

issue 2 • August 2022

# TOGETHER

good news stories • quarterly magazine



Michelle Mitchell, BUV Community Placemaker at Olivine, a new land development in Dennybrook p.10

## THE *together on mission* ISSUE

Inspiring stories about Baptists on mission around Victoria

# welcome to our mission issue

As I end my tenure as Head of Mission Catalyst team at the BUV Support Hub it's a joy to be able to reflect and celebrate the work of the BUV in this space and in these times.

The word mission can be interpreted in many ways but for us it is clearly tied to our purpose and our reason for being. Mission is central to all we are and everything we do because the very character and purpose of God is missional, and His devotion here on earth is to release His people into this same character and purpose. In our Christian heritage, mission simply means "sent." But it is sent with this determination; to continue the love and life of Jesus Christ in the world through Kingdom values which are often radically different to the world's.

It is critical for us all to ask questions such as "Who are the people of God here?" "Who do we serve?", "Why does our

church exist?" or "What sparks the passion behind it?", "Who is God calling us to be and do?" These questions help us to understand our sense of meaning and purpose.

An outcome from asking these questions will inevitably result in the church and mission conversations.

Mission, therefore, becomes central to the church's vision and mission. Because our God's essential character and identity is missional, sometimes known in Latin as the *missio Dei*, His essential but not sole conduit for revealing His Kingdom here on earth is through the mission of God's people, the church!

In these times of disruption, secularism, and spiritual decline we can no longer sit back and wait for people to come into the doors of our churches. We are a people

who gather, only to be sent. This fulfils both the great commandment, and the great commission.

The BUV Mission Catalyst Team has been fortunate to have seen many new forms of mission emerge over the recent years. We have assisted many churches to reimagine what mission looks like in their community.

We have provided support to churches who desire to multiply through campus plants or partnerships with other churches. We have seen faith communities develop through social enterprises such as cafes, children's play centres, and many more creative places and spaces.

.../ contin

[Click here to subscribe to TOGETHER](#)

02 **WELCOME** & Reflection from Gayle Hill

03 **MISSION CATALYST** Services

03 **CHURCH PLANTING**

04 **STORY** Congregational Church Plant

07 **STORY** Micro Church

08 **MISSION REVITALISATION**

09 **FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES**

10 **STORY** Placemaking

12 **STORY** Gaming Outreach

14 **STORY** Community Outreach

16 **STORY** NextGen Together on Mission

17 **RESOURCE** Justice & Advocacy week

18 **AGENCY NEWS**

19 **PARTNERSHIP NEWS**

20 **PASTORAL NEWS**

21 **RECENT EVENTS**

22 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

23 **PRAYER CALENDAR**



# MISSION CATALYST

We have developed a network for missionally minded leaders to establish small and flexible communities of faith we call micro churches (read more on pages 4 and 6-7). And, we have identified areas of focus in growth corridors where property developers no longer build churches in their estates – so to share the love of Jesus, we adopt a Placemaking model (see story on pages 10-11) with the ultimate aim of creating flourishing communities and developing communities of faith.

We have provided a model of best practice training, equipping and assessment for church planters. We have offered missional grants for new church plants and innovative community engagement initiatives that promote mission.

Although COVID has stymied some of our missional imagination, God is and always will be active in the world. As we emerge, we are joyous to hear and see the hearts of our pastors and people desiring to join with Him in the greatest adventure one can have in this life, to be on mission with Him.

It's been a pleasure to lead this team. Please enjoy reading about the work of Mission Catalyst below.

- Gayle



The BUV Mission Catalyst Team assist our churches to become more missionally minded. The team exists to equip, encourage and empower churches and leaders in 3 main areas:

- Church Planting
- Mission Revitalisation
- Flourishing Communities

These areas are explored in more detail on the following pages.

If you would like to talk about any of the areas above, please contact [missioncatalyst@buv.com.au](mailto:missioncatalyst@buv.com.au)

The team would love to hear more about what you are doing and engage with you.

