

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th May, 2023
155th Annual Assembly



Rev Jamie Long - Chair, Assembly Council
Rev Dr Steve Bartlett - Director of Ministries



Baptist Churches
of NSW & ACT



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Baptist Churches
of NSW & ACT

Guidelines for Conduct of Assembly Meetings

Please refer to Schedule A of the Association's Constitution adopted on 1 April 2017 for 'Guidelines for Conduct of Assembly Meetings'. The Constitution is on the Baptist website at: bit.ly/BA-NSW-ACT-Constitution. Additional guidelines relating to presentation of reports to Annual Assemblies are contained at Paragraph S. of Schedule A of the Constitution.



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Baptist Churches
of NSW & ACT



Safe Church
Health Check



Creating
Safe
Spaces

Safe Church Team Network Evening

Tuesday 23rd May 2023 // 7 - 9:30pm

<https://nswactbaptists.org.au/event/>

Advanced Creating Safe Spaces

Day 1: Saturday 29 July (ZOOM or in-person)

Day 2: Saturday 12 August (ZOOM) or Monday 14 August (In-person)

Host a

Creating Safe Spaces Workshop

\$15pp discount for new churches

creatingsafespaces.org.au

Program

Friday 5th May, 2023

- 9:00am **Registration + Morning tea available**
- 10:00am **Welcome, Worship, Devotion and Prayer**
- 11:00am **Opening meeting 1**
 - Presentation of recommendation for Principal of Morling College
 - Presentation of David Brown Award
- 11:25am **Input Spot: Church Planting Network and our Gen1K Vision**
- Research and possibilities for our future
- 11:55am
 - Presentation and voting on Proposed Constitution changes (Vacancies on Councils and Representation of Women)
- 12:40pm **Close meeting 1**
- 12:40pm **Lunch**
- 1:30pm **Open meeting 2**
- 1:30pm **Ballot boxes open**
- 1:30pm **2nd Vote on Constitutional changes**
- 1:40pm **Annual Report & 2023-25 Association Strategic Plan**
- 3.20pm **Short break**
- 3.30pm **2023 Budget**
- 4.00pm **Meeting 2 adjourned**

Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we gather today at our various Assembly sites. These Custodians are the traditional caretakers of the land on behalf of our Almighty Creator.

We acknowledge the Darug people in Macquarie Park, Sydney, the Bundjalung people in Alstonville, the Awabakal people in Mayfield, the Wiradjuri people in Wagga Wagga and Molong, the Ngunnawal people in Page, Canberra, the Kamilaroi



Saturday 6th May, 2023

- 9:00am Registration + Morning tea available
- 10:00am Welcome, Worship, Devotion and Prayer
- 10:45am Affiliation, Baptist values and marriage
- including Notices of Motion
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:00pm Ballot boxes close
- 1:30pm Affiliation, Baptist Values and Marriage discussion -
including Notices of Motion and proposed
constitutional changes
- 3:00pm Meeting 2 closes
- 3:00pm Short break
- 3:30pm Meeting 3 opens (if required)
- 2nd vote on constitutional changes
- 4:00pm Close

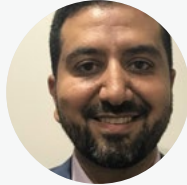
Note: Particularly on Saturday, these times are approximate and may be impacted by the flow of discussion on the day, at the discretion of the Assembly Chair.

people in Tamworth and the Dharawal
people in Woonona, Wollongong.
We pay our respects to the Elders past,
present and emerging. We acknowledge
all other Aboriginal peoples present.
We promise to walk softly and gently on
this land.

Assembly Council



Rev Jamie Long
Chair



Mark Azzi
Deputy Chair



Allen Sibley
Deputy Chair

Allyson Beddoe
(Appointed member)

Dr Omar Djoeandy

Rev Angelo Gratsounas

Rev Andrew Hall

Rev Matthew Kennedy

Rev Jonny Lam

David Slinn

Additional Attendees:

Rev Dr Steve Bartlett
Director of Ministries

Rev Dr Ross Clifford
Principal
(Morling College)

Geoff Moore
Honorary Legal Advisor

Heidi Tak
Association Director, Operations
(Baptist Association)

Fanny Wong
Secretary to the Assembly Council



Role of the Assembly Council

The role of the Assembly Council is to collectively ensure the delivery of the vision of the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT, to set its strategic direction, and to uphold its values. The Assembly Council should collectively be responsible and accountable for ensuring and monitoring that the organisation is performing well, is solvent, and is complying with all its legal, financial, and ethical obligations. The responsibilities of the Assembly Council that cannot be delegated to any other person or body include:

- Spiritual oversight
- Strategic planning
- Organisational governance
- Regulatory monitoring
- Financial monitoring
- Financial reporting
- Organisational structure
- Leadership selection
- Succession planning
- Risk management
- Dispute management
- Social responsibility
- Assembly Council performance and composition

Upcoming Events

Find out more at www.nswactbaptists.org.au/events



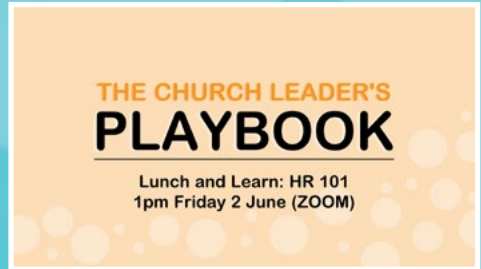
Insights

A monthly time of information, connection & inspiration.

JUNE
15
1-2pm, Zoom

15 Feb, 18 Mar, 12 Apr, 15 Jun, 17 Aug, 19 Oct, 23 Nov
Register at www.nswactbaptists.org.au/insights

Various Dates



THE CHURCH LEADER'S
PLAYBOOK

Lunch and Learn: HR 101
1pm Friday 2 June (ZOOM)

June 2



Safe Church Research | Safe Church Health Check

Safe Church Team Network Evening

Tuesday 23rd May 2023 // 7 - 9:30pm
<https://nswactbaptists.org.au/event/>

May 23



ONLINE EVENT

SIMPLE CHURCH
FOUNDATIONS

Tuesday 6 June, 2023 7:30pm - 9:00pm

June 6



A TIME TO CONNECT REFLECT & REFRESH FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD

