



BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

CHURCH & COMMUNITY
PROFILE AS AT 10.08.2019

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Belmont Baptist Church is a member of 'The Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT' and is doctrinally aligned to this Association. The church building and property is situated at 25 - 27 Maude Street, Belmont. NSW 2280.

OUR CHURCH STORY

The story of Belmont Baptist Church commenced in 1928 when a small group started a home fellowship that was supported by Hamilton Baptist Church. In 1932 Belmont Baptist Church was formally established with a membership of 21. The membership grew and the Church nurtured two other fellowships, one of which continues today as Swansea Baptist Church.

Since that time other chapters have been added to our story with the fellowship growing and a weatherboard church, fronting Pacific Highway, being built. In 1973 a new brick church building was constructed on an adjoining large block of land and a hall was added. Later an additional story was added to the hall.

After a long term ministry that provided stability and finished in 2012, the Church sadly experienced times of unrest and two pastorates that did not finish well. However, in the last 18 months, our story has returned to better times with our pastoral needs being served by a very capable interim Pastor, Rev Phil Skinner. This has resulted in a settledness and desire to hone our focus and seek God's will for us as a community of believers. Also in this time, with the support of Ian Altman from the Baptist Association, we have undertaken a "Transformation" process that has allowed us to review our story, reset our Values and affirm our Mission and desire to move forward. However, to continue our story we need the leadership and support of a committed Senior Pastor called by God.

Over the years the Lord has done a work through the Church which has had Kingdom results in a number of areas.

- We experienced good growth in Church membership in the 1960's which required a building program. That era saw a significant Sunday School ministry which peaked in the 1980's such as to require the church to run a fleet of 3 buses to cope with the numbers. The Sunday School ministry has diminished to catering for about 10 - 25 now. We see that as a result of the focus of society changing rather than an unsuccessful program.
- Both Boys and Girls Brigade were started shortly after in those facilities and Girls Brigade remains with a small number of girls attending each week.
- The Church has a strong ministry through KYB with about 20 regulars attending each week.
- With the building facilities available, the Lord moved the Church to start a Christian School which operated on the church site for 10 years until its numbers grew beyond the site's capacity. The school moved to a new site in 1992 and in doing so also changed its name to Belmont Christian College "A ministry of Belmont Baptist Church." The College caters for around 650 pupils from Prep to Year 12. This is a significant ministry for the Church.
- The Church has had a strong mission focus across many years. This has involved support of a number of missionaries and mission projects.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCES

Currently we minister to a congregation of about 150 (85 of whom are members) and have a pastoral team of an interim Pastor (Rev Phil Skinner) and two elected Elders along with 4 Deacons. We are not deeply associated with either local or state denominational events but through soccer, Girls Brigade, Know your Bible, Special Religious Education and World Day of Prayer, we have ties and interaction with other churches.

The church tends to have a traditional outlook but is seeking to be contemporary and relevant to the community in its style. We believe we are a biblically grounded fellowship.

The Sunday morning service commences at 9.30am. Music is contemporary and run by a team of talented musicians. IT is used to enhance worship and inform the congregation. About 90 adults attend this service many of whom are older folk and family groups. "Kidz Time" operates at this time with up to 25 children. There is no regular evening service at present. However, "Dinner Church" is run on occasions to promote special events or when special guests are visiting.

We draw from an extended area encompassing 19 suburbs within a 10km radius, 70% of the congregation come from the central area of Belmont, Belmont North, Floraville, Tingira Heights, Valentine and Jewells (2280 Postcode area). The congregation is an older one with the majority being over 55.

A "STRAW POLL" OF THE BREAKDOWN OF THE CURRENT CHURCH POPULATION INDICATES:

0 - 12 years >> 26

19 - 30 years >> 5

51 - 70 years >> 46

13 - 18 years >>7

31 - 50 years >> 25

71+ years >> 46

Married couples (no children at Church) >> 25

Single adults >> 41

Families (those with children at church) >>14

STRENGTHS:

- There has been a basis of sound conservative biblical teaching over many decades.
- There is genuine interest, empathy and support within the church community.
- There is a committed Leadership Team in place.
- We are a welcoming Church.
- Our Christian College has a sound reputation in the community.
- We have a strong Missionary focus.
- We have a renewed Vision as a Church.
- There are people who are generous with their time and finances.

AREAS TO IMPROVE:

- In the past we have, at times, been inward looking.
- We have been disengaged with the local community.
- There has been a declining number of young families.
- Currently our youth program is in abeyance.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Developing a focus in seeking to reach into and support the local community.
- "Kids Hope Australia" - opportunity to support the local Primary School.
- Building closer ties with the College.
- Extending the Life Groups within our fellowship.
- The Church has been blessed with physical resources and we are seeking God's leading in putting them to use.