*Rev Gayle Hill is the outgoing Head of the BUV's Mission Catalyst team. She has worked collaboratively with both Mission Catalyst team members, pastors and leaders, church planters, pioneers and partner organisations to encourage fresh thinking in mission, to celebrate existing missional initiative examples and to pioneer new possibilities.*

*We thank and celebrate Gayle for the contribution she has made to the BUV Support Hub staff, Leadership Team and the wider BUV family. Please join us in praying for Gayle and her family as she focuses on a new chapter of life.*

# CHURCH PLANTING

One of the major strategic focus areas for the BUV is multiplication through church planting - which of course, can take many forms – from traditional Church plants, campus plants, missional initiatives, micro churches and even placemaking.

The Mission Catalyst Team provides assessment, training and coaching for emerging missional leaders and those who are interested in church planting or multiplying.

The following pages detail stories of different expressions of church planting.

One of the ladies from our church recently moved to Frankston and began a new relationship with a man who subsequently, gave his life to Jesus! His newfound faith has filled him with hope and purpose.

Because of their connection and his enthusiasm, the flow on effect has been contagious. Her daughter and his niece have become good friends, and are now also seeking Jesus - not religion, but authentic faith in a real God.

We have been meeting with them in Frankston to help grow in faith and in community, and a little group is turning into a larger handful as the girls invite their friends from University.

We have adapted the Alpha program to be a conversation rather than a course and are empowering the girls to lead those conversations with their friends.

It's been great to see the excitement as their understanding and acceptance of God's love grows!

One of them asked the other day "Why don't Christians tell others about Jesus? I mean it's the best thing ever!"

**IT'S BEEN SUCH A PRIVILEGE TO WALK ALONGSIDE THIS LITTLE MICRO CHURCH COMMUNITY. IT'S EXCITING TO KNOW THAT IN GOD'S HANDS OTHERS MAY COME TO KNOW HIM THROUGH THEIR TESTIMONY.**

— Matt Moran, Share Pastor,  
Croydon Hills Baptist Church,  
& its micro church ministry







Donnybrook Community Church launched its first public service at Kirrip Community Centre in Wollert on the 26th of June 2022, 18 months after a core team from Mill Park Baptist Church dared to plant a church in the ever-expanding, multiethnic growth corridor of Melbourne's North (during a pandemic!). Our 'Launch and Lunch' was well attended by visiting friends and supporters from our sending church and beyond.

We wrapped up a 5-part series developing missional habits of hope, based on Mike Frost's book, 'Surprise the World'. These missional habits of radical generosity, inclusive hospitality, Spirit-led listening, Jesus-centred learning, and apostolic sending now form a new way of being in our neighbourhood.

*– Rev Kathryn Jensen, Congregational Church Planter, Donnybrook*



# A PLACEMAKER'S MICRO CHURCH

## Doing ordinary life together

Winter can often be dreary and cold, and people just want to hunker down and wait until things warm up. But here at Aintree Micro Church we're trying to utilise these cooler months to grow deeper in relationships of love and care with some of our neighbours.

We've been inviting neighbours over to hang out and watch the footy, or rugging up and getting a local family around and lighting the fire pit and pizza oven at home one evening.

None of these things are grand events, and most are not particularly well thought out or forward planned either... they tend to be rather spontaneous, just inviting others to do the normal things that we'd be doing anyway. But, I've noticed that there is usually something that is common in these ordinary activities: food and drink.

Whether it is a meal together at the restaurant, or drinks at the local wine bar, or whether it's just a quickly



packed sandwich and fruit for when we're out bush walking, or a bag of salt and vinegar chips in the garage while we watch the footy, food and drink seems to creep its way in to pretty much everything we do.

And when it does, our friends stay longer, the conversation becomes deeper, and people open up and begin to share more vulnerably about their lives and what is going on for them right now. It's a wonderful privilege!

