



The Messenger

September 2025

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2025 Theme



AGENCY: the ability to make decisions and act independently .

Will they be safe?

On Sunday, 24 August, our guest preacher Mandy Gray share about the transforming power of the cross and posed the question *Are we ready for transformation?* Mandy drew our attention to [our values](#) that she had found on our website minutes before preaching and the message that followed touched on the content of the values.

Mandy shared ancient examples from the bible and recent examples where the church community was unwelcoming to people whose lives had been and were being transformed by coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and by experiencing God's love and acceptance. Where they continue to be known for their past lives.

Mandy mentioned her expectation of a move of God that will bring people into the church and concluded her message by asking - **when they come, will they be safe?**

The Report from the *National Church Life Survey 2025* has arrived and you can access it [here](#). The Report shows that God has indeed been adding people as 31% of attenders here are new arrivals to this local church in the past 5 years. About 10 people have started attending since the last edition of *The Messenger*.

12% are newcomers (new to any church in the last 5 years) 78% agree that this local church is always ready to try something new



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Love God Love People



The work that each of us is doing to take up the 2025 Challenge of becoming more authentic moves us towards readiness for an influx of new people and growth in current people.

What is a Safe Church?

Mandy is passionate about the church modelling the love of Christ by promoting physical, emotional and spiritual safety in all that we do. The Creating Safe Spaces Workshop that she facilitates covers identified minimum standards for compliance with various legal obligations.

Beyond the emphases of safety from abuse for children and vulnerable, WHS and Privacy are also factors in making a person feel safe. The screening and mandatory training for various volunteer roles and emphasis on Risk Assessment and Record Keeping demonstrate that we are making every endeavour to create a safe environment.

Is there something new to do to become ready for an influx of new attenders?

Our Values

EVERYBODY'S WELCOME

EVERYONE'S WELCOME

..... because

NOBODY'S PERFECT & ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE.

Whatever your faith background or spiritual tradition; whatever your belief system, ethnicity or culture or marital status - ***we're glad you're here.***

NOBODY'S PERFECT

Therefore, Jesus is at the centre of all we do. We are a community where it's OK to not be ok. That's why one of our most important rules is - ***keep it real.***

ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE

We believe in the miracle of a changed life. We believe that God is real and active. We believe - ***there is no problem in human life that apprenticeship to Jesus cannot solve.***

Future Directions 2025 Group

Group Members have the NCLS

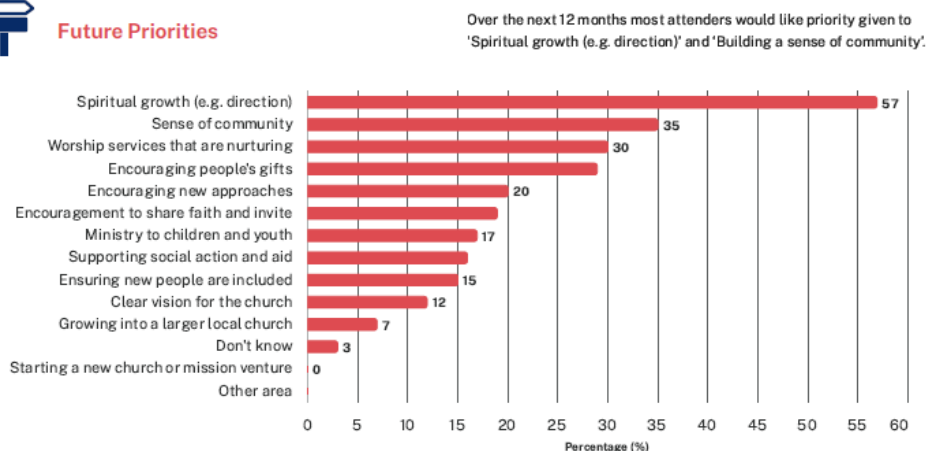
Report and will meet to plan the next steps in the process previously outlined by Alf and Will .

Priorities for the next 12 months identified in the report align to building a strong base which can potentially answer Mandy's questions ***Are we ready for transformation? Will the transformed be safe here?***

Page 6 of the report.



Future Priorities



Baptist distinctives

For many people, denominational loyalty has diminished in importance when they choose the church they will attend. This may be a good thing. It's more important to choose a church where the gospel is preached and taught and where loving God and loving people is of major importance. However, the Lord has called us to this local church where we value certain Baptist distinctives.

Among these distinctives are the priesthood of believers and soul liberty. How these are defined vary from place to place. One such definition is:

The priesthood of the believer means that Christians require no separate priesthood other than that of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because Christ is the only mediator between humans and God, each believer has the privilege and duty of direct access to God.

