

The Informer



From Here to Eternity—What do we do?

Our overseas holiday was indeed the trip of a lifetime, a time of wonder at the many things we saw and did, and a time of refreshment (with exhaustion). We were ready to come home and eager to get into what comes next.

The more so, because, in God’s providence, He provided inspiration at the exhibition of a replica boat thought to be like the boat of the apostle Peter. The description of the exhibit, at the Vatican, included these words:

...fishing, could accommodate about a dozen people. It is plausible, therefore, that the wreck of the Lake of Tiberias belongs to the same type of boat that the evangelists Luke (5:1-11) and Mark (4:35-41) tell about.

The 'boat' that Peter leads symbolises the Church that is led by his successors. Jesus invites the hesitant and doubtful disciples to set sail, trusting in God. In the same way, the Church must contend with the storms and difficulties of the world to spread the proclamation of the Gospel and Grace.

And so, I was inspired to do my part in leading,

and being the church in this time and space - to build the Kingdom of God from here to eternity.

Endings and Beginnings go together. It is seldom possible to start to do something without intentionally ending something.

As I ended my holiday and began work again, it is apparent that there are a number of other new beginnings and endings are emerging including:

Safe Church Policy and Procedures—a new suite of documents has been

adopted. This brings to an end the requirement for our volunteers to undertake *Creating Safe Spaces* certification every 3 years. This has now been extended to 4 years which means that many of our volunteers’ certifi-

cation is current until 20 June 2025.

The Op Shop is ending its policy to not accept donations on Thursdays. This policy made sense at Jenke Cct when the shop had to be packed away to make space for the Boys’ and Girls’ Brigades Thursday evening activities.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP Money) is rolling out a new business model and our CAP Money Coaches are working on what this will look like for us.

The Eldership will be changing as Craig Leon moves to Queensland.

Our ownership of the land at 33 Jenke Cct is coming to an end.

The Assembly of the Association of Baptist Churches in NSW&ACT has passed motions outlining the Disaffiliation of Churches and made changes to the Constitution.



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Outcomes from Assembly June 2024



Position Statement

Marriage is a covenant relationship ordained by God as a lifelong faithful union of one man and one woman. Sexual intimacy outside such a marriage relationship is incompatible with God's intention for us as his people.

Pictured above are delegates at the Canberra Baptist Church venue of the Annual Assembly who voted against the Process for Disaffiliation of Churches from the Association of Baptist Churches in NSW & ACT which removes autonomy from local churches and mandates adherence to, and no deviation from, the Association's Position Statement on Marriage.

Assembly documents specify that the Process which has now been passed can be used as a template for other issues that may arise in the future.

The Tuggeranong Baptist Church Constitution, Clause 1 is as follows:

PRINCIPLE OF AUTONOMY

We hold that the church is under Christ's headship and power is exercised by the church assembled as a Fellowship,

decisions thus made shall not be subject to change or reversal by any other body. This Church is autonomous, but advice and counsel may be sought from qualified ministers or other bodies of like principles and faith.

The Association has now set up a system where churches are required to support its Position Statements or be investigated and removed from the Association if they do not.

Tuggeranong Baptist Church **DOES NOT SPECIFY A POSITION ON MARRIAGE IN ITS CONSTITUTION** except for the inclusion of a footnote that indicates that women, single men, those

without children, divorced or remarried people are not precluded from serving as Deacons of Elders.

The Position Statement was deliberately created to function as a law and was created punitively to remove any with a different viewpoint on marriage (specifically same-sex marriage) even if they derive that viewpoint from their honest reading of scripture, which is the case for a number of currently affiliated churches.

We all have areas in our lives that are *not compatible with God's intention* for us and where He extends His grace to us and we do not seek to set up sexuality as an exception to the ability to receive God's grace and be part of His community.

All are welcome to explore a life of discipleship in our church

A number of people in the photograph, with encouragement from Assembly Council, have set up [Open Baptists Ltd](#) as an option for Churches and Pastors who will be expelled as a wise and prudent step in light of the inevitable division which is to come.

Coming Up

[BAPTISM 21 JULY 2024.](#) Click here to find out more about [Believer's Baptism](#). Let me know if you wish to be baptised.

[WINTER WARMER SOUP LUNCH](#) 21 July, 2024. We need to know how much soup to make so please RSVP by Sunday 14 July.

[CAP MONEY COURSE](#) 27 July and 3 August. This course provides delegates

with a set of money management skills. The course is run over two sessions

[CONGREGATIONAL MEETING](#) will be held after the service on Sunday 28 July.

[CHURCH COMMUNITY DINNER](#) 21 August at the Erindale Vikings. RSVP by 19 August, so that we can book a place for you at the restaurant. Burgers and Snitty meals are available at

\$16.00 and the full menu is available from the Event.

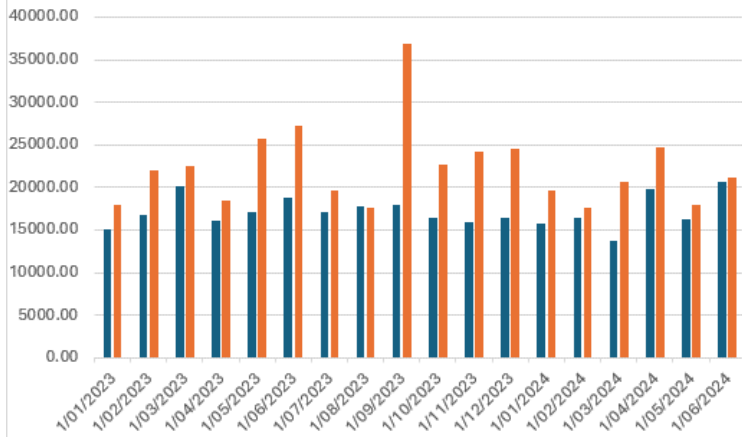
[NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE AS THE TOWN CENTRE VIKING IS BEING RENOVATED.](#)

[ALPHA](#) will run in our Sunday service timeslot, from 4 August to 13 October.

