

Coming Events at Auburn ...

Saturday 21 November 7:30 pm	Cantemus Concert (1) The Australian Boys Choir The Vocal Consort present a programme including J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 61 and works by Purcell, Handel and Widor (the famous toccata!)
Sunday 22 November 2:30 pm	Cantemus Concert (2) The Australian Boys Choir The Vocal Consort present a programme including J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 61 and works by Purcell, Handel and Widor (the famous toccata!)
Monday 15 March 2010 10:00 am	Government House Tour Details to be advised

"To Be a Pilgrim": Merlyn Quaife's Concert

On a very pleasant Sunday afternoon, the 25th October, soprano, Merlyn Quaife took a receptive and appreciative audience of around 50 Friends and other music lovers on a "Pilgrim's Progress" along El Camino de Santiago across northern Spain. This was a moving (and very personal) journey and she took her audience with her along the way. On this "most monumental thing I have ever done", we shared her experience in song, poetry and tales of varied places, hospitality and the people she met along the way; a wonderful experience.



Merlyn relating her Pilgrimage

Interspersed in her progress Merlyn recited three poems specially written for her by Graeme William Ellis and you could visualise the pictures portrayed in the softly touching words of these poems. The afternoon was a real joy.

The performance was ably accompanied on the piano by our own Bruce Macrae, a distinguished musician in his own right.

Thank you Friends for inviting Merlyn to be part of our varied and talented concert programme.

with thanks to Elizabeth Owens and Jenny Hooke

Items from this Newsletter may be reproduced with due acknowledgement.



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

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Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc
PO Box 583
HAWTHORN BC 3122
www.auburnuc.org.au/friends

The Committee of the Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc.

Patron:
Prof the Hon Evan Walker
Executive Officer:
Cheryl Pisterman
Contact: 9819 1899
President: Ted Baillieu
Vice Pres. Alan Chuck
Secretary: Pat Rogerson
Treasurer: Ken Scott
Bruce McBrien
Jan McCluskey
Noel Jackling
Daphne Arthur

120th Anniversary of Church Complex

The Auburn Uniting Church complex at 81 Oxley Road, Hawthorn celebrated its 120th birthday from Friday 11 September to Sunday 13 September with three events: the unveiling of plaques marking it as a heritage listed building by Mr Justin Madden, the Minister for Planning. Also there to celebrate the occasion and unveil the National Trust plaque was Ms Jane Macnell from the Trust. President Ted took the occasion to invite Minister Madden to climb the Tower (any excuse to show off that great view from the Tower, Ted?). During the photo opportunity afforded by having the Leader of the Opposition and the state Minister for Planning climbing an historical Hawthorn tower, there was much discussion on just who was the tallest. No competition, gentlemen: the Tower is way taller.



Top: President Ted with Justin Madden and Jane Macnell
Below: Ted and Justin experiencing the unique view from the top of the Auburn Tower

On Sunday, the Church congregation held a special service of commemoration and thanksgiving which was followed by lunch in the hall. After lunch, the weekend's activities concluded with an organ recital in the church by talented young Melbourne organist Lachlan Redd, Assistant Organist at St Paul's Cathedral. The organ was built by the firm of Fincham and Hobday at the same time as the church, and so it is also celebrating its 120th anniversary (although it was extensively upgraded in 1967).

Whilst the numbers attending the concert were low, it was again a great occasion to hear that magnificent organ.
with thanks to Wendy Hughes Chuck



STOP PRESS

EXTRA CONCERT BY
THE AUSTRALIAN BOYS CHOIR

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7:30 PM

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Janet McCalman and the Friends' AGM



Janet McCalman and Exec Officer Cheryl at AGM

Our AGM continued the great tradition of stimulating talks by a specially selected Speaker. The number of attendees was somewhat disappointing and I would encourage all our members to attend as the talks are always very informative. Professor Janet McCalman is an historian and author of several books including *Journeyings*, the history of the Glenferrie Tram route. She is a former MLC girl and at the AGM she spoke of her current research on the fate of convicts transported to Victoria which she titled, "The Founders and Survivors Project". Janet provided us with great statistics and documentation as part of her PowerPoint presentation. Some of the historical records shone new light on the early days of colonial settlement. She admitted that this project has proven to be a very, very complex one and she is looking forward to its conclusion.

Annual Report and Financials enclosed.

Executive Officer

Dancing to Damnation?

