

# Tuggeranong Baptist Church

## Ian's Update— 18 November 2021

### Times and Seasons

My times are In Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me. [Ps 31:15 NKJV]

What a joyous time it is, as we follow the pathways to our nation's new normal. It's great to be able to meet at the Garratt Street Centre again on Sundays, with restrictions that we are able to manage.

Paul's instruction to *not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhort one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. {Heb 10:25}* is for our good.

This instruction does not take into account that places of worship are super disease spreaders in a pandemic. It is a pathway to spiritual growth for individuals and for maturing the body for service.

There is a sense that we are at the beginning of the end of the pandemic and almost to the new normal—if we just keep following the pathways and keep on keeping on with the COVID safe behaviours until all who can, are vaccinated—including our children.

I've mentioned a couple of times that there is a weariness abroad. For this reason, it is

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. [Gal 6:9] NIV

very important that we devote our efforts to the important things and to encourage each other through word and deed until the times of refreshing.

### About this issue

This issue mentions a number of sources of encouragement that may energise us as the season of Christmas approaches.

### Love God Love People

#### Tuggeranong Baptist Church

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#### Electronic giving

Direct Deposit to: BSB 704 922,  
Account: 100 014 987  
Name: Tuggeranong Baptist Church

#### Elders/Corporation Committee

Ian Reid (President)  
Rob James (Vice President)  
Mike Ashford (Secretary)  
Craig Leon

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## Ready

The lockdown gave us time to bring order to some of our administrative tasks, process and tools. At the same time, updates were done to reflect our focus on making ours a Safe Church Environment.

The object of the work is to provide clear guidelines and processes for us to follow and that provide pathways to service and ensure the best use of the resources the Lord has provided. To steward our resources, time, talents, gifts and finance, we need to be efficient and effective.

The following pages, under the [About tab](#) on the website are some of the products of this work:

- Church Database - Recording your Personal Details - Adding you to our official Mailing List
- Privacy Policy - protecting you - protecting others - how to contact others
- Salvation - becoming a Christ-follower
- Believer's Baptism
- Infant Dedication
- How to Compose a Prayer Request



In addition, a number of role descriptions have been drafted.

## Set

Some of the CAN DO TASK challenges set during the lockdown added to the efficiency of our administration including:

- the key audit and update of your app/website account
- request for a copy of your WWVP card and update of your app/website account
- invitation to participate in the Volunteer process for existing volunteers

**Your take up of these challenges is very encouraging to the leadership of the church and shows that we are getting set up for our future.**

## PARTICIPATION IN THE VOLUNTEER PROJECT



It's been very encouraging to see the number of people who have completed the [steps to volunteering](#) including watching the [Safe Church Induction training](#).

The *COVID Safety Team* recently conducted a training day to prepare for the re-commencement of services at the Garratt Street Centre. A number of recruits have been added to the team and you will see them as they take you on the COVID-Safe journey from entrance to exit each Sunday. I was inspired by the enthusiasm for service that team members demonstrated as they spoke of the work they do in the team.

Members of the teams that are currently operating who have completed all to work to prepare for their Interview with the Safe Church team include the **Elders**, the **Worship Team**, the **Op Shop** volunteers and the **COVID Safety** team.

Our process for volunteers implements the church's [Procedure for Staff and Volunteers](#)—Recruiting and Screening Staff and Volunteers.



## Volunteers Project—Phase end date

The preparation work has been done so that all volunteers, currently serving, can complete the required steps, ready for interview early in 2022.

### THE CHURCH DATABASE



The database is, in effect, a list of people for whom the leadership of the church have pastoral care responsibilities. The personal details that you provide help us care for you.

You need to give written permission for us to store your personal details on our [church database/ mailing list](#). The purposes for which we can use your details are listed in our [Privacy Policy](#).

### GO—Love God, love others

As we gather inspiration and encouragement from what we and others, have come through in the last 2 years we are ready to go on to what lies ahead .

After the short break and the season of celebration that comes with Christmas, we will gather again and plan what living out our theme *Love God, Love Others* might look like in 2022.

### Encouragement for our mission partners

We recently decided to send our missions partners in October rather than make the payment in December. This payment is calculated after the end of our financial year the tithe of our annual income. The December payment usually in-

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, [Gal 4:4] NIV

cludes the regular payment for the first quarter of our financial year and the balance owing from the previous church financial year.

As we had just read the contents of newsletters from David Hay, representing his family, and Michele Black, we thought it might be better to bring this payment forward.



