

RTC Monthly



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This month's edition of RTC Monthly not only comes with a new banner but also with some different content. At the end of May the RTC Board met and much of the focus was on the strategic planning that is currently being implemented. So we'll report on that this month and hold most of our usual content over to next month.

We trust the information below will give you a number of specific matters to pray about and some insight into what goes on behind the scenes at the College. We do value your prayers, especially as we seek the Lord's will for the future.

New Faculty for the Future

The College faces a major faculty turnover in the next 5 years. The first position that needs to be filled will be for a lecturer in missions and assisting in either Systematic Theology, Practical Theology or Church History. The Board has established a search committee that will be advertising widely and looking for someone with experience in and a passion for mission, evangelism and church planting. We also hope to find someone who has plenty of experience in discipling, mentoring and training. We would like the new lecturer to begin at the start of 2010.

We anticipate that further new lecturers will be needed for Old Testament and Hebrew at the beginning of 2011, New Testament and Greek at the beginning of 2012, and Theology at the beginning of 2014. All appointees will need to have at least a research Master's degree or preferably a Doctorate.

Many Balls in the Air

The Board and Faculty are considering a number of different aspects of the College's work with a view to setting strategic directions for the next 5 years. Some of the things currently happening are...

- investigation of whether it would be useful for the College to offer a one-year Certificate IV course. This could potentially be a good gap year program for young people
- interaction with Dr Jack de Vries, the new CRCA Ministry Training Coordinator, and consideration of how the College can help advance the CRCA four-fold mission task
- a close look at the subjects we teach as we move from a five year to a four year basic ministry training program
- a look at how we can increase courses that would help train missionaries and evangelists
- consideration of how to deliver some of our courses in more flexible modes so that more training can be done in a person's home church context
- evaluation of a completely different training model known as Church-Based Theological Education
- consideration of how the College can better serve local churches in Geelong since there is no other Bible College in the region

Financial Update

The last financial year ended with a small and unexpected surplus. This was largely due to a generous donation in December that made all the difference. Praise the Lord! This year has also begun well financially, aided by the fact that Barkley Hall is running to capacity with over 45 residents and income from student fees has increased with the increase in student numbers. We are deeply thankful to the Lord for these blessings.

Because Barkley Hall is doing well a major project is about to be undertaken there. Central heating will be installed throughout the residence. This will save lots of small fan heaters being used that regularly blow the fuses. It will also hopefully make for a warmer, happier student cohort!

Business Planning

In view of the strategic planning taking place, a Business Planning Committee has been formed. The committee's task is to prepare and implement a Business Plan for the College which will incorporate areas such as organisational structure, future developments, funding models & requirements, other business opportunities as well as marketing & promotional work. The Treasurer, Lester Barkley, heads this committee that also includes the Principal, Murray Capill, our Business Manager, Simon Edwards, former Board Chairman Robert Costa and David Barkley who managed much of the process of moving into the new property back in 2000.

Who's on the Board?

The RTC Board consists of 10 directors drawn from around Australia and New Zealand. Board members are voted in for three-year terms of service by the membership of the RTC Association. Currently serving on the Board are:

- Rev. Bill Bosker – Chairman of the Board and Director representing Tasmania. Bill is a Pastor at the Kingston Christian Reformed Church
- Rev. John Hoogenhout – the new Director for Queensland and Senior Pastor of Bray Park Community Church
- Dr. Jo Lammersma – Director for South Australia and a practicing psychiatrist
- Dr. Anton Meister – Director for New Zealand (North). Anton is Professor and Head of the Department of Applied and International Economics at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand
- Mr Laurie Kruize – Director for Western Australia and Manager for Training and Professional Development at the Housing Industry Association (HIA)
- Mr Hans Berends – Director for New Zealand (South). Hans is a secondary school teacher at a Christian School in Rangiora, New Zealand
- Mr Pieter Moerkerken – Director for New South Wales. Pieter is a Telecommunications Specialist at the University of Wollongong, New South Wales.
- Mr Lester Barkley – one of the Victorian Directors. Lester is an accountant and is the Board's Treasurer
- Mr Corey Van Garderen – a Victorian Director, Secretary of the Board and General Manager of Outlook Gardens Christian Retirement Village.

One more position for a Victorian Director will hopefully be filled soon. The Principal and Vice-Principal of the College are *ex officio* members of the Board.

In recent times the Board has been revising its structure and approach so that it focuses more on governance than on operational matters. It is also looking to strengthen the work of the Executive that meets between Board meetings so that there is more ongoing direction given to the College by the Board.

Faculty News

- From next year onwards a new faculty study leave program will be in place, ensuring that lecturers receive regular allotments of time so that they can be active in research and writing. The new entitlements will ensure that lecturers get one semester every five years for study.
- The Principal reported to the Board that staff teaching loads are quite heavy. As we look at new developments we will have to be careful not to overload the existing faculty. In addition to teaching at the College, lecturers are active in preaching and speaking ministries, local church work and writing projects.
- A case in point is Dr Henk DeWaard. From mid-June to early July Henk will be in Makassar (Sulawesi) in Indonesia on behalf of Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF). MERF has started a work there to bring the Gospel to the Muslim Buginese people of that region. Radio broadcasts in the regional language are now beamed to the towns and villages and men and women are being trained to follow up inquiries, evangelize and witness to as many people as possible. Henk will teach each day at the Bible School, preach on weekends and also meet with church leaders for encouragement and consultation.

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