

Area Minister
 Rev Lyn Thow
 Tel. 6247 8615

President
 Rev David Moyes
 Tel. 6254 6565

Secretary
 Barbara Coe
 Tel. 6242 6583

Treasurer
 Paul Bavinton
 Tel. 6241 3010

ACT Baptist Association

The next general meeting for the Association of Baptist Churches of the ACT will be held on Wednesday 18 August, 5.00-7.00pm at North Canberra Baptist Church, Condamine Street, Turner. Clayton Riddle (see article below) will talk about the future of youth activities in our churches. In addition to delegates, anyone in our churches is most welcome to come, including our young people – we'd love to hear from them!

Combined Baptist Youth Camp, 11-14 June 2010

What do you call a long weekend in June with just under 60 high school & college students, over 20 leaders, a great speaker and a fantastic worship team? You call it the first combined Baptist camp. Three churches joined for a great weekend away. The camp was held at the Wombaroo campsite near Mittagong and it was a cold weekend – I suspect that the temperature on the Saturday didn't reach double figures, brrrrrrrrrr. We had some great events through out the weekend. It all started with everyone meeting at Belconnen Baptist on the Friday afternoon and then heading off via coach and mini bus for an excellent time. It was great to see the various church groups mixing and mingling together as they got to know one another and were mixed into different groups for discussions and activities. We were privileged to have Andrew Palmer, the head of Baptist Youth Ministries NSW & ACT, come and be the speaker for the weekend and address the theme of *Big, big God, big faith, big mission, big hope*. We also had the Rural Worship team join us from Sydney; these guys did a fantastic job in allowing the students to engage in worship and get focused on God. We really appreciated the way that they got into the weekend and built relationships with many students.

There was plenty to be thankful for over the weekend: no serious injuries; some awesome food, and plenty of it; students growing deeper in their relationships with each other and with God; safe travel (we brought them all home!); good messages from the Bible; new relationships developed and a strong sense of Gods plans and

purposes for us. All these things added up to a weekend to remember for all the right reasons.

Some of the activities included a giant swing which was about two storeys high and then some; it was great to see people give this a go. We had a great bonfire which everyone enjoyed being around. There was a giant flour fight that took hours to prepare and was all over in five minutes.

Each church took responsibility for different activities and shared the leadership load. It was such a blessing to work together in this project and see it happen, as it was something that the youth pastors had been dreaming of and planning for, for a while. God was indeed present and made an impact on numerous lives, and we a grateful for all that He has done.

There are many people who deserve thanks: firstly, the churches involved and the prayer support that they gave that was so important and appreciated; secondly, the leaders who gave a whole long weekend to come and share with the kids; and to the drivers who assisted. Thanks also to Andrew Robb and the admin team at BBC for doing a great job in administering the event, right down to the last cent – good job. Most of all, thanks to our God who was present, who was active and through His grace, kept all safe.

We look forward to next year when we hope to have more students, more churches, more leaders and more excitement as we continue to work together.

Clayton Riddle, Pastor for Youth and Young Adults, Belconnen Baptist Church

Brindabella Baptist Church

Last edition, we confirmed that Des and Pauline Daniels had returned to Sydney. We continue to pray that they are being enriched in their new beginning, and are growing together as a family and as part of God's extended family.

Brindabella Baptist has been prayerfully considering its direction as a church, with the help and encouragement of preaching from Jude Morris and Wayne Martin. Their teaching is providing challenge and nurture and is helping us

to step into the future, as is the support of our Elders.

The Annual General Meeting of Brindabella Baptist Church was held on 27 June. At this meeting we farewelled many in our old leadership and welcomed in the new. While some positions remain unfilled, we are excited to see people respond to God's promptings and step into the key positions of Operations Manager, Eldership, Children's Ministry and Missions and Outreach.

As a community, we enjoyed our annual migration to camp at Merry Beach on the Canberra Day long weekend. We also participated in a series of wonderful Home Nights, where we opened our homes to others within the church for themed activities, which has helped us to get to know each other better and have some fun playing games and eating good food!

In general, the past few months have been a time of reflection, as we have considered the way forward. We continue to work together as a part of God's body, responding to His call and direction and ensuring that we treat those within our community with respect and honour. In this way, we are making sure that we look after the plank in our own eye before looking at the speck in another's. We are also taking time out to reflect on God's purpose for us as individuals and as a church. Just as individuals need time out to be still and listen to God, so does a church. In our times of prayer and study we are refining our knowledge of God's will for us, and how we can continue to serve the wider community, and get the message of God's love out to the world in a way in which we are accountable, believable and true to His Word.

Peter Simpfendorfer, Operations Manager

North Canberra Baptist Church

Between January and July of this year, we have seen ten new people attending Sunday morning services, giving us a current total of 54 adults and 9 children. This is an encouraging sign that the congregation continues to grow.

In the past week, we celebrated the 90th birthday of a much-loved member, Alex Borck.

We recently moved our fortnightly Bible Study group from Wednesday nights to Sunday mornings following morning tea and presently have an average attendance of 25 at those studies, which is quite remarkable for a congregation of our size.

Interest in cooking among the growing numbers of young mums in the Kids 'n Coffee mornings has resulted in the initiation of monthly cooking classes. These give some of the mums from different ethnic backgrounds the opportunity to

share menus from their cultures and for our Aussie mums to do the same for them. We have also been able to launch our first website at www.ncbc.org.au.

