



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

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All that Jazz with the Janet Arndt Quintet



A fun event is planned for **Saturday night, May 02 from 8:00pm** in the Auburn Uniting Church Hall. We invite our Friends and their friends to come along and enjoy the entertainment by the the Janet Arndt Quintet (JAQ). This well-known group, led by vocalist Janet Arndt, plays trad jazz as well as swing style and jazz ballads. The band consists of piano, bass and drums, augmented by guitar, clarinet and trumpet when a larger group is required.

Janet has been a jazz enthusiast since her teens and a vocalist since 1987. She has travelled widely and has performed around Australia and overseas in such places as New Orleans, Hawaii, Madagascar, Mauritius and Israel, just to name a few!

Her joy is to sing the music that she loves, hoping to continue for many years to come.

Gather your friends and book a table for seven; individual places are also available. To book go to: **www.trybooking.com/GYXB** and pay by credit card or call Elizabeth on 9818 2726 and pay by cheque made payable to the Friends of the Auburn Tower. Cost is \$25.00 for Friends and concession card holders and \$30.00 for adults.

Nibbles, cake, tea and coffee will be served. Drinks are BYO and glasses will be supplied.

Seating is limited so snap up your places now. We look forward to seeing you on **Saturday, 02 May 2015** with your "glad rags" on!

This is our major 2015 fundraiser for the restoration of the Tower.

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125th Anniversary Celebrations

As part of the 125th Anniversary Celebrations an Open Day was held to provide an opportunity for the present and past members of the Auburn Uniting Church congregation as well as the community to visit the church complex.

The day turned out to be a warm sunny spring day and many people took the opportunity to catch up with friends, have refreshments and to climb the tower. In addition, the Committee of the Friends had prepared a booklet which was available for people to take a self-guided walk to significant homes and other buildings in the vicinity of the church. Many of these buildings had shared histories with the Auburn Uniting Church and were open with people familiar with the history of the buildings being available to provide further information.

To have an opportunity to climb the tower continues to be an attraction for people and resulted in a significant number of climbers on the day. The delightful weather enhanced the views from the tower over Hawthorn and its surrounds.

In addition to the Open Day other events were held over this weekend including an Auburn Uniting Church 125th Anniversary Lunch held on Sunday 14 September, 2014. Several people had travelled distances to come back for what proved to be an enjoyable weekend of catching up and chatting.

Friends' AGM

A well attended Annual General Meeting was held on 27 October 2014. John Herniman outlined the achievements of the Friends over the year. This report was followed by the Hon Ted Baillieu who engaged the audience telling of his work as the Chair of the Victorian Anzac Centenary Committee. The strong theme of Mr Baillieu's talk was the Committee's goal in helping Victorians to understand the significant role of the people of Victoria in World War I and how communities contributed greatly throughout the war effort. The Victorian Anzac Centenary Committee have a number of initiatives in place encouraging people to make connections with the generation of men who signed up to serve their nation. Mr Baillieu described the visit of Miss Janet Woolhouse to the house of her uncle Captain Curnow in South Melbourne. Captain Curnow known as "Uncle Bert" to his niece was killed in action, aged 23, at Pozieres on August 5, 1916. Other personal anecdotes from members of the audience included having received letters from the the Victorian Anzac Centenary Committee alerting the homeowner of the names of men who had gone to war from that particular address. Rare film footage was shown of King George V knighting Sir John Monash on a battlefield in France.

Other highlights included welcoming Ms Sheila Curtis to the Friends' Committee and the drawing of the Hamper Raffle by Mr Baillieu, which was won by Mr David Pisterman, a Friend.

Vale Evan Walker

We were saddened to hear that our Patron, the Hon Evan Walker, died on February 16, 2015. Prof Walker was considered to be a man of vision with a life long commitment to the people of Victoria. This was illustrated by his eminent career as an architect; as a politician managing several portfolios in his political life in the Legislative Council and Cabinet and his exemplary career as an academic in the discipline of Architecture. Throughout his career Evan Walker was the recipient of many awards, including the Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1996; Honorary Doctorates in the fields of Architecture and Technology and served as a distinguished member on many professional, community and advisory bodies. He was a most generous man and, in the words of his family, considered it a privilege to serve his community. In his role as Patron of the Friends of the Auburn Tower we have been recipients of his generosity over the past ten years, for which the Friends are truly and highly appreciative.

A State Funeral to celebrate the life of the Hon Evan Walker was held in Auburn Uniting Church on February 23, 2015.

Our most heartfelt sympathy from all the Friends to Judith and the family.