Soul liberty is the responsibility that all believers share to understand and obey God's requirements for themselves. This duty cannot be delegated to another believer. Each individual believer is personally responsible for understanding and obeying God.

The theme of making decisions and taking responsibility for the consequences of those decisions is found in **Galatians 6: 2-5**

²Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else,⁵ for each one should carry their own load.

The distinction in these verses is that we need help from others to carry burdens but have all we need to carry our own load (responsibilities).

The term agency is coming into popular usage from modern psychology where it is defined as

AGENCY: the ability to make decisions and act independently

The Christian walk is not a walk of independence but of dependence on God who empowers us with his Holy Spirit. However, we, like all of the creation, are called to maturity and fruitfulness and not to be stuck in infancy or immaturity.

The role of the church leadership is *to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.* [Ephesians 4:12-13].

The One-Anothering principle - Pastoral Care in action

Health in the gathered body of Christ depends upon each one playing their part, thus creating unity with diversity. [1 Corinthians 12:12] and the one-anothering principle that appears so many times. Here is a sample:

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. [John 13:4]

'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' [John 13:34-35]

Be devoted to one another on love. Honour one another above yourselves. [Romans 12:10]

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling-block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. [Romans 14:13]

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. [Romans 15:7]



I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. [1 Corinthians 1:10]

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. [2 Corinthians 13:11]

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. [Galatians 5:13]

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. [Ephesians 4:2-3]

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. [Galatians 3:16]

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. [1 Thess 5:11]

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.' [1 Peter 5:5]

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. [1 John 4:12]

Pastoral Care - a formalised approach

Much of our pastoral care has been carried out as we operate the one-anothering principles and, since the retirement of the assistant pastor, some years' ago, I have taken the responsibility of filling the gaps assisted by the Elders (particularly Rob James) and a number of other trusted congregation members.

At the beginning of the year, the Elders decided that the time had come to, once again to establish a team that people to operate in the Pastoral Care space. A number of people have met under the leadership of Rob and the process of defining the role of the team and its members is underway.

We will be able to publish the scope and boundaries of the team at a later time.

The team will not take the one-anothering work from the congregation but will supplement it and operate within the safeguards of our **Privacy** and **Safe Church** policies.

The 2025 Challenge and the year so far

Scripture tells us that *Many plans are in a man's mind, but it is the Lord's purpose for him that will stand.* [Proverbs 19:21 Amplified]. The year so far has surely followed this path as the circumstances of our lives have taken us by God's path to take us on the journey towards *Authenticity*.

While the teaching program provides us with direction and opportunities for adjustment and growth, circumstances play an important role in shaping us individually and corporately into the community of faith God is building at Tuggeranong Baptist Church. These includes

- Births for the Ashford/Low, Mann, Bate, Merrit, Tod and Yoganantham families.
- Deaths for the Liddall, Bate, Merrit and Selvaratnam families.
- Marriages for the Yoganantham family several weeks from now
- Sickness during the winter at a record high with COVID and other respiratory diseases and other medical episodes.
- Continuing adjustments to deteriorating health.
- Financial uncertainty with cost of living increases and changing global pressures.
- Wars, famine and political unrest.

- Environmental changes in nature and in our own living conditions and lifestyles including loss of friendships and work colleagues.
- People leaving the church
- People joining the church

Community Building - Food events

Building of community in the body of Christ is one of our one-anothering responsibilities. However, we plan and execute a number of events throughout the year to provide a framework for community building.

So far this year we have shared lunch at the beginning of terms 1 and 3 and Easter buns morning tea and we look forward to the Spring Sausage Sizzle after our Christmas Picnic at the beginning of December. For the last 2 years, we have had to cancel our Christmas picnic in the park because of inclement weather. This year we will have the picnic and will move it into the church building if the weather is not fine.

Dinners at the Town Centre Vikings have occurred on a Wednesday night mid-way through each of Terms 1, 2 and 3 and the next will occur mid-way through Term 4 and before the start of the many Christmas commitments that crowd into people's lives.

Details of Events are published in the App and Website and there is even provision for you to automatically incorporate future events in your calendar so that you can plan your other commitments around the church events you wish to attend.

Thanks to the team of General volunteers from the Operations team who prepare the spaces we use for our food events, purchase supplies, prepare food and tidy up on these occasions and thanks to all who come together to celebrate each time.

Community Building - growing in knowledge of the Word

The [Explorers](#) have continued, as Bereans, to come together to examine the whole counsel of the Word of God and understand its application to our context. We often have more questions than answers.

