

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

NEWS | STORIES



WELCOME!

Here is the print version of the bumper
Oct/Nov/Dec 2023 reCharge.

This is made available to you so you can catch
up with articles released over the past three
months on the Tasmanian Baptist website.

You could also read them there:
tasbaptists.org.au



Clockwise from top left: Ps Matty
Coppin and family; Some attendees at
October Assembly; Karen Wilson at the
EmpowHer Day of Courage; New TB
Council Member Hazelyn Mohan

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Blessings!
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ps To contribute, query or comment please
email info@tasbaptists.org.au

What do we do with the Past?



Theology and Culture

A new regular offering in **reCharge**

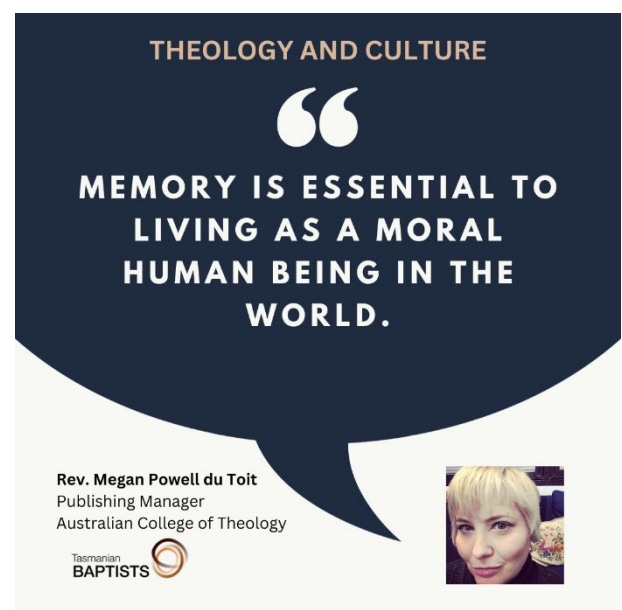
Both remembering and forgetting are important actions

Our country is currently grappling with the referendum. The question of the past is at the core of why this referendum is taking place, and why it is so difficult to discuss. Ponder on these thoughts as Australia moves closer to the referendum date.

By Rev Dr Megan Powell du Toit

Nations, families, relationships, and individuals all have pasts and memories. We all know the difficulty of a relationship in which hurts of the past are continually brought up and rehashed, with no real resolution. On the other hand, it is also a common experience to be frustrated by situations in which the past is ignored, even though it continues to affect the present.

Memory is an oft-visited topic within the stories we tell. Apple TV series Severance, released last year, imagines a company in which people are able to sever their work memories from their outside work memories. It is sold as an ideal work-life balance in which work does not impinge on your outside life. But human life is not so easily divided, and memory is core to identity. Memory is essential to living as a moral human being in the world. A 20-year-old movie comes to my mind as I think about the significance of the past. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is a film in which two people decide to undergo a procedure to erase each other from their memories. But the film suggests reality and identity are



more complex than that. Forgetting parts of the past will not bring about the desired change. The sun does not shine for the amnesiac.

Remembering and forgetting in the Scriptures

How is the past treated in the Bible? The concept of remembering is laden with the idea that memory affects action in the present. When God remembers the people of Israel, it means God keeps the promises made to them.

Memory is connected to faithful love. God sees their troubles and acts to save. In Exodus 2:24 tells how the saving act of the exodus occurs because “God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.”

The people of Israel are also to engage in remembering. They are to remember the God who saved them and not to lose heart. They also have a law code which insists upon their active remembering of their past as enslaved people.

This memory is to continually result in just action in the present towards others. For instance, in the Deuteronomy 5 account of the 10 Commandments, they are to keep sabbath along with both servants and foreigners, for they are to “remember that you were slaves in Egypt.” (v15).



Action in the present

Yet we are also told, God will remember our sins no more (e.g. Jer 31:34, Heb 8:12). Forgetting, like remembering, is about action in the present. This means that God will not act in judgment against them. This is the consequence of what Jesus has done on the cross.

Yet we are also told, God will remember our sins no more

Our sins have been borne by Jesus. So, sins cannot ever be treated as if they did not occur. They are “forgotten” here because restitution has been made.

After weeping recently, I was comforted when I recalled that God wipes away tears as we enter the time to come (Rev 21:4). That is, the tears are not forgotten. They are lovingly tended as we enter into new life.

So, what do we do with the past? The past, and our memories of it, are part of who we are and how we love. As we exist within our various communities, we are called to remember, and forget, in ways which seek the good of all and enact justice.



Rev Dr Megan Powell du Toit is a Sydney-based Baptist minister, editor, writer, academic, and podcaster. She is Publishing Manager at the Australian College of Theology and co-hosts the podcast With All Due Respect. She is also the Editor of Colloquium: The Australian and New Zealand Theological Review

Our New College!



Announcing

Frank W Boreham College

News from the Tasmanian Baptist Council

Study in Tasmania, in Your Church

Do you . . . sense God's call to ignite your faith? Want to dig deeper into Christ? Long to serve God more fully and experience transformation and liberation in your life? If you answer YES! to one or more of these questions, we have some exciting news for you.

In January 2024 you can join with fellow Baptists from across Tasmania in a unique six-month training program.

Whether you just left school or are retired, employed or unemployed, beginning a life of faith or well along the journey. If you need a change, desire to find God's direction, or just to learn, this is a wonderful opportunity!

The College will provide a pathway to undergraduate, graduate ministry and theological qualifications

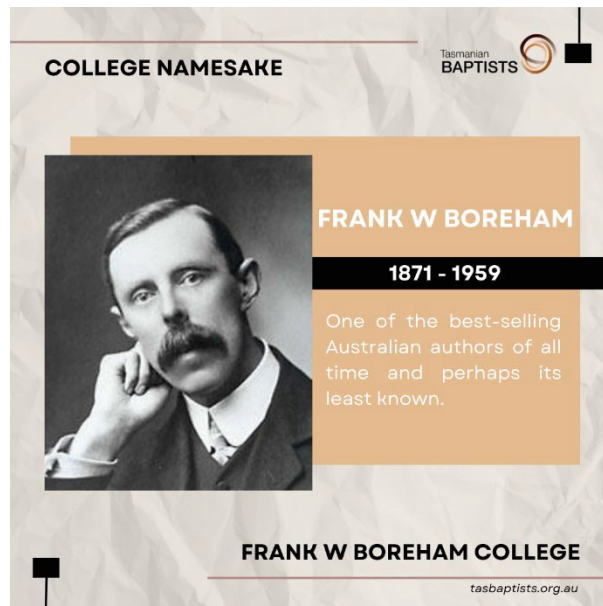
The training is part of the newly established Frank W Boreham College recently set up by Tasmanian Baptists. The College will provide a learning journey in Tasmania, specific to Tasmania, taken alongside fellow Tasmanian Baptists.

Ultimately, the College will provide a pathway to undergraduate, graduate ministry and theological qualifications through partnerships with Whitley College, Melbourne and Kairos University in North America. Those who successfully complete the six-month course will obtain an Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity with the Melbourne University of Divinity and go on to further study if they desire.

Contact the one of the Tas Baptist staff if you would like to know more – details are below.

Why “Frank W Boreham” College?

Frank W Boreham (1871-1959) is one of the best-selling Australian authors of all time and perhaps its least known.



He was pastor at Hobart Baptist Church from 1906-16, serving his people through the difficult early war years. During that time he began a biographical series for the Mercury newspaper which, over the next 40 years, covered 2000 people.

He edited the Southern Baptist, and later the weekly Australian Baptist, and in 1910 became President of the Tasmanian Baptist Union. Between 1912 and 1959 he contributed 2500 editorials to the Mercury.

His life's work of 80 publications included religious works, homiletic essays and novels and sold over one million copies.

For more information or to express your interest, please contact one of the following:

Stephen Baxter stephen@tasbaptists.org.au,

Michael Henderson michael@tasbaptists.org.au

Jenna Blackwell jenna@tasbaptists.org.au

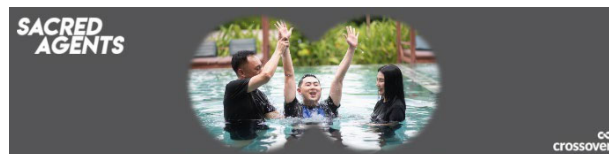
Maddy Svoboda maddy@tasbaptists.org.au

The Scandal and the Wonder



National **Baptism Week**

Who's Ready for Baptism?



Andrew Turner of Crossover reflects in his Sacred Agents blog.

I've been working on baptism resources lately, and it's mainly straightforward. But there are curly issues too, like the question, "When is a person ready to be baptised?"

There are extreme answers to this. Some denominations say 'At birth!' Others, concerned about post-baptism sin, have concluded 'Just before death!' You've likely narrowed it down somewhat from those extremes, but the question remains.

If we baptise people on their first interest in Jesus, how do we know it isn't merely a crush? Six weeks later they might be into Buddha or basket-weaving. It's not a new phenomenon – the Parable of the Sower¹ speaks of flash-in-the-pan believers as one of four main types of people who hear the gospel.

But if we delay, how long? For there's another type (thorny ground) who hang around much longer but in the end are similarly unproductive. And Jesus' next Parable (The Wheat and Weeds²) speaks to the difficulty of discerning which is which anyway.

Baptism, historically

In the 3rd to 5th Centuries, churches enrolled new believers into several years of instruction in faith and morals. Their way of life was closely observed. The final hurdle was to learn the creed and be able to recite it

¹ Matthew 13:1-23

² Matthew 13:24-29

by heart. Then baptism. There's something admirable about the commitment to intentional discipleship, but there's something troubling too.

The scandal and wonder of the gospel is that people can be reconciled to God instantaneously. The returning prodigal³ isn't required to spend a few years in the workers' quarters, proving his reformation. He gets the ring of family- belonging only five minutes after turning up in rags.