WHO WILL YOU INVITE?



Finance—Facts and Figures



Budget

The Treasurer presented a balanced budget for 2024 that depends on an **increase in our annual offerings of \$58,086.**

Our budgeted monthly offering is \$20,375

Offerings since the last *In-former* were— May \$14,069 June \$18,967.00

\$41864.00 from our reserves which have been used to meet our expenses.

Our bank balance at the 30 June was \$25,200.

Each Baptist church is responsible for meeting its own expenditure. There is no central funding body.

In his sermon on [Generosity](#), Phil Waugh demonstrated that Christians give 2.5% of their income and challenged us to generosity in giving.

Ways to Give:

Electronic Giving
Direct Deposit via Internet banking to:
BSB 704 922
Account: 100 014 987
Name: Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Credit Card Use [iGive](#) service.

Cash Deposits
Cash offerings may be placed in the Offering Containers at the doors to the Auditorium.

Op Shop News

The Op Shop volunteers are taking a winter break during the July School Holidays.

The income from the shop so far this financial year is around \$13,000 and most as already been distributed

to families who depend upon us for financial assistance.

We are exploring the feasibility the Op Shop trading once-month on a Saturday.

Brenda often receives messages from people

who cannot shop during the week, who would like to drop in.

The proposals opens an opportunity for those who cannot serve during the week.

Contact Brenda if you wish to be involved

Biblical Principles regarding Money

The power of money can destroy; but it can also build.

The Church is the best agent globally to steward the most resources to accomplish the greatest work in assisting the growing need in the real community around us.

We need MORE money!

Like fire positioned in a fireplace, money can contribute to a warm and inviting atmosphere

where people gather to be built up. Outside of the fireplace, it can destroy.

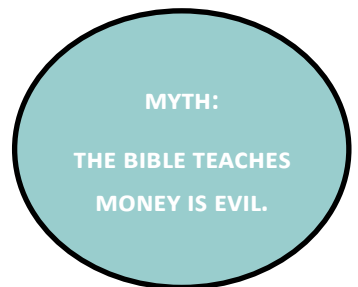
Money has the power to destroy us, but when understood and handled correctly, it can release God’s purpose through us.

We should not allow a few excesses, and those who have done the wrong thing by manipulating events for their own ends within the Church, to take us to the point where we think that money is evil?

We can’t change the world without the resources needed.

We must be careful we don’t become settled and satisfied with just meeting our needs.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 1 Tim 6:10 [NIV].



Communications

Our Groups

Worship team, Operations Team, Kids' Church, Explorers, Bible Study for Women, Girls' and Boys' Brigades, Coffee on Wednesday, CAP Money, Connect through Craft, Op Shop. [More.](#)

Hosted activities

Canberra Bible College

The Informer

The official **communications channels** of Tuggeranong Baptist Church are:

- App—a quick way to keep you in the loop
- Website - with QR code access
- YouTube channel
- Sunday Notices
- Notices published on boards
- Emails to our distribution/ mailing list.

Mailing List

When you complete the [Request to have personal details recorded](#), create an account in our App, email us or RSVP to attend an event, you provide us with some of your personal details.

Prayer Requests

Compose your request in the App or on the website following these [guidelines](#).

App Notifications

Notifications are sent when new items are published in the App. This includes Daily Verse, Prayer Requests (if you are a member of the Prayer Team), and Events you may wish to attend among others. You must be logged into your Account/Profile to receive notifications. Alternatively, open the App when it suits you to check for Notifications.

Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Love God Love People



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The Last Word

CRAIG IS MOVING TO A WARMER CLIME

Our Elder, Craig Leon, is moving to be closer to family in Mareeba on the Atherton tableland in Far North Queensland. Mareeba enjoys a cooler climate than much of North Queensland—so he is not entirely escaping some cold weather each year.

We are so thankful to have had the Leon family as an important part of our church community for over 20 years.

We give thanks for the lengthy and valued contribution of Craig in the role of Church Elder.

We have been enriched by Craig's wisdom and skill across many areas of ministry through the years.

With others in the TBC Leadership teams, he has played his part in navigating some challenging chapters of our church's journey. Craig has conducted himself with transparency and grace.

Craig will conclude his time as TBC Elder on Sunday 28 July 2024, as there is much involved in the interstate move.

We are all thankful for Craig, Lynn and the family.

I invite you to take the opportunity to express your appreciation to them personally.

We also want to let you know TBC Eldership is seeking God's guidance in appointing at least 2 additional Elders in the near future.

Please join us as we pray on this matter.

WHAT DO I DO?

This question is repeated throughout our series *From Here to Eternity*. It's important that we lay aside things that may hold us back—that there is an ending. Traditional-

ism is a trap we may encounter on our way.

Check out the full message about the [TRAP OF TRADITION](#) from Sunday 7 July [here](#).

FINALLY

I thank you all for your faithfulness in functioning as the body of Christ at Tuggeranong Baptist Church in my absence and hand this message from my trip.

Each day Jesus invites the hesitant and doubtful disciples to set said trusting in God. I invite you to hear this call and join with me and with others in following Christ from here to eternity.

Ian Reid
Lead Pastor
Tuggeranong Baptist Church for the Leadership Team