THAT THING

SATISFY THAT THIRSTY SOUL

JUNE 18-20
KIAH RIDGE
TAHMOOR NSW

GENK LEADERSHIP

WWW.NSWACTBAPTISTS.ORG.AU/EVENTS

June 18 - 20



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July 4 - 6 + 7 - 9

SIMPLY COACHING - A TASTER

Wednesday 26 July // 7 - 9 pm // Online

July 26

Advanced Creating Safe Spaces

Day 1: Saturday 29 July (ZOOM or in-person)
Day 2: Saturday 12 August (ZOOM) or Monday 14 August (In-person)

July 29 - August 14

form

“Be strong and courageous... Do not be afraid... The Lord will be with you wherever you go!”
—Joshua 1: 9

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November 11

Nominations for Assembly Council Membership and Profiles of Candidates for Election

(3 persons to be elected by Assembly, from 5 nominees)

Person	Church	Profile
Rev Andrew Darnell	Wingham Baptist Church	Page 14
Dr Edwina Murphy	Blakehurst Baptist Church	Page 15
Rev Dr Megan Powell de Toit	Thornleigh Community Baptist Church	Page 16
Dr Catherine Casey	Paramatta Baptist Church	Page 17
Matthew Warren Kennedy	Parkes Baptist Church	Page 18

The following pages provide background information for those nominated (as they will appear on Ballot Papers). Profiles prepared by nominees.

The Assembly Council



The Constitution of the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT describes how affiliated local Baptist churches and affiliated groups work together to fulfil the objects of the Association. Under the Lordship of Christ, final Governance of the Association is vested with Assembly, which appoints the Assembly Council.

The Assembly Council is the council appointed under section 10 of the Constitution as the Executive Committee under the Incorporation Act and it is empowered to implement Assembly decisions and to conduct the Association's affairs between Assemblies.

The 12-member Assembly Council comprises:

- 9 persons elected by Assembly,
- the Chair of Morling College Council, and
- 2 persons appointed by Assembly Council at its discretion.

The Director of Ministries, Principal of Morling College, Honorary Legal Advisor and the Secretary to the Assembly Council attend meetings of the council, but are not entitled to vote.

There are 3 vacancies to be filled at this Annual Assembly for Assembly Council. 2 members have completed their 3-year term and there is one further vacancy due to the resignation of a member mid-term.

The Assembly Council members who are retiring, neither of whom are seeking re-election, are:

- Rev Andrew Hall
- Rev Jonny Lam

5 candidates have been nominated and there are 3 positions to be filled, so as per Section 8.4(y) of the Constitution:

- a. Assembly members can vote for up to 5 candidates, should they choose to do so,
- b. the 3 candidates with the highest number of votes will be appointed, provided they achieve a greater than 50% majority, and
- c. in the event that not enough candidates achieve 50% of the vote to fill the vacant positions, the unfilled positions will remain vacant.

Section 10 of the Constitution describes the role, membership, powers and duties of the Assembly Council. Clause P of Schedule A of the Guidelines for Conduct of Assembly Meetings in the Constitution requires that the election of Assembly Council members is to take place by ballot at the Assembly meeting.

Candidates for Assembly Council



Nominee:

Rev Andrew Darnell

Church Membership:

Wingham Baptist Church

I currently serve in a small regional church, at Wingham Baptist and have been the sole pastor for approaching 5 years which gives me a different perspective to city-based churches. My desire to join the Assembly council flows from my desire to serve the Association of Baptist Churches and help them realise the vision God has given them.

My life has exposed me to many different situations, such as divorce, previous mental health battles and other struggles which are now history but set me up to see situations from different perspectives to most, which serves the people around me well.

I have led teams of people in the service station industry along with transport before being called into ministry. I have good experience in leading and speaking up for voices that may not have a chance otherwise.

I have a mindset that is very practical focused and an ability to take the theory and applying that in everyday life.

I also enjoy exploring the various options in front of me and pursuing the big picture as a team. I do this by keeping an open mind, listening well and asking questions to understand other points of view. I am also able to assist people, individually or in groups, be it small or large to help them understand what is being suggested and think through the implications of that.

My willingness to “wrestle” with tough situations and not take the easy way out serves me well as I am always people centered and wanting them to grow and achieve the best for God’s glory. I am married with one 7 year old son, with two adult children from my previous marriage.



Nominee:

Dr Edwina Murphy

Church Membership:

Blakehurst Baptist

I'm the Deputy Dean and Director of Research at the Australian College of Theology. Before that, I was on faculty at Morling College for 14 years, lecturing in Christianity in History and Baptist Distinctives. In the more distant past, I was an evangelism intern and associate pastor, although I haven't given up preaching.

I've served on a range of denominational, educational and scholarly boards, committees and taskforces. I've also worked in family businesses in various capacities over the years and I still have a forklift licence.

I believe that as we grow together as disciples of Jesus, grounded in Scripture and empowered by the Spirit, we will demonstrate that what God has done and continues to do is really good news. I believe God generously gives wisdom to those who ask. And I believe God is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.

I've been married to Peter for 30 years and we have two children, Joel and Lara, who are both at university.

I've attended Baptist churches my whole life. Whilst I didn't seek nomination, I've accepted it because I believe in listening to God together and I want to be open to serving him in this way.

Candidates for Assembly Council



Nominee:

Rev Dr Megan Powell du Toit

Church Membership:

Thornleigh Community Baptist Church

I have been an accredited minister with the Baptist Churches of NSW and the ACT since 2003. I did my Bachelor of Ministry (honours) through Morling College from 1998-2002, and have recently submitted my PhD thesis, also through Morling. My thesis was on Baptist theologian Stanley Grenz and tensions within evangelicalism.

When I was in pastoral ministry, I served at Epping as student observer (1998), Gordon as student pastor (1999-2000), Homebush-Strathfield as student pastor (2001), Beverly Hills Chinese as associate pastor (2003- 2013), and Gordon (again) as associate pastor (2013-2015). I also worked as an adjunct lecturer and tutor at Morling between 2003-2016. I have also served on various denominational committees, including the Discipline Sub Committee, the Affirmation Panel, and the Pastoral Advisory Taskforce.

Since 2016 I have worked for the Australian College of Theology in policy, publishing, and research. I am currently Publishing Manager, as well as editor of the academic Journal Colloquium. I partner with Rev Dr Michael Jensen in The WADR Project, an evangelical project seeking to foster gracious, respectful conversation. The project puts out our podcast, With All Due Respect, through the Undeceptions Network.

I would bring to the committee many years of experience in pastoral ministry, theological education, and denominational service. As shown by my doctoral work and The WADR Project, I have a deep interest in fostering constructive relationships across difference for the sake of the gospel, and hope that serving on Assembly Council would bring that to our association. I've been married to Anton for 27 years, and we have 3 young adult children.



