



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

Spring 2023

Remembering Margaret Sutherland AO OBE

SAVE THE DATE:

Margaret Sutherland (1897–1984) was the leading Australian composer of the early twentieth century. She married Dr Norman Albiston in 1927; his father, the Rev Prof Arthur E Albiston, had been minister at Auburn from 1916–1919. Apart from her own composition and concert piano performances, Margaret was a champion for Australian music, recognition of women in music and for an Arts Centre for Melbourne. Later in her life, after the finalisation of her divorce from Norman in 1951, she lived in Kew and in Power Street Hawthorn.

Melbourne musician and academic, Dr Jillian Graham, has written a new (and only) biography of Dr Sutherland. Dr Graham is also chair of the Melbourne Lyceum Club's Margaret Sutherland Bursary Fund for young musicians.

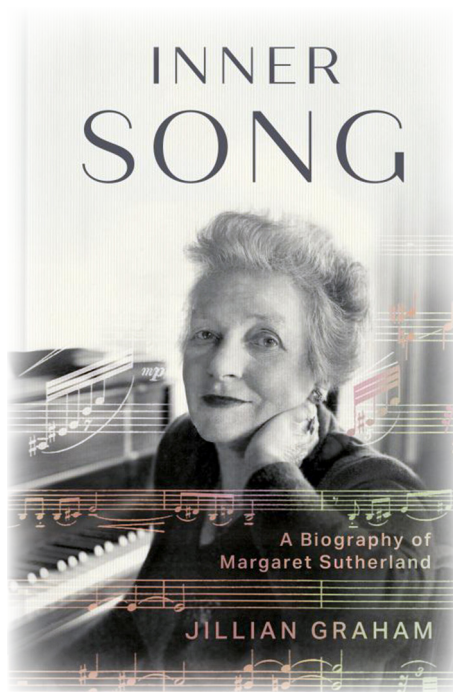


Margaret Sutherland in the 1950s

2024 marks the centenary of Margaret's departure from Melbourne to London to pursue her musical career, so the Friends are joining with the Bursary Fund to present a concert of her chamber works in the splendid acoustics of Auburn Uniting Church. The programme will be curated by Dr Graham and will include young aspiring musicians who have previously participated in the Club's Margaret Sutherland Bursary event. Proceeds from the concert will be shared between the Friends and the Bursary Fund.

Please put the date in your diary now, and try to keep it free: **Sunday 14 April 2024**. It will be a twilight concert, followed by a reception in the Hall, where copies of Dr Graham's book will be on sale.

Alan Chuck



Cover of Jillian Graham's Biography of Margaret Sutherland

**Friends of the Auburn
Tower Inc**

PO Box 583

HAWTHORN BC 3122

 www.auburntowerfriends.org.au
 <https://twitter.com/@AuburnTower>
 <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheAuburnTower/>

**The Committee of the Friends
of the Auburn Tower Inc.**

President: John Herniman

Vice-President: Di Gillies

Secretary: Alan Chuck

Treasurer: Jane Tisdall

Committee:

Daphne Arthur

Pat Rogerson

Executive Officer:

Cheryl Pisterman

execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au

Contact: 0419 757866

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Concert under the Tower

The Friends are pleased to advise that we have been awarded a Triennial Operational Grant by the City of Boroondara, towards the funding of three annual concerts in the Church, commencing this year. The first concert will be on the afternoon of **Sunday 22 October 2023** – please keep the date free, and book online at TryBooking as soon as the link is available. The Friends will use the grant to underwrite the cost of engaging young musicians who have recently been place getters in the Boroondara Eisteddfod. We understand that this year's crop of musicians are of a very high standard, and this is an event not to be missed.

Calling all Pastrycooks

After the concert, the Friends will serve afternoon tea in the Hall. We need some new volunteers to bring sandwiches, slices or savoury snacks. Please contact Daphne on 9898 6133 for guidance. Items should be appropriately wrapped, and list the ingredients.

Spring Tower Open Day

The next Tower Open Day will be held on **Sunday 12 November**, from 12 noon. Online bookings will open shortly, with any unsold tickets being available for purchase at the door (free for members of the Friends).

We will be sending out a call for volunteers in October. In this regard, we are pleased to advise that the Friends is now covered by Voluntary Workers Accident Insurance. Obviously, our preference is to avoid accidents entirely, but volunteers may now be assured that, in the event of accidental injury, expenses not covered by Medicare, and loss of income, may be covered.

Notice to our members

Membership reminders will be forwarded by Treasurer Jane in coming weeks. We need our members: payment has been simplified using Bank Transfer, PayPal or Cheque. Any queries, please contact Executive Officer.

AGM and Guest Speaker



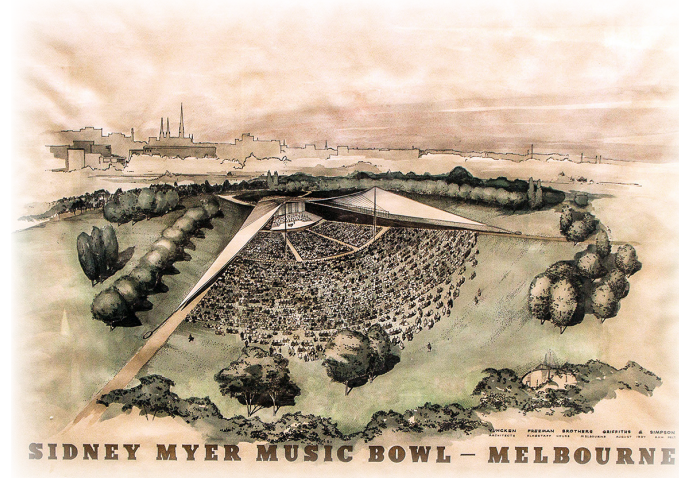
The Friends Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday 26 October 2023** in the Eileen Pawsey Room, with optional online participation.

The programme will be:

- 5.30pm** Gathering, welcome tea, coffee or glass of wine
- 6.00pm** Annual Address: guest speaker **Dr Stella Barber** will speak on the philanthropy of Sidney Myer, with particular reference to the Music Bowl which bears his name. Dr Barber is a distinguished author and historian, and has written the definitive biography of Myer.
- 7.00pm** Annual General Meeting.

The notice of meeting, annual reports and election details will be sent to all members in October.

Below: Rendering of proposed Sidney Myer Music Bowl, by Evan H Walker, August 1957. Photo of original hanging in Cranlana, Toorak, by Amy Walker.



Friends Join BVRC

BVRC In an attempt to form a more diverse committee of management, the Friends have linked up with the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre, sponsored by the City of Boroondara. Our first priority is to find general committee members to replace recent retirements, and to assist the office bearers with publicity for our upcoming concert and open day. We hope to have one or two candidates to bring to the AGM in October.