The scandal and the wonder of the Gospel is that people can be reconciled to God instantaneously.

Andrew Turner, Crossover

Learning vs Earning

Discipleship is a process, certainly. But it's at our peril that we shape it (or allow it to be perceived) as a staircase up to acceptance with God and inclusion with his people.

So what's the choice? Shall we be casual, or die-hard? Lax, or strict?

It needn't be so binary. Why not have a rigorous system for strengthening new believers, but place baptism at the start rather than the end?

There's a new life to learn, but it's not something we earn. Dallas Willard⁴ aptly put it, 'Grace is not opposed to effort, it's opposed to earning.'

When the Ethiopian eunuch⁵ says 'There's a pool of water – what's to stop me being baptised?' we don't see Philip answering, 'Well you've only passed the Isaiah exam.' But neither does the New Testament see disciple-making as dipped-and-done. Baptism has always been an *initiation* – a start line.

Some will start and then stumble. But the danger of baptising someone who may fall away is vastly outweighed by the danger of withholding baptism because they might. It is best, I think, to baptise all who are willing to follow Jesus . . . straight into a supportive and disciplined community.



Andrew Turner is the Director of Crossover.

Crossover exists to Help Australian Baptists Share Jesus.

National Baptism Week 15-22 October 2023.

Check out the **Baptism Hub** on crossover.org.au/baptism



³ Luke 15:11-31

⁴ <https://dwillard.org/about>

⁵ Acts 8:26-40

Anna-Maree Richardson



Ministry Profile

The Camping Mum Queen!

Anna-Maree Richardson has worked with Tas Baptists as the Assistant Administrator since November 2022, and it is high time we found out more about her.

Tasmanian life

I was born in and Launceston and I grew up there. It was a quiet life, my family didn't travel much and so most of our time was spent in and around the Launceston area, or going to St Marys to stay with parents.

I grew up attending an Anglican church and attending Sunday School and church there. But it wasn't until I went to college, and I made a friend who invited me to some Youth Group events at her church that I learnt more about having a relationship with God. At 17 I became a Christian

I am married to Matthew, and we have five children. Alysha is 22, Shay is 19, Ivy is 15, Nyah is 10 and Toby is 9. Alysha has been living in Queensland since 2020. We all share a love of the beach and camping. Tasmania is such beautiful place, I love travelling and seeing different parts of it; my favourite thing would be our beaches despite our cold water.

I do a lot of housework and parenting mostly. But I also like to do crafts, read and go to the beach and I love spending time with my family.

Tas Baptist life

What do you do for Tas Baptist Churches? I am the Assistant to the Administrator, and I do accounts, organise catering for Council Meetings and Assembly and also take the Minutes at these Meetings. I am excited to meet new people and learn more about Tasmanian Baptists; what is happening around our churches in Tasmania; support the Council and Tas Baptist staff, and our greater Baptist community where I can.

What challenges do you have – at work and at home? At work some of the challenges are getting all

the small things together for events such as Assembly. There a lot of small things that need to happen for things to work smoothly. Home is very similar with six people all living together, and such a range of ages! It is about making everything fit together for things to run efficiently.

After being out of the workforce for 21 years to raise our family, a lot has changed. Technology has certainly progressed, and everything is very different. I am lucky to work with amazing patient people who are always encouraging and helpful. I continue to learn new skills, and learn how things work at Tas Baptists. Pray for me to continue to learn and grow in my new role.

The best advice I have received is that everything is easier if you break it down into smaller parts, especially if you are overwhelmed or things seem too hard.



Short 'n' Sweet

I am looking forward to . . . Summer, it is my favourite time of year.

I am worried about . . . my children and their happiness.

I am confident that . . . God has a plan

I am joyful about . . . family, they are so important.

I would like to change . . . how quickly life goes.

I am at my best . . . when I am camping.



Anna-Maree Richardson

Assistant Administrator, Tasmanian Baptists

anna-maree@tasbaptists.org.au

Converge 2023



Advocating for Others

Baptist Leaders, Converge23

By Anthea Maynard, City Baptist Launceston

Converge is an annual gathering of Australian Baptist representatives in Canberra to advocate on issues close to the heart of our movement and represent the 1000+ churches nationally.

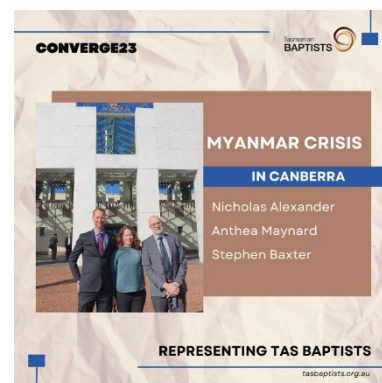
This year, nearly 40 Australian Baptists from across the country gathered for two days of lobbying and advocacy. Nicholas Alexander (Lifeway Devonport), Stephen Baxter (Mission Director & Hobart Baptist pastor) and I, Anthea Maynard (Team leader Launceston City Baptist) attended as delegates through the support and generosity of Tas Baptists.

Key Objective

The key objective was to elevate the ongoing and protracted crisis in Myanmar as a priority requiring action from our elected representatives. Groups of four delegates from different locations met with members of parliament to introduce the situation, present three asks and share a personal story by a person from Myanmar. With more than 20 000 Baptists from Myanmar in Australia, this is an important opportunity to support them, and advocate as part of a wider, ecumenical effort (with the Catholic and Uniting Churches).

Our campaign “We Must Not Forget About Myanmar” has postcards outlining the three asks to Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs. These postcards will be available through Baptist World Aid and Australian Baptist Ministries, and we hope that 20,000 printed postcards will end up on the desk of the Foreign Minister.

With different humanitarian crises happening around the world, the emergency for the people of Myanmar



has fallen off the radar of the international community. This is our opportunity to make a difference. The United Nations Humanitarian chief, Martin Griffiths recently said that 'successive crises in Myanmar have left one third of the population in need of humanitarian aid'.

Justice beyond ourselves

It was my first experience of Converge, and it was a unique opportunity to work alongside Australian Baptist representatives from diverse roles and locations to highlight the needs and recent experiences of the people of Myanmar. It is my prayer that awareness and support will grow, along with members of parliament noticing Christians advocating for issues justice beyond ourselves.

In my group, there were two delegates from the Myanmar Baptist community. Sui, from Perth WA, has recently graduated from nursing. She arrived in Australia as a refugee with her mother at the age of eight. Sui shared of her recent trip to some refugee camps on the Indian border. Sui encountered stories from elderly ladies who had fled their villages due to airstrikes. This year, airstrikes have increased dramatically in Myanmar to a current total of 289. Stronger, focused sanctions are needed to limit the capacity of the Junta to trade.

Biak was the other delegate, from Coffs Harbour NSW. She shared how her mother's and father's villages were burned to the ground in September this year. This was very distressing for her and her extended family.

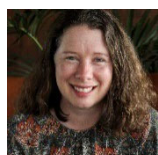
The overall response by parliamentary representatives was engaging and positive. The Myanmar delegates were encouraged, and grateful to raise their voice with other Australian Baptists.



Anthea's Lobby Group: Melissa Rule (BUV Head of comms), Biak Nei Xing (Coffs Harbour), Rev. Daniel Bullock (BUV Director of Mission and Ministries), Anthea, Sui Sangte Chung (Perth WA).



RAISE AWARENESS AT YOUR CHURCH These images and other resources, are available¹
ADVOCATE FOR MYANMAR Email politicians; Order postcards²



Anthea Maynard is the pastor at City Baptist, Launceston

¹ <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/?s=myanmar>

² <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/action-for-myanmar/>

reCharge NEWS October 2023



Support those affected by the Middle East Crisis

Baptist World Aid are taking action. You can too.

Baptist World Aid have activated a disaster appeal to respond to this unfolding crisis and enable local Christian Partners to provide urgent assistance to civilians affected by the conflict as soon as humanitarian corridors are open.

Together, we're grieving the violence that is causing immeasurable suffering, and mourning with those whose loved ones have been killed or are being held captive. We're distressed for the one million people who've been displaced, and all those innocent civilians living in fear across the region today.

Baptist World Aid request the help of the Baptist Family.

Donations will enable local Christian Partners to provide urgent assistance to families affected by this conflict as soon as possible.

Baptist churches across Israel and the Palestinian territories, including Gaza Baptist Church, have requested fervent prayer for peace. 'Let us follow paths of peacemaking that unequivocally reject terrorism or any acts that target civilians,' the Baptist World Alliance¹ said, in a statement on behalf of churches in the region, 'Let us generously provide help and support with the compassion of Christ.'

Please join us in praying for peace, hope and security for the entire region, so all can enjoy fullness of life as he intends. We're yearning for the day the prophet Isaiah spoke of when swords will be beaten into ploughshares. (Isaiah 4:1)

Appeal details: [DONATE](#)²

Resources for churches are also available³



¹ hbaptistworld.org

² baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/middle-east-crisis

³ baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/middle-east-crisis

Hiroshima Survival

Original Documentary: Australian Veteran's Incredible Story

This documentary features Dennis and Laura Ludbey formerly of Ulverstone Baptist Church

Watch it on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/WR9zBTrimAg>.



Hobart City Prayer

Church leaders from across Hobart gather to pray on the last Wednesday every month to come before God and seek His face. The leaders ask for a movement of God in the city of Hobart and

beyond. They pray the city will be touched and changed by His power.

Hobart City Prayer takes place in different churches around the city each month. The venue for the October and November prayer times is *Hobart Baptist Church*.

Coming Hobart City Prayer

7.15am for a 7.30am start, Wed 25th October – Hobart Baptist Church (282 Elizabeth St. Nth Hobart)

7.15 am for a 7.30am start, Wed 29th November – Hobart Baptist Church (282 Elizabeth St. Nth Hobart)

This invitation can be shared with other church leaders to pray in faith for city of Hobart.



mainly music at Westbury

Westbury Baptist have established **mainly music** in order to connect strategically with families in their local community. Children and their parents enjoy songs and activities together.

