



Dear Friends,

In preparing to meet with the new Property Planning Team earlier this week, I did some research into the buildings owned by the church. During my research, I discovered some important history about Randwick Presbyterian Church.

RPC held its first congregational meeting (not a church service) in the Town Hall on 17th November 1884. The church held its first worship service in Waverley on 17th January 1885. The session held its first meeting at the Town Hall on 4th August 1885. The Rev. Dr. Will Scott Frackelton was inducted as RPC's inaugural minister on 23rd November 1885. The church building was finally completed and officially opened on 16th March 1890.

I feel honoured and privileged to be RPC's minister and a member of the congregation. I stand on the shoulders of my spiritual forebears. I thank God for the vision and faith he gave to RPC's founders to form a new congregation, elect elders, organize a committee of management and meet for worship to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I also thank God for giving them the foresight to build the church auditorium as a place of worship, ministry, witness and communal life.

Our church forebears have passed on to us a precious gift. For the sake of the gospel, RPC is blessed to have a building located in the heart of Randwick. Our building provides us with visibility to the wider community, is easily accessed and connects us to our neighbourhood.

The Property Planning Team has been tasked with the responsibility of strategically planning how to best care for and use our buildings in ways that will promote the gospel, build Christ's church and connect us to the local community, for the sake of God's glory and advance of his kingdom. Like our forebears, we will also need to give sacrificially of our money and time to care for our buildings and use them well, so that we too, can pass on these properties to be used for gospel witness and ministry by the next generation of RPC. We will have more to say about this in the months ahead.

In January 2025, we will celebrate 140 years of Presbyterian worship, witness and ministry in Randwick. Given Europeans settled in Australia less than 250 years ago, 140 years is a long time. I am keen us for us to mark the occasion.

I especially want us to celebrate the faithful preaching of God's word. I cannot overstate what a blessing it is to be called to pastor a church that has a long heritage of faithful bible teaching. I have come to a congregation who demand that their minister preach Christ from all of Scripture. You believe that the Bible is God's authoritative word. You believe that in the Bible, the living Lord Jesus speaks by the Spirit to reveal God and reconcile us to him through his death and resurrection. You believe that the Bible is our primary rule for what we believe and how we live.

The gospel is the greatest gift we have received from our church forebears, and we can pass on to those who will come after us. The Apostle Paul wrote to his protégé, Timothy:

*What you have heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Jesus Christ. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.
(2 Timothy 1:13-14)*

We have been entrusted with a heritage-listed building that I would like us to pass down to future RPC congregations for the sake of gospel ministry. But we have an even greater gift to entrust to them. The gospel of Jesus Christ.

God Bless,
Mark Adams