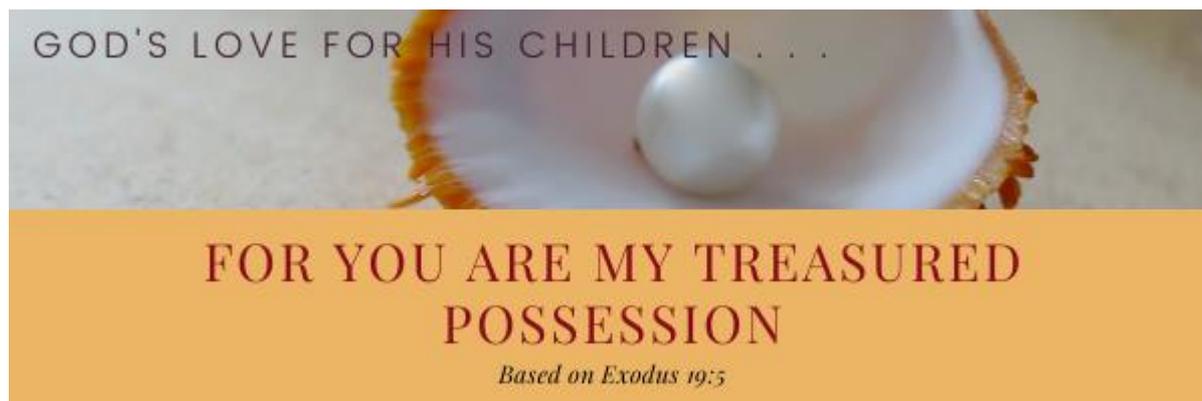


February/March 2021, No. 2

S T E P B Y S T E P
ADVANCE
Tasmanian
BAPTISTS 



FEBRUARY 11, 2021

This year we are adding some new-ness to the **ADVANCE | step by step.**

Food for Thought – a regular reflection from one of our pastors – came along last release. And now . . . drum roll please . . . **CHURCH PROFILES!** This issue, we hear all about **Summerhill Baptist** (Launceston).

As well, *President for Women of the Baptist World Alliance* **Karen Wilson**, explains her perspective on 21st Century-style ministry; there's an update on the work of Baptists in the midst of the **WA bushfires**; and there's a bit of **NEWS** for you to catch up on.

Have a blessed week!

Jenny

Jenny Baxter
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**What good work has God done in your life lately?
Or in the life of your church or community?**

If you have a great story to tell, please connect with me. I'd love to hear what's going on.

our church:

Profile: Summerhill Baptist Church

In this issue of *ADVANCE / step by step* we begin a new series of church profiles, starting with Summerhill Baptist in Launceston

Firstly, read an overview from the pastor, **Maddy Svoboda**. Then continue reading for a couple of highlights from members **Roger and Jess Radford**.

From the Pastor: Maddy Svoboda



Hello! My name is Matthew (Maddy) Svoboda and I am the pastor of Summerhill Baptist Church in Launceston. I've been married to Imogen for eight years and we have three children: Evie (5), Angus (2) and we have just welcomed Reuben into the tribe 2 months ago.

I grew up in Launceston (my grandparents lived around the corner from Summerhill Baptist for my whole life) and I was not a follower of Jesus until I was 18.

Summerhill Baptist and community impact

The Summerhill Baptist building sits on the Stanley Street roundabout in Summerhill, alongside a school and a medical centre. We have a mentoring partnership with the school where people from the church are trained up to walk with a student in need for an hour a week.

We've run family movie nights, sausage sizzles and community fun days for the school community, as well as a high school youth ministry that engages primarily with youth from Prospect High School.

At the end of last year, we partnered with Scripture Union to run a community outreach for the Hazara (ethnic and Muslim group from Afghanistan) people in our community and will continue those throughout 2021.

We are also in the beginning of a partnership with the medical centre as they use our facilities for 'flu vaccinations. We would like to see this develop in order to see holistic health throughout the community of Summerhill.

Summerhill's challenges

One of the big challenges for us at Summerhill is knowing how to navigate these new cultural waters with boldness and humility. There has been rapid discontinuous change within our society, and it can leave us wondering how we engage with our friends, family members, work colleagues and neighbours with the good news of Jesus.