Nominee:

Dr Catherine Casey

Church Membership:

Paramatta Baptist Church

Catherine and her husband Gavin, with the support of Parramatta Baptist Church, have church-planted and lead Parramatta City Church. This church plant is a multi-cultural community of faith, with a missional focus in the heart of Parramatta. Catherine also has ministry experience in large Baptist churches, leading children's ministry and as a Young Adult Staff Worker. She is currently part of the Safe Churches Team for Parramatta Baptist Church.

Professionally, Catherine is a General Practitioner, having worked in general practice, youth mental health and recently providing telehealth for rural and remote communities. Catherine is passionate about general practice training in NSW and ACT. Catherine has developed skills in organisational leadership at senior management level within general practice training, including strategic development, stakeholder engagement, staff wellbeing, risk management and leading through major change and transition.

As a leader and part of a team, Catherine has a strong relational, community-oriented focus, modelling authenticity and transparency to build trust within the team, creating a safe space for everyone to contribute towards reaching shared goals. Catherine is passionate about the health and wellbeing of her team and organisation, bringing a strong sense of purpose and motivation in aligning all functions of the team to achieve the desired outcome.

Candidates for Assembly Council



Nominee:

Matthew Warren Kennedy

Church Membership:

Parkes Baptist Church

Relevant ministry experience or areas of service:

I have been involved with various churches over the years in different ministry leadership roles, but since 01/06/2015 I have been employed as a Pastor/Minister of the Parkes Baptist Church in Country NSW. Initially as an Associate Pastor, now as the Senior Pastor. I am also currently the President of the Parkes Ministers Association.

Relevant expertise for Assembly Council:

I am a Bible-believing follower of Jesus Christ. I have the spiritual gifts of leadership, evangelism, encouragement, pastoral care, administration and preaching/teaching. I have a strong faith in the Lord and a passion to see His church grow in numbers and maturity. After over seventeen years in the finance industry, from a secular point of view. I am an experienced professional who majors in organisational-based leadership roles.

From business management/compliance/team-leadership/business improvement & innovation. I stand firmly on the pillars of honesty, transparency and clear communication. I look to motivate and bring the vision of an organisation to life. I'm experienced also in organisational troubleshooting, revitalising and helping organisations see and reach their true potential.

Reason for Acceptation Nomination for Assembly Council:

I have the desire to help our Baptist Association, find the will of God and navigate the way forward for all our associated churches successfully as an organisation. We have many members in rural parts of our association, and I believe we need to have a stronger, rural ministry voice in AC. So I hope to be that representative voice. Giving the AC a more balanced view and understanding of our associated rural church's stand on various matters that affect both them and our association.



“

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.

- Hebrews 10:24-25

Nominations for Morling College Council Membership and Profiles of Candidates for Election

(3 persons to be elected by assembly, from 3 nominees)

Person	Church	Profile
Dr William Leslie Peirson	Macquarie Baptist Church	Page 22
Helen Blanch	Riverstone Baptist Church	Page 23
Rev Dr Graeme Chatfield	Thornleigh Community Baptist Church	Page 24

The previous version of this nomination included a nomination to Morling College Council for Dr Sylvia Collinson. Sylvia has since been appointed by the Morling College Council to the role of Chair of Morling College Academic Board. The Morling College Academic Board Chair is a member of the Morling College Council by virtue of their role. Therefore, Sylvia’s nomination for election is no longer necessary and has been withdrawn.

The following pages provide background information for those nominated (randomised order). Profiles as prepared by nominees.

The Morling College Council is the governing body responsible for decision-making in relation to the conduct of Morling College, as the theological college of the Baptist Association.



The 13-member Morling College Council comprises:

- 10 persons elected by Assembly
- the Chair of Morling College Academic Board
- a person with academic expertise appointed by the Morling College Council at its discretion
- a person selected by the Assembly Council of the Baptist Churches of Western Australia

The Council is responsible for offering training as determined by the Association; the training of persons accepted by the Association for training for Baptist ministry; the training of cross-cultural ministry workers and other spheres of Christian service; the promotion of the Christian faith consistent with the basic doctrines, statement of belief, position statements and values of the Association and offering courses accredited by relevant government authorities and supportive of national goals for higher education.

The Principal of the College, the Director of Ministries, the Honorary Legal Advisor and the Secretary to the Morling College Council attend meetings of the council, but are not entitled to vote.

There are 3 vacancies to be filled at this year's Annual Assembly for Morling College Council. Three members are completing their term. Of these, 1 member, Helen Blanch, has consented to renomination.

3 candidates have been nominated and there are 3 positions to be filled, so as per Section 8.4(x) of the Constitution each candidate requires a two thirds majority to be elected.

The following nominee profiles have been supplied by each nominee and are presented here in randomised order.

Candidates for Morling College Council



Nominee:

Dr William Leslie Peirson

Church Membership:

Macquarie Baptist Church

Dr. Peirson led youth and small groups ministry for over 40 years. His present professional role is Master and CEO of New College and New College Postgraduate Village: open enrolment, Anglican-affiliated, residential colleges at the University of New South Wales. In that role he supervises the Centre for Christian Apologetics, Scholarship and Education and is supervising editor of the journal CASE Quarterly. He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of New South Wales within the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

He has worked in the university sector for 40 years and held senior administrative, teaching and research roles at the University of New South Wales and New College for over 20 years. Within these roles he has been responsible for strategic planning and organisational direction for over 15 years. As CEO of New College, he is responsible for the future development of the colleges, their communities and missional direction.

Dr. Peirson is married to Ruth and they have been members of MBC since 2009. Ruth and Bill have three adult daughters who grew up in Macquarie Baptist Church.

My reason for accepting nomination is to support the absolutely crucial role that our theological colleges have in underpinning mission in Australia and in modern society more broadly if that is what our good Lord and the Baptist Assembly want me to do over the next three years.



Nominee:

Helen Blanch

Church Membership:

Riverstone Baptist Church

Helen Blanch is the Christian Education Executive with The Excellence Centre, the Professional Development Centre of the Pacific Group of Christian Schools. She is an educator at heart and her teaching experience has been in public education and in Christian Education since 1987. Helen has been a School Principal and leader in various capacities including the New Hope International Education and Leadership Director. She currently serves on the Morling College Board.