Parents and carers discover others in their community and form friendships.

Through the program, Westbury Baptist will have an opportunity to reveal Jesus through their interaction and engagement. Together, with the support of *mainly ministries*⁴, they'll be creating a joy-filled community of belonging.



⁴ mainlymusic.org/

First time free, then \$5 per family. Ages 0-4 plus parents/carers.

Westbury Baptist Church, 53 Franklin Street, Westbury, TAS 7303

Doors open at 9:45 and music starts at 10am, followed by morning tea and play time.

Find out more: mainlymusic.org/pages/join-a-group

Farewell Mal Garvin

18 November 1941 – 3 October 2023

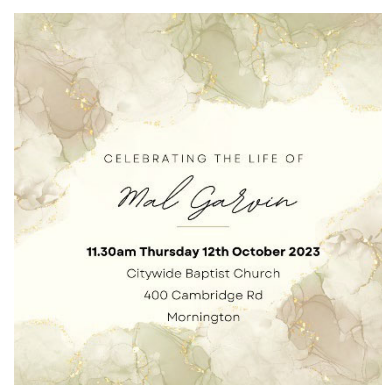
Family and friends were warmly invited to attend the memorial service of Mal Garvin at 11:30am on Thursday 12th October at Citywide, 400 Cambridge Rd, Mornington.

READ⁵: An article about the service on Thursday 12th October, including an overview of Mal's life.

WATCH⁶: The entire service on YouTube.

Follower of Jesus, loved and loving husband of Jenny. Loved and loving father and father-in-law of Matt and Leeanne, Liz and David, Danni and Dan, Nathaniel and Renee. Proud and loved Papa of Maddi, Josh (and Jen), Dan, Sophie (and Mitch), Simeon, Anya, Zoe, Josuahm, Ollie, Bridie, Lilly and Tim.

Friend and mentor to hundreds across the country and around the world.



Domestic Violence Resources

The Safer Spaces Toolkit

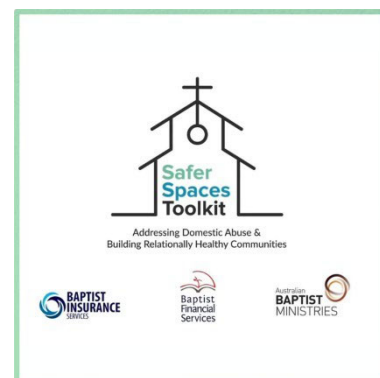
An endorsed project of Australian Baptist Ministries, The Safer Space Toolkit is aimed at resourcing pastors and church leaders to address domestic abuse and build relationally healthy communities.

This project started as a result of recognising domestic abuse resources were often available only by region, and there was a need to create a resource that could be accessed by any pastor anywhere, with access to the Internet.

The project working group is made up of Baptist women from around the country who have expertise in pastoral leadership, theology, teaching, domestic abuse and project management.

FIND OUT MORE⁷: Preaching tools, training sessions, videos and user guide.

WATCH the introductory video: <https://vimeo.com/573515858/27588f5edd>



⁵ mediaarts.org.au/mal-garvin-farewelled-at-moving-funeral-service-in-hobart/

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/live/wqrti4g8lU0?si=WDqOyeFZDiUFsNFC>

⁷ <https://saferespacestoolkit.com.au/>

Compliance Reminder

Is your church ChildSafe?

The Safe Church deadline is fast approaching! 1st January 2024 is the date to meet all the Safe Church requirements, as set out by the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act⁸ approved by parliament in May 2023.



Training has begun in every region of the state. If your church has not yet begun the process, you are encouraged to get onto it urgently.

As a refresher, you could read the article by Administrator Rodney Marshall which was published in the June 2023 reCharge.

For more information please contact:

General queries: Rodney Marshall rodney@tasbaptists.org.au

North: Linda Guy lgu80777@bigpond.net.au; Nikki Holdsworth nikki.holdsworth@hotmail.com

Northwest: Owen Muskett omuskett58@gmail.com

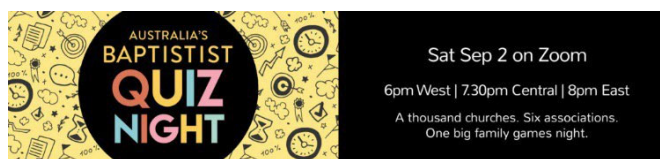
South: Matt Henderson matt@hobartbaptist.org.au

LifeWay comes 3rd!

Crossover Quiz Night Results

Australia's Baptistist Quiz Night

Well done to all the teams who participated in the online quiz night on Saturday 2nd September. A big thank you from Crossover for joining in!



Crossover raised just over \$1,100 from the night.

Special mention to the top 3 teams:

1. Knightsbridge Baptist Church SA
2. Richmond Baptist Church SA
3. Lifeway Devonport Tas

STATE LEADERBOARD:

1. South Australia/Northern Territory
2. Tasmania (*Woohoo! Go Tasmania!*)

⁸ parliament.tas.gov.au/Bills/Bills2022/pdf/notes/54_of_2022-Fact%20Sheet.pdf#:~:text=The%20Child%20and%20Youth%20Safe%20Organisations%20Bill%202022,Commission%29%20and%20the%20approach%20in%20other%20Australian%20jurisdictions.

3. Western Australia
4. Queensland
5. New South Wales/ACT
6. Victoria

Funeral Notice

Farewell Markus Sebastian

1963-2023

Friends and relatives were invited to attend the service to celebrate the life of Mr Markus Sebastian at Gateway Baptist Church 22 Wellington Street, Launceston on Friday 29th September 2023, commencing at 11 am.

The service was conducted by Rev. Michael Eleveld, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Launceston. This invitation was extended to those who knew Markus. He would have loved to see people he knew there.

Please also be in prayer for Stephanie Sebastian (SU Tas), daughter Charlie, and son Michel.



Australian Christian Book Awards 2023

The Australian Christian Literature Awards encourage Christian writing and publishing that helps people discover Jesus in a way that is authentic and culturally meaningful. The SparkLit Awards⁹ recognise and encourage excellence in Australian Christian writing and publishing.

Held recently in Melbourne, the awards revealed some amazing writers along with their books. Check out the shortlisted books as well, because they also produced some gems.

WINNER! Australian Christian Book of the Year 2023

Biblical Critical Theory: How *the Bible's Unfolding Story Makes Sense of Modern Life and Culture* by Christopher Watkin. A philosopher uses the Bible to analyse and interpret contemporary Western culture.

WINNER! Australian Christian Teen Writer 2023

Caleb MacLaren from Victoria won the 2023 Australian Christian Teen Writer Award with his screenplay *The Journey*. In a modern twist on the Noah's Ark story, this script follows four companions as they navigate an empty world devastated by an alien attack.



⁹ <https://sparklit.org/awards/>

Mentoring Program in Hobart

The next Fostering Hope training day is **in Hobart** on **Saturday, October 14**.

Fostering Hope are a community organisation whose work comes from the Bible and the teachings of Jesus to 'visit' and 'care for' orphans and widows, to put the lonely in families, to love the fatherless, to care for children, and to love the neighbours in the communities. Tasmanian Baptists partner with Fostering Hope partner to provide foster care to Tasmanian children.

Through their **Mentoring Program**, Fostering Hope seeks to provide a "friend with purpose" for kids in care.

If you are looking for a way to live out your faith in caring for those in need, you can make a difference for a child in care. Please get in touch to talk about how to be equipped with training, connected with a child, and provided with ongoing support as you mentor. With just a few hours a month, you can significantly impact the life of a child in care for the better.

Find out more: Reach out to Ellie (ellie@fosteringhope.net.au).



Crossover Resource

Baptism Week Ideas Guide

15-22 October 2023

National Baptism Week will be an opportunity for churches, youth groups, small groups and ministries across Australia to celebrate, explore and offer baptism.

Check out the short explainer video and Ideas Guide, as well as baptism resources on the Baptism Hub¹⁰.

Joining in is very simple – no need to register or report back – you can use Baptism Week in your own way.

DOWNLOAD IDEAS GUIDE:
crossover.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NBW-Ideas-Guide_v1.pdf

**NATIONAL
BAPTISM
WEEK**



¹⁰ <https://www.crossover.org.au/national-baptism-week/>

CHURCH PROFILE: Wynyard Baptist Church



Loving the Wynyard **Community**

God is Good all the Time

At Wynyard Baptist Church

By Pastor Owen Muskett

There is so much to celebrate at Wynyard Baptist Church!

As we head towards 120 years of serving our community, we look forward to how we as a body of believers can have a deeper relationship with Christ and a long-lasting impact into the lives of those who live in our community.

So often, the challenge to change can be disconcerting. However, WBC has embraced positive change through shared vision and ownership of that vision by all who attend the church.

There aren't too many churches who haven't had some heartache along the way, and we are no different. However, we also accept that God is bigger than any self-interest that creeps into churches. When we accept this and enable healing, over time God's will and purpose always, like cream, rise to the top!



Welcoming to church team; Sunday School Anniversary; Carols In The Gardens; Chat n Choose Foundation Team Leaders; Helpers and servers on Christmas day [All photos are captioned clockwise from top left]

Making a difference

At Wynyard Baptist Church we strive to live out the Tasmanian Baptists' vision. This has resulted in a deep desire to make a difference in so many lives across our community.

Tasmanian Baptists' Vision:

We envisage a Tasmania infused with the salt and light of the kingdom of God.

Our contribution to seeing the vision realised is through facilitating and developing innovative, diverse and transformative member churches and faith communities living out the Gospel.