Our pre-school and primary school aged children are taught in the fun environment that is [TBC Kids Church](#) each Sunday during the school term.

The [Boys'](#) and [Girls'](#) Brigade meet at the same time and location each Thursday evening during term.

Details of all the groups are in the App/Website.

A group of women meet for Bible Study including prayer and supporting one another. The group is open to women who attend the church. Ask someone in a teal jacket on a Sunday to introduce you to the co-ordinator for full details.

Community Building - Outreach

The groups listed above all open to people outside of the church community. The [Op Shop](#) and [Connect for Craft](#) groups have an outward focus.

Each person in the church community has the responsibility for outreach as they make connections with people in their daily lives. It is often the case, that the longer one has been part of the church, we have fewer friends/connections with people outside the church. It is useful for us to intentionally include activities or memberships in groups outside the church where we might be God's salt and light.

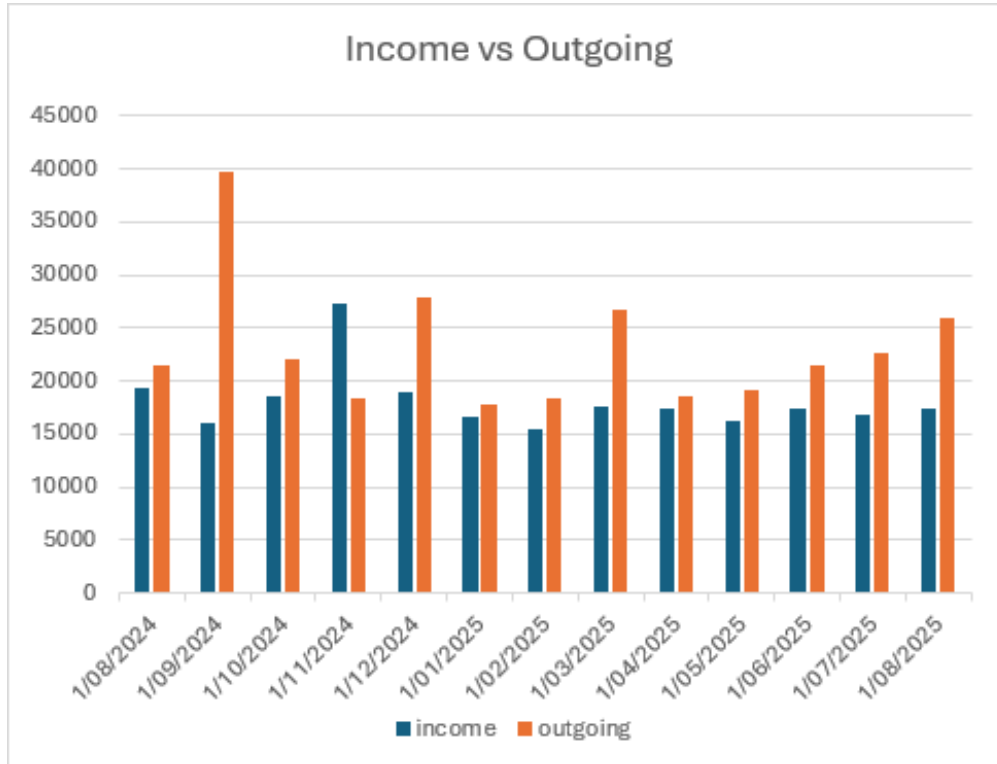
The harvest fields where we have workers include your places of work and recreation. Some examples that operate within our local body are exercise and other classes, sporting groups (especially golf), craft groups, book clubs, youth organisations, refugee organisations and charities that meet local or international needs.



Finance

The church's financial year concludes on 30 September.

These charts show that, in every month, our outgoings have been more than the offerings received. We do not receive any financial support from any other organisation. This means that we have continued to use our reserves to meet operating costs. Our reserved funds provide us with such things as the ability to undertake maintenance on our property, financially support different ministries or extend our pastoral, janitorial and administrative staff.



September is our highest expenditure each year as this is when our insurance is paid and other quarterly expenses are due. Last year this cost was \$14,000.00

Our reserves help us to meet unexpected or intermittent safety costs and there have been several of these recently including, external security/safety lighting, repair of malicious damage to window, replacement of expired defibrillator batteries and pads and eradication of pigeon nuisance is the latest on this list.

