



Friends of the Auburn Tower Newsletter

Concert at Auburn Uniting Church

Members of the Friends are cordially invited to the next concert at Auburn, titled *Hungarian Fire and Italian Light*. The concert features international concert pianists Coady Green and Ricardo Roche Idini, with associate artists Sofija Kirsanova, violin, and Josephine Vains, cello, in a programme of music for piano four hands, violin and cello. This recital will be the second on the recently acquired Kawai piano, chosen to suit the superb acoustic of Auburn Uniting Church auditorium.



Above: Coady Green
Below: Ricardo Antonio
Roche Idini



The programme will consist of the complete Brahms Hungarian Dances and the Mendelssohn 4th (Italian) Symphony, arranged by Carl Burchard for piano four hands, violin and cello. (Burchard arranged a lot of music for this unique combination.) The programme was presented, to critical acclaim, at Forty-five Downstairs, in April 2026. You may read David Hood's review here: www.classikon.com/forty-five-downstairs-chamber-music-festival/

Friends are offered discounted tickets.
Children (6-17) FREE. Book now at
www.trybooking.com/DOPAL,



Middle: Violinist,
Sofija Kirsanova
Right: Cellist,
Josephine Vains

SPRING TOWER OPEN DAY

The final Tower Open Day for 2026 will be on the afternoon of **Sunday 8 November from 2 – 5pm**. If you have not taken the opportunity of a free Tower Tour, this is your opportunity. If you have, then please consider volunteering so that others may enjoy the climb and the sights. Bookings open in October.

Winter 2026

*Friends of the Auburn
Tower Inc*

PO Box 583

HAWTHORN BC 3122

 [https://www.facebook.com/
FriendsOfTheAuburnTower/](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheAuburnTower/)

**The Committee of the
Friends of the Auburn
Tower Inc.**

President: John Herniman

Vice-President: Di Gillies

Secretary: Alan Chuck

Treasurer: Shane McKenna

Daphne Arthur

Avril McHugh

Executive Officer:

Cheryl Pisterman

execofficer@

auburntowerfriends.org.au

Contact: 0419 757866

Inside this Newsletter:

Concert at Auburn Uniting Church	1
Spring Tower Open Day	1
Acoustic Study of Church Auditorium	2
Where are they Now?	2
AGM and Guest Speaker	2
Friends' New Website	2
Committee News	3
Vale Ken Scott	3
Vale Lawrie Barnett	3

Acoustic Study of the Church Auditorium

In an earlier newsletter, we announced the receipt of a grant from the Peggy & Leslie Cranbourne Foundation to pay for an acoustic study of the Auburn auditorium. The report of that study has now been received, and is better than we could have hoped for. The acoustics of the auditorium are shown to be among the best in Melbourne for music for an auditorium of its size. Copies of the Report are available on request to the Secretary at HonSec@auburntowerfriends.org.au

Where are they now?

Over the last few years, the Friends has engaged a series of young music graduates to assist in the planning and running of Friends' concerts. All have moved on in the music world, and we hope that their time with the Friends has provided an experience which they will put to good use in their careers.

Soprano **Grace Collivet** was engaged to plan and organise the 2024 Concert Under The Tower. She assembled an impressive list of performers, and the concert was a great success. Shortly after the concert, Grace left Melbourne to further her musical studies in Europe. She is now living in Helsinki.

Trombonist **Tom Grayden** took over to plan and run the 2025 Concert Under The Tower, also assembling a fine group of mainly young performers who had performed with distinction at the Boroondara Eisteddfod. After the concert, Tom was to continue in the newly created role of promoting the Auburn auditorium as a concert and rehearsal venue. Before he could begin, he was offered more hours as Chaplain at the University of Melbourne's Southbank campus, which he accepted. Learn all about his new position at: <https://crosslight.ucavictas.org.au/flipbook/crosslight-august-2026/>

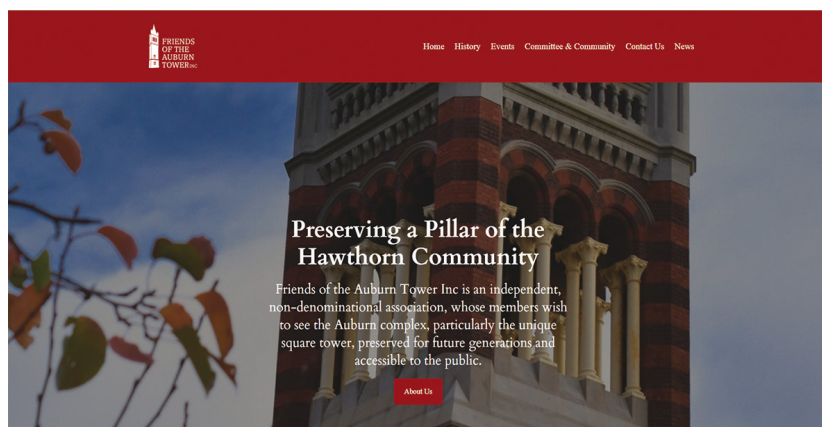
Flautist **Joseph Hourigan** agreed to accept the promotional position but, before he could commence work, he was offered a full-time position with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, which of course he accepted. He is now Orchestra Assistant in the Orchestra Management division.