We have begun writing prayers and liturgies for such ordinary occasions as these – table liturgies, prayers for sitting in the sunshine, prayers for going on a hike, or standing on top of a mountain.

Our Aintree Micro Church has also been moved and challenged by recent data releases on the state of Australia's environment. ... / contin



## Finding God in the Face of Climate Change

The recently released 2,000-page State of the Environment report, commissioned by the Federal Government, found or reiterated:

- Nineteen ecosystems are on the brink of collapse
- There are now more non-native plant species in Australia than native ones
- Australia has lost more species to extinction than any other continent
- All bar one category of environment examined has deteriorated since 2016, and more than half are now in a "poor" state.

We are no longer talking about climate change in a future tense, but are describing the impacts of climate change in real time.

Our micro church in Aintree has been repeatedly moved by these kinds of statistics. And through our neighbourhood not-for-profit organisation, we are seeking to mobilise our community to do something about it.

Over the coming months we are designing our new community garden, located in at the council operated, neighbourhood house in Aintree. We are hoping to establish this community garden to show case rain water harvesting, low water usage, and other sustainable food growing techniques that people can use in their own homes.

We are also planning to use this space to help educate our community about the real time challenges of climate change and the huge carbon footprint modern Australia has.

Through community tree planting days, sustainability and food growing workshops, and guest speakers, we want to inspire a new way of living in the suburbs — a way which is kinder and more sustainable, a way which can reverse the impacts of climate change.

As a micro church we are seeking to spend more time with God in nature, reading the Scriptures — which are filled with garden and plant imagery — as we immerse ourselves in the forest, and along streams, on beaches, and on mountain tops. We know our Creator's heart is breaking as he looks upon his amazing world and sees the damage and devastation humans have caused here. We know that creation is groaning, burdened by the pressure we are placing on it through the burning of fossil fuels and the throw away culture of single use plastics.

And as a community of faith we know we must act now. We want to listen more intently to what the Spirit of the Creator is saying to us about creation — what our role has been in bringing us to this devastating point, and what we must now do in order to keep in step with what God is doing in restoring the cosmos and bringing healing to the world.

— Jono Ingram is a Placemaker and Micro Church leader in the community of Aintree, on the western outskirts of Melbourne



# MISSION REVITALISATION

Mission Revitalisation is a focus of the BUV Mission Catalyst Team.

Our Revitalise Vision and Mission Forums are based around a theology of “gratitude” – gratitude for all that God has done in the local church in the past, His ongoing agency in the present, and, His assured activity into the future.

The process involves congregational workshops that take both the pastoral leader and congregation through a Discovery, Dream, Design and Deploy cycle over a period of weeks.

The responses are gathered from all the groups’ findings and help the leaders to facilitate the church into God’s preferred future.



**"AS A PASTOR, WATCHING THE CONGREGATION ENGAGE WITH EACH OTHER AS THEY REFLECTED ON THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF THE CONGREGATION WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE."**

In May we welcomed the BUV Church Revitalisation Team to come and help our congregation begin the process of renewing our sense of mission and vision after the last couple of years. In addition to accessible yet challenging sermons in the service, BUV's Brett Mitchell facilitated a series of forums after the service where the congregation was invited to look at the ways that God had been at work in the church in the past as well as to dream a little about the future.

— Mark Nidenko, Pastor at Heathmont Baptist Church





# FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

Our Mission Catalyst team can assist in undertaking community assessments and neighbourhood portraits to help churches understand their context, demographics, and opportunities. Access to Community Engagement Grants can be provided through partnering with Baptcare.

In addition, the team trains and deploys place-makers who are ordinary Christians that have a desire to see their neighbourhoods flourish with an ultimate goal of generating a community of faith.

The Mission Catalyst team, in collaboration with Baptist World Aid, develop and provide resources to assist with advocating for justice. One of our major initiatives in this area is the BUV Justice & Advocacy Week which runs in September every year. We've compiled resources for churches to use which are available on [our website](#) or see page 18 .



