



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 2 Summer 2017-2018

Welcome New Committee Members



Jane Tisdall 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.

Senthu Raj is a Certified Practising Accountant, working as an analyst for a major accounting firm in Hawthorn. He grew up in Sri Lanka and attended university in Melbourne. He lives in Boroondara. He was elected to the Committee in 2017.



New Website

Members are reminded that our new website is up and running, at www.auburntowerfriends.org.au. Suggestions for additional items are welcome. Members are invited to submit photos of or from the Tower to include in the online gallery.

Annual General Meeting 2017

Meeting business was despatched efficiently, with no need for an election. A presentation was made to retiring Treasurer, Ken Scott, in recognition of his years of service to the Friends. Our new Treasurer is Jane Tisdall. We also welcome one new committee member, Senthu Raj, also an accountant by profession.

After the meeting, we heard an interesting and informative presentation by architect Carlo Corallo, who showed us how redundant buildings can be restored to life and adapted to new uses.

From the Executive Officer

Did you forget to renew on 30 June 2017 or have forgotten to cancel your membership of the Friends? We really do wish to keep our members. If you are not sure, please give me a quick call on 0419 757866 or email me on: execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Committee, I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018.

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The Committee of the
Friends of the Auburn
Tower Inc.

President: John Herniman
Secretary: Alan Chuck
Treasurer: Jane Tisdall

Daphne Arthur
Sheila Curtis
Senthu Raj
Pat Rogerson

Executive Officer:
Cheryl Pisterman
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Anniversary Organ Recital

On Sunday 17 September, we celebrated fifty years since the last major refurbishment and expansion of the Auburn Uniting Church organ with an afternoon recital.

Built in 1889 by Fincham & Hobday, the organ was first played at the opening of the Church in that year. In 1967, a third manual and more stops were added. This has resulted in a beautiful suburban church organ, which is carefully maintained and used for worship every Sunday, as well as other occasions throughout the year.

For the celebration, John Rivers was the accomplished guest organist. John was a pupil of Lindsay O'Neill, a prominent Melbourne organist who played at the opening recital in 1967. John has been organist at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Wangaratta, and All Saints Church, East St Kilda, and is now a freelance musician. John's programme included some works which had been performed by Mr O'Neill in 1967. The organ's varied stops and colours were highlighted by the items chosen. These included both early and modern works. John's playing was greatly appreciated by the responsive audience.

Among those in attendance were three gentlemen who had been at the 1967 opening: Brian Krahnert (AUC organist 1955-96); John Mallinson (organist) and John Maidment (organ historian). Brian was the organist at the time of the re-building, and lent his expertise to the tonal design of the re-built organ. We are forever grateful to Brian for his stewardship of the organ and choir over a period of time which will never be exceeded.

With thanks to Daphne Arthur

Light Horse Commemorative Service

On Sunday 1 October, the Friends hosted a short commemorative service in the Church for the 4th Light Horse Regiment Memorial Association, to mark both the founding of the Regiment by the late Major General John K Forsyth, a member and Trustee of the Auburn Church, and the centenary, later that month, of the decisive charge at Beersheba by the Australian Light Horse. The service was conducted by the Rev Captain Ron Rosinsky, a Uniting Church minister and former chaplain to the 4th/19th/Prince of Wales's Light Horse. Graeme Cross officiated at the organ, and the Ad Hoc Singers were led by Bruce Macrae.



The service began with Psalm 46, previously used at the service of dedication of the plaque to Gen Forsyth in 1930, and likewise concluded with God Save the Queen [King in 1930]. In his homily, the chaplain drew on the text in Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers", to distinguish peace making from mere peace keeping.

After the service, we enjoyed afternoon tea, and lots of chat, in the Hall. Photographs from the day are on the website, www.auburntowerfriends.org.au/gallery.html.

With thanks to Alan Chuck

Photo Credit: John Suriano

Participants at the Light Horse Commemorative Service included: the Rev Captain Ron Rosinsky (3rd from left); John Pesutto, Member for Hawthorn (4th from left); Alan Chuck, Secretary of the Friends; Dr David Holloway OAM, Patron, 4th Light Horse Regiment Memorial Association; 'Nurse' Lisa; 'Trooper' Michael Whitehead.

Tower Panorama Launch

On a very pleasant evening in November, a group of special guests together with the Friends' committee enjoyed some light refreshments to celebrate the unveiling of the panoramas from the Tower which provide a great historical record of the views to the north, south, east and west. It was agreed that the evening was a great success.

Patron, Ted Baillieu unveils the Tower Panorama,
13 November 2017



Friends Committee members, Jane Tisdall, Treasurer,
Alan Chuck, Secretary and Sheila Curtis with the
northern view in the background



Photo credit Mark Hassad

Friends' Events Program

Dates for your diary:

Sunday afternoon, 18 March 2018: Tower Open to the public. Even if you've climbed it before, you may wish to return to see the amazing new panoramic photographs on level 3, which were officially unveiled by our Patron, Ted Baillieu in November 2017.



A young Arthur Streeton painted
by fellow artist, Tom Roberts

Thursday 19 April 2018: *The Great War through an Australian Artist's Eyes* - Arthur Streeton Paints the Western Front

Friends are honoured to have a presentation by Julie Dodds-Streeton on her late husband's grandfather's experience as a war artist in France. In the Hall, Hepburn St Hawthorn, at 7.30 for 8pm. Supper included in admission price. Proceeds to the Friends for Tower restoration. Bookings will open soon, but please reserve the date now.

The Hon Justice Julie Dodds-Streeton gained a first-class honours degree in History from the University of Melbourne, going on to complete an honours degree in law. She lectured at the Melbourne Law School before going to the bar. She took silk in 2001, was appointed to the Supreme Court of Victoria in 2002, the Court of Appeal in 2007 and the Federal Court in 2010. Since retiring from the Federal Court in 2013, she has been on the reserve list of the Supreme Court of Victoria, and was the Judge in Residence at the Melbourne Law School for 2017. Julie is an accomplished speaker, and has assembled an impressive collection of slides of Arthur Streeton's paintings of the Western Front. The talk is particularly relevant as we approach the centenary of the Australian victory at Villers-Bretonneux, on ANZAC Day 1918.



Julie Dodds-Streeton