NEEDS, AT THIS TIME:

- We need equipping to take advantage of the opportunities available to share the gospel in the community.
- The establishment of a robust youth and family ministry.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

The basic leadership structure includes: Pastor, Elders and Deacons

- The church has currently an interim, part time Pastor, two Elders, and 4 Deacons.
- The Pastor deals with most pulpit preaching and along with the Elders deals with most pastoral care needs. The diaconate manages business matters.
- Ministry Team Leaders are endorsed annually by the Church, to minister in the areas of their calling. They are responsible to the Pastor and Leadership Team.
- The Leadership team will, from time to time, appoint working committees with people from the church for various specific purposes. e.g. Transition Team/Pastoral Search Committee, Safe Spaces Committee etc.
- The Church seeks to maintain communication across the fellowship through the Weekly Bulletin. It holds a yearly AGM and other meetings as necessary. The Pastor normally chairs these meetings.
- The church is governed by the Belmont Baptist Church Constitution.

MINISTRY AREAS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

- **Kidz Time:** – Meets while parents are in church Sunday mornings.
- **Girls' Brigade** – mostly Cadets and Juniors.
- **Special Religious Education (SRE):** – Scripture teaching in two local primary schools; work with other local churches in the support of an SRE teacher at Belmont High School.



- **Youth** – in the past there has been an active Youth program. This is in abeyance at present.
- **Belmont Christian College (BCC)** – around 650 pupils drawn from over 70 local churches (see below).

FAMILIES:

- Presently, occasional **picnics** and gatherings.

WOMEN:

- **Special Events** - Activities range from practical support to outreach. About four events are held each year such as outreach breakfasts, Mother's Day dinners and similar events, with up to 40 women attending.
- **Catering** – For funerals, morning teas and varying functions.

MEN:

- **Special events** – as opportunities arise - currently in abeyance.

FURTHER MINISTRIES:

- **Friendship Circle** caters for senior people 50+ years . A range of activities run each Friday morning with 30 + in attendance. Quite a number are from outside BBC.
- **Life Groups** – a number of groups meet during the week and provide opportunity for more intensive bible study, fellowship and support.

- **Sporting Activities** – Various teams represent the Church in soccer competitions.
- **Know Your Bible (KYB)** - Catering for women from a number of churches.
- **Prayer Chain** – A phone/internet based prayer chain is active with a number of contacts who pass on urgent prayer needs. It operates on a needs basis.

BELMONT CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
“A MINISTRY OF BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH”:

Belmont Christian College is located on the narrow scenic isthmus that lies between Lake Macquarie and the Pacific Ocean. The site is heritage listed and was once the John Darling Colliery. A vision for Christian schooling in the Belmont area was first conceived by members of Belmont Baptist Church and has seen the College grow from humble beginnings with an enrolment of just 12 students in 1982. 37 years later, the College boasts many and varied facilities and offers a dynamic and innovative learning community which is built on strong academic and Biblical foundations to Prep students through to Year 12. BCC services 70+ churches and has a staff in excess of 100. The College vision is that: "we might be a Christian community which seeks to nurture and train young people to Grow up into Christ."

<http://www.bcc.nsw.edu.au/publications.php>

MISSIONS:

Missions are a strong focus of the church. Missions and missionaries from a wide range of geographical areas, including: local, Australian, Pacific Regional and International. We have an active Missionary Committee.

Our Missions include:

- **D & C** > ministering to the IB People of South East Asia...with Global Interaction Australia.
- **S R.** long term cross-cultural worker in Asia > with Interserve.
- **Eric and Jemima Maefonea.** Church and community work, Solomon Islands > with SSEC.
- **Barnabas Tema** > Church work, Solomon Islands > with SSEC.



- **Steven & Sandra Parsons** > ministering in Japan > with CMS & TEAM.
- **Glenn Coombs** Associate Director for Regional Development... with SU NSW.
- **Pastor Nikolai Ivashuk.**Senior Regional Pastor Ukraine > with Slavic Gospel Association.
- **New Life Foundation** > School, Orphanage and community development for Burmese refugees in Thailand. (Also supported by Belmont Christian College)
- **Mat and Shannon Anderson** > Yuendumu, Willowra and Ali Curung in NT > with GIA

Further information about ministry areas can be found below at "Addendum 1: Ministry and Support Areas".