Each sent messages of thanks to us that show how God's hand was in this decision and how important the timing of the donations was... here are extracts from the messages—bold type added by me:

#### FROM MICHELE

*Wow, Wow, Wow, Wow - the tears are rolling down my face and dripping off my chin - what an absolute answer to prayer - once again my testimony is that God always goes before us. The amount you sent will cover the exact amount needed to cover the cost of the application for an inter*

*country adoption Visa into Australia—bless you so very much.*

*Please pass on our sincere and most heartfelt thank you to Tuggeranong Baptist Church for your initiative and deep sense of love and concern for our needs without even asking. I am so encouraged by the way that you love and support the people serving overseas that you support as a church. I have learnt so much from you as to how to care for others, how to listen to that still small voice and be His hands and feet in serving others.*

*I look forward to the day that I can bring Flora to church with me to Tuggeranong Baptist for her to experience the same sense of commitment and support that I have felt from TBC over the past nearly 6 years*

*Michele and Flora*

#### FROM DAVID



*Wow! We are totally blown away this morning by this incredible gift. You have really blessed us. We are so grateful to God for the connection He has bought us with TBC. And so grateful for your prayers and the support you provide for us and the kids at iKhetelo. Your partnership with us in our ministry is amazing.*

*Having these funds now is such a blessing as we face so much uncertainty with regard to our visas, which expire next month. It is now over 15 weeks since we submitted the renewal applications and we still do not know the outcome. **We may need funds to further engage a visa consultant to act on our behalf with this. So having these funds available gives us peace of mind. The Lord promises us peace that passes understanding, and He can use others to give us that peace.***

*Please pass on our thanks to all at TBC.*

*David, Janenne & Rachel*

#### **Coming Home soon**

Both families serve in African countries and are hoping to be home soon on furlough. Please continue to pray that the way may be made straight for their return—for eased restrictions, affordable flights and appropriate visas.

#### **Operation Christmas Child**



We are encouraged by your continued commitment to *Operations Christmas Child* and the work of *Samaritans Purse* which continues in the face of the pandemic. Like us, OCC found different ways to operate—offered an on-line option, arranged with Koorong to be collection point and extended the collection date after lockdowns in NSW, ACT and VIC.

Thanks to all who packed Shoe Boxes this year—on-line or in person. The extended collection date of 14 November has now passed. You can donate to [Operation Christmas Child](#) at any time at their website. Donations go towards the costs of the project.



## The Impact of faith on Australian Society commissioned by Olive Tree Media

The findings of research in 2021 are an encouragement to us as we begin to plan for the future:

We recently attended the release of report detailing research conducted by McCrindle for Olive Tree Media.

The [report](#) is available in our app or on the website and is published with Olive Tree Media's permission. The objectives of the research included:

- Investigate how Christianity has impacted the values of Australians
- Understand Australians' perspectives of Christians and Christianity

The discoveries made may prompt some interesting discussion with your friends.

- Despite Builders being more likely to identify with Christianity than Gen Z, it is the younger generations who attend church (either in church or online) more regularly....This could highlight a decline in cultural Christianity as members of the emerging generations who identify with Christianity may be more likely to live out their faith.
- Australians who were born overseas are more likely to remain committed to the religion they were shaped in from their younger years than those born in Australia.
- Those who are born in Australia are more likely to be cool towards Christianity than those born overseas.
- Australians who are warm/neutral to Christianity are most attracted to the Christian faith by seeing first hand people live out a genuine faith.



## Op Shop Grand Re-opening

The Op Shop volunteers needed no more encouragement as they eagerly re-opened the shop. They have items in stock for you to give at Christmas or to treat yourself. The shop is open Tuesdays to Thursdays from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Find out more about the [shop](#).

## Baptism—Public Declaration of Faith

I have already received from people who wish to be baptised on Sunday 28 November at 3:00 pm at Pine Island Main beach and some people have already book to witness this important event. Contact me if you wish to be baptised.



It is a symbolic public act that a person is participating in Christ's death, burial and resurrection and openly identifying with the Kingdom of God with Christ as Lord.

Find out about [Salvation](#)-Becoming a Christ Follower, Believer's [Baptism](#) and [Infant Dedication](#) on the website or app.

Book [here](#) to attend so that we can make appropriate arrangements on the day.

## All church picnic after the service at the Garratt Street Centre on Sunday 5 December

In the normal course of events, the service on Sunday 5 December would be the final Kids' Church event for the year where we would enjoy a presentation from the children and where they would receive gifts.

