Tower, this will be your opportunity to do so! Don't forget that the next day is Mother's Day, so why not bring your mother to enjoy the view from the Tower (or sample the afternoon tea, at ground level). Advise her to wear trousers, as ascent to the observation deck requires climbing open ladders.

However, before we can open the Tower to the public, a few months' worth of guano has to be removed from the observation deck. For this purpose, there will be a working bee on Thursday 10 May from 10:00 am – please come as you are able, and bring small cleaning tools (eg scraper, scrubbing brush). Those who don't like working at heights may prefer to clean the Church instead.

On the day, we will also need a full complement of volunteer ticket sellers and guides; and helpers for afternoon tea. Please give your name, and preferred position and time (1 – 3 or 3 – 5), to Cheryl on 9819 1899 or execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au by 1 May.

CONTRIBUTORS WANTED

My thanks to Ian Scott for his great review of our concert of 24 March and our regulars, Noel Jackling and Alan Chuck. We need more like them. If you have an idea, a story, something novel, please share it!!!

Items from this Newsletter may be reproduced with due acknowledgement.