WBC has an updated entrance; Over the road stands the church hall and ROC

Our week

Sundays Sunday School, Celebration Service, and Prayer for Revival

Mondays ROC Community Food Hub

Tuesdays Walking Group, ROC Community Food Hub at Somerset

Wednesdays Wednesday Get Together, Blokes Study

Thursdays Chat n Choose, Care Groups

Fridays ROC Community Food Hub

ROC Community Food Hub at Somerset

There are other care groups as well during the week!



Christmas lights; more Christmas lights; Carols in the gardens x 2; Christmas Lunch was so good even Elvis came; Christmas lunch.

We have so many activities

This year we celebrate 30 years of Chat 'n' Choose with some of the original leaders and ladies still here, and regularly attending.



Wednesday Get Together; Men's retreat weekend; Wednesday Get-together bowls; ROC Community Food Drive donations from Neville Woolley and The Lions Club; ROC Community Food Hub; ROC Community Food Hub; Firewood fundraising day; Presentation of a new AED to WBC by Roger Jaensch MP; Bus trips to all sorts of places

Other activities that reach into our community include:

Just Blokes ; Pizza Nights; Just Girls; Yearly Harvest Dinner and Auction; Good Friday Combined Churches Service in Gutteridge Gardens; RSL Chaplaincy; Carols in the Gardens and Christmas Day Lunch.

God is good!

As Senior Pastor I have strived to engage and encourage this church to be bigger than the individual, and to believe that God is good all the time. His provision of opportunity has been at times overwhelming. However, there is a deep belief God is at work and allowing us the privilege of serving Him. For His glory and for His honour!

I was called to WBC almost 10 years ago. As a part of that journey I knew we would eventually need others to help in the growing ministry. As a church we are so blessed to have Franz (and Heidi) come alongside Dawn and myself as we minister the Gospel of Christ together.



Associate Pastor Franz and Heidi Brosch; Pastor Owen and Dawn Muskett; Pastor George Muskett; Padre Owen Muskett on Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day; Legends were born in August! [All photos are captioned clockwise from top left.

I'm very grateful for the inspiration of my Dad, George, who finished this race and was promoted to glory earlier in 2023.

My prayer is that we would live out our calling and do the works of the Father for his sake and His Glory!

Blessings,

Owen Muskett, Pastor, Wynyard Baptist Church

Assembly: Tasmanian Baptists Get Together



ABOVE Those gathered at the annual Assembly, held at Riverlands Longford, 21st October 2023

We are Tasmanian Baptists

This year's Annual Assembly was well-attended on Saturday 21st October at Riverlands Longford. Instead of the usual Friday/Saturday schedule, delegates from our churches met on Saturday only, starting a little earlier than usual. Evidently, this caught some by surprise!

Annual Assembly 2023 – Report

By Alan Firth, Claremont

Over the years I have learned that travelling to and from Assembly is a great catch up with fellow travellers, and this time there were four of us travelling together. We arranged to start at the usual time of 7:30am, and we had a good journey up the Midlands Highway.

When we arrived, people were milling around collecting communion elements and settling down for the session. Whilst it was not the usual start, it was good to be celebrating communion with others from our Churches across the state.

It was not until someone referred to the previous music, and I checked the Assembly papers on my laptop, that I realised we had missed a second implementation of daylight savings! Oh well, at least we will not need to thoroughly read Assembly papers to ensure we don't miss the second coming!

Highlights of the Day

A clear highlight was to learn of initiatives attempted in some of our fellow churches. These times were both encouraging and informative.

For me, the catching up in the breaks with individuals from across the Tasmanian Baptist community is also a highlight as it is really our only opportunity to do so. For these reasons alone, I struggle to understand why it seemed not all of our churches were represented.



People from all over the state connected; Several speakers reported during the day, including Jenny Baxter re women's ministry.

Business conducted, in-brief

- All nominations for positions were elected uncontested and endorsed. These included two new Council members: Craig Hawkins (The Point); and Hazel Mohan (Claremont).
- Excellent briefings took place in developments in various areas. This included including the training of pastors and insurance changes.
- Assembly endorsed the tweaking of responsibilities in light of operational and staff circumstances.
- In particular we welcomed the reappointment of Rodney Marshall. He has the new title of Operations Manager.
- We also welcomed the continuation of Stephen Baxter as Mission Director, albeit with a reducing availability and a flexibility over the coming years. This will enable an unhindered search for his eventual replacement.

As well . . .

We had a lovely (hearse-transported!) lunch, were led by skilled chairman Scott Ambrose, and posed for a group photo.

Indeed, we dealt with business so efficiently and effectively, with the reward being an early release! The wild weather forecast for the day occurred well after we were all home.

Clearly God blessed our family time with Him.



Alan Firth, Claremont Baptist

Tasmanian Baptist Council



ABOVE Tasmanian Baptist Council members from October 2023. Clockwise from top left: *Chair, Scott Ambrose; Vice Chair, Matt Garvin; Administrator, Rodney Marshall; Craig Hawkins (North); Owen Muskett (Northwest); Hazelyn Mohan (South); Mark Harris (South); Wendy Marston (North); Louis Fife (Northwest); Mission Director, Stephen Baxter.*

We are **Tasmanian Baptists**

Our Council represents Tasmanian Baptist churches with elected members from each region.

IT'S TIME FOR A CATCH-UP!

Last year there were three new appointees to Council: Scott Ambrose, Owen Muskett and Mark Harris. Then, at the Annual Assembly on 21st October, two new Council members were elected: Hazelyn Mohan and Craig Hawkins. Read all about them, below.

Tasmanian Baptist Council

The Tasmanian Baptist Council meets four times every year and delivers governance and pastoral provision for all the Baptist Union of Tasmania. Officially the Council's Assembly is in August, and represents a gathering for all

In addition to elected members, Council consists of the Mission Director (Stephen Baxter) and Administrator (Rodney Marshall).

Currently, eight elected members represent churches from each region:

CHAIR Scott Ambrose – elected May 2022

VICE-CHAIR Matt Garvin

NORTH Wendy Marston; Craig Hawkins – elected October 2023

NORTHWEST Louis Fife; Owen Muskett – elected October 2022

SOUTH Mark Harris – elected October 2022; Hazelyn Mohan – elected October 2023

Please keep these men and women in your thoughts and prayers as they represent their regions, and make significant decisions which impact Baptist churches throughout Tasmania.

Council is due to meet for the final time this year on Saturday 2nd December.

New Council members, 2022-23

Council Bio – Scott Ambrose

Scott Ambrose is the Principal at Calvin Christian School in Kingston. Scott is married to Sonya and they have five children. An active member of Hobart Baptist Church for over 20 years Scott currently serves on the Church's Leadership Team as the Chair. Scott has been a Youth Group Leader at Hobart Baptist, and also serves as a Leader at Hobart Boy's Brigade.

Professionally, Scott is also the Tasmanian State Delegate for the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Association (AFMLTA), and a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, Modern Language Teachers Association of Tasmania, and the History Teacher's Association of Victoria. Scott holds a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours, a Bachelor of Teaching, a Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Indonesian, and is currently undertaking a Masters' Degree through Monash University.



Council Bio – Owen Muskett

Owen has been married to Dawn for 45 years, and have three married sons and eight grandchildren. He has been the Pastor at Wynyard Baptist Church for 9½ years and encourages the church to worship together, to get to know God personally, to care for each other, to witness the name of Jesus locally, nationally and internationally, and to serve the local community.

He and Dawn recognise that through God's sovereign will, He both opens and closes doors and both recognise that throughout their lives, they have experienced God's plan and purpose in all they have accomplished: in raising their children, in business and in church life. They have experienced the joys and the hardship of being self-employed, and the sadness seeing friends and family struggle with all sorts of life issues – sickness, death, and divorce. Through it all, Owen and Dawn have sought to love and care for others in their time of need. And certainly, through all of life's journey, they can say that God is good – all the time!



Council Bio – Mark Harris

A Christian since his youth, Mark with his wife Fiona, have attended Citywide Baptist Hobart for over five years. They have three adult children, and enjoy most outdoor activities.

Mark has served in a variety of church capacities ranging from kids and youth programs to development, leadership and board roles. He also served as an Executive Pastor for a number of years in a large ACC Melbourne church, and currently contributes in board roles for two Christian organisations.

Mark has a professional background in finance and general management, having worked in a broad range of commercial, Christian and NFP organisations at a senior level. Up until his retirement some five years



ago, Mark was a Certified Practising Accountant, Chartered Secretary, and Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia. Mark holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Melbourne University and a Graduate Diploma in Theology.

While enjoying a retirement lifestyle, Mark is keen to serve the Kingdom and make a difference in the name of Jesus.

Council Bio – Hazelyn Mohan

Hazelyn attends Claremont Baptist, having initially been a part of IC Church.*

Hazelyn Mohan is originally from Singapore. She came to Tasmania 13 years ago to pursue a law degree. She has been in the Tasmanian public service sector for the past ten years, and is currently working full time, pursuing her Masters part-time, and is involved in various Church ministries.

Hazelyn's dad was a pastor and so she grew up in a God-fearing household. She accepted Jesus as her personal Lord and Saviour when she was 14, and was baptised as a youth in Singapore. Her faith journey has been a rollercoaster, but through every season, she knows that God holds her hands.

She strives to live courageously through Christ, love unconditionally by His grace, and work faithfully for His kingdom.

* Hazelyn is also known informally as Hazel.



Council Bio – Craig Hawkins

Craig Hawkins is the son of Church of Christ pastor Ray Hawkins and mother Mary, who are well-known to many northern Tasmanian Baptists. Becoming a Christian at 10 years old in central Queensland, his baptism took place the same year. He married Rachelle in 1997 and they have six children, aged 12 to 21 years. They attend The Point Baptist Church in Beauty Point.

Both Craig and Rachelle have post-graduate degrees in science, and this has led to a passionate interest in faith and science issues. Craig is currently chairman of the Creation Discovery Centre board and is a speaker for Creation Research.

