

Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Ian's Update— 19 January 2022

Happy New Year!

It is now 2 years since news coverage of an outbreak of the Coronavirus in far off China was, for us, a lower priority than the very present threat from the 2020 bushfires at our doorstep after many weeks of smoke drifting to us from our neighbours in Victoria and New South Wales.

It's been an extraordinarily eventful 2 years, lived against the backdrop of the pandemic which has affected lives worldwide. And here we are—at the beginning of 2022 and

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

*I say to myself, "The Lord's my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."*

[Lamentations 3:22-24 NIV]

From the beginning, God set in motion the measuring of time—separating night from day, establishing four seasons each year and four phases of the moon to mark each month. The feasts of Israel outlined in the Old Testament show us seasons are important in the ordering of our lives. We benefit from times to reflect and to celebrate. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 lists seasons and activities that all have an appointed/appropriate time.

All of the activities have continued over the last 2 years. Births, deaths and marriages were part of our lives. People de-cluttered and renovated. Some of our number were blessed with successful elective surgeries. At Garratt Street the garden was established and the upgrade to the Community Room was completed in the last week or so.

In this issue

- Introduction
- Can do Tasks—framework for COVID Safe decisions
- Events for 2022
- New for 2022
- Bible in One Year—a new approach for 2022
- Resuming events in 2022
- NCLS Survey—starting now
- Future directions require volunteers
- A brief look at the last few weeks
- Community Room Upgrade
- Condolences and Thanks
- Finance
- The Last Word

Love God Love People

Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Contacts
Ian Reid, Lead Pastor

Phone: 0401 301 193
www.tbchurch.com.au
events@tbchurch.com.au

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



We decided last week to continue the closure of the Garratt Street Centre and to cancel in-person Sunday services until the end of January and we published a message to you with a link to my video where I explained some of the reasoning behind the decision.

At that time, and even now, there is a lot of uncertainty around how things will go for the next while as people return from holiday travel and schools and the working year get underway. The rapid rise of the number of cases, hospitalisations and deaths have created a sense, for some, that it's all now totally out of control and there is nothing that we can do to help make the situation better.

This is not accurate.

CAN DO TASKS

At such a time as this—**there are things that we can do.**

FIRSTLY we can take the advice from **Philippians 4** and *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

SECONDLY, we can continue to be guided by **ACT Health** in our decision making. The department is constantly monitoring the situation and dealing with uncertainties. In the midst of it all, they provide us with guidelines in line with ACT Government Directions that help keep us on as steady a path as possible. Success depends upon our compliance and that of everyone.

Our practices are comply with [*Public Health \(Restricted Activities\) Emergency Direction 2022 \(No 1\)*](#). that commenced on 8 January 2022

The church's (leadership and COVID Safety Team) responsibilities under the direction are that we must:

- a. take all reasonable steps to not allow or organise a gathering in areas of a non-residential premises that are accessible to the public that exceeds 1 person per 2 square metres (excluding a worker) for each useable indoor space.
- b. take all reasonable steps to:
 - i. ensure social distancing of people can be accommodated, implemented and monitored by employees or contractors of the business, activity or undertaking; and
 - ii. ensure workers are wearing face masks in accordance with the Public Health (Mandatory Face Masks) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 7), as amended or replaced from time to time.

As a **Place of Worship**, these restrictions apply:

25 people across the venue before density limits apply (exc staff).

If places of worship wish to have more than 25 people, they can apply:

- One person per two square metres per usable indoor space (exc staff).
- No density limits apply to outdoor spaces.
- Choirs should continue to maintain physical distancing from congregation while singing.
- **Maintain COVID Safe behaviours such as hand and respiratory hygiene, physical distancing, face mask use and check in where required.** [Note: This point has been added in the latest version of the Direction. See the note below]



THIRDLY, we identified ourselves as organisers of activities and events that may increase the risk of infection. The ACT Health definition includes activities that

- are in closed environments, crowded situations or involve close contact with others
- have large numbers of people in close contact (e.g. public transport at peak hour, weddings, protests or other large gatherings)
- require physical activity and close contact (e.g. dancing or contact sport)
- require speaking loudly or singing in an indoor environment (e.g. choirs, singing in church, shouting in a noisy environment);
- require sharing objects with others (e.g. utensils at a buffet)

Maintain physical distancing— a COVID Safe Behaviour—Pause to in-person Sunday services

The ACT Health website includes this request under the heading of *Physical Distancing*:

*If the number of COVID-19 cases increases in the ACT, **you may need to change your activities and interactions.** For example, events and workplace **settings may increase your risk of contracting COVID-19 illness.***

As mentioned in my video update last week, it was stated that the case numbers in the ACT had not peaked—we think that the decision to pause in-person Sunday services is a way that the church can contribute to decreasing our interactions that may be the sources of increasing the speed of the spread of the Delta and Omicron variants of COVID-19.

Recognition of activities of Places of Worship

It is interesting to note that the list of current restrictions include the point about Maintaining COVID Safe Behaviours for Places of Worship only.