FINANCES:

Our finances could be summarized as:

- The budget for 2019-20 foresees income of \$210,000, from offerings.
- The budget proposes expenditure of \$117,000 for Pastoral and associated costs, \$33,000 for Ministry and Evangelism, \$38,000 for Property and Buildings, \$12,000 for Administration and Operating, and \$9,000 for Other/Capital costs.
- Actual weekly giving in 2018-19 was \$3,688 providing a surplus of nearly \$23,000 across the year. The budgeted giving proposed for 2019 - 20 is \$4,028 per week.
- We have followed the Baptist Union recommendations for pastoral stipends.
- Most giving is received through the morning worship tithes. A direct debit scheme is available and functioning.
- Missionary support includes \$18,000 towards overseas and Australian missionaries and \$6,500 for affiliation with Hunter District and NSW Baptists.
- In addition, the congregation strongly support missions and donated nearly \$8,000 to the May Missions appeal this year.
- The church owns the church property and the site of Belmont Christian College.
- In addition, the church owns five houses and a medical centre adjoining the main church property. These are rented to long term tenants and rent levels are reviewed regularly. Rent covers repayments and property costs. Loan debts on these properties totaled approximately \$1.015 million in June 2019.

WE BELIEVE:

Belmont Baptist is a Christ centered, evangelical church which seeks to communicate the life changing message of the Good News of Jesus Christ in a loving, relevant and biblical fashion. Within our church family there are people from various walks of life and social, economic, cultural and religious backgrounds.

We feel this diversity is both healthy (we can learn from and love each other, despite those differences), as well as a basic tenet of Baptist principles (that is, we believe that individuals have the right to their own personal interpretation of the Scriptures, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit). Within any diversity, however, we remain committed to some basic and fundamental truths which we feel are essentials of Biblical Christianity.

(The BBC "Statement of Beliefs" can be found on our Church's website.)



VISION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

As a community of believers together we seek to encourage and build up the saints, witness in a relevant manner to our local community and seek to support the spread of the gospel to the wider world. During this past year, as a Church, we have spent time reviewing and rewriting our Mission and Values statements to provide a more focused approach to our ministry and church life.

We would like to see the members of our fellowship treasure and use their spiritual gifts for the edification of all and the extension of the gospel. "Life Groups" are seen as vital in ensuring supportive nurturing and encouraging fellowship.

We are aware that there are dormant gifts in our church community. We recognise that we need to equip people to enable ministry in areas such as "Young Marrieds", "Young Singles" and particularly "Youth Work". Belmont Christian College is a vital ministry of the church that lends itself to further opportunities for the extension of the gospel.

We have church buildings and land which are largely unused during the week. Along with this there are a number of properties adjoining the church which we have acquired over the decades. Creative and prayerful discernment will give rise to opportunities which can use these properties for further ministry.

We haven't really explored the possibilities available to us through technologies such as a Website, Facebook or Twitter.

OUR MISSION

Belmont Baptist Church, a community that encourages people to Belong, Believe, Become.

Belong – To be known by Love

We are a people who are loved by God. Belmont Baptist Church is a community where you will be loved and BELONG to God as well as each another.

Believe – To live by Faith

We are a people who are continuing to develop what we BELIEVE and how that impacts our lives and our community. Belmont Baptist Church is a community in which you will be assured God is going to do something in and through your life.

Become – To be a voice of Hope

We are a people who aim to influence our community. Belmont Baptist Church is a community where you can BECOME the real, vibrant, passionate person God created you to be.

OUR MINISTRY VALUES

Under Christ we will seek in our ministries to uphold these core values:

Christ Centred

We acknowledge Christ as the head of the Church and the source of everything we are, say and do, all for His glory.

Biblically Grounded

We believe the Bible is God's truth; therefore, we study and apply it to our Church ministries and our daily lives.

Inclusive

We value the inclusion of all people through warm fellowship, caring relationships and love.

Discipleship

We promote a culture where people grow up into Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit to serve and follow Him.

Evangelism

We commit to sharing the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit with our community and the world.

Service Minded

We encourage all to use their spiritual gifts and be committed to service that extends the kingdom of God.

Prayerful

We affirm that individual and corporate prayer underpins everything we do.



LOCATION

Belmont is an established suburb of the City of Lake Macquarie, 102kms north from NSW's capital city of Sydney. It sits on an isthmus between the Pacific Ocean and the eastern shores of Lake Macquarie. Our church is located in the heart of the suburb.

As a part of the Lake Macquarie Council's "Lifestyle 2030" Strategy there have been changes to zoning codes in the area. As a result a number of multi-story unit blocks have been or are planned for construction. A number of these include low cost housing. The Belmont area has been designated as a "Technology Hub" for the region. However, there has been little evidence of development in this regard.