Upon taking on well-known northern business Seahorse World in Beauty Point, the Hawkins' moved to the area in 2002, where a few years later Craig left his position as Compliance Manager with the Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority to become Managing Director of their business.

Craig has been active in The Point church since its inception and has been an elder there for about the last six years.



Around the Churches

October- November 2023



North

RIVERLANDS, Longford

Stay and Play Teaparty

Stay and Play (playgroup) recently held an all ages tea party at Riverlands on 26 October. It was attended by little people with their parents/guardians and grandparents and some Riverlands congregational people. There was lots of yummy morning tea and play and chatter.

Associate Pastor

At our recent members meeting held 29 October, 2023, there was a unanimous decision to renew Liam Conway's employment contract as Associate Pastor at Riverlands. We are excited to see what God's ministry through Liam and his wife Hannah, will bring for Riverlands and the wider community of Longford. We feel very blessed that they are part of our Riverlands family.

Driveway resurfacing

Riverlands recently had a successful government grant which has enabled us to proceed with resurfacing our driveway. This will improve access and safety for vehicles as they enter and exit our carpark.



Riverlands Driveway: BEFORE (driving in), and AFTER (driving out)

Day of Courage

We at Riverlands were pleased to host the **EmpowHer Day of Courage** on Saturday 18th November. Over 120 women from many denominations attended, enjoying a wonderful day of encouragement and fellowship. Guest speaker, Rev. Karen Wilson, (pictured, left) also launched the Tasmanian cohort of the global Women's Leaders Network on the day.



PERTH

Perth Baptist Church is a place where we are honouring the church of the past, caring for the church of today, building the church of tomorrow.

Celebration services

There are so many great parts of our church, and so many great people that make this church a wonderful place to be. Celebration Services take place whenever a 5th Sunday occurs in the month. On 29th October, we dedicated our celebration to Jesus. Following the service, a potluck luncheon was enjoyed.

Community activities

Our Hearts & Craft Group, and Men's Group, continue to foster strong bonds of fellowship and friendship among our members. Our commitment to reaching out to the community remains steadfast through our weekly Bread Run and the Sunday Café.

Once again this year, we successfully prepared and sent 100 shoeboxes as a part of Operation Christmas Child.

We had a Rock 'n' Roll night on November 11th, with our local Elvis!

Farewell Peter

It is with a heavy heart that we remember our dear friend Peter Wellard from Eskleigh, who peacefully joined his Lord on Monday,

October 23rd. Despite battling a debilitating illness, Peter cherished attending worship at Perth Baptist, and his absence will be keenly felt.

Christmas is coming!

Preparations are underway for Annual Community Christmas celebration in Perth on December 16th. This will be a great event to reach and connect with the community. Anyone from the local Baptist churches is welcome to attend.

Most exciting of all though is the commencement of a weekly prayer meeting just before church each Sunday!



THE POINT, Beauty Point

Praising God

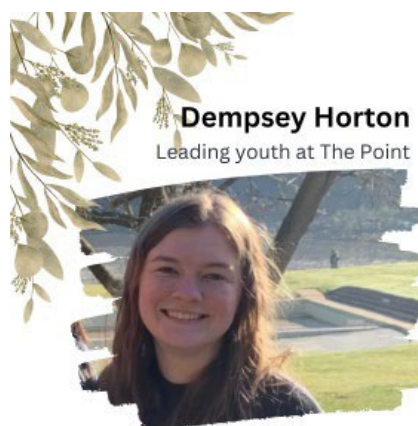
Our founding pastor Ray Hawkins and his wife Mary have moved into full-time care accommodation at Beaconsfield Hospital. Visitors are welcome.

We praise God for growth in the church and an active youth program headed by Dempsey Horton, here for 12-months from Texas. In late October the young people enjoyed a bonfire night at Holwell, and are leading monthly youth services.

Our secretary Stephen Clark has had important interactions as chaplain of the local Coastal Patrol.



Women from The Point stand shoulder-to-shoulder at the Day of Courage



GEORGE TOWN



Focussing on Children

We are working very hard to continue with the task of reaching those who are unchurched and uninitiated into the things of Christ. We established a Sunday School program for the few children who occasioned our Sunday Services, and over time it has continued to grow.

We are the only church in town that offers Sunday School, and as a result, new people have come to the church simply because of that. It is easy to tell that they have little understanding of what the gospel is all about, and we have been careful to allow them to “soak it in”.

All year long, we have declared 2023 to be “The Year of the Child”, and welcome children from the pulpit each and every Sunday. The first song is always geared to children, and now, the children are preparing presentations to bring where they sing and perform actions to some of the songs themselves.

We are using the young people as ushers for receiving the offering prior to dismissing them to their class for the day. We have been able to add a couple of new workers, but to succeed we will need to double the staff. Soon, we won’t have room enough in our small building, and will have to find ways to expand.

Our other outreaches are functioning well, but reaching the youngest in our town brings the greatest joy of all.

WESTBURY

Both the Gospels of Matthew and Mark record the two greatest commandments: *To love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul and all your mind and all your strength ... and to love your neighbour as yourself* (Matt 22:37-39; Mark 12:30-31). A tough call but nothing too untoward or controversial.

Far tougher are the words recorded in Matthew where Jesus told his disciples “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matt 20:18-20)

Having a go

As Christians we’ve been commanded to ‘go and make disciples’ and Westbury Baptist Church is seeking to have a go. Our new pastor Matt Holloway, and Lacey, called in April 2022, have rolled up their sleeves and they along with support from the church congregation are seeking to have a determined ‘slash’. There’s a common story of declining church numbers across many congregations in Tasmania and God willing, we intend to keep our church open.

Without fail, Matt’s sermons focus on this mandate and the church has over the past year set in place a number of programs to make the vision of ‘making HIM better known’ a reality in the Westbury Community.

Here is what’s happening:

Lacey heads up an enthusiastic team delivering ‘Mainly Music’ to preschool aged students and their carers/parents.

Nancy Morgan and her team deliver a fortnightly ‘Kids Club Program’ to primary aged kids in the local community.

mainly music; Westbury Baptist tent at the Westbury Show



Mary Baker and Matt Holloway have organised ‘Movie Nights’ for kids and their families in the Church.

Weekly ‘Fellowship Groups’ have been re-invigorated, with the latest study focussing on ‘discipleship’. Mary Baker has a weekly Chat ‘n Choose meeting for women interested in crafts.

The Men’s 8 Ball competition led by Syd (master cue) West and Roger (pockets) Reinmuth have plans to attract local men to the church.

Matt is working towards forming a Pastoral Care Group of volunteers.

And finally, Ken Green and helpers had a presence at the local Westbury Show on 11 November!

We value your prayers

We are not a youthful congregation. But we are focussed, and if God intends, we seek to build the church in Westbury and be a witness to the hope we have in Jesus.

Leadership Group, Westbury Baptist Church

Northwest

WYNYARD

Caring for those in need

JUST GIRLS enjoyed a day out in Devonport recently when they visited Home Hill, the historic home of Joe and Enid Lions. Then they went on to some retail therapy at the Christian book shop.

The Hub continues to provide food items to those in need on Mondays and Fridays each week. Our church and Chat n Choose have sent 253 Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes this year.



ULVERSTONE

The Bible Society

It was a joy to host and join with the churches and community groups of Ulverstone, raising awareness and fundraising for the [Bible Society](#) with their annual Festival of Word and Song. A collection was taken up with this year's funds supporting aid work in Syria and Türkiye.

Social Activities

Our seniors continue to meet on the first Friday of each month to enjoy fellowship, morning tea, sing, and listen to several guest speakers.

Both ladies and men have enjoyed a breakfast over the winter months with guest speakers, Bronwyn Waterhouse and Peter Bennet sharing their heart.

Our UBC men have also continued to enjoy their monthly Men's Events.

October Prayer Gatherings

Throughout the month of October each Monday evening we used our regular prayer gathering evenings to stand in the gap and pray specifically for prayer needs within our church family.

Father's Day

This Father's Day, we supported the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship and raised a total of \$1850.00. This money will assist in fuelling life-saving flights in some of the worlds most isolated communities and will also give an opportunity for people to receive the Good News of God's love.

Kids Church

Having our UBC kids in our service is simply delightful. In October our Kids Church kids took over the service, sharing what they had been learning and doing throughout the year. This year they took part in filling shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse and were active in dedicating the boxes in our service.



From the Pulpit

Over the past months we have enjoyed been challenged by the teachings of Pastor Louis, Lyn McKay, Greg Venz, Laurie Rowston, Stephen and Jocelyn Head, Ken Collyer and Nerrelie Cann._

BURNIE

The Burnie 10, Sunday, 29th October

Burnie Baptist opened up for athletes for the 'Burnie 10'.

This is an annual opportunity to show hospitality to local, national and international runners, provide a secure place for personal belongings, and chat to the runners as they come in before, and also after, the race when recovery refreshments were provided.



South CITYWIDE

MORNINGTON/LENAH VALLEY/NEPALI/LEVENDALE

Church Camp

At the end of September, 140 people attended our annual Church Camp at Poatina – a well-serviced spot to get away to. A highlight was our annual Nepal vs Rest of the World soccer game. It was won this year by The Rest of the World – surprisingly!

Matt Garvin challenged us with fresh thoughts from his new book (not released yet) about true community, and what is the Biblical expression of the Gospel? – based on Jesus' prayer in John 17.

Empower Her Day of Courage

Many of our ladies attended the Day of Courage at Longford. They prepared the prayer stations for the Baptist women's global Day of Prayer.

Mission Trip to Nepal

Pastor Paul Rai from our Nepali congregation ministered in Nepal during November, particularly regions in the South West and South East where our mission focus is to support the rural pastors. He conducted 15 baptisms, led several seminars, taught and encouraged hundreds of pastors, leaving a trail of blessing behind him. Citywide has been praying daily in his itinerary, for safety, protection and anointing.