## TO BE THE CHURCH WHO REACHES OUR COMMUNITY, WE HAVE TO BE THE CHURCH WHO UNDERSTANDS OUR COMMUNITY.

Our community has changed. Ideas that used to work, programs that used to connect, no longer do. So how can we reach our neighbours when people connect and gather and engage in different ways? Canterbury Baptist Church has brought together a team of “Future Builders” to work through the BUV’s Community Portrait process. The aim is to understand who our neighbours are, what needs they now face, and how we can show God’s love to them in a way that is meaningful for them.

— Stephen Field, Senior Pastor at  
Canterbury Baptist Church





Michelle Mitchell (right), Grassroots Placemakers community placemaker at Mirvac's Olivine development in Donnybrook - unveiling of cultural heritage plaque.

# Placemaking at Mirvac's Olivine community in Donnybrook

On Thursday, 2 June 2022, the local community where I work as a community placemaker, invited various people including representatives from Hume Anglican Grammar, Whittlesea Council, Mirvac Developers, Grassroots Placemakers and local residents of the Olivine community, to gather together to unveil a special plaque celebrating Reconciliation Week.

With all the activities, building and excitement of establishing a new community in Donnybrook, it was important to acknowledge the past. The plaque that was unveiled featured a fingerprint artwork by a Wurundjeri artist, acknowledging the traditional owners of the land that the Olivine Estate at Donnybrook is built on.

Students from Hume Anglican Grammar in Donnybrook attended the event and showcased Indigenous inspired artwork of their own, as well as performing a song to Country. The students also participated in a number of traditional games after the ceremony.

As the local Placemaker at Olivine, I had the privilege of helping to unveil the plaque, along with two student leaders, and a community member, which reads: "The City of Whittlesea recognises the rich Aboriginal Heritage of this Country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willum Clan as the traditional owners of this place."



To do justice is to show 'a concern for justice, peace, and genuine respect for people' and I feel that in some small way our community demonstrated a heart for doing what is right as we continue to build this new community. In my role as a Placemaker, I also have a heart for justice which entails advocating for those who don't have a voice, assisting minority groups, and strengthening the powerless.

*Micah 6:6,8 "The people of Israel say, 'What shall we bring with us when we go to worship the Lord? What shall we offer the God of heaven when we bow down to Him?... The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what He requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.'"*

I love these verses from the book of Micah, and I pray that they continue to be the benchmark for this wonderful community work that I have the privilege of being involved in. As I wander through the neighbourhood called 'Olivine', as I hear the stories of its people, as I seek to sense the Holy Spirit's work in these stories, I am in awe of what God is doing.

Our communities desperately need to find God and I strongly believe that we are God's instruments in showing His incredible love, mercy, and justice to them. We need to be present in our communities, walking and listening to the cries of people's hearts, and loving them as Jesus would.

## **BUILDING COMMUNITY |**

Meet Amalia, Mirvac Community Development Manager and Michelle, the BUV Community Placemaker at Olivine.

Amalia and Michelle work together to meet the Olivine community's needs. Through connecting people and hearing stories, the team hopes to help create a community where people can thrive and love to live.

[Click this link to watch the video](#)



**In my role as a Placemaker, I also have a heart for justice which entails advocating for those who don't have a voice, assisting minority groups, and strengthening the powerless.**

– Michelle Mitchell

# THE BIG LAN MINISTRY

## MITCHAM BAPTIST CHURCH'S JACOB RAYMENT SPEARHEADS A CREATIVE WAY TO REACH OUT TO THE GAMING COMMUNITY

The Big LAN, hosted by Mitcham Baptist, is one of its kind in Victoria. After its launch in October 2019, the ministry, led by Jacob Rayment of Mitcham Baptist Church, continues to flourish both in numbers and in its reach especially coming out of the COVID lockdowns in Victoria.

With a passion for the often socially neglected gaming community, Jacob saw the need to reach out to this particular community, highlighting the specific use of the physical church space.

