



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

1 September 2022

Listed below are the main decisions and questions from our recent Host Group meeting. This is not the full minutes, but a summary of the main decisions and questions. In line with our church policy, these are circulated not only for your information, but to allow you to consider the decisions and ponder the questions and, if you have any concerns about any of them, to seek more information or ask for them to be reconsidered. Where possible, we will not implement the decisions for at least seven days, in order to allow time for people to respond. Questions or concerns can be raised with any member of the Host Group, or by emailing all of them at once at hosts@southyarrabaptist.church

Those in attendance at the recent meeting via Zoom were Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Dennis Fisher, Samara Pitt, Liesl Filippi and Nathan Nettleton. Ian Cook sent his apologies.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. **Nathan's work hours** for the past 4 weeks have hit the target, for the first time in ages! There was another 20 hours spent at church camp but he only included certain camp activities in his paid hours.
2. The **conversations about a new Baptist Association** are continuing and agreement has been reached to go ahead with establishing it, under the name of the "Open Baptists Association". This is especially important and timely for a group of churches in NSW/ACT as the move to expel them from the state Union looks set to be formally approved this month. Nathan hosted a discussion about this at our church camp, and will convene another one online in the next month or so to include those who weren't at camp. There is no action required from us at this stage, but at some point we will need to decide whether to formally join the new association as a member church, in addition to our membership of the BUV.
3. As part of our Safer Churches policy, we encourage all congregation members to get a **Working With Children Check**, even if your contact with children in our congregation is minimal. It is one thing we can do to uphold a culture of caring for children in our church.
4. Events this month included attending a workshop on **Listening to the Uluru Statement from the Heart**, run by Brooke Prentis. This was an excellent overview of the Statement, and where it fits in the call for Truth-telling, Treaty and Voice. We will have an opportunity to read and reflect on the Statement at our AGM. Thanks also to Sylvia and Mark for organising the trip to the **'Return to Nature' art exhibition** with 9 attendees sharing lunch together afterwards.
5. **Church camp** was held in Anglesea with a full program ranging from games, singing and beach walks to more serious conversations and even a PhD thesis discussion on Revelation! Thanks especially to Eliz who did a power of work leading up to and on the weekend. This is our last camp at Araluen, the venue is no longer able to cater for small weekend groups like us.
6. Our **AGM** is coming up on Sunday 18 September at 1pm. After a fairly prompt receiving of reports, we will have a **listening circle on the Uluru Statement from the Heart** which was the prompt for the referendum on a Voice to Parliament which will be held in the next 12-18 months. If you want to start thinking about this now, you can find the Statement at <https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement>

7. A **conversation about how we do funerals** was held on camp, and will be offered again soon - stay tuned for more details.
8. Anyone is welcome to **attend a host meeting**, please let Nathan know if you wish to do so. The hosts may also invite a congregation member to attend a meeting if we feel they have insights into a particular issue on the agenda.

Dates for your diary:

September 18	Church AGM and listening circle, 1pm
October 6	Host meeting, 7pm