Thanks to Alan Chuck

Save the Date: AGM and Guest Speaker

The Friends AGM will be held on **Thursday 22 October at 8:00pm** in the Eileen Pawsey Room, Hepburn Street, Hawthorn. After the meeting, which will be brief, as in previous years, we will enjoy a presentation from a guest speaker (yet to be confirmed). Details of speaker will be provided once confirmed. Members are invited to bring a guest to the AGM and address, but only members may vote at the AGM. There is no charge, and no need to book.

Friends of the Auburn Tower has a new website



Back in 2025, the decision was made by your Committee to revamp the Friends' webpage and to change web hosts at a price commensurate to the requirements of a small organisation such as Friends of the Auburn Tower. Thanks to the kind offer of new Corporate member, Aintree Group, through our new Treasurer, Shane McKenna, we are pleased to advise that there is now a vibrant website with easy to navigate web pages providing information and news to visitors,

and members. [Click here or on the graphic](#) to see the "New Look" website. It is anticipated that with the help of Chelsea at Aintree Group, the website will be kept up-to-date and relevant to the organisation.

Committee News

At its August meeting, the Committee received with regret Di Gillies' advice that she would be retiring from the Committee (but not from the Friends) at the AGM.

We therefore have a vacancy for Vice President. Any member who believes they have the time and inclination to serve is encouraged to contact a Committee member and to nominate. No prior experience is necessary, but the nominee will have to have a Working With Children check and be willing to have their personal data provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

Vale Ken Scott

Kenneth William (Ken) Scott was the second Treasurer of the Friends, taking over at short notice when the first treasurer resigned. Ken faithfully supervised the finances for many years, until retiring in his eighties when Jane Tisdall brought us into the 21C. Ken died just after Christmas last year, and his funeral was held on 2 January at Le Pine, East Kew. He was a personal friend of Cheryl Pisterman who attended his funeral along with several committee members representing the Friends.

His relative-by-marriage, the Rev Dr James Donaldson, has provided the following obituary:

Kenneth Scott was born in Melbourne on Bastille Day (14 July) 1932 in Melbourne. He lived a very full life of happy personal involvement, highlighted by a strong focus on family, commercial and community activities. Ken was educated at Scotch College, Hawthorn, an association which he maintained in later life, through the Old Scotch Hockey Club and Old Scotch Masonic Lodge. He was happily married to Anne for 63 years, with whom he had three children, James, Emma and Andrew. They enjoyed a full family life, with many holiday times spent at Flinders beach and on overseas trips.

He was professionally engaged as a chartered accountant for many years in the financial and commercial life of Melbourne. Ken was fully involved with the Rotary Club of Glenferrie and Probus, and regularly and willingly volunteered to act as treasurer or audit examiner of annual statements of accounts for several organisations on an honorary basis, of which the Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc was but one.

Ken died in the week after Christmas 2025, in his 94th year, after a few months spent in an aged care home. A very well-attended service for his life was held at Le Pine Funerals, where family, friends and admirers met to say farewell to a man whose life was well regarded and loved. His sons delivered the family's appreciation of Ken as a father and as a personal inspiration to them, ably supported by heartfelt contributions by each of Ken's grandchildren.

Vale Lawrie Barnett OAM

Another sad passing was the death of **Lawrence Geoffrey Barnett** (better known to all who knew him as Lawrie). Lawrie was an invaluable asset to the community and to the Friends. He operated the commercial print shop, Action Printing in Auburn Road, Hawthorn. For more than 15 years, Lawrie printed everything from promotional material and concert programmes to full colour **Friends of the Auburn Tower** newsletters at a very, very good price - especially important for the latter in the days before electronic delivery.

Lawrie had had health issues but he died suddenly at Cabrini Hospital in early February 2026 at 86. His generosity to all who knew him was reflected in the wide range of people who paid their respects to him at the funeral service also held at Le Pine Funerals in East Kew. In recognition of his service to the community as a volunteer and particularly umpiring AFL Auskick, he had received a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours. Not long before his death, he had been featured in the *Herald Sun* as the AFL's oldest field umpire - something he had done since 1980.

I will sorely miss Lawrie's generosity and silly jokes.

Exec Officer, Cheryl Pisterman