



# The Informer

## Making the Main Game the Main Game

2023 brought us many ways to learn and live our *Body Building* theme.

On this subject, one of our guest preachers, Mandy Gray said when we go into body building, we know that *"It's gonna hurt"* as we push through each discipline and training exercise.

In one of our Explorers' studies, Karl Faase commented, *"If there's one thing in life that unites us all, it's loss."*

We have experienced many facets of loss, loss of loved ones, loss of health, loss of spending power to name a few.

Being part of the people of God is about hardship and endurance. We know that God is at work, building us up for what is to come.

The apostle James has this to say:

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing*

*of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. [Js 1 NIV]*

Christmas ushers in a time when we cease from many things, rejoice, grieve, pause, re-evaluate and plan.

We celebrate all that Jesus' interruption in the history of man achieved. He became Emmanuel, God with us, to fulfill all the requirements for reconciling God and man. His life, death and resurrection mean that it is finished.

It is God's grace that has brought us through our lives to this point and we can be certain that He will never leave or forsake us.

We have the privilege of joining in this work of reconciliation—to bring many sons to glory. To do this, we love God and love people. It is only through the Holy Spirit that this is possible as all are saved by grace, through faith. It is our main game.

The apostle Paul has given us some tips on how endure in his advice to Timothy.

The soldier who trains for battle and does not get entangled in things that detract from the main game. He trains hard so that he can fight effectively.

The athlete who finishes the race inside the rules. He does not finish by short-circuiting the rules. He runs the race well and with integrity.

The farmer who harvests because he has prepared the soil, sown and waited. He follows the rules of sowing and reaping. He prepares and nurtures the seed but knows that only God brings the harvest in due season.

### Special points of interest:

- > The Main Game
- > Associating with other Baptists
- > Updates
- > Finance
- > Milestones

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The presentation about **Affiliation with the Association of Baptist Churches of NSW/ACT** has been circulated and can be accessed [here](#).

The presentation explains why the likelihood that we will be disaffiliated from the Association is high, and that a possible alternative for us may be the Open Baptist association.

A link to the initial [formal gathering](#) is now included on our website. A conference, **Open Baptist—Dreaming of New Beginnings** followed to gather ideas about what the various aspects of the Association might look like.

Baptist church leaders and members and pastors from New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT attended the conference. NSW&ACT churches and pastors who may not be

able to agree with the Marriage Position Statement attended and may join the new association because of the shift from baptistic values of autonomy of the local church and freedom of conscience. Find out more about the [conference outcomes](#) here.

Our Leadership team was not at this conference. We will keep in touch with developments

23 files are included on our website under the [Reflections/2021 Special Assembly tab](#). They present the full story of how we got to where we are now.

During my presentation on 15 October, I included the comment that there was no biblical discussion of the Association's definition of marriage throughout 2 years of discussion. I commend to you, the most recent [Paper from Canberra Baptist Church](#), for a fuller comment on this point.

I emphasized at the meeting that:

1. We are not prepared to divide our church or disenfranchise those who call Tuggeranong Baptist Church their spiritual home on the basis of their belief about this societal issue or their marital status or style.
2. We are not prepared to surrender our autonomy in order to ensure that our values are not inconsistent with those of the Association.
3. We are not prepared to alter our governance style to develop mandated position statements in addition to our statement of beliefs and Constitution (Rules of Incorporation).

Assembly Council have sent an [Update on the Way Forward regarding Affiliation, Baptist Values and Same Sex Marriage](#) and notes on the Ordinary Assembly of 11 November 2023.

They advised that, *to be able to keep the 4-month communication timeline set by Assembly, the next Annual Assembly has been moved to June 2024.*

## Updates

We enjoyed the **Community Dinner** at Vikings Town Centre. Busloads of tourists were late for their booking so the club was very full and quite loud and the staff were amazing! We can only imagine what was going on in the kitchen.

Funds to sponsor Girls

and Boys were raised at the **Sausage Sizzle** after the BB/GB parade to supplement the donations from the church. The **national camps** will occur in January. Thanks Operations Team for organising!

Attendees at the **Women's Gathering** completed the [HIGH5 strengths test](#) as an

activity to determine the strengths they bring to their leading. They learned that we are all born to be leaders in some way. You can take the test yourself.

Term 4 regular activities began.

Remember to pre-arrange **Op Shop donations** with Brenda if these cannot be made on Tuesdays or Wednesdays

## Finance

### Budget—church and individual call to review

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

### Our budgeted monthly offering is \$20,375

Baptist churches are each responsible for meeting their own expenditure. There is no central funding body.

Charities and community organisations receive benefits through tax exemptions and targeted grants. Churches qualify

for these benefits in the same way as sporting organisations.