Mal Garvin

A major event for Citywide was the death and Memorial Service for Mal Garvin. What a man of God he was! What a legacy he has left! What influence he has left in many lives. Citywide Mornington was full, with around 300 people attending and staying on for lunch.



CLAREMONT

Open Day

Our members were very busy over the past few months growing seedlings, succulents, bulbs and other shrubs. These were in preparation for another Open Day in October, when our community could drop by, enjoy a free sausage sizzle and a cuppa in the tearoom. We sold the plants, seeds and some craft.

Torrential rain made for a soggy BBQ, however, indoors was warm and welcoming. There was a lovely atmosphere, and it was good to spend some time chatting to folk who might usually just walk on by. We trust the seeds sold will be seeds sown for the kingdom.

New growth

This past month we were delighted to welcome Hazel Mohan into membership. It was also a blessing to baptize Ellie Fitz-Gerald.

ICC* members have been joining us for worship services and have brought a breath of vitality and enthusiasm that has enhanced our worship. We are learning Hindi words to old favourite songs, and the influx of under 18's has reinvigorated the Kidz Klub.

We look forward to growing and maturing in faith together.

*Inter-Cultural Church



HOBART

Long Table Banquets

On Sunday 22nd October, Hobart Baptist church was again the venue for the monthly Long Table Banquet. This time featuring Burmese (Karen) food. Thanks to Kelvin (host), Elle (event organiser), and Say Wah (chef) for all their work!



Long Table Banquet – Burmese (Karen)

Youth on Sundays

The youth meet for Bible study and prayer during the 10am service most Sundays. This is ably led by Kelvin Smith and Scott Ambrose. The group has gradually grown and is now hosting up to 15 youth!

OCC shoe boxes

We had our shoebox packing day for Operation Christmas Child on Saturday 28th October. The boxes were then prayed for during the 10am service, and sent on their way on Sunday 29th October. This year our congregation contributed 32 shoeboxes.

Karen Wilson visits



We were pleased to host President of the Baptist World Alliance Women, Rev. Karen Wilson on Sunday 19th October after she had spoken at the *Day of Courage* at Riverlands. She shared her wisdom on “Seeing Differently”, based on the story about Elisha’s servant whose eyes were opened to see the hillsides surrounded by chariots of fire, as told in 2 Kings 6.

reCharge NEWS November 2023



Australian Christian Book Awards

Check the October News (see page 16) for the winners of this year's Sparklit Australian Book Awards¹. In addition, the shortlisted books provide a feast of reading which are suitable as Christmas gifts or your summer reading. Here are some of them:

Shortlisted Australian Christian Books, 2023



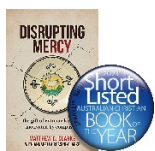
Behind the Tears, Bruce Robinson, *Green Hill Publishing*

Bruce Robinson doesn't waste time wondering why we suffer, but swiftly moves to suggest ways and means of coping, enduring and even growing through experiences of suffering.



Bringing Forth Life, Jodie McIver, *Youthworks Media*

A unique and moving meditation on the eternal significance of pregnancy, birth, and life with a newborn child. Written by a mother, midwife and theologian, this book is a practical guide through the journey of childbirth, including the discomforts, difficulties and occasional heartbreaks.



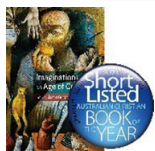
Disrupting Mercy, Matthew Clarke with Annabella Rossini-Clarke, *Turning Teardrops into Joy*

What would happen if, like Zacchaeus, we allowed Jesus to change our hearts and turn us upside down? In *Disrupting Mercy* the Clarkes confront our anaemic understanding of God's mercy and urge us to allow God's extreme kindness and generosity to disrupt and transform our life and our world.



How to Find Yourself, Brian Rosner, *Crossway*

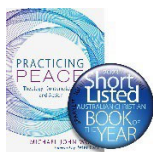
Without discarding the importance of self-reflection, Rosner suggests that to truly find ourselves we need to look beyond ourselves to our relationships, our community, our history and, most fundamentally, God's Word.



Imagination in an Age of Crisis, Jason Goroncy and Rod Pattenden, *Pickwick Publications*

This carefully curated treasury of essays and creative works showcases the strength and diversity of the Christian imagination in Australia.

¹ <https://www.tasbaptists.org.au/recharge-news-october-2023/>



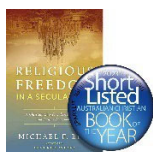
Practicing Peace, Michael Wood, *Wipf and Stock*

In *Practicing Peace*, Michael Wood explores the centrality of peacemaking to Christian thinking, feeling and living. First, he anchors our pursuit of peace in a theology that declares that we are forgiven by God in Christ and free to forgive others.



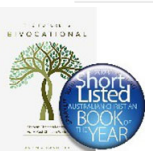
Raising Tech-Healthy Humans, Daniel Sih, *Spacemakers*

What to do about children and screens? Daniel Sih has written a positive and practical response to this pressing question.



Religious Freedom in a Secular Age, Michael Bird *Zondervan Reflective*

While secularism is routinely deplored by many Christians, Michael Bird makes a strong case for the secular state as the best way to ensure freedom of faith (and no faith) and to provide the optimal climate in which the church might thrive.



The Future is Bivocational, Andrew Hamilton, *Ark House Press*

Circumstance, then curiosity, drove Andrew Hamilton to consider alternative models of church leadership. What will sustainable ministry look like in an increasingly post-Christian society?

Hobart City Prayer

Church leaders from across Hobart gather to pray on the last Wednesday every month to come before God and seek His face. The leaders ask for a movement of God in the city of Hobart and beyond. They pray the city will be touched and changed by His power.

Hobart City Prayer takes place in different churches around the city each month. The venue for the November prayer time is **Hobart Baptist Church**.

The next Hobart City Prayer is at 7.15am for a 7.30am start, Wed 29th November

Hobart Baptist Church 282 Elizabeth St. Nth Hobart

This invitation can be shared with other church leaders to pray in faith for city of Hobart.



Join the Fostering Hope Family!

Fostering Hope recently released a newsletter². Please enjoy reading it, and learning more about the work of Fostering Hope. The newsletter also explains how you can support children growing up in care, and carers in your community.

They also just launched the **Fostering Hope Family**³ which is a great way for people to more formally support the work.



² Download here: <https://www.tasbaptists.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Oct-2023-Fostering-Hope-Newsletter.pdf>

³ <https://www.fosteringhope.net.au/fosteringhopefamily>

Being welcoming and inclusive to diverse families

Safe Church



Part 1: Single people

Here are some tips to help your church be a place where single people can grow in their faith and feel fully part of a church community. A single person may have never been married, be separated, divorced or widowed. 25% of Australian households are individuals who live alone.

Be mindful of your use of language, which might unintentionally exclude single people: For example, say “We are having church *community* picnic. Please invite all *your loved ones*” rather than “We are having church *family* picnic. Please invite your *family*”

Celebrate and pray for things important in the lives of single people. Such as completing year 12, completing a qualification, and buying a house. (Not only announcing engagements, marriages and pregnancies)

Acknowledge the joy and pain of special days, like Christmas, Mother’s Day, and anniversary of a partner’s passing away

Useful Resources

Kindle eBook “What we cannot be alone”⁴, by Kimberly Smith.

Pastoring singles with Dani Treweek⁵ Podcast episode.

Loving Singles over Christmas and January⁶ Podcast episode.

Single Minded⁷ Has a website, podcast, and conference.

Walk the World

10-12th November 2023

Walk the World is a community building weekend of prayer and fun. It’s an invitation to get out and about in your local neighbourhood... and pray! Pray for your community and communities around the world. Pray for your church’s ministry and the ministry of our Baptist Mission Australia team members.

Watch the video⁸

Across the weekend of 10-12th November 2023, commit to praying as you walk, run, wheel, cycle, imagine or drive around your area. As you do, BMA teams in Africa, Asia and Australia will be praying for you too!



⁴ <https://kimberlysmith.org/the-book/>

⁵ <https://www.thepastorsheart.net/podcast/2018/9/25/pastoring-singles-with-dani-treweek>

⁶ <https://www.thepastorsheart.net/podcast/loving-singles-christmas-january>

⁷ <https://www.singleminded.community/>

⁸ <https://vimeo.com/861503162>

News From the Middle East

Though the fig tree does not bud

and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,

though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the Lord,

I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

Habakkuk 3: 17-18

The past few weeks have been incredibly challenging. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support in prayer, and I personally extend my thanks to each of you for sending encouraging messages. These messages from distant lands have been like cold water to a weary soul.

We continue to affirm that God is sovereign over the entire universe and holds the power to change the current situation. We earnestly pray for a miracle to stop the ongoing conflict, coupled with a cry of hope for a brighter future for all residents of Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Our churches have been holding continuous prayer meetings and in the midst of sorrow and anxiety, we are spreading the message of God's love to those who are hurting.

Thank you for your friendship, and for your support for the ministry of the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel, so that we continue to empower, enhance and expand churches in the land where Jesus walked.

From Bader Mansour, Development Officer Association of Baptist Churches in Israel⁹

Give to the Middle East Crisis via Baptist World Aid: <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/middle-east-crisis/>



Baptist church in Israel prays for the Middle East

⁹ <https://www.baptist.org.il/>

Perth Baptist Rock 'n' Roll Night



A vibrant poster for 'Rock 'n' Roll Night' at Perth Baptist Church. The central text reads 'ROCK 'N' ROLL Night' in a stylized font, with 'Saturday 11th November' and '7.30 PM 9.30PM' below it. The poster is decorated with two disco balls hanging from chains, each with a person dancing below it. A large blue silhouette of a person is in the background. Text on the left says 'Grab a Dance with our local Elvis Enthusiasts SCOTT CARNES'. Text on the right says 'Please Bring A Share Plate' with an image of a plate of food. At the bottom, it says 'Join us for a fun night of Dancing & Give-aways Dress to impress'. The venue is 'Perth Baptist Church Hall Cnr Clarence & Talisker St' and the contact is 'call or text Rob : 0417098233'. A cross icon and 'A Ministry of the Perth Baptist Church' are at the bottom right.