"Really large portions of people come to our events who have never stepped foot into a church before—it's about breaking down that barrier," Jacob says.

The twelve-hour program of staggered tournaments, a virtual reality room, prizes galore, food, stalls, welcome bags, and a host of volunteers to register, cook, serve, and problem shoot makes for a truly memorable event for local gamers with its largest draw of people yet during its July 2022 intake with over 150+ attendees.

**We want people to  
know that you can go  
to a church... and  
hang out with cool  
people who have the  
same interest as you.**





[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT THE FIRST EVENT HELD IN 2019](#) OR VISIT [THEBIGLAN.COM](http://THEBIGLAN.COM) TO FIND OUT ABOUT THEIR NEXT EVENT.



# WESTGATE BAPTIST COMMUNITY

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

A few years back the Deacons at Westgate were seeking to discern what our Mission might look like in the next 10 years. A key word that emerged for our future was 'hospitality', but this wasn't clearly fleshed out and for a while the church drifted without a clear focus. *We were an ageing activist community who were increasingly seeing their primary focus for ministry outside of the church.*



## Composting for Community

In 2018, we put together a brief survey that asked local Yarraville cafes and food outlets how much of their food waste was thrown out instead of being recycled and composted. With a vast majority responding that they didn't have the means, we immediately jumped at the opportunity to build a relationship with these shop owners by providing them with this service.

The response has been so amazing especially given that most of the shop owners are deeply eco-conscious and have an equally deep suspicion of the church.

*We've shifted their view of church by simply responding to something that they had perceived as a need. Real friendships have grown and we sought to be a listening ear particularly as so many faced possible closure during Covid.*



## Cooking for Community

On March 2020, we offered our fully functional kitchen to a start-up veggie-burger business called Cultiv.Ate –Plant-based Yum, as well as developing a significant distribution of frozen food meals for those in isolation including what has become an on-going relationship with 2 local health centres.

One of the best results of our cooking together has been the deepening relationships with our Karen congregation. We chop, learn English and laugh so much, and the venture would not be possible without this co-operation.



***The last 3 years have been a wonderful journey in mission. We have made many new friends along the way and several of our volunteers have started coming to church and exploring faith.***

## Growing for Community

The final phase of our 3-pronged contribution to waste-reduction was the development of a Plant Nursery at the back of the Manse. We fenced off part of the back yard and again secured grants for a greenhouse and covered planting area. We use our own compost and recycled pots collected off skips and social media sites. We collect seeds and cuttings and are slowly gathering an eclectic group of people who enjoy the sense of community and for whom getting their hands in the dirt is good for their mental health.

We have sold plants and seedlings back to the greengrocers from whom we collect the waste that makes our compost. It's a lovely way of closing the loop that has emerged organically as we have sought to listen to God's spirit and to the voices of the community.

In previous years the church has struggled to secure a place at the Yarraville Festival. In 2021, the organisers (some of the café owners) actually came to us and asked to showcase our work which was a great endorsement. We sold jams and pickles made from rescued food; worm juice and compost, and plants. Once again it was clear that people were amazed that it was a church behind all of this, and several people approached us and asked how they could join us.



# FLOURISHING TOGETHER

Camberwell Baptist Church's Generations Pastor Hannah Grigg shares the highlights of joining youth groups with Canterbury Baptist Church.

## What has it been like joining the two groups together?

The momentum's been amazing! Joining up with the youths at Canterbury Baptist Church is such a beautiful way to support them [as a church]. The kids have been inviting their friends, bringing at least 5-7 friends, and being able to share God with them and talk about Jesus is just fantastic.

## What was the transition like?

Everyone was pretty welcoming of the idea. The parents' responses have been so beautiful – so many thank you emails talking about the kids all excited to come.

**"We can't get over the numbers!"**

## What are the benefits of seeing the number of youth kids double?

The bigger the numbers, the more comfortable and free the kids can be because it's not as daunting and they can blend in. It allows us to host bigger events and commit to much bigger programs that gives them more opportunities to invite their friends.