Her calling is to equip Christian teachers to be effective teachers and leaders in the context of Christ-centred learning communities both in Australia and developing countries.

Helen is passionate about inspiring and equipping teachers to be deeply immersed in the Biblical story so they may embrace and practice a Gospel-shaped education that meaningfully engages with young people in their cultural context.

She is an elder at Riverstone Baptist Church. Helen is married with one daughter and four grandsons.

Candidates for Morling College Council



Nominee:

Rev Dr Graeme Chatfield

Church Membership:

Thornleigh Community Baptist Church

1993 - 2007 Part-time then full-time-
Lecturer in Church History and Baptist
Distinctives, Morling College

2007- 2021 Associate Dean, Director
of Research, Australian College of
Theology

2007- 2016 Professor of Church
History and Historical Theology
through TCMII, Austria, Poland,
Russia,Ukraine

2012-2016 Board Member TCMII

2015 - Established TCMAustralasia
to work with Baptists in Zambia and
Zimbabwe. 2022 Formally associated
with Baptist Mission Australia

2021- Member of Baptist World
Alliance Heritage and Identity
Commission

1983-1989, 1993-95 Pastoral ministries
at Macquarie Baptist, South Windsor
Baptist, Frenchs Forest Baptist

2007-2008 Interim ministries at
Parramatta Baptist and Bowral Baptist

Expertise in higher education policy,
corporate governance. Assessment

and analysis of current situation,
especially of the place of Baptists in
Australia and the world context.

I believe my accumulated knowledge
of theological education, both local
and international, will be of great
benefit to the Morling College Council.
In particular, I believe it is important
that Morling College, the Baptist
Theological College of NSW and ACT
Churches, continues to be at the heart
of Morling Inc.



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Our Movement



GOAL

Leading up to 2012 a review of all the Association functions and activities was undertaken. Out of this review a bold goal of 1000 healthy churches in a generation (GEN1K) was established and affirmed by member churches.

Our Vision, Purpose and Goal together articulate why we exist, what we need to look like in the future, and what we hope Gen1K will achieve through God.

VALUES

Core values are one of the aspects that identifies and unites us as an Association. They drive what, why and how we do what we do. Core values guide us as individuals, churches and as an Association. Our desire is to see our purpose and vision through the lens of these core values and allow them to assist in guiding ministry decisions moving forward.

Our Core Values:

- Christ Centred
- Mission Shaped
- Relationally Committed
- People Empowering
- Partnership Oriented

PURPOSE

The Association of churches exists to work together in the fulfilment of God's call on us as individual churches – to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are called to do this throughout all the world – locally, nationally and internationally. Our purpose also indicates the vital nature of partnership in ministry as it identifies the need to have interdependent relationships to fulfill this call. As churches and ministers we join together to work towards advancing the Gospel. This includes being supported when we are weak and supporting others when we are strong.

VISION

Working together harnesses greater potential to impact the world around us. This combined expression also allows for support and development services to be accessed by all member churches, church leaders and attendees. Our belief is that we can have a greater positive impact on the world around us when we partner together.

Our Vision Pictures:

- Healthy Churches/Community
- Leadership
- Mission
- Justice

Strategic Priorities Liftout

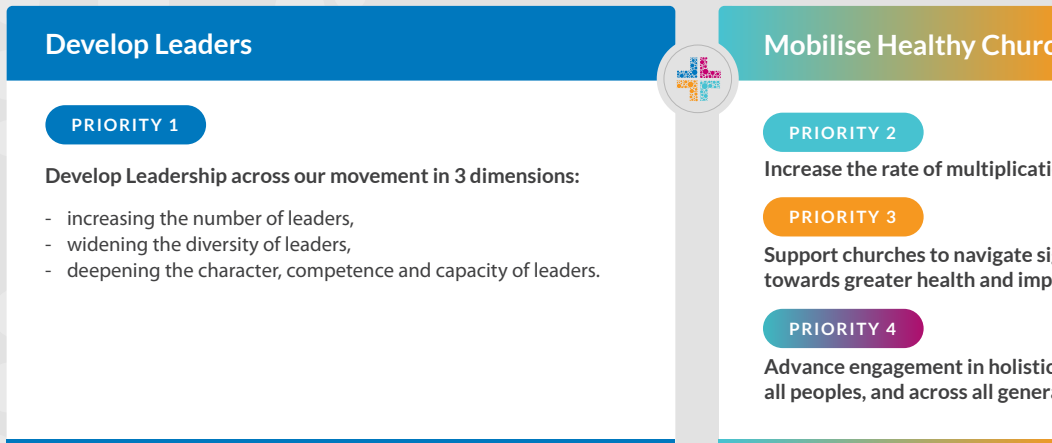
GOAL: We will be a movement of 10

GEN

VISION PICTURES: Vision Pictures are a landscape of what our movement will look like in the future



PRIORITIES: To achieve our Goal and become the movement we want to see, our priorities over the





1000 Healthy Churches in a Generation.



... as we achieve our goal.

... that are **Mission Shaped** and **Impact Society**

GEN ONE MISSION

We see an extraordinary mission shaped movement of God across our churches and affiliated groups

GEN ONE JUSTICE

We see a movement impacting our society, culture and world

... next 3 years are to...

Churches

...ion of new congregations

...gnificant crises and move
...act

... mission for, with and from
...ations



Partner In Ministry

PRIORITY 5
Expand the capacity of our regional ministries to contextually advance the Gen1K goal in local networks

PRIORITY 6
Enhance our strategic support services and resources towards the Gen1K goal

PRIORITY 7
Work towards greater unity and partnership across our movement

Our Vision Pictures

GEN ONE HEALTH

We see a movement of transforming, healthy communities

- Embracing faith and risk in a life of authentic discipleship
- Transforming lives in the power of Christ
- A culture of disciple making being normal and expected
- Diverse in expression and ministry yet united in purpose, values and foundational beliefs

GEN ONE MISSION

We see an extraordinary mission shaped movement of God across our churches and affiliated groups

- Proclaiming and demonstrating Christ's love in holistic, culturally appropriate global engagement
- Growing faster than population growth to a movement of 1000 healthy churches in a generation
- Support and involvement in church planting and pioneering work being normal
- Mutual support and partnership between our churches, the Association of Churches and its affiliated groups

GEN ONE LEADERSHIP

We see a movement raising and empowering Kingdom-focused leadership

- A culture of leadership development across our movement
- Ample mature leadership to allow our churches, groups and new ministries to flourish
- Healthy pastors and leaders serving our churches and groups with sustained vitality
- Leaders equipped and supported for their roles in the broader community

GEN ONE JUSTICE

We see a movement impacting our society, culture and world

- Cultivating significant positive societal change
- Asserting a prophetic voice, bringing Kingdom values into the public square
- Advocating for and aiding the vulnerable, voiceless and oppressed



“

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Nominations for Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust and Profile of Candidates for Election

(2 persons to be elected by assembly, from 2 nominees)

Person	Church	Profile
Michael Justin Williams	Northside Baptist Church	Page 34
Judith Carpenter	Ashfield Baptist Church	Page 35

The following pages provide background information for the nominated parties. Profiles are prepared by nominees.

The Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust is an incorporated body created by the Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust Act 1984.



Seven members are elected by the Baptist Assembly for three year terms on a rotational basis. The members of the Property Trust are required to obey the directions of the local congregation, provided those directions do not contravene the Act or the general law of the land.

The Act requires that a member of the Property Trust will be a member of a Baptist Church affiliated with the Association. At a personal level members of the trust are involved in the ministry of a local Baptist church and have a firsthand understanding of congregational life. They know that church property matters are often complex and that local leaders sometimes require help to properly process transactions. As servants of our churches they will adhere to the Basic Doctrines, Statement of Beliefs and Objects and Values of the Association.

In order to fulfill its role the Property Trust should ideally comprise members who have various business disciplines, including accounting, legal, real estate, banking, management, etc. In the past its members have included a Minister. A member of the Trust cannot be a person who is or becomes an employee of the Trust, the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT or of any committee, council or agency of the Association of Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT.

The Property Trust meets up to six times a year in Sydney. In addition 2-3 members meet most weeks to sign documents submitted by churches for their property transactions. Country members are paid traveling expenses to attend, or may attend meetings by teleconference.

At each Annual Assembly, an election of members of the Trust shall be held to fill the offices of the members of the Trust, which become vacant at the end of that Assembly.

2 trust members, Judith Carpenter and Mike Williams, will retire by rotation having completed their 3-year term. They are eligible for, and have consented to, renomination.

There are 2 vacancies to be filled at this year's Annual Assembly. A simple majority is required in order to be elected.

The following nominee profiles have been supplied by each nominee and are presented here in randomised order.

Candidates for Property Trust



Nominee:

Michael Justin Williams

Church Membership:

Northside Baptist Church

Relevant ministry experience or areas of service

I have been attending Northside Baptist Church for approximately 15 years. My primary ministry involvement over this time has been playing drums in a worship setting, while I am also a member of the church's property advisory group.

Relevant expertise for Property Trust (eg: legal, finance, property, other)

I have spent my professional career working in property development – primarily large scale residential development. This has included 11 years working for Landcom, the NSW State Government owned development corporation, and subsequently over 7 years working in my current role as Head of Strategy & Acquisitions for a privately owned residential development company, Legacy Property.

I have comprehensive end to end experience in the development process, including detailed knowledge of legal and financial structuring for property acquisition and development.

Other Relevant Personal information

I am married to Kristen and we have two children – Mark (nearly 5yo) and Phoebe (2.5yo).

Reason for Accepting Nomination for Property Trust

I continue to enjoy my involvement in the Trust and believe that I have provided a useful contribution during my membership. I have found that my experience translates very well to the functions of the Property Trust, particularly those matters involving more complex development proposals, and serving on the Trust provides an opportunity to use my professional expertise in a ministry setting.



Nominee:

Judith Carpenter

Church Membership:

Ashfield Baptist Church

Served on BaptistCare Board from 2002 to 2019, the last three as Chair and in this capacity dealt with significant property and governance issues. Currently Chair of Lifecare SA (aged care provider) currently dealing with development and property issues including valuations etc.

An Elder of Ashfield Baptist Church; happy to serve the wider Baptist community as part of the NSW Property Trust.

Morling Council Principal Nomination

Recommendation

The Morling College Council is pleased to bring to the Assembly of the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT the following recommendation:

The Morling College Council seeks the approval of the Assembly to appoint Rev. Dr. Tim MacBride to the role of Principal of Morling College to commence a 5-year term from July 2023.

In preparation for the Assembly please prayerfully consider the recommendation and the ongoing ministry of Morling College.

Process

The Morling College Council has been on a journey of discernment towards bringing this recommendation which included the Principal role being advertised through an external consultant nationally and internationally with an application close date of September 25th, 2022.

Panel

A selection panel made up of strong leaders in education, governance, and ministry was established to assess the applications for the Principal position. The panel, confirmed following the May 2022 Assembly, was made up of Ange Gratsounas as chair, Brian Powell, Helen Blanch, Karen Siggins, Alan Rice, and Steve Bartlett, each bringing a wealth of experience and insight to the task.

The Selection Process

Once all applications for the position were received, the panel individually reviewed the applicants using an agreed template. The panel met on October 12th, 2022, to consider the applications as a group. During this meeting, the panel decided to interview a shortlist of applicants. The first interviews with the candidates took place on November 5th, 2022.

Subsequently, the panel narrowed down the shortlist to a final group of applicants and agreed to conduct second interviews. At this stage reference checks were completed with the three referees provided by each applicant. The second interviews took place on November 23rd, 2022, and the panel met to finalise a recommendation on November 30th, 2022.



The preferred application was presented to the Morling College Council in December 2022 who unanimously supported the recommendation.

Basis of Recommendation

Rev. Dr. MacBride has strong academic theological qualifications along with the following sought-after skills and qualities that Morling College Council believes make him a desirable nominee for the Principal position:

- **Communicator**

Rev. Dr. MacBride is an excellent communicator with an open and consultative leadership style. He has good network relationships with the Assembly Council and churches across NSW & the ACT.

- **Contemporary**

Rev. Dr. MacBride is culturally aware and contemporary in outlook, as well as being a strategic thinker, innovator, and visionary. He has a substantial capacity to enthuse and engage the younger generations.

- **Considered**

Rev. Dr. MacBride has a thorough understanding of higher education processes and the regulation of accreditation. He is considered in his approach to the standards of quality teaching, student protection and research requirements of TEQSA.

In a recent letter to Steve Bartlett (Director of Ministries BUNSW-ACT) the Dean of the Perth Morling Campus and the Director of Ministries BUWA strongly supported the appointment of Rev. Dr. MacBride, stating:

“...we affirm that the Perth Campus of Morling College and the Director of Ministries of The Baptist Union of Western Australia Inc. fully supports the nomination of Tim MacBride as Principal of the College and encourages the Assembly to accept and approve this nomination.”

