Dedication of the Grand Piano: Kawai KG-1

Sunday 23 December 2018

**Pianos at Auburn Uniting Church**

1. This morning sees the dedication of a piano which has been donated to the Church by Mrs Shirley Fraser. Mrs Fraser is a niece of the late Mack Jost, a renowned Melbourne pianist and piano teacher, and is a friend of long standing of Ruth and Graham Bartle.

The piano, a Kawai KG-1, was made in Japan and purchased new for Mrs Fraser in 1984. She is now unable to accommodate the piano, and has generously donated it to Auburn Uniting Church for use in the sanctuary. The Friends of the Auburn Tower will be planning a series of concerts in 2019 to display the versatility of the piano, both as a solo instrument and accompanying singers and instrumentalists.

1. The piano, now in the Pawsey Room, was bequeathed by the late Mrs Joyce Lee. Joyce, as an MLC boarder in the 1920s, remembered the church with its original lettuce-green walls, decorated organ pipes and stencilled friezes. She was a long-standing member of the congregation and of the choir.

This piano, a Rönisch upright grand, was made in about 1912 in Leipzig, and was brought to Australia by Joyce’s maternal Aunt when she emigrated from Germany at about the time of Joyce’s birth in 1913. The gift was marked by a donated brass plaque with the words: ‘This piano is my thanks for all the joy I received from the God I love, from this church and from its people. Joyce Isabel Lee 19.6.1913 to 29.2.2007. ‘

1. The piano formerly in the Eileen Pawsey Room, now in the Hall, also has an interesting history. It was made by Krauss for the German Kaiser, and won the Cannes Piano Competition in 1906.

After the fire of 1970 destroyed the former Denham Street (Hawthorn) Methodist church, the congregation began to meet in the hall, and needed a piano. The late Rev W J Johnson located the piano, and acquired it for the church. With the closure of that church in 1989, the piano and stool were moved to Auburn - fully restored with money bequeathed by an honoured and loved member of that congregation, Mrs Joyce Mason. A small brass plaque is mounted in the piano to commemorate Mrs Mason’s gift.