



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

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Friends of the Auburn
Tower Inc
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Tower Open Day 2013

On a blustery Saturday in late October, a steady stream of tower climbers braved the elements for extensive views of the Melbourne skyline from the tower of Auburn Uniting Church. Despite the overcast conditions, it was still possible to see clearly the city and surrounds including trees with their Spring foliage, significant buildings such as Xavier College, Swinburne University and its extensive campus, the Caulfield Racecourse Grandstands, and the Dandenong Ranges in the distance. Further opportunities to climb the tower will be available in 2014. In addition to the \$156.00 raised we added several new members to the Friends and have received an excellent panoramic photograph taken by a new member. and forms the banner in this edition of the Newsletter (**note:** if you would like a copy of the picture, please contact the Executive Officer).

With thanks to Elizabeth Bethune

Uniting Church property sales

John Herniman, President of the Friends made a representation on Auburn's behalf to the Synod committee tasked with the identification and sale of under-utilised land, churches and tennis courts. This had come about in order to raise some \$56 million to extinguish debt arising from the failed Acacia College project and for other purposes. We are pleased to report that Auburn was not included in the list for divestment, although other churches in the Boroondara area were not so fortunate. The target has now been reached, and sales have ceased for the time being. Full details are given at the Synod website: <http://listeningpost.victas.uca.org.au/projects/uniting-our-future-uca-victas>

Your committee is acutely aware that, while Auburn's future is safe in the short term, this process has created the perception that it could be sold at any time, leading to a natural reluctance on the part of potential donors to make donations or bequests to the Tower Appeal. Your committee will be working to obtain an assurance from church authorities that the property will not be considered for sale without consultation with all interested stakeholders.

Alan Chuck

REMINDER

We need friends now more than ever: if you have forgotten to renew your membership or you have a neighbour, friend or family member who may wish to join, check with Cheryl on 98191899 or execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au and renew at the special pro-rata subscription rate.

The Committee of the
Friends of the Auburn
Tower Inc.

Patron:
Prof the Hon Evan Walker

Executive Officer:
Cheryl Pisterman
Contact: 9819 1899

President: John Herniman

Vice Pres. Alan Chuck

Secretary: Elizabeth Bethune

Treasurer: Ken Scott

Daphne Arthur
Pat Rogerson

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Annual General Meeting 2013

This year's AGM followed a slightly different format. Welcoming drinks and finger food were served from 6.30, with the formal proceedings getting under way at 7.30. The annual reports and accounts were dealt with swiftly, and there was no need for an election of office bearers or committee members. In fact, there is still a vacancy for a committee member, so if you would like to take a more active role in the affairs of the Friends, please contact a committee member. The new Rules, necessitated by a change in legislation governing unincorporated associations, were adopted unopposed, and have now been sent to Consumer Affairs for approval.

We were sorry that our guest speaker, Dr Lurline Stuart (née Keck) was unable to attend, but pleased that her son, Prof John Arnold, was able to present the talk on life in the Manse on her behalf.

Following this presentation, there was further opportunities for the members to meet and mingle over a light supper.

Alan Chuck

Vale Bruce McBrien KStJ OAM



The late Bruce McBrien

An extraordinary lifetime of exceptional community service and involvement in numerous associations was celebrated in a fitting, moving and inspirational Memorial Service at St John's Anglican Church, Toorak for our committee member, Bruce McBrien, who died last year. The large congregation included people from all areas of his multi-faceted life.

His major roles within the following organisations illustrate some of his interests: English Speaking Union; Royal Overseas League of Victoria; National Trust of Victoria; Royal Historical Society of Victoria; and various local historical societies. In 1986 he founded the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria.

Bruce was a loyal, dedicated and highly valued committee member of the Friends of the Auburn Tower, Inc. (FOAT). He used his theatrical contacts and expertise when organising our successful and entertaining production "A Brown Slouch Hat".

Always amusing and informative, Bruce was in great demand as a public speaker, giving hundreds of talks and conducting many cultural tours.

Recently Bruce wrote a popular book "Marvellous Melbourne and Me" which describes his life in the mid 1900s and depicts his love and knowledge of everything Melbournian.

Amongst his many honours, he was made a Knight of St John in 1990, and in 2000 he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

Bruce McBrien enjoyed life to the full and committed himself to promote the enjoyment of others. He appreciated and maintained traditional values, manners and customs. His unique talents, humour, hospitality, "gentlemanliness" and charm will be greatly missed.

with thanks to Daphne Arthur and Pat Rogerson

Contributions Please

Many of our members have had a long association with the history of Hawthorn and the extended Boroondara community in general. Why don't you share some of your family / professional stories with our members? To keep your publication relevant and interesting we need new contributors.

Please help keep your Newsletter alive!!

Friends' Event Programme

As you are aware, 2014 marks the 125th Anniversary of the Auburn Uniting Church buildings. To celebrate the occasion a number of events are already scheduled, and the Committee of the Friends extend to you a very warm invitation to join us at these events.

Saturday 22 March 2014: Tour of Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery



Photo c1870s

Many of the pioneers of Auburn Uniting Church, and its predecessor churches, are buried in Boroondara Cemetery, with the most recent interment being Friends member Hampton Beale. The Friends of Boroondara Cemetery will be conducting a guided tour for our Friends and their friends on the afternoon of Saturday 22 March, including afternoon tea commencing at 2.30pm in the newly restored Rotunda. Cost: Members of FotAT \$15 (\$10 concession); non-members \$20 (\$15 concession). Please register with the Executive Officer by 14 March.

Sunday 30 March 2014 - Maroondah Singers Concert

The first concert for the season will feature the Maroondah Singers, with guest artist and accompanist, John Atwell on the organ. They will present a programme of sacred and secular music spanning the century from the church's construction until the present day - 2.30pm in the Church, followed by afternoon tea in the Hall. Book online for your discounted tickets: <http://www.trybooking.com/EDIY>

Saturday 13 September 2014 - Hepburn Hill Open Day

The Church, Tower and Hall will be open, together with houses and other buildings which were built around the same time as the Auburn Uniting Church complex. Selected sites to be visited will include residences of members of the congregation who had been involved with the building of the complex and laying of the Foundation and Memorial Stones.

Further events may be scheduled and there will be updates on the website and in newsletters. Further details regarding bookings will be published throughout 2014.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Saturday 22 March 2014 2:30pm	Friends and their friends are invited to a guided tour of the Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery conducted by the Friends of Boroondara Cemetery. This should be a very interesting event. Afternoon tea with Friends of Boroondara Cemetery in their restored rotunda.
Sunday 30 March 2014 2:30pm	Maroondah Singers in Concert with guests artists including John Atwell on the beautiful Fincham organ. Online bookings on www.trybooking.com/EDIY
Saturday 13 September 2014	Hepburn Hill Open Day. As part of the 125th Anniversary celebrations, the Church, Tower and Hall will be open. There will also be the opportunity to visit other sites associated with the congregation of the old Oxley Road church.