

Who's Who in the Friends' Committee 2023-24



John Herniman, President

John has been connected to the tower for many years. He used to see the tower on the horizon when he went to school nearby. When he studied Architecture at Melbourne University he wrote a thesis about the Church's architect, Alfred Dunn. Alfred Dunn died at 29 and designed and supervised Auburn Uniting Church as a 24 year old! He also designed the other buildings in the suite, the Manse, the Sunday School and the Cottage. They have a Heritage listing and are classified by the National Trust. John's interest in the precinct is mainly architectural and his major driver is to "make sure that the Church in particular, but also the suite of buildings, are preserved and maintained".

Di Gillies, Vice President



Alan Chuck, Secretary

Alan has served on the Friends committee since its inception, and is currently Secretary and Public Officer. A civil engineer by profession, he has developed a love of heritage churches since attending St Andrew's Box Hill. His link with Auburn goes back to 1978, when he lived in Hawthorn. He is keen to see the Auburn buildings sensitively conserved and adapted for 21st century use. While supervising work on the Tower in 2003, he invited Ted Baillieu (then Member for Hawthorn, where the Tower is located) to climb the scaffolding, which led to the creation of the Friends in 2004.



Jane Tisdall, Treasurer

Jane was elected as Treasurer of the Friends of the Auburn Tower on 23rd October 2017. Jane is a qualified Certified Practising Accountant with more than 15 years collective experience working in private practice and the not-for-profit sector. As a resident of the City of Boroondara for more than 10 years, her interest in the local surroundings and history has grown. Jane appreciates the uniqueness of the local heritage and the importance of preserving history for future generations.

Daphne Arthur, committee member

Daphne has served as a Friends committee member since its inception. She is a member of the Auburn Uniting Church with its beautiful tower and its magnificent pipe organ. She was a resident of Hawthorn for many years, operating a B&B in an historic precinct in the suburb. She has a deep appreciation of beautiful and historic buildings and is committed to their preservation. She believes that in this fast-changing world there is a great need to maintain the stability and continuity of the urban environment.

Patricia Rogerson, committee member

We are sorry to advise that Pat died in April 2024, with her funeral being held at Auburn Uniting Church on 27 April.

Cheryl Pisterman, Executive Officer

Cheryl is the proprietor of In-(my)-House Publishing, a small desk top publishing and secretarial service in Hawthorn, co-incidentally just down the road from the Auburn Tower. She provides services to the Friends which include minute-taking, general administration, creation of promotional material, maintenance of the membership database and a regular Friends newsletter. Cheryl enjoys living in the historic Auburn area of Hawthorn and hopes that this Auburn Uniting Church complex and its magnificent Tower will be restored and preserved for the future.