Date	Offering received	Opshop & COG donations	building use & bank interest	Total income	expenses	loan	Outgoing
31/08/2024	\$15,819.00	\$1,821.60	\$1,648.72	\$19,289.32	\$20,161.34	\$1,428.00	\$21,589.34
30/09/2024	\$12,687.00	\$1,944.00	\$1,441.11	\$16,072.11	\$37,895.17	\$1,785.00	\$39,680.17
31/10/2024	\$16,217.00	\$1,580.00	\$846.27	\$18,643.27	\$20,627.03	\$1,428.00	\$22,055.03
30/11/2024	\$23,561.68	\$2,824.50	\$920.29	\$27,306.47	\$16,919.33	\$1,428.00	\$18,347.33
31/12/2024	\$16,135.00	\$2,231.00	\$600.11	\$18,966.11	\$26,074.70	\$1,785.00	\$27,859.70
31/01/2025	\$15,815.00	\$627.00	\$186.48	\$16,628.48	\$16,378.40	\$1,428.00	\$17,806.40
28/02/2025	\$13,417.05	\$1,567.00	\$448.97	\$15,433.02	\$16,938.64	\$1,428.00	\$18,366.64
31/03/2025	\$15,064.00	\$2,147.50	\$451.79	\$17,663.29	\$26,254.92	\$489.00	\$26,743.92
30/04/2025	\$14,665.45	\$2,474.70	\$254.85	\$17,395.00	\$18,540.33	\$132.00	\$18,672.33
31/05/2025	\$13,444.00	\$2,473.50	\$270.66	\$16,188.16	\$19,098.86	\$132.00	\$19,230.86
30/06/2025	\$15,656.00	\$1,129.00	\$654.00	\$17,439.00	\$21,254.69	\$165.00	\$21,419.69
31/07/2025	\$14,768.32	\$1,669.70	\$490.36	\$16,928.38	\$22,467.99	\$132.00	\$22,599.99
31/07/2025	\$13,867.00	\$3,236.00	\$343.41	\$17,446.41	\$25,821.39	\$130.00	\$25,951.39



Tools for Reviewing your Giving

The NCLS Report shows that 25% of those who completed the survey give 10% of their net income. It is likely that the testimony of these givers is in line with the scriptures

... Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.** [Malachi 3:8-10]

²¹ The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously; ²² those the Lord blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be destroyed. ²³ The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; ²⁴ though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. ²⁵ I was young and now I am old, yet **I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.** [Psalm 37:21-25]

Some local churches or denominations prescribe tithing as a condition of membership. However, in line with the principle of soul liberty we see tithes and offering as a matter of individual conscience. We do see the wisdom of percentage giving as way that each can play their part. It's the same percentage for everyone though the \$amounts will vary.

ABOUT GIVING WE ADVISE THAT:

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. [1 Peter 4:10]

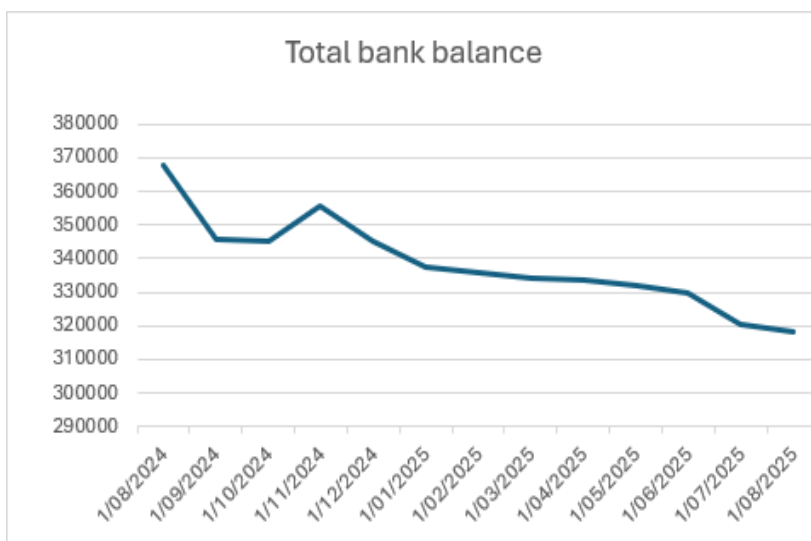
Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver]2 Corinthians 9:7]

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR REVIEW

1. Watch Phil Waugh's sermon [Generosity The Garratt Street Centre home of Tuggeranong Baptist Church | Going Deeper - Generosity - 19 May 2024](#)
2. Adapt the CAP Money sttaegoes amd develop a money management plan to Budget, Save and Spend Our mentors. You can use the Money Smart website [Budget Planner](#) to help with this.
3. Questions to ask yourself:
 - How long is it since I set my regular giving amount?
 - What has changed since? (More or Less income or expenses)
 - What percentage of my income was this amount?
 - What percentage of my income am I giving now?
 - Has your offering kept up with the rate of inflation and the CPI increases to your income since you last set the amount? Use the [Money Smart Inflation Tool](#)
 - What would you have to give up if you increased your giving in line with the inflation calculator?
 - Can **you**?

