



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

Spring 2019

Pipe Organ + One

Over 50 people attended the recital, sub-titled "Song to the Moon" in honour of the 50th Anniversary of the lunar landing, featuring organist Dominic Perissinotto and soprano Eva-Marie Middleton, from Western Australia. The Friends were delighted to receive not one but two reviews of the event, the first from member Avril McHugh, and the second from organist and singing teacher Roland Cropley.

My husband and I had the pleasure of attending this recital featuring Dominic Perissinotto on the organ and Eva-Marie Middleton, a mezzo-soprano.

Dominic and Eva began the programme with 'Divinités Du Styx' from the opera 'Alceste' by Christoph Willibald Gluck. I particularly liked the next piece, 'Prelude and Fugue in D Major for Organ BWV 532 by Johann Sebastian Bach, where the music gave the impression of 'a vigorous conversation between 3 or 4 people'.

Eva-Marie's first two songs by Mozart, 'Ah I feel it' from The Magic Flute and 'Where are all those moments?' from The Marriage of Figaro were both about unhappy women which she portrayed beautifully. Eva-Marie's next pieces were 'Oh My Homeland' by Verdi and 'I am but a humble servant' by Cilea and her final piece 'Song to the Moon' by Dvorak. It was a delight to hear the richness and emotion in Eva-Marie's voice as she sang the pieces.

The organ pieces Pastorale op 19 for organ by Franck and Variations on a theme by Paganini for organ by Thalben-Ball, contrasted fittingly with the different moods of the pieces selected for the programme.

The audience was delighted to hear that Eva-Marie had been selected for operatic roles in Croatia while auditioning in Germany. Dominic was returning to Western Australia, where he is Organist and Director of Music at St Patrick's Basilica, Fremantle.

We were delighted to attend and thank the Friends of the Tower for giving us the opportunity to listen to two highly regarded artists. *Avril McHugh*

continued page 2

Renewal invoices for Membership have been sent out by our Treasurer, Jane Tisdall via a new and more efficient system.

Reminders will be sent out this week. If you are unsure if you have renewed or not, please contact Cheryl on: 0419 757 866 or execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au

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Tower Inc**

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Inside this Newsletter:

Pipe Organ + One 1-2

Speaker - AGM 2019 3

*An Evening with ...
David Parkin* 3-4

Pipe Organ + One (continued)

Organ and Soprano a Tantalizing “Mixture”



Pipe Organ Plus One at Auburn Uniting Church with Dominic Perissinotto and Eva-Marie Middleton was an interesting and varied demonstration of organ and vocal fireworks. Both performers entertained with considerable mastery in a wonderful environment where Dominic revealed the versatility of the organ in three rewarding solos and six effective accompaniments for Eva’s powerful mezzo.

An exciting romp through the virtuosic Bach D major Prelude and Fugue was the most musically satisfying piece, with the recently completed bottom octave of the reed stop singing a perfect baroque bass line supporting

a very clean *organo pleno*. Franck’s Op 19 Pastorale meandered with a fairly convincing French sound, and the extraordinary Thalben Ball Ten Variations on Paganini’s *La Campanella* mainly for pedals was a stunning myxomatosis* of short fragments. I would have enjoyed more from the organ to satisfy my soul however.

Writing about Eva’s singing is more challenging. She has great vocal agility and musical breadth, but allows her brilliant resonant spin free rein over the beauty of vocal line. Her soft sound is very pleasing, but her considerable artistry was all too often splattered by an uncontrolled overwhelmingly brilliant head resonance. Her musical future will be stellar when she is able to make loud notes beautiful, and maintain a steadier vocal line.

Roland Cropley

*We understand Roland to be making a pun – he added “You might like to mis-spell myxomatosis as mix[ture]mytoesis, cos anyone who can play those pedal variations has to mix their toes magnificently.” Ed.

Special Tower Open Day - 22 September 2019



The Friends’ committee agreed that the Auburn Tower be opened to the public on a number of times throughout the year. Once again passersby will see the distinctive promotional banners dropped from the balcony of the Church building in the week prior to the opening.

Old and new members of the Friends (and their friends) are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to

experience the fantastic views from the top - and if they are not too sure about the climb up to the top, then they can see the great photos located on the first landing.

Access to the tower is Free to members; \$5.00 for non-members (children over 6 free).

Reminder — AGM 07 October 2019

This is a reminder that this year's AGM will be held on **07 October** at 8:00pm where our special guest speaker is specialist heritage conservation architect, **Liz Vines OAM**. Liz's first book, *Streetwise*, was a seminal "how to" manual for those interested in building and streetscape restoration. It has been widely used as a guide for upgrading Australian towns since its publication in 1996 and her second book *Streetwise Asia* – a 2006 World Bank/UNESCO publication now translated into Chinese – has found wide applicability. Liz teaches at the University of Hong Kong, and is an Adjunct Professor in the Centre of Cultural Heritage in Asia & the Pacific at Deakin University in Melbourne. She also consults to UNESCO, the Getty Institute, and the World Bank on a range of Asian projects.