There can also be a tension between wanting our people to be involved in church community life, be invested in the relationships they naturally have with people not following Jesus, as well as taking care of

SUMMERHILL'S BEGINNINGS

By Tas Baptist's Historian
Laurie Rowston

Henry Reed of the Reed Memorial Church (now Gateway) gave the land for the Summerhill church in about 1880 for an outreach and it became a Baptist work in 1935. After WWII it became a joint work between the Congregationalists and the Baptists, but Baptists resumed responsibility for Church services and a Sunday School in about 1948.

The area began to develop and by 1960, homes were being built all around. From 1962 to 1968 Summerhill and Kings Meadows were a joint pastorate. Since then, adjoining land was purchased and the present structure built, and the original 1901 structure demolished. A large hall has since been added.

themselves and their family. There are a lot of priorities in our lives, and it is a challenge to avoid overloading people, as well as call them to service and mission.

What I see in the future

I am excited by what I see taking place at Summerhill.

We have a spread of ages and generations making up our congregation. My desire is that we would dive deeply into the call to be a family of God, with older generations and younger generations not merely existing in the same space but flourishing together.

- I want to see us lean into the location and place God has given us, and to seek the peace and prosperity of our community.
- I want to see us grow and develop even more into a community, offering open-hearted acceptance to those around us.
- I want to see God's kingdom, coming to Summerhill.



Pictured, Maddy and Imogen with their growing family

Members' Reflections

By Roger and Jess Radford

COVID-19 . . . all change!



A big highlight for Summerhill Baptist has been moving into our "New" hall. We built it a few years ago, but we're still working through the process of using it for Sunday services.

After lockdown, our old hall no longer met our requirements as we could not all fit, under capacity requirements. With all our gear in the old building it meant we had to get back to basics, with initially a small sound system, a worship leader and singer up front. So it was very refreshing to strip worship

back to a "minimum viable product" and slowly build as restrictions have lifted.

Our worship team up front has gradually grown over time. Adding members slowly gave us a chance to test and learn what works well for us in our new building.

Moving to the new building has allowed us to grow our Creche and *Kidz Church* program in our old building, dramatically improving the size and suitability of the area available to them.

Community fun



COVID restrictions also challenged us on how we get together after a service. Our foyer is now much too small to congregate for a chat, so we recently had our second church picnic at

Punchbowl reserve. As a "Bring your own everything" event, it was a simple way for us to all hang out after church without a lot of planning and administration required.

At the picnics--through conversation, food, footy, frisbee and vortex--we've much fun had!

Coming up, on Sunday 7th March, we will participate in [Clean Up Australia Day](#) by cleaning up one of our local parks after our service, and then having another picnic.

Colder weather will again challenge our newfound love of picnics, but we are looking forward to seeing what we will come up with next!



Pictured, The Radford Family: Back - Jess and Lily; Front - Ira and Roger

WEBSITE: summerhillbaptist.org.au

SUNDAY STREAMING: [YOUTUBE CHANNEL >>> \(www.youtube.com/channel/UCL1vTSHpsHkVg5kETyrFA7g\)](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL1vTSHpsHkVg5kETyrFA7g)

Watch the Intro video: youtu.be/iOkIL_at1lg



SUMMERHILL'S VALUES

~
Jesus is Good News
The Bible
Being a blessing
to our world
Becoming more
like Jesus
Community
Prayer
~

CONTACT

87 Stanley St Summerhill
PO Box 121, Prospect 7250
Phone: 6343 3813
Church Office open:
9am – 3pm
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri
~

FROM THE HANDBOOK

PASTOR: Maddy Svoboda;
B.Th. (Morling
College); Citywide (Associate)
2009 – 2015; Southern
Regional Youth Coordinator
2009 – 2012; Summerhill
2015 – Current.
~

SECRETARY: Vacant
TREASURER: Vacant

news:

All the Latest

New program to assist the vulnerable in Southern Tasmania



Christian agency [Travel With A Cause](http://www.twac.com.au/) (TWAC) (www.twac.com.au/) are running a volunteer aged care program and are looking for churches – maybe yours!

Are you interested in having international students spending 120 hours under the supervision of TWAC, to do gardening projects etc and interacting with your oldies?