## What are you looking forward to in this ongoing partnership?

Ongoing equipping of leaders with tools to help the kids continue to share with their friends, really. And doing more youth-led programs! We've had kids come up asking us to host fundraisers or environmentally friendly events – it's all [so exciting] and very much God!

The BUV has a training pathway for Emerging leaders. Click [here](#) to find out more.



# JUSTICE ADVOCACY

**BUV's Justice and Advocacy Week, September 5-11 2022,** is an opportunity to focus and reflect on the heart of God for those who experience the challenges, inequalities, and often systemic barriers to fulfilling a flourishing life.

The BUV will be highlighting one topic each day as shown below on the topic tiles. We will be distributing daily devotion emails and running topical social media posts each day.

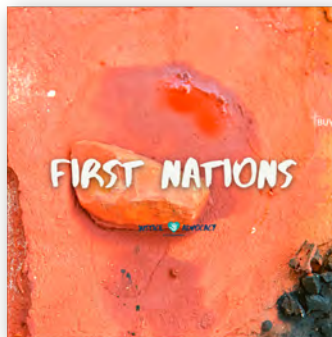
**PLAN & DOWNLOAD YOUR RESOURCES BY CLICKING ON THE TILES**



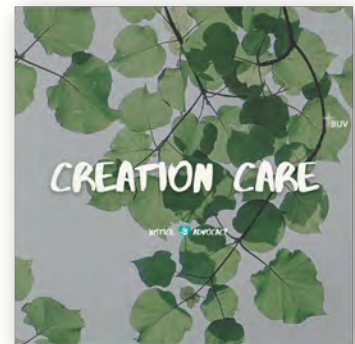
**Monday**  
**5 September**



**Tuesday**  
**6 September**



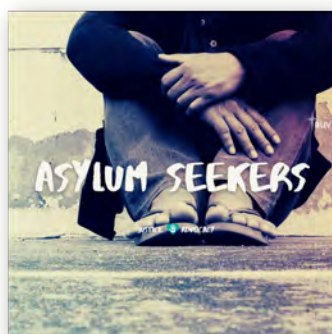
**Wednesday**  
**7 September**



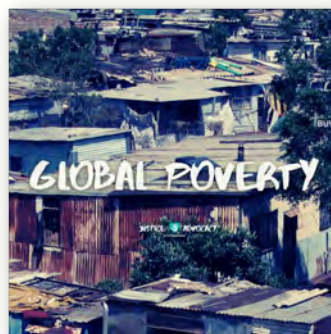
**Thursday**  
**8 September**



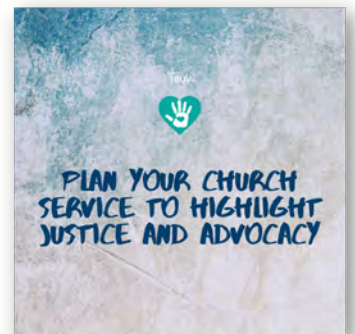
**Friday**  
**9 September**



**Saturday**  
**10 September**



**Sunday**  
**11 September**



# agency news

Each issue of TOGETHER, we will share some news from a couple of our BUV Agencies.



## Love Beyond Our Backyard

### How three generations of Baptist World Aid supporters built a legacy of generosity



Shirley Wilson remembers the day she first decided to become a Child Sponsor with Baptist World Aid Australia. It was 1977 and she was raising four children, working part time as a nurse, and helping her husband Graeme run a small poultry farm in the northwest of Tasmania.

A guest speaker from Baptist World Aid Australia visited her church, Wynyard Baptist, and spoke about a Child Sponsorship program. He explained that Australians could provide a monthly gift to support the work of Christian Partners working in places like Bangladesh and India. The funding would support children in those countries, helping them build a future free from poverty.