ROCK 'N' ROLL Night
Saturday 11th November
7.30 PM 9.30PM

Join us for a fun night of Dancing & Give-aways Dress to impress

Grab a Dance with our local Elvis Enthusiasts **SCOTT CARNES**

Please Bring A Share Plate

Perth Baptist Church Hall
Cnr Clarence & Talisker St
call or text Rob : 0417098233

A Ministry of the Perth Baptist Church

Families and Grief Seminars

An invitation from New Mornings¹⁰ to you and members of your church community to attend the **Families & Grief Seminar**. This will take place on Saturday 2nd December at The Gnomon Room, The Wharf in Ulverstone.

As we serve our community in the area of mental health and wellbeing, one of our goals is to educate and support individuals walking the journey of grief, with educational events.

Our keynote speakers are experts in the field of grief and will cover:

- * **Types of grief experienced in families**
- * **Supporting a family. Especially after suicide**
- * **How young people experience grief**

EARLY BIRD registrations: Available until 19th November.

Thank you for supporting families and young people in the area of grief and loss.



¹⁰ <https://www.newmornings.org.au/>

Day of Courage En-courages



ABOVE Top: Jenny Baxter asks for volunteers to demonstrate C-O-U-R-A-G-E; Below: Speakers on the day

By Fiona Bradley

On Saturday 18th November, women from across Tasmania gathered at Longford for the inaugural statewide event, hosted by EmpowHer.

The Day of Courage sold out weeks ahead of time, with over 120 people from different denominations across Tasmania. The event provided an opportunity to connect with others learning to live out their God-given potential, hearing stories of courage.

Keynote speaker, Rev. Karen Wilson (Perth WA), opened and closed the event. Currently the President of Baptist World Alliance Women, Karen spoke openly and warmly. In particular, she focussed on a recent accident, which taught her courage in the midst of her international schedule.

Mixing humour with insight, she also told of her hiking trip in 2020 along the famous Camino de Santiago trail. Karen explained how the hike forged courage at a key point in her life, and inspired listeners to be well-grounded in courage. As she spoke, she provided practical tips and challenged the audience to do the same.

Four other Tasmanian women provided candid testimonies about how their lives had been shaped by courage. Each story was very different and described courage in grief, change, trauma and at work.

A “Gathering”, not a “Conference”

Jenny Baxter, State Director of EmpowHer, explained how the event and theme emerged as an idea with the EmpowHer team.

“We wanted to make it more of a gathering than a conference, and focused on small touches toward this. Such as having people sitting around tables rather than facing the stage. As well, we provided grazing platters over lunch with live background music, rather than singing during the event itself.”

According to Jenny, Karen Wilson was an obvious choice for main speaker.

“I know her personally. She’s warm, very accessible. And she has great stories from her travels meeting with courageous women in all parts of the globe,” she said.

One highlight of the day was the Baptist World Day of Prayer¹ session, when attendees prayed for women worldwide. Funds were raised for projects, in particular those organised by Baptist Women of the Pacific.



ABOVE: By standing shoulder-to-shoulder, women affirmed that Courage is stronger when with others.

Jenny said the Day of Courage exceeded expectations, going way beyond what she thought was possible. “The event highlights the power of our stories and the benefit of showing up and getting together as women on the journey.”

Others present on the day agreed

Attendee Michelle Walters said, “It was lovely to spend time with like-minded women. Thank you to everyone involved in bringing this beautiful day together and sharing your gifts and talents with us”.

“Excellent, well organised, loved the little extras like gift bags, coasters. Food was superb. Great to have women from different denominations come together. Karen was excellent. Thank you to all those who made the day happen,” said attendee Anita Brooker.

“Well done on a beautiful event and doing such a great job gathering people from across denominations and from around the state,” said attendee Danielle Ratcliffe.



Fiona Bradley
Hobart Baptist Church

In Other News Fiona has agreed to take on the position of Tasmanian Baptist Communications Manager from January 2024!

EmpowHer Team: Jenny Baxter (S), Jenna Blackwell (N), Wendy Marston (N), Gabe Fife (NW). Ann Robertson (S), unable to attend, but assisted with the organising of the event.



Karen Wilson shared dinner with the team before the Day of Courage. From left: Jenny, Karen, Jenna, Wendy, Gabe



¹ You can donate here: <https://bwpacific.org/world-day-of-prayer/>

Matty Coppin



Matty Coppin
MINISTRY PROFILE



Ministry Profile: Matty Coppin

The Trip from Plumber to Pastor

*Mending broken drains in Melbourne, morphed into mending broken hearts in Alberta. The plot thickened as **Matty Coppin** responded to a call from Burnie Baptist!*

But what was an Aussie plumber doing in the wilds of Canada? And how did he end up in Burnie?

Read on to find out ...

EARLY DAYS AND FAMILY

I was born in Nambour up on the Sunshine coast, the youngest of four children. We moved to the eastern suburbs of Melbourne when I was three.

I spent my younger years in Box Hill and enjoyed my community. We had a great neighbourhood, and most of my mates were just a walk or bike ride away. We spent a lot of time riding our bikes, playing cricket, and kicking the footy. I loved my AFL footy, and played for both the Surrey Hills Demons, and the Blackburn Panthers.

My oldest brother's birth father was a drummer for 70's rock band *Hush*. The next brother plays drums for the band *Antiskeptic*. My sister married a scientist. And I am married to Ashley, who was born and raised in Canada. We were married 15 years ago. We have two daughters, Anneliese, 13 and Alyssa, 11. Ashley is trained in Clinical Chaplaincy and is looking forward to exploring opportunities in Tassy.



The Coppin Family

Matty and Ashley
Alyssa and Anneliese



THE RESTLESS YEARS

Our family was quite involved in our local church and so I was raised in a Christian environment. But there were some challenges and we ended up moving from my childhood church to another church. That was about the time I started thinking this wasn't for me.

I spent my teen years not considering God at all. I left school at age 16 and started my plumbing apprenticeship. Toward the end of my apprenticeship, I found myself struggling with meaning and purpose but didn't know where to turn.

At the age of 20, I completed my apprenticeship, and then invited on a trip to Uluru through a friend of a friend, with a Christian youth and community organisation. I thought it was a party bus for adults, and brought a few drinks with me. I was busted drinking on the first night and given an opportunity to step up and make different choices.

Little did I know how much impact that trip would have on my life. It was a truly formative experience. It was confronting. At that time I realised my deeply formed prejudices, and my lack of direction. It was during those months after the trip that I began to press into a relationship with God and He began to set my paths straight.

MOVING TO TAS – TWICE!

After that significant trip to Uluru, I felt something in my heart pushing me toward applying to do Fusion's *Certificate IV in Youth and Community*, a work course based in Poatina. So, in 2005 I came to Tasmania for the first time, to do a six-month stint. It was there in Poatina that I met Ashley. After marrying in 2008 we moved to Canada.

Living in Canada was a rich and wonderful experience, and it showed me that God is at work on a global scale. My journey via Canada has prepared me for such a time as this.

Living in Canada was a rich and wonderful experience, and it showed me that God is at work on a global scale.

I love the Australian landscape. I didn't realise how much the land had formed me until I was living in a foreign place. Tasmania has a beautiful diversity in the landscape which I love and appreciate. I think this is a great place for our Canadian-formed kids to experience Australian living.

This more recent move to Tasmania was the culmination of a discernment journey Ashley and I were on for a number of years. After living in Canada for 15 years, we knew there was a transition coming, and that a move back to Australia was in the mix. It was a big surprise to be asked about the role in Burnie. However we took it seriously, and recognised it was the right move for us. and recognised it was the right move for us.

So I am currently serving full time as the Pastor in Burnie Baptist, and am hopeful to support discipleship initiatives within the denomination. I also love supporting my friends around the world to make a difference in their communities. As well, I love seeing others step into their calling. I love what happens when people make Jesus their King, and I love working in collaboration with others, especially those outside the Church.

CHALLENGES AND LOVES

Creating margin in my work can be a challenge as I straddle the various dimensions of my vocational calling in the Kingdom, which crosses the borders between them. I also feel there are challenges in helping name, and take steps toward, becoming a “community of hope” in this current cultural landscape.

The beach, walking in the bush, watching my Richmond Tigers play and exploring new places with my family are all things I love. I also enjoy music and playing drums, albeit not very well!

I would appreciate prayer for my family as we continue to make the transition into Burnie. Also, please pray for Ashley as she embarks on the journey toward her Permanent Residency application. The best piece of advice I have ever received is that things in the kingdom start with a seed.



Short ‘n’ Sweet

I am looking forward to . . . exploring Tasmania and seeing God at work in Burnie.

I am worried about . . . my family finding their place here.

I am confident that . . . God is already at work in Burnie.

I am joyful about . . . seeing my kids making new mates.

I would like to change . . . my terrible hairstyle.

I am at my best . . . I have had quiet time alone.

Matty Coppin
Pastor, Burnie Baptist Church

Waking Up to the Dream



Preparing for Christmas

Crossover Director Andrew Turner helps switch your mind from the Silly Season to Reality.

I love my weekly parkrun, but I don't enjoy running. I enjoy the challenge. What I *really* enjoy is stopping running.

During the fifth and final kilometre, as my brain struggles for oxygen, weird stuff begins to happen. I talk to myself out loud without thinking, so it's a surprise to hear 'Come on Turner!' and realise the voice is mine.