Morling Council Principal Nomination

Constitutional Requirements

Under the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT Constitution, the appointment and reappointment of the full time Principal of Morling College will be by Assembly upon the recommendation of Morling College Council, with the person being accountable to that Council. Normally, the Principal of Morling College will be appointed for 5 years and will be eligible for re-appointment.

The Morling College Council will have the right to determine the terms of appointment of the Principal of Morling College and in that process: have the person sign a declaration that they subscribe to the basic doctrines, objects and values; provide a statement as to their response to the statement of beliefs, such declaration and response being made available to Assembly; regularly review the Principal's performance; and hold the right of suspension and dismissal of the Principal. Rev. Dr. MacBride fully subscribes to the basic doctrines, objects and values of the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT and strongly supports the Association's Statement of Beliefs.

The Principal of Morling College shall be a person who has academic qualifications in theological studies and recognised expertise relevant to the duties and responsibilities of the position.



Nominee:

Rev Dr Tim MacBride

Age:

50

Church Membership:

Menai Baptist Church

Rev Dr MacBride has been a committed follower of Jesus since the age of five and joined the Baptist denomination at the age of 18. Having led youth groups, home groups, and church music teams, he was called into pastoral ministry in his mid-twenties and was ordained in 2003.

For 12 years Rev Dr MacBride was on the pastoral staff at Narwee Baptist Church, with various roles and responsibilities including teaching, creative ministries, and young adult ministries.

Since 2008, Rev Dr MacBride has been a member of the Morling faculty, lecturing in New Testament and Preaching, and in 2019 became the Dean of Bible & Theology. He had previously studied at Morling, completing a Bachelor of Theology, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Theology.

Rev Dr MacBride has served on several boards, including the Inaburra School Board (2015-2021), The Academic Board of Morling College (2019-), and the Academic Board and Coursework Committee of the Australian College of Theology (2012-2014 & 2019-, respectively). Rev Dr MacBride has also authored a variety of publications, including:

Preaching the New Testament as Rhetoric: The Promise of Rhetorical Criticism for Expository Preaching (Wipf & Stock, 2014).

Catching the Wave: Preaching the New Testament as Rhetoric (IVP, 2016).

“Preaching Paul’s Epistles to Australians,” in Hussey, *Preaching with an Accent* (Morling Press, 2019).

To Aliens and Exiles: Preaching the New Testament as Minority-Group Rhetoric in a Post-Christendom World (Cascade, 2020).

“The preacher as tour guide: Becoming better curators of the biblical text,” *St Mark’s Review* 258 (2021).

“Imitators of the Lord in Severe Suffering,” in Schmutzer, *Divine Suffering* (Pickwick, 2023).

“Persuasion in Preaching: A Social-Psychological Analysis of the Sermon to the Hebrews” in McKay and van der Zwan, *Showcasing the Psyche in the Bible* (Sheffield Phoenix, 2023).

“In (Partial) Defence of the Monologue Sermon,” *IJPT* (2023, forthcoming).

Prior to his pastoral ministry, Rev Dr MacBride worked in marketing and management information at the global container shipping line, P&O Nedlloyd.

Rev Dr MacBride is married to Samantha, and they have two adult sons. Samantha and Tim currently attend Menai Baptist Church after spending many happy and joyful and productive years at Narwee Baptist Church.

Assembly Documents and Recommendations



Assembly Council Recommendations:



- 1 That the Annual Reports for 2022 be received.
- 2 That the Financial Reports for 2022 be received.
- 3 That the 2023 CPSB Budget for the NSW & ACT Baptist Association be approved.
4. That the 2023-25 Strategic Plan for the NSW & ACT Baptist Association be affirmed.
5. That changes to the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT Constitution be approved. (see pg 50)
6. a) That the Assembly welcome the individuals listed below and that they be approved to proceed to accreditation and after being set apart for ministry their names be added to the List of Accredited Ministers, on the recommendation of the Affirmation Oversight Team: Bruce Hanke, Justin Kim, Nathan Kwok, Evan Lowndes, Daniel Perrot, Brett Robinson, Nunthana Saicholkhungsok, Samuel Stamos, Billy Tang and Matthew White.
- b) That the Assembly welcome the individuals listed below and that they be approved to have their accreditation transferred to the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT and that their names be added to the List of Accredited Ministers, on the recommendation of the Affirmation Oversight Team: Scott Dawkins, David Godfrey, Raphael Joson and Martin Staker.

Annual Report Summary 2022

Use QR code
to access
printable
Annual Report.



2022 was the final year of our current strategic plan and significant time was spent reviewing, seeking feedback and discerning directions for the next phase of our Gen1K vision from 2023-25. It is noteworthy that the entire period of this plan was lived in the midst of COVID or its shadow. This necessitated strategic directional changes as we adapted to support churches and our movement in extraordinary times.

In 2022 we were able to assist churches and leaders as ministry routines were re-established. It has been particularly encouraging to observe a deeper interest in discipling across our movement, and to be able to support churches in this journey. During the year our churches also responded with prayer and generosity to the devastating impact of the floods in the Northern Rivers and Western Districts. \$287,000 was donated to the relief and recovery work in these regions.

2022 saw the 2nd of 3 years of extra contributions to our Gen1K Vision via generous external grant funding.

These funds are targeted particularly towards the development of multiplying leaders and the commencement of new churches, and assisted with the planting of 12 churches!

The year was also marked by ongoing challenging discussions across our movement around affiliation, Baptist values, and marriage.

This has impacted areas of our Association team's ministry and I also note it as a risk factor for our ongoing Gen1K Vision. We continue to need to listen to the Lord and to one another well.

As of 2022 all our regions now operate as Affiliated Ministries under the umbrella of the Association, rather than as separate entities. Each region over time has chosen this, plugging in to the operational support of the Association and allowing the region to focus its attention on mission and ministry priorities.

During the year we said goodbye to a number of gifted Association staff who have made huge contributions. This included our 2 longest serving staff members – Andrew Palmer and Kim Hall, who between them served our Association in various roles for over 35 years! A number of new staff also joined the team. In the midst of challenging times for ministry recruitment, I am continually amazed at the calibre of staff God brings to serve our Association. We have much to be thankful for.

Again this year, the full report including our Governance reporting and reports from our Affiliated Groups, is online [HERE](#). You can also download a printable summary form of the report [HERE](#).