'I decided it would be a good thing,' Shirley said. 'I've always loved Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40, "as much as you did to one of the least of these my brethren, you did to me," and I wanted to put it into practice'. [Read the full story here](#)



## Mission through Camping - Spotlight on Mill Valley Ranch

Lloyd McLean, the Ministry Coordinator for Mill Valley Ranch shares some life-changing testimonials from recent campers all in their teenage years who attended their Winter Roundups this year:

*"When I first came to camp I did not believe in God and I used to make jokes about it, then I went to camp and decided to give it a go. My life has changed so much for the better... "*

*"I have really learnt how to be a better version of myself that I can continue to be when I leave camp."*

*"On Thursday night[s] we did worship and some Leader's prayed for me and I felt so loved by Jesus."*

Please click [here](#) to learn more about the [program](#) and the other amazing things that the team at [Baptist Camping Victoria](#) does.





## YOUR INVITATION TO PARTNER IN MISSION

We are excited about the impact that the new church initiatives are having across our State. New congregational and campus plants, micro churches, placemakers; all these are about people who are willing to take a risk and try something new, knowing that there are others who are willing to support them in that endeavour. This is partnership. We are continuing to develop these partnership opportunities as we seek God's kingdom flourishing in Victoria.

**Thanks to the amazing generosity of Baptists across Victoria, a lot of people giving a little can make a remarkable difference.**

The current congregational plant in Donnybrook is a clear example of what it means to partner together. Rev Kathryn Jensen is pioneering a church plant in the Donnybrook region, supported by a team of people from Mill Park Baptist Church. This has become a reality simply because there are active churches and individuals who recognise that by partnering together, more can be done to impact neighbourhoods with the Good News of God's love and care.

We are in the developing stages of other similar initiatives across the State in both developed and developing areas and are keen to see more partnerships developed.

Baptist history in Victoria since 1837 has shown how Baptists have responded to developing needs time and time again. During the times of the Gold Rush in Victoria, numbers of churches were planted in Central Victoria. When the Era of Agriculture arrived, churches were planted out in all four corners of the State and then when the Era of Manufacturing caused the inner suburbs to boom, numbers of Baptist Churches sprung up in the inner suburbs around that activity.

As new suburban corridors developed, so did new Baptist Churches and so the narrative continues.

We are still in times of significant development and disruption and our need to partner together is as important as ever.

**You are invited to partner with us, from just \$2 per week, as we work to share God's love across the state. Find out more at [www.buv.com.au/give](http://www.buv.com.au/give)**

If you'd like to talk more about any of these programmes or initiatives, please contact me at [Andrew.Naylor@buv.com.au](mailto:Andrew.Naylor@buv.com.au) or call the BUV Support Hub on (03) 9880 6100



*Andrew Naylor is the BUV's Partnership Development Pastor*



# pastoral news

For more news and updates please visit [www.buv.com.au/pastoral-movements](http://www.buv.com.au/pastoral-movements)



North West RMF



The staff at the BUV Support Hub had the immense privilege of hearing the stories and being served food by Pastor Thang Hen and his wife and Sung Sung for National Refugee Week.



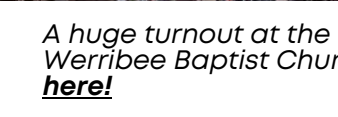
Ordination of Rev Lian Hlun



A huge turnout at the IGNITE Conference at Werribee Baptist Church! [Check out the recap here!](#)



Kim Smith in full flight on Building Teams with the Senior Pastors' Community of Practice



South West RMF



An amazing time at the Multicultural Pastors Retreat [Check out the recap here.](#)



## REMEMBERING PASTOR TOM THUAN THANH TRINH

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of Pastor Thuan Trinh (Tom)'s passing on 10 July 2022. Pastor Thuan was a student at Whitley College and also a serving pastor at Syndal Baptist Church's Vietnamese congregation. He was a joyous and generous-hearted man who loved to serve. We will all miss his infectious smile and enthusiasm!



