



# *South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

## *Decisions and questions from the Host*

### *Group Meeting*

*1 July 2015*

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 them. If you have any concerns about any of the decisions, you are encouraged 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](mailto:hosts@southyarrabaptist.church)

Those in attendance at the recent meeting were Eliz Cook, Nathan Nettleton, Alison Sampson, Sylvia Sandeman, Shelley Taylor and Samara Pitt.

### **Summary of the Decisions**

1. **Baptist marriage rites:** The BUV Gathering affirmed that marriage is defined for Baptist pastors as being only between a man and a woman. Our congregation will need to decide whether we want our pastors to refrain from doing state paperwork for marriages which would mean that marriage ceremonies conducted by our pastors are available to all. **Nathan** will prepare a discussion paper in preparation for the August AGM.
2. **Church sign:** The wording and design for the new sign outside the church has been approved, which includes an acknowledgement of the traditional custodians. Sylvia and Nathan will organise for it to be made and installed.
3. **Nathan's leave:** Nathan will be overseas at a conference from 9 August to 2 September.
4. **AGM:** The date will remain August 16, as advertised.
5. **Website income:** Income from the laughingbird website will continue to be used for conference costs for contributors, and will be split 75:25 between Nathan and Alison.
6. **First Aid box:** Eliz will maintain the church's first aid box. Please contact her if you notice something is missing or has run out.

### **Questions to the Congregation**

7. **Eucharist at the Anniversary dinner:** We are keen to hear feedback from the congregation on the Anniversary dinner. In particular, we would like to hear whether people feel that it is important that the Eucharist element of the meal be more clearly identified in the liturgy. For example, would it be better to use some of our usual words and actions (such as serving bread to each other, and toasting with wine and water) in the midst of the meal? Are there other things that we should consider?

**Next meeting:** 5 August at 7:30pm at Nathan's house.