



# Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 2  
Winter 2013

## ***Biggest donation ever to Tower Appeal***

We are delighted to announce that the Friends/National Trust Tower Appeal has received the largest single donation since its establishment in 2010. We have received a donation of \$30,000, taking the total to \$42,000. While the donor has not specifically requested anonymity, we have chosen not to publish her name until we have discussed publicity with her.

We are now over half way to our target of \$80,000. If you would like to make a donation and have not already done so, forms are available on request from the Executive Officer or committee members. Donations are tax-deductible.

**Note from Executive Officer:** I have discovered that this very generous donor has long-term family connections with the Auburn Uniting Church and is in fact, the daughter of two founding members of the Friends.

## **Dates for your Diary**

Date	Event
Sunday 14 July 2013 2:30pm	Uniting Church Historical Society presents Dr Ian Breward, who will speak about his new book on Dr A H Wood of MLC. MLC Old Collegians are particularly invited to attend. In the Hall, Auburn Uniting Church, admission by donation. Afternoon tea.
Sunday 4 August 2013 2:30pm	Friends of the Auburn Tower and the PLC Music School present "A Winter Store. Recommended booking online at <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/DBDG">www.trybooking.com/DBDG</a> or tickets at the door.
Saturday 26 October 2013 10am-4pm	Tower Open Day, in association with a Bling Sale in the Hall. Proceeds to "Wise Choices for Life"
Monday 28 October 2013 7:30pm	Annual General Meeting of the Friends, with a guest speaker and refreshments In the Eileen Pawsey Room at Auburn Uniting Church.
Sunday 8 December 2013 7:30pm	Eltham East Primary School Choir annual Advent Carol Service in the Church. The Choir is one of the finest children's choirs in Australia, and will again be conducted by Anne Williams. The organist will be Colin Jenkins. Offering for the Christmas Bowl.
Sunday 30 March 2014 2:30pm	Friends of the Auburn Tower presents the Maroondah Singers in the opening concert for 2014 in the Church. Guest artist will be organist John Atwell. Bookings will open in January.

*Friends of the Auburn  
Tower Inc*  
PO Box 583  
HAWTHORN BC 3122  
[execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au](mailto:execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au)

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  
Bruce McBrien  
Pat Rogerson

Inside this Newsletter:

<i>Biggest Donation Ever to Tower Appeal</i>	1
<i>Dates for your Diary</i>	1
<i>New Addition to Heritage Register</i>	2
<i>Who Was Mrs Thomas Vasey?</i>	3-4
<i>Tour of Government House &amp; La Trobe's Cottage</i>	5
<i>About trybooking.com</i>	6
<i>Renewal Notice</i>	6

## ***New Addition to Heritage Register***

One of the Tower's neighbouring buildings, the Robert Cochrane Kindergarten at the west end of Minona Street, has been added to the State Heritage Register.

### **Who was Robert Cochrane?**

Robert Cochrane was the Chairman of Brooks Robinson Pty Ltd, which produced, among other things, stained glass windows for churches. The east and west memorial windows at Auburn are believed to be by Brooks Robinson.

Cochrane had a particular interest in child welfare, and organised the establishment of a free kindergarten in a hall at the rear of the Augustine Congregational Church. In 1934 he donated land for a purpose-built kindergarten and, after his death the following year, it was decided to name the new building in his honour.

### **Why is the building significant?**



**Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn**

Delayed by the war and financial constraints, it was finally built in 1948-50 to a modified design attributed to Horace Tribe of architectural firm Martin and Tribe. Tribe was a prolific and influential architect, particularly in the field of kindergarten design in Victoria.

The kindergarten is a prototype of progressive post-war kindergarten design which had a profound influence on kindergarten design in Victoria. It was the first kindergarten to combine innovative planning and orientation with modern architectural expression; characteristics which became typical of many kindergartens designed by Horace Tribe and other architects throughout the 1950s. It demonstrates the combination of new pre-school educational theories of the late 1930s, modern architectural thinking of the 1950s and 1960s and reflects the economic austerity of the immediate post war period.

It was well regarded as an important work at the time of construction and was widely acknowledged both locally and overseas as a fine, progressive and influential design. It remains largely intact, concealed from view by a canopy of mature trees.

*With thanks to Alan Chuck*

**Acknowledgement: Heritage Victoria Inherit Newsletter Jan-Feb 2013.**

## **Dr A.H. Wood of Methodist Ladies College fame**



Rev. Dr Ian Breward has written the first biography of Dr AH Wood (1896–1989), Principal of Methodist Ladies College, Kew from 1939 until 1966 and a member of the Auburn Uniting Church over the same period. The book is titled 'Dr A.H. Wood of Methodist Ladies College fame' and Dr Ian Breward will speak on his new book at a meeting of the Uniting Church Historical Society at 2pm on Sunday, 14 July 2013 in the Auburn Uniting Church Hall in Hepburn Street. The book will be formally launched at Fitchett Chapel, MLC on Saturday, 10 August 2013 at 2pm.