God is present and working across our movement and I invite you to read, and be inspired and encouraged!

Rev Dr Steve Bartlett
Director of Ministries

2022 Financial Results



The Association’s surplus of \$6.2m is made up of an operating surplus of \$123k, surplus from other ministries of \$534k and a surplus from Designated Funds of \$5.8m.

During 2022, we have continued to focus on building up resources for the Gen1K vision by further consolidating funds with the aim of efficiency and mobilising resources for strategic initiatives. Some further funds have become available from closed churches. We have consolidated these funds and have \$13m invested in the Baptist Impact Fund to support investment into ministry related activities.

Below is a summary of our 2022 financial results:-

	Actual	Budget	Diff	\$Diff %
Operations				
Income	4,066	4,324	-258	-6%
Expenses	-3,943	-4,814	871	-18%
Surplus/ (deficit) from operations	123	-490	613	-125%
Other Ministries	534	-420	954	-227%
Surplus/ (deficit) from operations including other ministries	657	-910	1,567	-172%
Designated funds	5,778	121	5,657	4675%
Other comprehensive income	-235	-	-235	-
Total surplus for the year	6,200	-789	6,989	-886%

2022 Financial Results

2023 Budget

The figures for other ministries include Kiah Ridge and our Regional Ministries (Greater West for Christ, Riverina District Baptist Association, H100, TSS, Western Districts and Northern Rivers).

Other ministries is above budget due to income being greater than what was budgeted and two new affiliated regions during the year.

The surplus from Designated Funds is above budget due to the proceeds from the sale of properties of closed churches which are used to support the GEN1K vision.

2023 Budget

Looking ahead

The Operating budget for 2023 is a net deficit of \$99k. Our deficit is due to grants received and recognised in 2022 that were not able to be spent until 2023. The Church Partnership Support budgeted only covers \$1.55m of our annual operating costs of \$5.2m.

We continue to work diligently so that the operating budget can be balanced over the long term and as the Association requires increasing resources to support churches in an ever-increasing complex environment.



Church Partnership Support Budget 2023

	\$(000)
Budgeted Church Partnership Support Budget	1,550
How these contributions are utilised in ministry:	
Leadership Development	-308
Baptist Youth Ministries	-199
Children and Families	-162
SRE	-118
Accreditation and Recognition	-191
Mission and Church Development	-220
Church Witness	-178
Church Multiplication	-544
Church Health	-271
Global Mission	-199
Strategic Support and Regional Development	-322
Standards	-266
Communications and Events	-468
Ministries Management	-503
Operations	-581
Information Technology	-360
Human Resources	-111
Balance Ministry Services	30
Contribution to Morling	-150
Contribution to Baptist Union of Australia	-102
TOTAL MINISTRY ALLOCATIONS	<u>-5,223</u>

2023 Budget

These ministries are funded by income from:

Church partnership contributions	1,550
Grants	900
Greater Wester for Christ	74
Transform Southern Sydney	51
Legacy Fund	360
Baptist Financial Services Ltd	1,000
Insurance Operations	484
Investment Fund	90
Tax Deductable Fund	15
Arncliffe Fund	100
Gen1K Fund	500
Income Excluding designated funds	<u>5,124</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT	<u><u>-99</u></u>

Committee for Ministry Matters



People to proceed to Accreditation

This year we are excited to present 10 Accreditation Candidates. If they are accepted at this Annual Assembly, they will move to be Accredited at our Accreditation Service later this year.

Please continue to pray for each of these leaders as they proceed through this journey.



Sam Stamos



Billy Tang



Brett Robinson



Daniel Perrott



Nathan Kwok



Matt White



Evan Lowndes



Hyunsan Kim



**Nunthana
Saicholkhongsuk**



Bruce Hanke

Meet Sam Stamos: Accreditation Candidate



Community Development Coordinator BaptistCare HopeStreet, Woolloomooloo Baptist Church

Twelve years ago, Sam and his wife, Kim, with their two children were called by God to minister amongst the poor and homeless in the inner city. This led the family to Woolloomooloo Baptist Church in inner-city Sydney, and for Sam to work for BaptistCare HopeStreet as a Community Development Coordinator.

Sam's role involves working alongside the church to do ministry in the inner-city area. He works amongst a wide and diverse range of people, including those experiencing homelessness, to share the Gospel and advocate for justice.

Sam's family dove into this ministry together. Sam and Kim see their calling to ministry as something the whole family is called into, and their kids are regular and valued parts of the church's Sunday breakfast, service, and other outreaches.

Sam's accreditation process has been long, beginning the process at Morling College, taking a few years break to come back and finish in 2022. Kim has also been involved in the process, learning, sharing, and connecting with others in the movement. *"There's just an instant connection,"* says Sam, *"you automatically feel cared for"*.

Sam has found the journey towards accreditation enjoyable and rewarding and has appreciated the thoroughness and accountability. Learning about the support that the Association offers churches has left him feeling prepared and supported in his ministry.

Sam and Kim plan on staying true to where God has called them, and for now that is ministry to the disadvantaged in the inner-city. Accreditation will help Sam with the skills, networks, support, and continued ministry development he needs to do this ministry well.

"The accreditation process exposes you to what's out there and set you up for what's next or equips you in your current position" says Sam, *"you feel loved and supported, knowing there's a good bunch of people behind you in the Association and meeting those people through the accreditation process."*



Assembly Council Proposed Constitutional Changes

The current version of our Association's Constitution can be viewed on our Annual Assembly portal at: www.thegathering.com.au

1. Providing for a minimum of 30% female and 30% male membership on the Councils of the Association

Background and Explanation

At the November 2022 Assembly, notices of motion were brought by 5 churches regarding the representation of women in pastoral ministry and also on the Association's Councils and Committees. One of the motions passed was:

"That the Councils of the Association and of Morling College, and all Association committees, contain a quota of at least 30% female participation. If 30% is not achieved, the places will be held open until they can be filled. That Assembly Council brings to the 2023 Annual Assembly any required constitutional changes to give effect to this motion."

The Committees of the Association are regulated by policy of Assembly Council and do not require constitutional change to give effect to this motion. Council has conducted an audit of the membership of Association committees. 7 of the 11 committees already contain the minimum 30% female representation, and Council is working with the remaining committees in this area.

Constitutional change is required to give effect to this assembly resolution with respect to the 2 Councils of the Association – the Assembly Council and Morling College Council.