All students will have flu vaccination, police check, first aid, and a Working with Vulnerable People card.

There are two ways to participate:

1. **As a provider of aged recipients to this service.** To find out more about how to host students through your church please contact Jane Johnston at info@twac.org.au
2. **As a volunteer international student looking for a qualification.** This course meets the requirements for of CHC 52015 *Diploma of Community Services*. You can read more, and register [HERE >>>](#) (www.twac.com.au/aged-care)

Applications invited - Crossover Director



[Australian Baptist Ministries](http://www.baptist.org.au) (ABM) (www.baptist.org.au) is seeking to discern God's leading for the appointment of a Director for [Crossover](http://www.crossover.org.au) (www.crossover.org.au).

Crossover is a ministry of ABM, committed to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Australia. Our goal is for churches and leaders to be better equipped for effective mission in our nation in the 21st century.

The vision of Crossover is focused in three key areas:

1. The development of high-quality evangelism resources
2. The encouragement of evangelism in Baptist churches across Australia
3. The training of pastors and leaders to be more effective in evangelism

As the senior leader in the Crossover team the Crossover Director will provide pastoral leadership including preaching and teaching responsibilities in promoting the purpose of the organisation to help Australian Baptists share Jesus. The Director will also provide pastoral leadership to the Crossover team members and the members of the Crossover Taskforce.

This is ideally a full-time (1.0FTE) position, however flexibility may be negotiated to meet a candidate's circumstances.

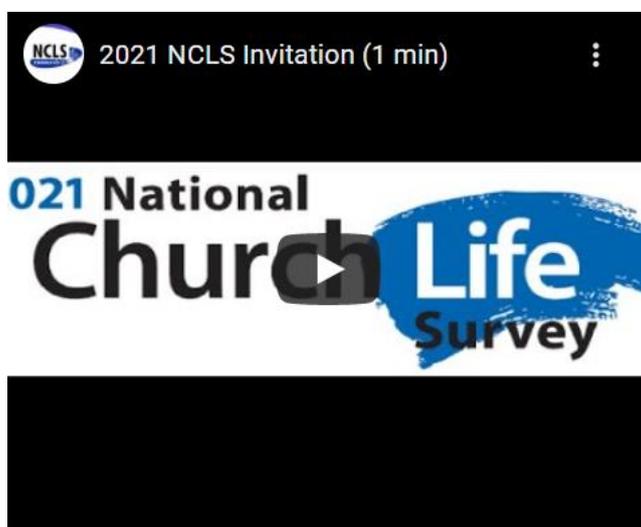
A copy of the position description is available on request by contacting Frances Schramko at <mailto:admin@crossover.org.au>. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit their CV, along with a covering letter addressing their suitability for the role based on the Position Description. These should be forwarded to the recruitment panel chairperson, Rev Dr Steve Bartlett, at sbartlett@nswactbaptists.org.au.

Enquiries or questions regarding the role may be directed to Steve on 0412 921 932. The closing date for applications is Friday 26 February 2021.

2021 NCLS Invitation to Churches

Local churches in Australia are invited to take part in the five-yearly National Church Life Survey, which will next happen during 2021. This project involves thousands of churches and their attenders across most denominations. The goal is to encourage church vitality, equip effective leadership and strengthen connections between church and community.

Watch the invitation: youtu.be/sKu5KILYMKI



[FIND OUT MORE >>>](https://2021.ncls.org.au/) (<https://2021.ncls.org.au/>)

ministry:

A New Day



Karen Wilson of is the incoming President of Baptist World Alliance Women (2020-2025)

As she takes up her position, she encourages everyone, men and women alike, to mutually respect one another and give each other equal voice.

Read on for snippets of her commissioning message, plus some of her conclusions about what she sees we can become as we work together.

As I step into the role of President for Baptist World Alliance Women 2020-2025, I sense God asking me to find and/or create spaces for women and men to flourish together.

This would mean creating ministries that are open to both, that affirm both, that have mutual respect for one another and give equal voice one to the other. For too long, women have been asked to be the silent contributors to the Kingdom. Their ministries and efforts have been greatly appreciated, yet their voices have been hushed. That time has now finished. It's a new day.