The picnic is an Organised Outdoor event, with their lighter restrictions where we can enjoy a time of catching up. The environment is safer for the children than inside our Auditorium.



20 ACT schools have now been identified as exposure locations so it's important that we offer this event out of doors but ask that parents are responsible for their own children. Families with children may prefer to come to the park at 12 noon and not attend the service at Garratt Street Centre before. Sara will deliver children's gifts at the picnic.

It's a **bring your own everything** event. The plan is that each person will bring their own chair, blanket, food and drink and that we will arrange ourselves in groups that are COVID compliant (1.5m between groups and avoiding shared platters and utensils).

Book to attend the picnic so that we can choose a location at the Kambah Adventure Park on the day that will accommodate us as a safely-distanced group. We will use the park's QR code for contact tracing purposes.



Find out more and [book](#):

## National Church Life survey—online from 16 January to 13 February 2022

In response to difficulties created by COVID outbreaks and consequent lockdown, the date for finalisation of the survey has been extended to the end of February 2022.

We will run a 4 week campaign from 16 January to 13 February 2022.

NCLS will send us a code to forward to you so that you can go directly to their site and complete your Attendee Survey which, they advise will take about 20 minutes. We will keep you up to date with what's happening.

## ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Over the period of the pandemic, we have been encouraged by the invitations from David Smith, Member for Bean to submit applications for grants which have been approved.

### COMMUNITY ROOM UPGRADE



Blinds have now been fitted in the Community Room and we have taken delivery of some of the kitchen cabinetry and assembly by ourselves is underway (see photograph). Electrical work was completed by *Select Electrical and Solar* who donated materials, a tradesman and his apprentice to supply an additional circuit and reposition some of the existing outlets.

### GRANT FOR INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS — SUCCESSFUL

We received advice firstly from the office of the Federal Member for Bean, David Smith and then via email from the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources that we will receive a grant of \$9,000.00 as part of the *Powering Communities Program*.

Now that we have moved into less restricted times, this project can progress.





## 'tis the Season

Our teaching series, commencing in December, is aptly named as, once again, we are inspired by God's love when He gave his only begotten son that all would receive him might be reconciled to him and have everlasting life (paraphrase John 3:16).

## Distribution of COG Vouchers

I have started the distribution of vouchers to the families we regularly support through COG. They are part of our extended church family. It's useful to deliver these vouchers in plenty of time for shopping for Christmas. Thanks to those who regularly make direct donations to COG through the bank, and also to those who donate goods or purchase goods from the Op Shop. Funds raised by the shop are used by the [COG Ministry](#).

## Finance

The Church's financial year is from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022. The budgeted figure for Offerings to meet our Annual Expenses is \$270,000.

Analysis of Offerings from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022				
Date	Total Offering received	BFS direct transfer	Westpac direct transfer	Cash deposited at Bank
30/10/2021	\$14,291.00	\$12,951.00	\$1,340.00	

## The last word —Concerns about capturing your private information to meet Safe Church requirements

We find ourselves at a point of time in the history of our nation when, because of the institutionalised abuse of children and other vulnerable people that has occurred in churches, our Federal and State governments have embedded the *10 Child Safe Standards* into legislation. These standards and legislation set out how government expects us to treat citizens and the care we should take when to recruit and screen volunteers.

To meet our legal obligations, all volunteers and staff in the church from tea makers and working bee volunteers to the lead pastor must undergo training and document private and sensitive information that we are required to store securely for a very long time (30years).

The important takeaway in Philippians 3:5-8 is often considered to be that all of the apostle Paul's heritage, education and accomplishments were things that he would throw away so that he might be enriched in the reality of knowing Jesus Christ. However, in the context of the question about why the church (and her people) should provide their credentials, we see that the inclusion of this information inspires confidence in the readers then and now. Paul's scholarship is of great value to the church and we thank God that Paul did not throw away his accomplishments but incorporated them into written instructions to the church that are now part of our New Testament.

So, quite apart from obeying the law, there is value in our documented recruiting and screening policies and practices. It inspires confidence both within the local church and in the public arena.

Answering Yes to any of the questions on the [Screening Questionnaire](#) does not automatically disqualify you from serving. I cover this in the Induction Videos that I have made and ask that you check these out and, if you still have concerns or want more clarity, to give me a call on this or any other matter.

Blessings

Ian Reid,

Lead Pastor Tuggeranong Baptist Church

For the Leadership Team