Time slows. The world shrinks until my sole focus is on that Sisyphean asymptote known as the finish line. When eventually I get there, there's a further strange few minutes where I'm conscious of sanity gradually returning. Reality reappears. A weekend begins.

It's interesting how Christmas sits in the very final week of a long year. It's meant to be about the breaking in of ultimate reality – *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*¹ – but by Week 52, the room can be swimming a little. Jesus gets lined up with elves and tinsel, fir trees and reindeer. It's called the Silly Season for a reason, and we're ready to suspend reality for a week or three to taste an idealised world where work is rare and cricket plentiful.

So how can we be sensible enough to know we need rest, but also awake enough to the capital-R Reality of the inbreaking Kingdom? How do we keep it from just seeming like a dream?

Do it well

One way to do this is by Adventing well. Advent reminds us that the Kingdom has been coming in off the long run. It's a dawning, not a random lightning flash that leaves you wondering whether you only imagined it. Come, thou long expected Jesus.

Another is by Christmasing well. Read the story as a *news* story and pinch yourself – this has really *happened*. The hopes and fears of all the years are met – *are met* – in Thee tonight!²

¹ John 1:14 (NIV)

² O Little Town of Bethlehem by Phillips Brooks, 1868

The hopes and fears of all the years are met – are met – in Thee tonight

Phillips Brooks

And finally, let's New Year well. The return to school, work or other mundane rhythms are no longer a doom, because they've been put in a new perspective. In Christ, we find that that Reality doesn't bite, it kisses! Our Messiah comes not to condemn the world but to save it! Not to extort productivity out of us, but to offer an easy yoke! Not as a disgusting medicine only palatable if mixed with elves and tinsel, but living water! Not to mete out our wages, but to offer us gifts!

Christ is not blind to or immune from the world's pain, nor should we be. (Lenting well is next.) But he shows us that it's a passing nightmare, not our defining reality. So we approach the new year driven by hope rather than dread, *knowing* that our Hope is not a Sisyphean asymptote, but closer than ever and certain to arrive.

Merry Christmas, sacred agents!

² Corinthians 4:16-18



Andrew Turner is the Director of *Crossover* for Australian Baptist Ministries.

Crossover exists to Help Australian Baptists Share Jesus. Check out our resources, ideas and recommendations at crossover.org.au.

reCharge NEWS December 2023



Tasmanian **Baptists**

Our 2024 Calendar

EVENT	DATE
Pastors and Leaders Muster (Hobart)	5-6 March
Launch of Frank W. Boreham College	5 March
Road Show (North)	7 March
Roadshow (Northwest)	8 March
Tasmanian Baptist Council	16 March
Easter Sunday	31 March
Mid-Year Assembly	11 May
Tasmanian Baptist Council	15 June
Pastors and Leaders Muster, family-friendly (Devonport)	9-11 July
Pastors and Leaders Muster (Launceston)	10-11 September
Tasmanian Baptist Council	21 September
Annual Assembly	19 October
Tasmanian Baptist Council	16 November

Baptist World Aid

Better World Gifts

Are you still looking for Christmas gifts for colleagues, family and friends? It isn't too late to add something extra special which has the bonus of assisting others overseas.

There are Kids Gifts, Gifts for Her, Gifts for Him, Stocking Stuffers and more.

These gifts are both physical products to give, and for those who have everything, gifts for others overseas which you give on their behalf. (A suitable card is supplied for your friend, colleague or family member.)



This is a great opportunity to give to others in need at Christmas. Maybe you can kill two birds with one stone! Baptist World Aid's Better World Gifts: baptistworldaid.org.au/faith-in-action/better-world-gifts/

Church Activities

Christmas Events

Some of our churches submitted their Christmas activities to *reCharge*.

Want to find out about others? Visit tasbaptists.org.au and click on "Find a Church" to narrow down your request.

Perth

Perth Community Carols – perthbaptistchurch.org.au

4pm Saturday 16th December



Christmas Sermon Series

What brings you here?

10am Every Sunday during December



Citywide

Christmas at Citywide – citywidehobart.org.au

10am 10th December

Memory Tree Day Bring a decoration to hang to remember someone you're missing this Christmas.

10am 17th December

Carols Service – combined service at Mornington
2pm 17th December
Carols Celebration at Levendale – all welcome

5:30pm 24th December

Christmas Eve in the Paddock

10am 25th December

Christmas Day Service Mornington and Lenah Valley



Claremont

Christmas Carol Celebration – cbctas.org.au

6:30pm Saturday 16th December 2024

Claremont Baptist Church invites you to a Christmas Carol Celebration on Saturday 16 December at 6:30 pm. The Christmas Story in song and Scripture.

Christmas Lights

We also invite you to drive by on your Christmas lights excursion to see our new nativity scene outside the church. We've been working hard on this life size stable scene and pray that it will give us opportunities to reach our community.

Christmas Day

9:30 am Christmas Day Service



Nativity scene at Claremont Baptist

Hobart

hobartbaptist.org.au

10am Sunday 17th December

The Empty Christmas Tree For over 70 years, Hobart Baptist Church has collected Christmas Gifts under our empty Christmas tree – which is very full after this special service! Gifts will be given to those in need via Hobart City Mission.

10am Sundays 17th and 24th December and 9:30am Christmas Day

Is There Room for Jesus? December is often referred to as 'the silly season'. It's a time when our lives become very full with finishing work projects, completing courses, planning family events and buying Christmas gifts for our loved ones.

But in all of the business, have we made December so full that there's no longer any room for Jesus in Christmas?



Christmas ADVENTure 2023

5-8 pm, Saturday, 9th December 2023

Riverbend Park, Launceston

Would you like to go on a Christmas adventure with us?

The **Christmas ADVENTure** is a FREE Carol Celebration at Riverbend Park Launceston that invites children, young people and their families to join in singing carols and find out about “The way we do Christmas in . . .”

The multicultural Christian Church community will share the real meaning of Christmas and showcase how Christians

celebrate the birthday of Jesus around the world. Come along at 5 pm to join in the fun, bring a picnic or use the BBQ. Carols will start at 6 pm and conclude at 8 pm.



Baptists **Nationally**

Baptist Churches of South Australia and Northern Territory

Historic decision forming the future for SA and NT Baptists

The Baptist Churches of South Australia has amalgamated with the Baptist Union of Northern Territory.

The legal mechanisms for this were:

- A *Baptist Union of Northern Territory* Assembly decision on 16 September 2023 to wind up.
 - Followed by a *Baptist Churches of South Australia* Assembly decision on 18 November 2023 to adopt changes to the Constitution and become *Baptist Churches of South Australia and Northern Territory Incorporated* (BCSANT).

This was a great day of celebration and has been warmly received across our churches.

Rev Dr Melinda Cousins

Director of Ministries, Baptist Churches SA & NT



Heartlands for Women



On Monday 27th November, the Spring 2023 Heartlands was released to EmpowHer subscribers.

CONTENTS:

- EmpowHer **Day of Courage** rundown (See page 39 of this reCharge)
- **God Whispers** – what to do when you don't know what to do
- **Books about** women, ministry and leadership
- The Importance of **Being Grateful**

READ: tasbaptists.org.au/heartlands-spring-2023

SUBSCRIBE to quarterly email: <http://eepurl.com/gGEAYT>

Christmas Events

Several Christmas events are happening around the state soon.

Discover, enjoy and celebrate the arrival of Jesus the King!

Journey to Bethlehem

Rated PG | 99 minutes | Village Launceston (only)

Musical Released Thursday 30th November

A young woman carrying an unimaginable responsibility. A young man torn between love and honour. A jealous king who will stop at nothing to keep his crown.

This live-action Christmas musical celebration for the entire family, weaves classic Christmas melodies into new pop songs in a music-infused retelling of the timeless story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus. A unique new entry into the collection of holiday classic movies, this epic Christmas musical is unlike any before it.

WATCH THE TRAILER! youtu.be/EFXcEWaIXBI



A Renaissance Christmas Penguin and Richmond

Come to a shimmering concert of ancient carols and songs.

Soprano Jacqueline Ward and classical guitarist David Malone will perform a charming program of sacred Christmas music, inspired by centuries past. Two locations only!

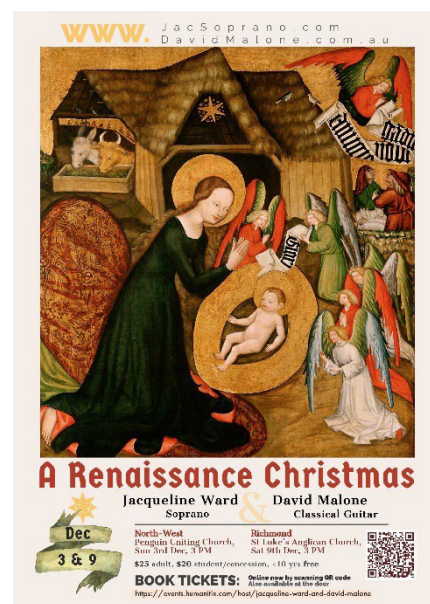
\$25/person | \$10 Conc/Student | FREE for Children under 10

NORTH

Penguin Uniting Church, 3pm Sunday 3rd December

SOUTH

St Lukes Anglican Church Richmond, 3pm Saturday 9th Dec



Jacqueline Ward is a soprano specialising in early music, concert works, and recital. She has performed with Sydney orchestras and choirs and recorded for The Museum of Sydney; delighting audiences throughout Australia and overseas with a voice likened to “honey sliding down crystal” (Courier Mail).

David Malone is a guitarist who performs throughout Australia as a solo recitalist and chamber musician. He has been featured on SBS television and his performances broadcast on ABC Classic FM and ABC Radio National. David's solo CD 'Fretsongs' for the Tall Poppies label received an Australian Classical Music Award and a five-star review in Limelight, Australia's classical music magazine.



David Malone and Jacqueline Ward



Tasmanian Baptist reCharge

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