According to the 2016 census figures, the suburb of Belmont has a population of 7,114. The total population in the surrounding 5km is approximately 22,338. In Belmont the greater bulk, 85.2%, have an Australian ethnicity. Only 5.5% speak a language, other than English in the home. There is very little ethnic diversity in the community. The median age of the Belmont population is 46 years. Children in the 0 - 14 years age range make up 15.7% of the population whereas those above 65 years make up 24.5%.

The 2016 census revealed 53.8% of the people living in Belmont were employed full time. Belmont has an unemployment rate of 7.8%. The Employment statistics reveal: Professionals - 18.3%, Technical and Trades - 17.9%, Clerical and Administration - 14.7%, Personal and Service Workers - 11.7%, Sales - 10.5% and Labourers - 10.4%.

LOCAL SERVICES

Churches:

Within a 5km radius there are a number of other Christian Churches including: two Anglican, a Catholic, Uniting, Salvation Army, two independent fellowships and two other Baptist affiliated Churches.

Transport:

There is access via Swansea and Doyalson to the M1 Pacific Motorway. The local bus service has been privatised and a lack of services has caused local concern. Fassifern and Cardiff Railway Stations, on the main Northern line can be accessed by car

Education:

There are six public primary schools in the local area along with Belmont High School. Belmont Christian College at Belmont North caters for children from Prep and Kindergarten to Year 12. There is also St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. There are numerous opportunities for tertiary study, including The University of Newcastle which is about 30 minutes away by car. This can also be accessed by bus. Belmont TAFE is in the main town area.

Medical Services:

There are a number of GP clinics, pharmacies, specialists and dentists in Belmont along with a range of allied health services including: physiotherapy, chiropractic, optometrist, radiology and pathology. Belmont Hospital is a public facility and includes outpatient and emergency services. John Hunter Hospital, a large public regional facility, is some 20 minutes away.

Financial Services:

There a number of banks and financial institutions including: the Commonwealth Bank, Newcastle Permanent Building Society, the Greater Bank, and accountant and legal practices.

Shopping Precinct :

The main Belmont shopping area includes a range of specialty shops and cafes along with three major supermarkets: Woolworths, Coles and Aldi. Other retail outlets include clothing stores, Bunnings and Mitre 10 Hardware stores.

Sporting Clubs and Recreational Facilities:

The Lake Macquarie area provides an active base for those who enjoy outdoor pursuits. These include: surfing, sailing, golf, cricket, baseball, soccer, rugby league, netball, tennis & bowling clubs and facilities. All the major sports are involved in first grade competitions in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie district. The beautiful beaches are only a few minutes drive away and provide great surfing and swimming. As well, being right on the Lake means that fishing, skiing and other water pursuits are right at hand.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE SEE:

www.belmontbaptist.org.au

OR CONTACT:

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ADDENDUM 1.

MINISTRY & SUPPORT AREAS

Ministry	Main Contact Person	Status	Frequency	Est no's/groups
Men's Ministry		N/Active	As opportunity arises	30 - 40
Women's Ministry	RS	Active	3 per year	30 - 50
Belmont Christian College	SS Principal	Active	Refer to BCC Website http://www.bcc.nsw.edu.au	650+
Sunday School	JM	Active	Weekly: during school terms	10 - 25
Life Groups	DS	Active	Weekly, at various times	4 groups
Prayer Chain	AN & RM	Active	Upon request/need	6 chains
Music	AS. (Co-ordinator)	Active	Rehearsal Tuesday pm - fortnightly Practise Sunday prior to service	8 musicians and singers
KYB	LH, GH	Active	Weekly .. Mon AM	20
Creche	MM	Active	Weekly .. during school terms	5
Playtime		N/Active		
SRE	WS	Active	Weekly (school terms)	3 leaders .. 2 Primary Schools & 1 High School
Girl's Brigade	NL	Active	Weekly (Tuesday nights during school terms)	15
Boys Club		N/Active		
Friendship Circle	BR.	Active	Weekly (Friday mornings)	30 - 40
Soccer	PS	Active	Weekly during soccer season	2teams, 32 players
Youth		N/Active		
Morning Tea	AR	Active	Weekly - after church	50-70
Friendship In Worship (Door Greeters)	TK	Active Involving Adults and Children	Weekly	10-20
Missions	JC	Active	n/a	9+Missions / Missionaries
Sound & Data for services etc	PS	Active	Week	3
Communion Prep for Services	AA & SM	Active	Third Sunday	2
Cleaning of the Church	RS	Active	Weekly	1
Church Grounds	DW	Active	Wednesdays -Weekly in Summer Fortnightly in Winter	8
Church Maintenance	BR	Active	As needed + Working Bees	15+