Pastor John Bracht recently announced the publication of two of his books, one already released, the other forthcoming. The first is a revised and updated version of his 1988 M.A. (Hons) thesis (University of Sydney), entitled Mormonism: The Search for a Personal God, which is now available through Amazon.com as a Kindle Edition Book. Details about the book can be found by clicking on the following website: www.amazon.com/Man-Holiness-Mormon-Personal-ebook/dp/B003PDN7BS/ref or simply Googling 'Amazon Kindle' and typing in 'John Bracht'.

The second, shorter book, aimed more at a non-academic readership, is his Mormonism: Magnificent Illusion (2010) which he began writing last year during a visit to Salt Lake City, Utah. It has a Foreword by Bishop Tom Frame, former Chaplain to the Australian Defence Force and presently Director of St. Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra, and a cover endorsement by Craig Blomberg, Professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary, Colorado, USA. It will be published by Morling Press, Sydney and should be available for sale either August or September of this year.

Pastor John observed his second anniversary at NCBC this July.

The congregation is in very good heart and grateful to God for his blessing and provision.

Dickson Baptist Church

Dickson Baptist is in a significant period of transition. After 25 years of faithful service, our Senior Pastor Lyn Thow resigned from the ministry in January. Accepting the Baptist Union's recommendation to engage the services of an Intentional Interim Pastor, the church at a special meeting in June endorsed the Rev Peter Thomas to take on this roll. Peter and his wife Michelle, who currently serve at Southwestern Community Baptist Church in Sydney, will commence on Sunday September 19.

Whilst the conclusion of Lyn's ministry has been felt by church, God has still been at work and we have much to celebrate and be thankful for.

In March, 50 young adults attended a terrific camp at Jindabyne. Our topic was 'Amazing Grace' and this was a great time of fellowship, encouragement and spiritual growth. Between April and July we have witnessed 7 baptisms – Praise God!

At the start of May, we commenced a 6-week sermon series entitled 'My Shepherd', during which we walked through one of the most loved and yet often overlooked Psalms of Scripture, Psalm 23. It was a time of healing, celebration and growth as each week we expounded and explored the rich imagery and significance of this beautiful poem. We were reminded that Jesus is our shepherd and that by keeping our eyes fixed on him, he will lead and guide us through every season of life.

In June, we held a special event at a local café, Deli Marco, where musicians Jess and Daniel Hammond from Melbourne came and shared the gospel through song. It was a sell-out with over 50 people hearing the good news proclaimed, many not from the church.

Two important ministries, the Care Ministry and our Community Outreach and Evangelism Ministry, have recently undergone a process of rethinking and revisioning their purpose, and have been commissioned and re-launched during our services with great support and enthusiasm from the community.

'Christianity Explored' has just begun for those new to the faith or wanting to explore a little more about what it means to follow Jesus. 13 men from DBC attended the Baptist Men's Retreat in July which was a great time of blessing and encouragement, and starting in mid-August, 15 couples will be significantly enriched by attending the Marriage Course that one of our Bible Study groups has kindly offered to lead.

It is with trust and hope that we place an uncertain future into the hands of a certain God.

Blessings,

Joel Small, Associate Pastor

Belconnen Baptist Church

- After 3½ years, the Saturday congregation had its final service recently. While a number of good memories were shared, there was little growth and it was hard to resource it. The leadership is looking at a possible new Sunday congregation for growth purposes.
- On the June long weekend, around 55 teenagers plus 25 leaders attended the annual Youth Camp at the Wombaroo Adventure Centre near Mittagong. It was a great success with youth and leaders from Hughes and Canberra Baptist attending as well.
- At the end of June, 30 Belconnen Baptist Church elected leaders went away for their retreat. Much time was spent reviewing the 2009 National Church Life Survey results with various goals being set for future development and growth.
- Another Alpha course has just concluded. Altogether, around 30 guests participated with an average of 25 attending the weekly sessions. Around 30 attended the Alpha Weekend. There were several first-time and recommitments to Jesus Christ. We praise God for these transformed lives.
- The annual Men's Retreat was held at Galong with Tim Hanna, the newly appointed CEO of Compassion Australia, as guest speaker. Over 60 men attended including several from other Baptist churches. Also, five men attended from Koolamon Fellowship (recently released from jail), who had received Parole Officer approval.
- Jason Harris (originally from North Belconnen Baptist) will be inducted as our new Worship Pastor on 1 August. He is married to Sheryl and they have three children.

David Moyes, Pastor

Prayer Points

Please pray for:

- Our churches as they minister to God's people
- Our young people, and the enthusiasm that they generate
- Our Baptist organisations in the work that they do throughout the community
- Those churches going through an interim period in their ministry
- Your Association, in their leadership and decision-making

Diary Dates

August 8	Spiritual Retreat afternoon (Manna House, Rivendell), 1.30-4.30pm
August 20-22	<i>Time Out</i> at Elim, <i>Women to Women</i>
October 29-31	<i>Time Out</i> at Kiah Ridge, <i>Women to Women</i>

The next edition of *The Baptist Post* will be at the end of October. If you have any items you would like included, please email them to coe.barbaraj@gmail.com by Friday 22 October. If you would like to receive *The Baptist Post* electronically, please email to the same address.