# Tour of Government House & La Trobe's Cottage



*The Magnificent Government House Ballroom*

Trobe from England, and rebuilt in Jolimont. The cottage was the La Trobe family's home from 1839 to 1854. It has since been relocated at least twice before reaching its current location. Government House was stately with ceilings considerably higher than those in La Trobe's cottage. Built from 1872 to 1876 at the height of the gold boom in Italianate architectural style, the largest Government House in the former British Empire was opulent but not overly ornate in accordance with late Victorian style. The size of its ballroom was remarkable, and it can accommodate 800 for cocktails. The ballroom is currently used for State functions and can be hired for private functions, as can the State Dining Room, which can accommodate 54. The first Governor to occupy the residence was Sir George Ferguson Bowen. At the time it was regarded as the third best post of its kind in the British Empire. It continues to be the residence of the Governor of Victoria, currently the Hon. Alex Chernov AC QC.

On 14 March 2013, nine Friends of the Auburn Tower and six of their friends toured the cottage of the Superintendent of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales, Charles La Trobe, who in 1851 following the establishment of the separate Colony of Victoria, became its first Lieutenant-Governor. The home was occupied by his family, which included his wife Sophie and their children.

Following this tour, the group toured nearby Government House, the home of the Governor of the Colony of Victoria and after federation, of the State of Victoria.

The contrast between the two was remarkable. The cottage was a plain and barely adequate prefabricated house, which was imported by La

After the tours, many of us had a convivial lunch at the nearby Observatory Cafe. **With thanks to Noel Jackling**

Our next Friends' concert, *A Winter's Store: Music to Warm You in Winter*, on 4th August 2013 will feature the students and staff of PLC Burwood. Anne Friend and her team have put together a varied programme performed by soloists, choirs and instrumental groups.

Ticket prices range from \$25.00 for Adults down to \$15.00 for Friends. If you book online through [Trybooking.com](http://Trybooking.com) you will receive a discount of \$2.00 per ticket: [www.trybooking.com/DBDG](http://www.trybooking.com/DBDG)



This fine white china mug is decorated with a burgundy image of Auburn Uniting Church. Cost \$10 from Daphne Tel: 9898 6133.

## Saturday 26 October 2013 10am-4pm Tower Open Day

In conjunction with another Bling Fling. Take this opportunity to climb the Tower and check out some of the great Bling on sale. The sale proceeds go towards supporting "Wise Choices for Life" an organisation training locals in aspects of reproductive health based in Uganda.

## About trybooking.com



Over the past few years, bookings for the Friends' events have been available through Trybooking.com. With few exceptions, our concertgoing friends have chosen not to use this very convenient and economical system. Whilst

our concert numbers have not been great, there have been occasions when people have had to queue to pay for tickets, the door person has had to scratch around for change and if the person is running late, there is the risk of missing the beginning of the concerts. For the few who do not have access to a computer, well the old-fashioned way is still the best, But if you are online (and a large number of our Friends are now), in the interests of convenience and simplicity, I will try and demystify this online booking system.

1. trybooking.com is simple to use, available 24 hours a day;
2. trybooking.com gives you tickets and receipts immediately, allowing you to print your own
3. There is a significant reduction in time and effort for the people on the door;
4. No messing around at the door with change, handing out tickets;
5. You have a record of your payment;
6. trybooking.com is inexpensive with a very small charge of \$0.30;
7. trybooking.com is very aware of the risks online and understands that the integrity of the site and its security features are important so your credit card details are delivered to VeriSign a secure website.

So for the forthcoming concert on Sunday 4th August, give trybooking.com a go. There is nothing scary about booking online if you have access to a computer and you will receive a **\$2.00 discount on all bookings**. This will make it so much simpler at the door, particularly if there is a large supporter group of PLC parents and other staff - no queuing or dispensing tickets and change. *Executive Officer*

### **Renewal time**

Friends whose subscription expires on 30 June will receive a reminder to renew their subscription in July; those who are paid in advance will receive a note of thanks, confirming that they are still financial. Members are invited to pay for as many years in advance as they wish – subscriptions will increase in 2014, so pay now and avoid the increase! Please post your cheque to the Executive Officer at PO Box 583, Hawthorn BC, 3122 or if you are at Auburn UC, you may give your payment to Alan, Daphne or Pat.



### **Membership Renewal/Application 1 July 2013 - 30 June 2014**

If you are already a member, please encourage more people to join. Membership applications to:

Executive Officer, PO Box 583, Hawthorn BC, 3122.

I/We apply for membership/wish to renew [delete whichever doesn't apply] membership of the Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc. in the category of:

Individual Adult .....	\$20
Concession (under 18, over 60, concession card) .....	\$12
Family (two or more people at the same address) .....	\$30
Corporate membership .....	\$100

and enclose cheque payable to "Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc" for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive the newsletter via email: Yes No

Membership is open to all who have an interest in this inspiring Hawthorn landmark, built in 1889.

Members will receive a newsletter, reduced admission to concerts and talks, and free admission to the Tower.

Items from this Newsletter may be reproduced with due acknowledgement