Some previous issues of the newsletter featured articles by our member, Noel Jackling on the relationship between the Rev. Dr Harold Wood and John Woodhouse and their attempt to have the ban on dancing on Methodist Church property lifted. Noel, a retired lawyer is pleased to announce that the Uniting Church Historical Society, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has now released the full story of this period in Methodist history in his book *Dancing to Damnation?*. The book also examines the conflicting attitudes to dancing from John Wesley in 1743 to 1977 when the Methodist Church of Australasia joined the Uniting Church.

The study is based on extensive archival and oral research reflected in the informative articles which appeared in our Friends's issues and focuses in particular on Methodist attitudes in Albury and Auburn and on degrees of compliance at Queen's College and MLC.

Noel's book can be obtained for \$15 per copy with \$7.00 for postage per copy and can be ordered through the Uniting Church Historical Society, PO Box 698, Elsternwick Vic 3185.

Events for 2010

Following our recent visits to Parliament and the Supreme Court, we continue our discovery of Victorian Melbourne trio with a visit to Government House on Monday 15 March. The tour will be from 10:00 am to 12 noon, beginning with a tour of the original Government House, sometimes known as LaTrobe's Cottage, and will then move to the State Apartments of the 1874 mansion. The Governor and Mrs de Kretser have graciously agreed to meet us there if their programme permits. Transport to and from Auburn will be provided. There will be a modest charge for Friends, and bookings are essential. More details in the February Newsletter.

On Saturday 1 May, to mark Anzac Day and the approaching 65th Anniversary of the termination of the war in the Pacific, a troupe of players (including Committee Member Bruce Mc Brien) will present *A Brown Slouch Hat*, a collection of stories and song evolving from Australia's participation in the latter. An opportunity to learn, and for some, to re-live the memories of that period. You can even sing along with the songs - you will know them all. This event will be in the Hall, where we will enjoy a dinner prepared to wartime rationing restrictions (Spam, Spam, powdered egg and Spam?). Put the date in your diary now - full details in the February Newsletter.

Details of the concert programme for 2010 will be released as they come to hand.

Alan Chuck

Bling for Buka: an outstanding success!!

Wow what a result!! The big one-day sale on Saturday 24 October of "bling" conducted by the Auburn Uniting Church congregation on behalf of the Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre in Buka, the capital of Bougainville, raised over \$14,000. The connection with Buka is through Rebecca Walker, daughter of Friends' patron Evan Walker and his wife Judith. The organisers knew they always had a winner with the event and were aiming to take around \$10,000. So to way exceed that amount was a great achievement and suitable acknowledgement of the considerable amount of time and effort put in by the committee who had been working for well over ten months planning, soliciting, sorting, cleaning, repairing and valuing the masses of recycled and pre-loved jewellery in readiness for the event. The committee was chaired by Judith and included a number of members of the Friends.

Rebecca returned from Bougainville for the event and recruited volunteers from her networks to assist with manning the display tables and help with sales.

The Bling Committee had certainly spread the word pretty far and wide and, as Judith commented, "Our networks kicked in very generously, with thousands of items of ladies', men's and kids' bling, costume jewellery, vintage pieces, pearls, silver, gold, watches, beads and odds and ends for DIY jewellers." Recently retired Melbourne jeweller, Bruce Rutherford, gave up countless hours to sort and value the jewellery and found some genuine gems among the glitter.

This was also a great opportunity for the Friends of the Auburn Tower to introduce newcomers to the joys of climbing the Tower. A number of members manned the various points and special mention must be made of John O'Beirne who withstood chilly conditions at the top of the Tower and Chris Simpson who relieved him. The Friends raised \$170.00 from the tours and were pleased to donate \$85.00 towards the work in of the Sisters in Bougainville.

The Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre was established by a local congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth to help women and children who are the victims of violence to develop life skills and get them back on their feet after the crisis of 1989-1999. Since then, the centre and its program has grown under the leadership of Sister Lorraine Garasu and now has an active program of training and leadership courses directed at all levels of the community - children, families, couples and singles. The congregation is very active at the grass roots of the community and works closely with community members to enhance the quality of life throughout Bougainville.

Rebecca decided to become a volunteer to gain a new perspective, a desire to give something back and help (yes sounds corny but it is true) and to experience a change in pace. According to Rebecca, the job looked interesting, she had the skills which seemed to match the need, and Bougainville caught her interest.

Bougainville is a community trying to rebuild after it turned on itself - for 10 years. Nothing is easy there. The daily challenges of living include living in a village with no running water, with power just three hours a day with families who have been removed from the violence in their communities. The services are basic, if there at all. But from her experience in that community Rebecca finds the people just amazing.

with thanks to Wendy Hughes Chuck



Top: Canny buyers at the sales tables



Above: Heather Suriano serving an afternoon tea which featured Norma's famous biscuits