# recent events

MAY 2022 GATHERING





# upcoming events

## BUV NOURISH & MEMBERS' DINNER - SAVE THE DATE

**FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 2022**

Twice a year, we look forward to our Gathering - a day for Pastors, leaders and church delegates to get together for encouragement, connection and discernment.

**NOURISH for BUV Pastors** will be held **from 9:30am - 3pm** at **NewHope Baptist Church.**

**October Members' Dinner (Assembly Gathering)** will be held **at 6pm** at **Karralyka Centre, Mines Rd, Ringwood.**

Registration for NOURISH and October Members' Dinner opens early September

### WHITLEY COLLEGE - PASTOR'S ROUNDTABLE

Leading when you don't know where you are going - church in (post)covid times

September 16 | Forum for Baptist church leaders around the future of the Church (post) covid times.

Free in-person event at NewHope Baptist Church | Register [here](#).

### MARRIAGE CELEBRANT TRAINING

Thurs, 6 October | Resource/training day for new and experienced celebrants who are in need of a refresher training.

\$59.95 booking fee (profits donated to charity) | Register [here](#).

### EMERGE NEXT STEPS IN LEADERSHIP

October 11 | Resource/training experiences for Baptist leaders/aspiring leaders.

Free online event | Register [here](#).

Click the image below to download your copy of the 2022 Key Training Dates



**BUV 2022 Jul-Dec KEY TRAINING DATES**

RMF NORTH WEST- AUG 10-12

EMERGE - NEXT STEPS IN LEADERSHIP AUG 9, OCT 11

GENERATIONS NETWORK AUG 10, PRAYER DAY NOV 16

JUSTICE & ADVOCACY WEEK SEP 5-11

LOTE PASTORS MEETING SEP 22

MARRIAGE CELEBRANT TRAINING OCT 6

NOURISH, PSW & MEMBERS DINNER OCT 21

ORDINATION SERVICE OCT 22

REGISTER @ [www.buv.com.au/events](http://www.buv.com.au/events)

CREATING SAFE SPACES TRAINING  
Full list at [www.buv.com.au/events/creating-safe-spaces](http://www.buv.com.au/events/creating-safe-spaces)

For more information on all BUV Training and Events, please visit [buv.com.au/events](http://buv.com.au/events)



# prayer calendar

We love to be praying for our churches and their ministries. Join us as we pray for one church each day.

august 2022




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Now and Not Yet Inc.	Nyora & District Baptist Church	Oakleigh Baptist Church	Ocean Grove Baptist Church	Chin Baptist Church Inc	Pakenham Baptist Church
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pathway Baptist Church	Reservoir Baptist Church	Reservoir Vietnamese Baptist Church	River of Life Church	Rock City Church	Rokeby Baptist Church	Rosanna Baptist Church
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Rowville Baptist Church	Sale Baptist Church	Samoan Baptist Church Dandenong	Samoan Victory Baptist Church	Sanctuary	SandyLife Baptist Church	Saving Grace Baptist Church
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Seed Gospel Communities	Seymour Baptist Church	Shalom Church of Melbourne	Shepherd Centre Church	Shepparton Baptist Church	Shepparton Chinese Christian Fellowship	Sion Church
28	29	30				
Social Foundry	Southern Cross Community Church	Southern Mallee Cooperative Parish				

For more prayer and devotions resources, please visit [buy.com.au/pray](http://buy.com.au/pray)

# *Have a Good News Story of your own?*

*Send through your Good News Stories to  
[comms@buvm.com.au](mailto:comms@buvm.com.au)*



 @BaptistUnionVictoria  
 @the\_buv  
 [www.buv.com.au](http://www.buv.com.au)

Editor: Melissa Rule, Head of Communications, BUV - [melissa.rule@buvm.com.au](mailto:melissa.rule@buvm.com.au)

Copyright 2022: All materials appearing in Together are copyright. Reproduction in whole or part is not permissible without the written permission of the publisher.  
No advertising