



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

Christmas 2023

Vale Antonio Di Lallo

Friends who attended the Concert marking the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War 2 would remember the recorded interviews with four elders who experienced the War first-hand. We regret to advise that the oldest, Antonio Di Lallo, has died at the age of 102. Born in Italy in 1921, he survived imprisonment during the War and hardship afterwards. He emigrated to Melbourne in 1959, leaving his wife Assunta and two daughters behind. They followed him once he had obtained employment and housing, and they later had twin sons. A shoemaker by trade, he worked for Aquila Shoes and later set up his own firm. He continued to live in the same house in North Carlton after Assunta died until a few weeks before he died on 16 September. Wendy and Alan Chuck attended his funeral at St Anthony's Capuchin Friary Church in Hawthorn.

We are pleased to report that the other interviewees are alive and well, in particular, Paul M (Mick) Dexter lives alone following the death of his wife, and will celebrate his 100th Birthday in August 2024.

Spring Open Day

Thanks to all who supported our Open Day on 12 November, especially the volunteers who braved a cold southerly breeze to man the observation deck. Over 100 people climbed the Tower, raising nearly \$500 towards Friends' funds. Those inside the Church were entertained by Felix Suo, aged 9, at the piano. You can see Felix on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTBoiV2BizE> Felix has expressed an interest in learning the pipe organ, so, once his legs are long enough to reach the pedals, we hope to hear him play Bach on the church organ.

Committee News

The Committee met for the last time this year on Wednesday 6 December. We explored succession planning for the Committee, and new ideas for fund raising.



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AGM and Guest Speaker

Members and guests who attended the AGM on 26 October enjoyed a presentation by Dr Stella Barber on the history of the Myer family. Dr Barber was introduced by Margaret Pettitt, the organist at Auburn Uniting, who had previously worked with Dr Barber on the Myer biography project as an honours assignment many years ago. Dr Barber gave a most interesting illustrated talk on Sidney Myer, whose love of music prompted his charitable trust to sponsor the Music Bowl after his death.

The AGM which followed was straightforward, with the four office bearers and two committee members being re-elected unopposed. The invitation to new members to join the Committee remains open.

Concert Under the Tower

Further to the notice in the Spring Newsletter, the concert planned for October could not proceed, and will now take place on Sunday afternoon, 26 May 2024, in the Church. With the Council's grant, we have been able to engage the services of an arts administrator. The successful candidate is Ms Grace Collivet, a soprano with event planning experience. Grace has commenced work, and is currently drawing up contracts for the performers.

Virtual Tower Tour

With no more Tower Tours for this year, it is timely to repeat this notice:

For those afraid of heights, or unable to climb the Tower, a virtual tour of the Tower, and the panoramic view from the top, is now available online, free of charge. Go to <http://www.hiddenmelbourne.com.au/virtual-tour/auburn-uniting-church/>, or follow the link on our website.

Advance Notice

The Friends submitted applications for two grants, to two different grant makers, for funding for our Concert remembering Margaret Sutherland. We are delighted to announce that our application to the Robert Salzer Foundation has been successful to the tune of \$2,000. This will now enable us to fix the ticket prices and open online bookings. In the meantime, please keep the date free: **Sunday 14 April 2024 at 5pm**. The programme will feature:

Two Chorale Preludes: 'Jesu, meine Freude' BWV 610 'Herzliebster Jesu' BWV 1093 Geoffrey Urquhart (organ)	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)
Two Chorale Preludes (as above) arranged for piano: Chris Nankervis (piano) Sonata for Clarinet and Piano: Anna Chung (clarinet) and Chris Nankervis (piano) Songs TBA: Sidra Nissen, mezzo soprano Six Profiles : Chris Nankervis, piano The Orange Tree (for clarinet, voice and piano): Anna, Sidra and Chris	Margaret Sutherland (1897 – 1984)

After the Concert, there will be a reception in the Hall, where copies of Dr Jillian Graham's new biography of Sutherland will be available for purchase and signing by the author.