Value of 2020 Australian Dollars today

\$100 in 2020 → \$123.33 in 2025



SOME COST-MINIMISATION MEASURES

Reduce administrative load by effective use of the App and Website capacity. Sign up for the App and keep Notifications running as the main method of notifications/communications. Reduce administrative load by not having to send email as well as load App.

Budget Morning Teas – The church will pay for all the supplies so that funds that, at a previous time, were spent on more lavish morning teas can now be used for meeting other essential expenses.

Solar power – Maximise using the building during daylight hours. As long as the sun is shining, the electricity is free.

Maintain the building and its equipment to avoid future more costly repair or replacement.

Desist from leaving items anywhere in the building to be dealt with by staff or volunteers and results in financial expenditure for the church.

Comply with Safe Church policy, particularly the Procedure for Staff and Volunteers and associated record keeping so that, at a later date, the church is not faced with legal costs associated with future claims. As an exemption to the usual rule of the presumption of innocence, churches are presumed guilty of abuse.

Sunday Morning Tea

Various ways of delivering this service have now been considered and, we have decided its format. All supplies for the morning tea will be provided by the Operations Team so that there is no financial burden on anyone who might volunteer serve on a Sunday.

Preparing for and clearing away the morning tea set up are ideal ways to get involved in volunteering for anyone who can only serve on a Sunday.

To find out more about engaging with the church and its activities, visit this display and read the April Edition of [The Messenger](#) or ask someone wearing a teal jacket.

Volunteer Vacancies

[The Op Shop](#) volunteer roster is very stretched and more volunteers are needed. Whenever there are not 2 volunteers available, the Op Shop is closed.

Mona's move to Melbourne has created gaps in gardening, cleaning and offering counting rosters. She is continuing in the Treasurer role for the time being.

The [Worship team](#) welcomes suitably musically qualified members to the team and leaders for our Children's ministries ([Boys](#) and [Girls](#) Brigade and [Kids Church](#)) are always needed.

Our [General Volunteers](#) do all sorts of things around the building and garden to promote the smooth running of all ministries.

Be ready for the Future

To help spread the load of service now, and to be ready for a future influx of people being added to the church, we need to build our volunteer base. To be ready to serve, you need to invest some time to meet our Safe Church requirements.

Consider undertaking the [Process for Volunteering](#) now to avoid delays in starting to serve.



The 2025 Challenge

To find out more about engaging with the church and its activities, visit this display and read the April Edition of [The Messenger](#). or ask someone wearing a teal jacket.

The last word

It is encouraging to see, from the NCLS Report, that worship and maturing in Christ are things we value and that are of most importance to us. As stated in our value statement *We believe in the miracle of a changed life. We believe that God is real and active. We believe - there is no problem in human life that apprenticeship to Jesus cannot solve.*

We are thankful for the work of our Worship, Safe Church and Operations teams as they keep showing up to create the safe environment where we can come to gather in God's presence to be transformed and equipped for the good work he has prepared for us.

The Future Directions Group will now take into consideration the NCLS Report and proceed with engaging with us at a date to be set in the near future.

Many thanks to all of you who completed the *Creating Safe Spaces Workshop* in May and a reminder to make sure your certificate is on file.

We have certainly been buffeted by circumstances that have slowed down our projected progress and impacted our attendances and we are now moving into a new COVID wave. You are always welcome to wear a mask and disinfectant is still available as you enter the Auditorium.

The end of this year is approaching and the current teaching series on Ephesians will lead into the pre-Christmas season. The other events that occur are the Brigades Father's Day celebration, [Spring Baptisms](#) the [Spring Sausage Sizzle](#), the term [4 Community Dinner](#) and the [Christmas Picnic](#) (in the Park or in the Building), the [Annual General Meeting](#) and [Brigades Break Up Celebration](#).

Over the Christmas break, we will move to [Church On-line only](#) as this provides opportunities for the teams who do all of the work that goes into our on-site services.

Thanks for your continued prayer that supports our worship and witness at Tuggeranong Baptist Church and into the harvest field.

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus Philippians 3:13-14 [New International Version]

Our Heavenly Father are invites us to follow this example.

Blessings

Ian Reid,

Lead Pastor Tuggeranong Baptist Church

For the Leadership Team