An Evening with ... David Parkin

The Friends of the Auburn Tower held a most enjoyable evening on 01 August 2019 at MCC Kew Sports Centre: a very comfortable and modern function centre. This was the first such event held out of the environs of the Auburn Tower and more than 70 people attended on a cold Melbourne night. After some social interaction over drinks and canapes, the audience enjoyed an entertaining and informal presentation by former footballer, coach and Hawthorn legend David Parkin who spoke of his early career, his relationship with his father and his thoughts on the modern AFL code, the importance of education and the importance of keeping healthy.

Much of the audience consisted of people who had had past involvement with David whether it be as far back as primary school or university. One of the audience, our member Murray Whitehead reminisced with David on past exploits and provides his comments on the evening as set out below.

When Ted Baillieu introduced David Parkin at the MCC Kew in Barkers Road (formerly Auburn Heights Bowling Club) he stated that David had played or coached in over 700 games of AFL or VFL football. What a truly remarkable effort only exceeded by a very small select group.

Inwardly I thought: but how many people knew about David's very first game and the coincidence it held for me or how many people could recall attending their first ever football match. This is my David Parkin Story:

I was born at St George's Hospital Kew but more significantly was born into a Hawthorn football club family. Like many at the function we were a family of Hawthorn football club tragics and all the better may I say for being born in that era. I have had the fortune of witnessing all of Hawthorn's Grand Final appearances (19) but one!

In the winter of 1961 as a six year old I would listen to the radio on Saturday afternoons following the Hawks and desperately wanted to attend a match to see what all the excitement was about.

Finally, my parents agreed that the final game of the year was to be the day but it was only to be for the last quarter and on condition that I would not be a starter for any of the finals. I accepted without hesitation and the arrangement was that Mum would drive me and Dad would come down to the turnstile gate to meet me at three quarter time where the entry was then free. I still look at the exact spot each time I walk past on my way to the MCG outside the Punt Road Oval where I eagerly awaited the sound of the siren to end the quarter. Mum watched attentively nearby from the driver's seat of the old blue Vauxhall and not long after she waved good bye as Dad arrived and I was soon in the ground being quickly ushered through the crowd down the terraces. There I stood on my own, grateful for a

continued page 4

An Evening with ... David Parkin (continued)

view just behind the seated front row spectators. My lasting memories, apart from the fact that the Hawks, won were the faces and the voices of the barrackers around me. I recall the sun was shining in my face which made it difficult to see across the vast arena.

Anyway as I set up my position on the outer wing David Parkin was warming up in his brown and gold jumper. He had been selected for his first match as a Hawthorn player on the reserves bench and as nineteenth man coach Kennedy had given the command for David to come on and play the last quarter. No doubt David was more excited than me and after a stellar junior career David was making his debut for the team whose home ground was a long punt kick from where he lived.

I always knew about David's remarkable record as a player and a coach and also about his school days at Hawthorn West and the fact that he has attended every Grand Final since 1949. However, the timing for his debut as a player and the unlikely coincidence it had for me I only discovered recently and fortunately last night I was able to relate this story to David.

PostScript

I can also recall my first game at the MCG. In April the following year on Anzac Day 1962 a special match not to start before 2pm was promoted between the Victorian Team from 1961 and another Representative next best group of players. This Rep team was to be captained by Graham Arthur. After going to the Anzac March that day we ventured on to the MCG for me for the very first time where on countless occasions since I have been for football cricket and other events. I was supporting the Rep's that day because of their skipper who defeated the Big V.



PPS: I have attended every GF including the tied replays from 1963.

PPPS: The function at MCC Kew was an event conducted by Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc. Their interest relates to the imposing Church Tower which is the centrepiece of a wonderful suite of buildings at the Auburn Uniting Church in Oxley Road Hawthorn. The Tower offers magnificent views in all directions and casts a shadow over the former Hawthorn family home built by my Great Grand Father on land he purchased in 1885 shortly before the Church opened. I am proud to say he and his family were inaugural members of the Auburn Uniting Church congregation.

Murray Whitehead

Thank you again Murray. Considerable interest was shown by many of the audience in the work of the Friends and the historic precinct in Hawthorn. After expenses, the event made a healthy profit which included proceeds from a raffle and donations. The event sub-committee worked hard to make the event a success and special thanks to Jane and Sheila for their work obtaining raffle prizes. Our regular printer Lawrie from Action Printing in Auburn Road attended with his son Geoffrey who assisted with the drawing of the raffle.

Above right: David with two "old" friends. Left: (top) David with Geoffrey; (bottom) drawing the raffle prizes.

