



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

Winter 2020

External Works Commence



Photo 1

We are delighted to advise members that work on the external restoration of the Tower and other parts of Auburn Uniting Church have commenced. The scaffolding to the Tower has reached its full height, and work on the restoration of the windows and columns is proceeding. [photo 1]

The silver lining in the COVID cloud is that all events in the Church and Hall have been suspended, giving the contractor, Mulholland Restoration and Decorating, unfettered access to the whole site at once. After some experimentation with paint removal, rust removal and other techniques, the final process has now been agreed with Heritage Victoria, as has the final colour scheme. The windows and door on the east side of the Church now show the final colours (wrought iron columns yet to be treated) [photo 3]. Showing how thorough he is, the



Photo 2

**Friends of the Auburn
Tower Inc**

PO Box 583

HAWTHORN BC 3122

 www.auburntowerfriends.org.au
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**The Committee of the Friends
of the Auburn Tower Inc.**

President: John Herniman

Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary: Alan Chuck

Treasurer: Jane Tisdall

**Daphne Arthur
Jeremy Blackman**

**Bruce Macrae
Pat Rogerson**

**Executive Officer:
Cheryl Pisterman
execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au
Contact: 0419 757866**

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External Works Commence (continued)

contractor, Jim Mulholland, removed all of the heavy timber doors to permit sanding and painting of every surface, even those that will never be seen again. [photo 2]

Once the scaffolding had reached the planned height, we were able to see that the Tower upper levels (which were treated in 2002-03) had weathered unevenly, and were affected by moss. It was agreed with the contractor to raise the scaffolding by a further two levels, allowing access to the upper levels for cleaning and treatment with a biocide to prevent further discolouration. This will add approximately \$13,000 to the cost, but will prevent an unsightly clash between new and old. Donations to the Friends/National Trust tax-deductible Appeal would assist in paying for this unforeseen additional cost. The donation form may be downloaded from the website, or obtained on request to the Executive Officer. Alternatively you can obtain a copy of the form on page 4 of this newsletter.

Once the scaffolding was erected, it was possible to inspect the fabric of the building at close quarters. Overall, the brickwork and render is in remarkably good condition after 131 years of exposure to the Melbourne weather, but small areas requiring repair have been identified. Photo 4 shows a section of decorative render on the west face of the Tower which is badly weathered and will be repaired.

The Friends Committee has engaged the services of videographer Peter Helft to record the restoration process, so that members and future generations will be able to see how the work was done in 2020.

with thanks to Alan Chuck



Photo 3



Photo 4

1. Tower scaffolding complete, before addition of shade cloth
2. NW door on the operating table
3. SE window, showing finished colours to woodwork and ironwork (sill yet to be stripped)
4. Decorative render to west face of Tower before treatment

Photo Credits

1. Vicky Rose
2. Alan Chuck
3. & 4. Ben Quick

Cathedral Brass Concert

As previously announced, we are delighted to confirm that we have received a Victorian Government grant of \$5,000 to mount an event to mark the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War 2. The event will feature:

- ✠ Cathedral Brass Quintet, led by Dennis Freeman
- ✠ Anthony Halliday, organ
- ✠ Melbourne Chamber Choir, led by Alan Cook
- ✠ Kenneth Park, master of ceremonies.

The concert will be held in Auburn Uniting Church on a date to be confirmed – we hope Remembrance Sunday, 8 November 2020. This will be a free event, but bookings are essential. Bookings will be online with TryBooking once the date has been confirmed. There will be several strands to the celebration:

- Pre-war migrants and their contribution to Australian society, including guest appearances by George Dreyfus AM and Eva DeJong Duldig. The music of George Dreyfus will feature prominently in the musical programme.
- Acknowledgement of the service of those who went from Victoria to serve overseas or on the home front, especially those who did not return.
- Post-war migrants and their contribution to our society.

This will be a memorable event for the whole family. A souvenir programme will be produced, and extra copies will be available for those who, through age, infirmity or COVID restrictions, are unable to attend. The event will begin with a welcome by the new Minister for Veterans, the Hon Shaun Leane MLC, and will conclude with (COVID-safe) afternoon tea in the Hall and a sing-along around the piano, accompanied by our own Bruce Macrae.

Friends' Success Applying for Grants

Ever since its founding in 2004, the Friends Committee has regularly applied for grants from various grant makers, generally unsuccessfully. This year, whether due to the pandemic or otherwise, we have been more successful, as shown in the table below:

Grant Maker	Name of Grant	Amount applied for	Amount Granted	Remarks
Victorian Government	75th Anniversary of End of WW2	\$7,500	\$5,000	"75 years that changed the World" 08 November 2020 (TBC)
City of Boroondara	75th Anniversary of End of WW2	\$5,000	\$5,000	Civic ceremony, date TBC
City of Boroondara	COVID-19 Response	\$800.00	Not yet announced	Making the Auburn Tower COVID-safe

Given the uncertainty over timing for the two civic events, we may ask the grant makers for permission to combine their grants into one event, to be held when restrictions permit. The grant for making the Tower COVID-safe is mainly for signage and other measures such as thorough cleaning to protect our volunteers and guests.

NATIONAL TRUST APPEAL

As you may have seen on pages 1 and 2, the long-awaited works have commenced on our historic Tower as part of the major works on the Auburn Uniting Church. If you wish to make a taxable donation to the Friends' National Trust Appeal please complete and forward to the PO Box. We appreciate your support.



National Trust Appeal for the Restoration of the Tower of Auburn Uniting Church, Hawthorn

DONATION FORM

I/We would like to make a donation to the Auburn Tower/National Trust Restoration Appeal:

Name(s) _____

Postal Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

I/We wish that our donation remain anonymous

I enclose my donation of \$ _____

(please tick one of the following)

☐ Cheque (payable to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria))

☐ Mastercard

☐ VISA

Card No _____

Cardholder Name _____

Expiry Date (Month/Year) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return completed form and cheque/debit authorisation to:

Auburn Tower Restoration Appeal
PO Box 583 Hawthorn BC Vic 3122

Friends' Events Programme

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 8 November (TBC) Concert: Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War 2, a special event at Auburn – see details on previous page.

Sunday 22 November, afternoon (TBC)
Tower Open Day

This will be the first opportunity to see the newly-restored columns of the Tower's observation deck on Level 4. Free for Friends members; nominal charge for others. As a special attraction this year, Committee Member Jeremy Blackman is preparing a special Auburn Hill and Village Heritage Walk, a self-guided tour beginning from the Tower and ending at the almost exactly contemporaneous Auburn Hotel near Auburn Station.

The Friends' concert "Into the Heart of America", featuring our own Jeremy Blackman and his string quartet, has been postponed until 2021.

Note: all events are still in abeyance due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Melbourne's lockdown. However, there are still plans to hold our regular events once we get back to some sort of "normal".

Reminder

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their subscription for 2020-2021. We have had a great response to our renewal invoices.

If you have forgotten to renew, a reminder will be send out in the next few days. On the other hand if you longer wish to remain a member of the Friends of the Auburn Tower, may I ask that you advise this in writing (via email) to: execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au

In the meantime, if you are not sure whether you have renewed or not, please give me a call on 0419 757 866.

Cheryl Pisterman, Executive Officer