



# Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 1 Winter 2017

## *The Friends achieves charity status*

The Committee of the Friends is pleased to advise that, with effect from 1 May 2017, Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc is a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). As such, we enjoy exemption from federal income tax, GST and Fringe Benefits Tax. However, we were not successful in obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient status, and continue to recommend to our members and friends that, if seeking income tax deductibility, donations are made to the National Trust Appeal for the Tower. This appeal is still open, and application forms are available on request from the Executive Officer, or on the website: [www.auburntowerfriends.org.au](http://www.auburntowerfriends.org.au)

## *Tower Open: Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 July: volunteers needed*

The Church and Tower will be open to the public from 10am – 4pm (Sat) and from 12 noon – 4pm (Sun). Admission is free as part of Melbourne Open Houses weekend. The Friends need help before and during the weekend, as follows:

- Church cleaning working bee, Saturday 22 July, from 9am to 12 noon. Even if you are only able to spare an hour of your time, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please wear old clothes, and bring small hand tools, such as trowels, scrubbing brushes or dusters. The Australian Boys Choir parents will be assisting the Auburn congregation on this day.
- Bookstall and Tower guides – we need volunteers to sell copies of our publication *Solving the Riddle of the Stones*, and to help visitors negotiate the Tower stairs.
- Refreshments – we need volunteers to assist with sales of tea, coffee and soft drinks on both days.

Please contact Pat Rogerson with offers of assistance on 9818 6368 or [concise222@gmail.com](mailto:concise222@gmail.com)

## *Virtual Tour of the view from the Tower now available*

For those afraid of heights, or unable to climb the Tower, a virtual tour of the Tower, and the panoramic view from the top, is now available online.

Go to: <http://www.hiddenmelbourne.com.au/virtual-tour/auburn-uniting-church/> or follow the link on our website: [www.auburntowerfriends.org.au](http://www.auburntowerfriends.org.au)

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## ***Ted Talk With a Difference***

On the 30th March our Patron Ted Baillieu provided an entertaining and amusing interview with Bruce Macrae joined by 80 members and friends. On arrival, members and their guests enjoyed delicious and beautifully presented platters of cheese, nuts and fruit, along with wine and soft drinks in the Eileen Pawsey Room before moving into the Hall to enjoy an 'Evening with Ted Baillieu'.

Ted began by informing his audience not only of the architectural significance of the church and the tower but also of their role and that of other towers in the social history of early Hawthorn and Melbourne.

He then regaled the audience with inspirational stories of not only how music has been an integral part of his life but also showed how multi-talented he is by bursting into song many times during the evening. His beautiful rich voice and great wit was a surprise for many who did not know him well!

All too quickly the interview was over and the audience then enjoyed the opportunity to chat further with Ted over tea, coffee and platters of homemade goodies before leaving with warm hearts and big smiles after a memorable evening.

These events don't just happen: so thanks to the sub-committee consisting of Elizabeth Bethune, Daphne Arthur and Wendy Chuck, those who helped on the night and to the sponsors of the evening Centre Euro Wines.

*With thanks to Sheila Curtis (photos: Wendy Chuck and Barbara Charge)*



## ***Organ Recital: Sunday 17 September***

2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of the re-building of the organ at Auburn Uniting Church and, on 17 September at 2.30pm, we will enjoy a concert by organist John Rivers. John was a student of the late Lindsay O'Neill, who gave the opening recital in 1967. Bookings are not required. A donation of at least \$10 is requested for adults, children free. One of the legendary Friends afternoon teas will follow for a gold coin donation.

## ***Advance notice: AGM and guest speaker, Monday 23 October***

8.00pm AGM in the Eileen Pawsey Room

8.30pm Guest speaker Carlo Corallo, architect, on the adaptive re-use of 19th century buildings, with particular reference to Hawthorn Town Hall/Arts Centre

Formal notice of the AGM will be sent to all members in September, but in the meantime please put the date in your diary. All members and their friends are welcome, and there is no need to book.

## ***Subscriptions***

All members will have received a letter, advising them either that subscriptions for 2017-18 are now due, or that they have already been paid in advance. If you are not sure of your membership status, please speak to the Executive Officer, Cheryl Pisterman, on 9819 1899, or [execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au](mailto:execofficer@auburntowerfriends.org.au)