**We are stewards of the resources God has given us and all need to continually and prayerfully consider our financial management and to make sure that we are giving what we have *determined in our hearts to give* 2 Corinthians 9:7**

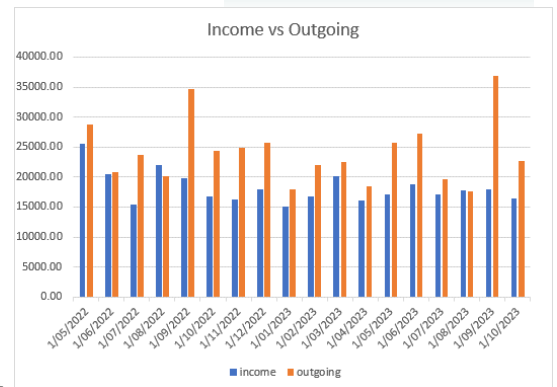
In the last 12 months, we have seen increases in the cos of living, increases in salaries and wages and increases in interest rates that affect both invested funds and mort-

gages and loans. All these need to be taken into account as we review our personal budgets.

Our total offerings for our 2023 year were \$186,414. Offerings since the last *Informer* were— September \$15,523, October \$14,116

Monthly shortfall \$6295. (October). Annual shortfall \$6295.

The graph compares income and expenses.



### Ways to Give:

#### Electronic Giving

Direct Deposit to:  
BSB 704 922

Account: 100 014 987

Name: Tuggeranong Baptist Church

**Credit Card** -Use [iGive](#) service.

#### Cash Deposits

Cash offerings may be placed

## Coming Up

### Church Picnic at the Kam-bah Adventure Park

Bring your chairs, picnic blankets, food and dogs to this community get together. We meet at the Adventure Park that is fenced so safe for our children.

**Annual General Meeting** on 10 December 2023 if our Auditor has sent our

Financial Statements and Audit Report. You will find more details in the App if you log into your personal profile. If you cannot see this Event, you will need to create your profile/account.

### Christmas break

There will be no Sunday services at the Garratt Street Centre on Christ-

mas Eve, 24 December and services will be on-line only 31 December 2023 and 7 January 2024.

### Teaching Series—New Year

The *Armour of God* is our first series for 2024.

### Believers' Baptism

We are planning a baptism service at an indoor setting.

## Milestones in the life of our church community

### Marriage of Shalveen and Sarah Selvaratnam on 27 December 2023.

I will be travelling to Melbourne to officiate. Sarah grew up at TBC and contributed much to the life of the church.

Sarah was active in our Missions Action Group, and grew up through the

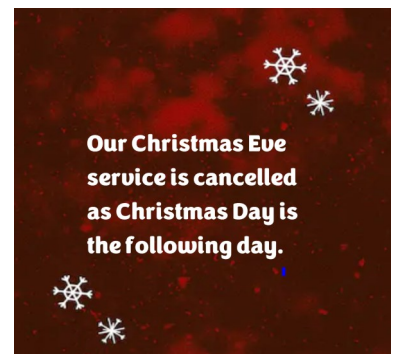
ranks of *Girls' Brigade* and *Worship team* into leadership positions. She was on our *Next Steps* team following the fire that destroyed the Jenke Cct building.

If you would like to contribute to a gift, please do so by electronic transfer and label your gift "Sarah" by 17 December

2023.

### Sale of Jenke Cct land

Our solicitor is holding Mar Thoma church deposit in his Trust Account pending approval from ACT Government for the transfer of the lease to them. Exchange of contracts will follow.. Settlement date will be one month from exchange



## Communications

### The Informer

The official communications channels of Tuggeranong Baptist Church are:

- App
- Website
- YouTube channel
- Sunday Notices
- Notices published on boards
- Facebook (temporarily not in use)
- Emails to our distribution/ mailing list.

### Mailing List

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

Have you moved house or changed email address? Changes to our database for your personal details can be emailed to [tbchurch@internode.on.net](mailto:tbchurch@internode.on.net).

### Prayer Requests

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

## Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Love God Love People



### Contacts

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[events@tbchurch.com.au](mailto:events@tbchurch.com.au)

## The Last Word

There are a number of things to be done to wrap up the year and prepare for the next, including:

### WRAP UP

**Ministry leaders training session** on 29 November.

Leaders will be briefed on Safe Church, WHS and use of building responsibilities.

The **Annual General Meeting**—if the Auditor provides report on time.

**Final sessions** of regular activities.

**Draft Calendar of Events for 2024**—available under the Events tab in the App.

**Eldership Meeting.**

### PREPARE

I encourage you all to take some time to plan for next year under the headings—soldier, athlete and farmer.

#### Soldier

1. Expect hard times.
2. Set goals in line with God's will for you
3. Assign time, funding and energy to tasks to achieve the goals
4. Prepare a list of things to discontinue or change.

#### Athlete

1. Set goals for getting into shape physically, emotionally and spiritually. There will be

hard times.

2. Know the rules and get qualified to be in the race.
3. Reject the temptation of shortcuts or rule avoidance.

#### Farmer

1. Look to the Lord of the harvest because you have prepared the soil and planted the in the two preceding examples.
2. Continue to do your part and expect that God will do His and bring us through.

### EXPECT BLESSINGS

Expect times of rejoicing and celebration! There

will be births and marriages, new beginnings in work and play, new horizons and more to learn of, and deeper relationship with, God and more light from His Word.

We will have to ask God for wisdom to make some important decisions about affiliation and resource management.

### CHRISTMAS

Have a blessed Christmastide and continue to pray for peace to all men—inside our fellowship and on the world stage.

**Our thanks to you all for your faithful service and love in Christ:**

Ian Reid

Lead Pastor

Tuggeranong Baptist Church for the Leadership Team