In drafting these changes, Assembly Council notes its own already existing policy and that of Morling College Council, to target a minimum of 30% female and 30% male membership as part of the skills and diversity matrix of each Council.

Therefore, Assembly Council recommends that the minimum requirement of 30% on either council apply to both female members and male members and has built this into these proposed constitutional changes.

Note also that the proposed change with respect to the Morling College Council membership also corrects a current anomaly in the stated number of members in the opening phrase of Clause 13.1. It should state 13 members, not 12.



The proposed changes are as follows:

Assembly Council

Current clause:

10.2 Membership

Assembly Council shall comprise 12 persons (being the minimum number of positions required by the Incorporation Act) as follows:

- (a) 9 persons elected by Assembly
- (b) the Chair of Morling College Council, and
- (c) 2 persons co-opted by Assembly Council at its discretion.

Recommended replacement clause:

10.2 Membership

- (a) Assembly Council shall comprise 12 persons (being the minimum number of positions required by the Incorporation Act) as follows:
 - (i) 9 persons elected by Assembly
 - (ii) the Chair of Morling College Council, and
 - (iii) 2 persons co-opted by Assembly Council at its discretion.
- (b) At least 30% of the membership of Assembly Council at any time shall be female, and at least 30% male.
 - (i) If at any time less than 30% of the membership is female, any position becoming vacant will remain vacant until it is filled by a female under the normal appointment processes in this constitution.
 - (ii) If at any time less than 30% of the membership is male, any position becoming vacant will remain vacant until it is filled by a male under the normal appointment processes in this constitution.

Procedural Changes to the Association Constitution

Morling College Council

Current clause:

13.1 Morling College Council shall comprise 12 persons as follows:

- (a) 10 persons elected by Assembly
- (b) the Chair of Morling College Academic Board, and
- (c) 1 member with academic expertise co-opted by the Morling College Council itself.
- (d) 1 person selected by the Assembly Council of the Baptist Churches of Western Australia (BCWA), who is a member of an affiliated church of the BCWA.

Recommended replacement clause:

13.1 Membership

- (a) Morling College Council shall comprise 13 persons as follows:
 - (i) 10 persons elected by Assembly
 - (ii) the Chair of Morling College Academic Board
 - (iii) 1 member with academic expertise co-opted by the Morling College Council itself, and
 - (iv) 1 person selected by the Assembly Council of the Baptist Churches of Western Australia (BCWA), who is a member of an affiliated church of the BCWA.
- (b) At least 30% of the membership of Morling College Council at any time shall be female, and at least 30% male.
 - (i) If at any time less than 30% of the membership is female, any position becoming vacant will remain vacant until it is filled by a female under the normal appointment processes in this constitution.
 - (ii) If at any time less than 30% of the membership is male, any position becoming vacant will remain vacant until it is filled by a male under the normal appointment processes in this constitution.



2. Clarification of process with respect to vacancies on a Council.

Background and Explanation

Under the existing clause 9.4(b), the 2 Councils can make appointments to fill casual vacancies as they arise, which subsequently come to the next Assembly for vote. However it is unclear whether such appointments may also include vacancies not filled at an Assembly. A change to rectify this was proposed at the 2022 Annual Assembly as part of a suite of constitutional updates around the processes of election of Council members. All the other changes were passed last year however it was felt the proposed change in this particular area needed further consideration.

Assembly Council has worked on this further and now proposes a revised change. The revised clause 9.4(b) clarifies the matters around vacancies described above, simplifies the language used and removes the word 'casual', making it clear that this process applies to any vacancies in elected positions on a council, however they arise.

A small change to Clause 9.5(b) aligns terminology by also removing the word 'casual'.

Current clause:

If a casual vacancy on a council arises, the council may elect a suitably qualified person who shall hold office until the next meeting of Assembly at which time that person may be elected to the council for the remainder of the term of the casual vacancy thus filled or a new 3 year term as is applicable.

Recommended revised Clause 9.4(b)

If a vacancy on a council arises, the council may elect a suitably qualified person who shall hold office until the next Annual Assembly at which time the position is vacated and up for re-election at that Assembly by the usual process, with that person able to stand under the normal provisions.

Recommended change to Clause 9.5(b)

The resulting ~~casual~~ vacancy may be filled as specified in paragraph 9.4.

David Brown Scholarship

The David Brown RURAL AND REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP is an exciting scholarship awarded annually to a pastor, promoting excellence in pastoral leadership. This scholarship was established in memory of Rev David Brown, once a Team Leader, Ministry Support and Development with the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT.

In David's time in leadership in our movement he had a passion for regional and rural ministry, encouraging and supporting pastors and leaders ministering in those contexts.

To receive this scholarship you must:

- Be a pastor of an affiliated church or fellowship of the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT
- located outside Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle and Canberra areas.
- Be recognised as having potential or demonstrated excellence in pastoral leadership in a rural or regional setting.
- Demonstrate having made a contribution to the local community.
- Demonstrate a commitment to and connection with the wider family of Baptist Churches in NSW and ACT

Previous winners include:

- 2015 **David Strong** - Wagga Wagga Baptist
- 2016 **Ian Davie** - Moree Baptist
- 2017 **Ian Vippond** - Dubbo Baptist
- 2018 **Steve Maynard** - Gundagai Baptist
- 2019 **Wayne Spencer** - Molong Baptist
- 2020 **Rob & Cheryl Burton** - Batemans Bay Baptist
- 2021 **Stephen Gaut** - Casino Baptist
- 2022 **Samantha McNally** - Cootamundra Ministry Hub

The David Brown Award was instigated by Ken Clendinning, who first encountered David when he, as a youth leader, refereed his soccer games. Sometime after 1986, the two (along with John Cox) went on to establish the pastoral teams day training at Epping Baptist. Then after 1999, Ken worked closely with David when he served as the Associate Superintendent for Pastoral Development for the Baptist Union.

After graduating from Morling College in the 1970s, David was appointed as pastor at Yass Baptist. This was his first country experience which subsequently led to him having a great love for country ministry. David died on Christmas Day in 2005, and the David Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2007 to enable rural and regional pastors to continue the work of David and attend some learning and development experience.

Ken says:

“David was a humble, Godly man, who was relationally strong across a diverse range of persons. He was committed to building God’s Kingdom yet pragmatic about how this might best be done. He was a very caring guy which was reflected in his preaching, church governance and relational sensitivity.

He was a great pastor to pastors. He had a great passion for country churches and a deep understanding of pastoral life and ministry, especially in country churches.”





Baptist Churches
of NSW & ACT

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