Perhaps this shows that, unlike other businesses and venues, our activities normally include activities like hugging, kissing and shaking hands, sharing of common utensils for communion and morning teas and singing (and in some churches dancing) and our attendees include a much broader cross-section of society than many other settings. Some churches include greeting each other with a handshake or kiss as part of their liturgy.

For example, we don't usually greet others at the cinema, where people gather for a shared purpose, with a handshake or hug.

Other activities at the Garratt Street Centre

Decisions we make are also informed by restrictions and guidelines for retail, gyms and education (after school care) and outdoor and indoor events.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me
[Philippians 4:13](#)

When the apostle Paul included this statement in his letter to the Philippians, it was in the context of his expressing thanks for their financial support. It is preceded by his assertion that he had learned to be content whether in abundance or in need. It could be said that the focus is on flexibility.

We can expect God to strengthen us to be able to do whatever is needed in response to the whatever is before us.



Events for 2022

Prior to Christmas and the first identified case of Omicron in the ACT, Events for our various ministries were published on our website to provide dates etc for those of you who like to plan out major events at the beginning of the year.

Some events, like the opening of the Op Shop and starting of the Craft Group were scheduled for January and have now been adjusted to dates in February.

We will keep you posted and/or group facilitators will be in contact with you if you are already a regular attender.

Here are the highlights which are subject to change:

- [Op Shop](#)—8 February. Find out about the shop [here](#).
- [CAP Money Course](#)—8 February—This course was previously advertised as a face-to-face event in the Community Room but has switched to on-line delivery over 3 evenings. Find out more about CAP (Christians Against Poverty) and the Coaches [here](#).
- [Connect through Craft](#) (Class) —4 February. This event shows all the dates for the year so you can add them to your diary now. Find out more about the Craft Group [here](#).
- [Kids' Church](#)—1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. As 6 February is possibly our first in-Person Sunday Service, we may not be able to organise Kids' Church for this Sunday. More about [Kids' Church](#).
- [Girls' and Boys' Brigades](#)—usually begin on the second Thursday of the term—10 February 2022 Find out more about Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade.
- [Connect through Craft](#) (Bring your own project) - 18 February. This event shows all the dates for the year so you can add them to your diary now.
- [Bible Study for Women](#) in Greenway—usually begins on the first Tuesday in the term—Facilitator will advise exact date.

New in 2022

[Explorers](#)—a program rather than a fixed group

Adventurers who are interested in moving into places unseen by paths unknown will enjoy being part of the Explorers program.



We have had many experiences in the last couple of years where we have been forced to find different ways to do things and to discover that there are different ways to connect and for the church to be effective in ministry and service.

The Explorers program will continue the trend of finding out more and continual to grow in the company of others. The first activity will be similar to a small group, who meet to share experiences and explore a topic together in the Community Room each Tuesday morning from 10:00 to

11:30. [Book to attend](#) to help with preparations. Commences 15 February 2022.

A range of different content and activities at different times will be included and people may opt in and out as it suits.

I will be leading the group that meets on Tuesday mornings.



Bible Reading in 2022—Bible in One Year—the App

You may wish to refresh your approach to reading the Bible this year. Click here to find out how to [download](#) the app with this bible reading plan or to connect via internet or book.

The Bible in One Year is a daily Bible reading plan which takes you through the whole Bible in 365 days. It is ideal for anyone who is looking for an easy and accessible way to read and understand the Bible.

Each day includes passages from a Psalm or Proverb, the New Testament and the Old Testament along with a daily commentary from Nicky and Pippa Gumbel, leaders of Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) Church in London and pioneers of Alpha. The Bible in One Year will encourage you to engage more closely with the Bible, to apply its teachings to everyday life and to grow in your relationship with Jesus.



You can follow along by reading the text or listening to the audio commentary and you can choose the version that best suits your lifestyle; the Classic version (25 minutes), or a shorter Express or Youth version (both around 15 minutes).

Resuming in 2022

[Canberra Bible College](#)—details to be finalised.

During the pandemic, our lecturer, Raymond Wilson has revised his notes ready for resuming the college when the situation with COVID allows.

Starting Now—National Church Life survey



The survey will be run online from this week to 13 February 2022. You will receive an email in the next day or so with instructions on how to log-on to the NCLS survey site and complete your survey.

We will not be able to view your private details or your responses to questions. NCLS will analyse your responses and present an overall report for all churches in Australia and an individual report for our church

for us to use for future planning.

We will run a 4 week campaign from 16 January to 13 February 2022. NCLS advise that it will take about 20 minutes.

Future directions for 2022—volunteers needed

The vision for any future ministry, events and activities for 2022 is limited by the number of suitably qualified people who offer to serve.

If you believe that God is calling to you serve, you need to complete the [steps to volunteering](#) including watching the [Safe Church Induction training](#).

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

Love God Love People



All volunteers must, by law, be recruited and complete the training and this applies to the ad hoc volunteering for working bees that we called in the past. We always have a to do list of practical tasks and the Transition Team that oversees this work is eager to hear from you at events@tbcchurch.com.au.

A recent project completed under the leadership of the team is the **upgrade to the Community Room**—and we can't wait to show it to you.