Taking it further

At the [Baptist International Conference on Theological Education](#) that met in Nassau, Bahamas, July 5-7, 2019, the decision was made to not only re-affirm the resolution of the Baptist World Alliance entitled "Women", adopted in Nassau in 1988, but to take it further.

There was a call for churches and church leaders to repent from the teachings and practices through which they have prevented women from flourishing as human beings, created in the image of God and full members of the body of Christ. The call went even further: to be open to the Holy Spirit to bring conviction, inspire discussion, and provoke transformation in individual lives and communities by affirming the God-given call of women for service in the church, so that their stories may take rightful place in the wider story of Christ's body in the world.



The challenge was given for all of us to learn, and then use language that is affirming, to both women and men in worship, communications, and publications and to work intentionally to create equal space for women in all leadership roles in the church, Baptist conventions and unions, and across the entire Baptist World Alliance.

How do we do this?

As I look at the place women have in our Baptist churches, and with this call being proclaimed globally, I believe there is a need for us to understand how to stand together, how to discuss issues together, how to make room for one another, and how to avail each other of the others' gifts. God has a Kingdom purpose

for the entire body of Christ to flourish - male and female alike - and we are being ushered into that era where we will see it come to pass.

I, for one, am excited that we get to not only see it, but also, be catalysts of change to bring this transformation.

So what do I see?

I see a global ministry where women and men champion one another and stand together ([Zeph 3:9](#)); where they understand the responsibility in the Kingdom and encourage one another forward ([1 Thess 5:11](#)); where they meet regularly ([Heb 10:25](#)) and are aware that they are not alone ([1 Cor 14:26](#)); where they gather and await the move of the Spirit of the living God. ([Acts 2:1](#)) and where they stand firmly alongside one another ([Gal 3:28](#)), in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the sake of the gospel ([Phil 1:27](#)).

Men and women alike have a mandate to love God fully and love others with acceptance and dedication.

Let's stand respectfully and confidently together in the calling God has given us.

Let's seek out spaces of commonality to work for the mutual benefit of all.

Let's openly share tables of discussion for the strengthening of the Kingdom.

Let's together seek His Kingdom first.

Let's go into all the world with a spirit of unity to proclaim the name of Jesus.

It's a new day.

Karen Wilson and husband Mark live in Perth, WA. They have two children, one grandchild, and another on the way. She was commissioned as President of the Baptist World Alliance for Women in July 2020.

*Reference: <https://www.baptist.org.au/bwa-affirming-women-in-ministry/>

emergency aid:

Baptist Relief Fund Activated for Perth Fires

WA Bushfire Disaster

Your opportunity to assist



As you will all be aware, many areas from Wooraloo, the Hills area, down through to Brigadoon, Bullsbrook and the upper Swan have been heavily impacted by the current major fire events, with currently 86 homes destroyed over the past few days. The fire has stretched some 80 kms and burnt some 9,000 hectares and it is still continuing.

Additionally, you may also be aware that Pastor John and Rosemary Harris have lost everything (including their house, shed, cabin and most equipment and all fittings etc) at their home in the recent York fire.

John is a valued long-term pastor, who is currently the Senior Pastor at Katanning Baptist Church.

Baptist Churches Western Australia has been in contact with our churches in Parkerville, Toodyay, Chidlow and Ellenbrook and we will continue to follow through with these churches to identify individuals who have been affected by the fire and have damage to their properties.

We have a special opportunity to help both John and Rosemary Harris and the current communities impacted.

Please give to the Baptist Relief Fund Inc. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

The preferred method of giving is online giving via [Baptist Financial Service's Giveway portal >>>](https://www.giveway.org.au/bfsgiveway/baptist-relief-fund-inc---tax-deductible)
(www.giveway.org.au/bfsgiveway/baptist-relief-fund-inc---tax-deductible)



PRAYER POINT:

Please also keep fire, emergency, relief workers and the many families who are suffering right now, in your prayers as they respond to this unfolding event.

Tasmanian Baptist ADVANCE | step by step
Registered by Australia Post, Publication No. TARO525, ISSN 0815-6964

Comments and submissions to Advance can be sent to:
Email: jenny@tasbaptists.org.au

Website: www.tasbaptists.org.au/news

