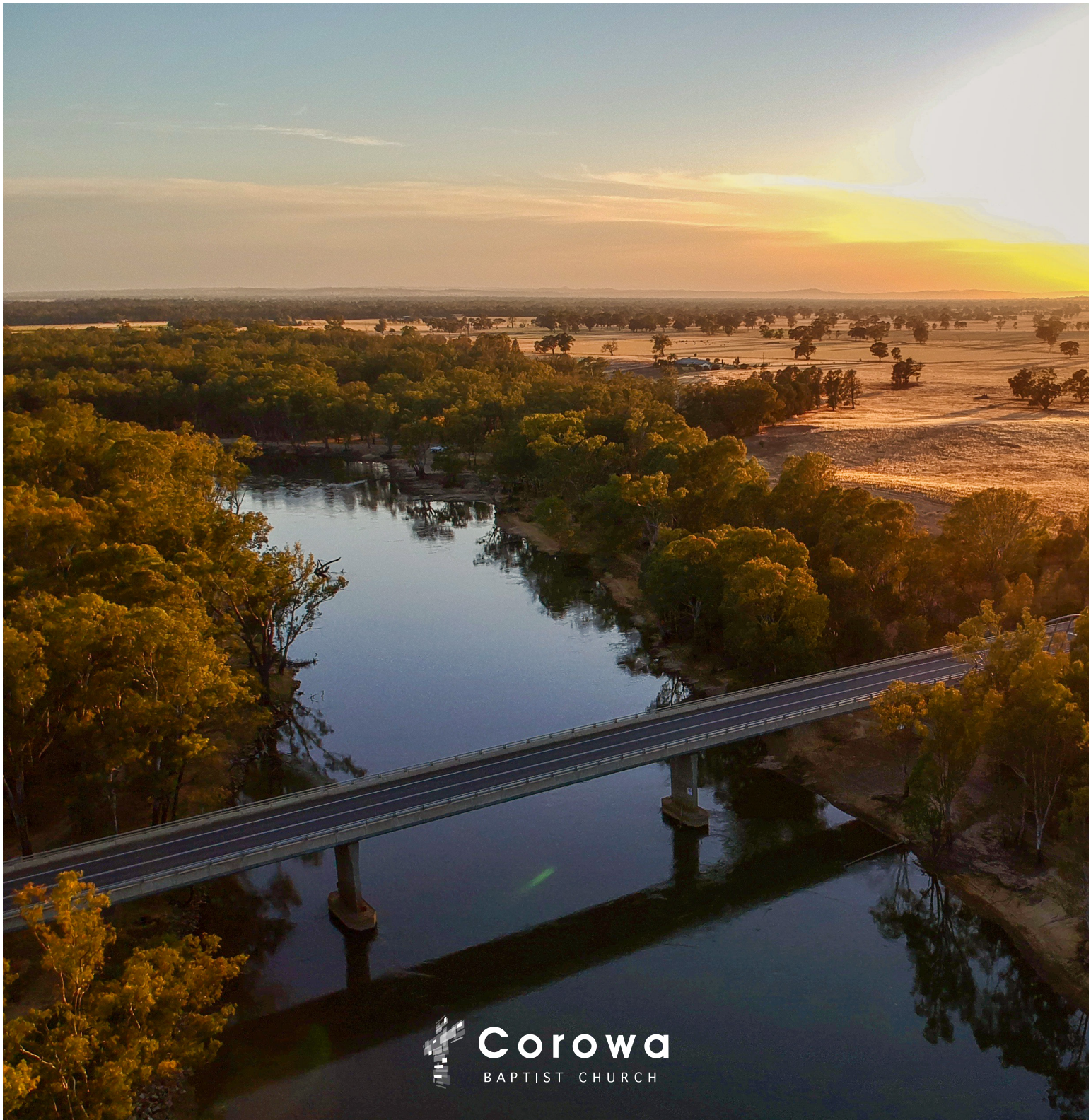


COROWA BAPTIST CHURCH

CHURCH PROFILE





INTRO

Corowa Baptist Church is looking for a Lead Pastor to partner with ministry at Corowa Baptist. We are looking for an applicant with a strong, Godly character and a sense of call to ministry.