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE LAST FEW WEEKS

THE CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT THE GARRATT ST CENTRE was well received by those who attended. 97 booked and 92 attended the service on the day. We had a seat for everyone who wanted to come. Thanks to the people who advised that they would be away and not attending on the day as this really helped with the planning.

The quick shift back to the mandatory wearing of masks did make for some extra administrative work before and on the day. The cheerful and thankful participation of attendees, as we remembered again the great event of the beginning era of Emmanuel—God with us as a man, was a fabulous reward for the work.

It was fantastic to welcome several family groups who had come together at Christmas for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. They filled spaces made by regular attenders who were elsewhere.

NEWSLETTERS FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS Read the full December newsletter we received from the [Michele Black](#) and the [Hay family](#).

ALL CHURCH PICNIC AFTER THE SERVICE AT THE GARRATT STREET CENTRE ON SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER A great time was had by all who attended. Sara distributed gifts to Kids' Church children. Rob was kept busy at the flying fox which was a favourite with some of the children and the adults who enjoyed their lunch and catching up and were entertained by several of our dogs. The enclosed area at the adventure proved to be a very suitable outdoor venue and we secured our own CBR QR code to comply with COVID rules at the time.

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM was cancelled as the planned venue was transformed from a lovely beach and sheet of glass river to a raging torrent in the days preceding.

GIRLS' AND BOYS' BRIGADE end of year plans were changed at the last minute due to pouring rain. Nevertheless, presentations were made and the end of the extraordinary year marked with a special occasion.

THE OP SHOP finished off the year with a flurry of Christmas shopping.

COG VOUCHERS were delivered.

THANKS SARA

Sara Cornford has stepped down from the role of Kids' Church leader. Thanks Sara for your faithful and fun-filled (for them) service with children at Tuggeranong Baptist Church over the last 4 years.



Thanks for your careful choice of curriculum, for the presentations to the church where the kids taught us bible verses, sang songs and made us laugh.

Sara always served with a smile and we look forwards to seeing what God has in store for her next and pray that she will know His presence and guidance.

Thank also to her family Dion, Mia and Elijah who supported her in the work.



PASSED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Our condolences to Arthur and Robyn Hawkins whose son-in-law was diagnosed with malignant pancreatic cancer on 6 December and passed away peacefully on 10 January 2022. Please continue to pray for the family particularly Julie and Annaliese who live in Canada as they mourn the loss of husband and father. Our Prayer Team were honoured to be invited to support them.

COMMUNITY ROOM UPGRADE—A TRANSITION TEAM PROJECT

A picture is worth 1000 words. And what a magnificent 1000 words this is!



What a lovely reward for all the work that included:

- Project Management
- Measurement, high level design and costing—application for the grant.
- Detailed design with Bunnings consultant and negotiating best price
- Many trips to Bunnings and transportation of components as they arrived in store
- Recruitment of tradesmen who provided their expertise and labour free-of-charge
- Recruitment of volunteers with trailers, precision building skills and determination
- Build of the units to precision standard
- Preparation of report to the Stronger Communities Grant program

Our volunteers agreed that doing this job to a high standard is a way that we honour God and say to the world that He is worthy of our best.

The room will be used by smaller groups like the new Explorers, CAP Money Course, Connect for Craft, and the Boys' Brigade, for Elders and Transition and other team meetings. The room is ideal for use by external community groups, subject to COVID restrictions. The National Council of Women meet each month in the room.

The Community Room saw a lot of use during the pandemic because of its access straight from the street and we
Love God Love People



envisage that it will continue to be one of the most used rooms in the building.

It is not a full kitchen as it does not include a cooktop and oven but ideal for food services for functions such as those mentioned..... when we can organise COVID Safe food services once again.

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	
30/11/2021	\$15,004.00	\$13,029.00	\$1,975.00	
30/12/2021	\$26,016.00	\$24,676.00	\$1,340.00	
Totals	\$55,311.00	\$50,656.00	\$4,655.00	\$0.00

THE LAST WORD

We **do not have a definite date** to move back to in-person Sunday service though the goal is February. We will continue to follow the lead provided by ACT Health.

We have learned flexibility and acquired skills over the last 2 years that put us in a good position to respond quickly as things change. We know the tasks that need to be undertaken once it becomes clear that it is safe to open our doors and the time that it takes to review our COVID Safety Plans, prepare the building and the teams that make our in-person services work. We know how to do COVID Safe Behaviours when the bookings and doors are open again.

The closure that has been forced upon us by the rapid spread of the Omicron variant has provided an extended break for these volunteers and provided us all with time to understand the capabilities we have acquired and appreciate the truth

Every experience we have is a building block for the next step in our growth toward maturity in Christ.

So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together for good, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfill his designed purpose. Romans 8:28 [TPT]

The pause of in-person gatherings at Garratt Street allows time for many of us to receive our boosters and for our children (5-11) to be vaccinated.

Do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone—contact details on the front page.

Blessings

Ian Reid,

Lead Pastor Tuggeranong Baptist Church

For the Leadership Team