The role offered is flexible. It can be a full time position with remuneration in line with NSW/ACT Baptist guidelines OR a part time position to suit if a bi-vocational option is preferred. The role requires the right candidate to lead the church towards strategic change, discipleship, and mission-focus.

While searching for a Lead Pastor we have been blessed to have had a few interim pastors join us over the past few years who have assisted us in spiritual oversight and pastoral care. We have seen some positive changes in a number of areas including starting new small groups, training and running Alpha courses, pursuing change of location and employing several people in short-term roles to resolve some particular admin, safe church and communication challenges.

Currently, the ministries and Sunday gatherings are being overseen by the church leadership team. As a church we have been encouraged by God's faithfulness through seeing new and regular attendees still coming along. We look forward to the next season that God has in store for Corowa Baptist Church.

We trust that God will build His church (Mt 16:18) and send workers into His harvest field (Lk 10:2).

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

A good summary of our church spirit can be found at our website:

www.corowabaptist.com.au

We are a Baptist Church in Corowa that exists to champion the good news of Jesus. Youthful and passionate in spirit, we are a community made up of people from all ages and walks of life. We exist to see the Gospel change lives amongst our church, our community and the rest of the world. It's from this passion that our vision and values are formed.

Our driving Mission is TO KNOW JESUS AND MAKE JESUS KNOWN.

In short, we are a church that loves the Good News of Jesus. We believe that Jesus is the answer to humanity's biggest problem: separation from God. By dying in our place, Jesus made us right with God. But Jesus didn't stay dead: He rose again! We are a community of people that lives with the hope that this message brings.

We believe that the Bible is God's Word, given to us -- His people, the Church. And so on Sundays, we get together to celebrate this good news and dig into His Word.

On a given Sunday, we would see an average of around 70 people in a service, with a spread of ages across different generations. There are around 100 people connected to our church family. Our youth group has around 10-15 youth connecting on a Friday night. We are contemporary in nature and celebrate the involvement of youth and young adults across various parts of our church life. Our church values creative expression, and as a result you will regularly see our backdrop change, value placed on great design and music, and 'punching above our size' with the events we run. However, that doesn't stop new people and kids stepping up and being involved, whether in singing up the front or serving in church.

A summary of our church history, as well as our statement of beliefs (from the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT) can be found on our website.

www.corowabaptist.com.au

CHALLENGES

--Next steps for people interested in church

Over time we have ran several programs that have engaged people outside of church (a large Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Carols, Mainly Music, High School Lunchtime programs). These events have reached a large number of families who don't yet attend church. Our challenge is providing clear pathways to lead people from outside church towards a next step in their faith.

--Discipleship & Equipping

While we love the consistency of many people in attending church, we see the need for more emphasis on coming alongside people to help them progress in their faith and ministry. This could happen through increased engagement in small groups or increased one-on-one discipleship.

--Community

While our Sunday services are full of life (and people hang around afterward for a long time!), we would love to see more people feel like they belong, and a deeper sense of community as something that happens throughout the week.

--Shifts in Demographics

Recently we have seen a shift in the demographic of people in church with different types of people becoming connected as well as those from other cultures. This is exciting to see as we seek to be able to ensure that different people can connect and belong.

While we have several youth and young adults connected to our church , many of these young people move to Melbourne and other cities for study or work after they finish school. This means that, like many other country areas, are faced with the challenge of changes within the church community demographics. As a result, our church must prioritise its mission to continue to reach young people and young families.

Part of the demographic change is that workers within major industries in the region (particularly shift workers aged 18-40) are underrepresented in our church and present a challenge for mission.

--Large Geographical Reach

Our church engages people within an 80km radius. This naturally presents challenges for engagement, care, and general connection.

ABOUT COROWA

Corowa is a riverside town of 6000 people in the Riverina district of NSW. We are situated in a farming region, with the farming community making up a significant proportion of church engagement, and attendance/involvement shifting during key times of harvest/sowing etc). However, there are a number of other industries in the area (over 1000 workers engaging in large industries, as well as major centres within a 45min radius), and our church community reflects this. Like most country communities within Australia, the vast majority of the community do not attend church on a Sunday morning, leaving a large call to mission in our area. However, there is trust in our church built up from community involvement, and continues to be a significant engagement with Primary SRE, High School SRE, Mainly Music, and church community events.

Corowa is largely made up of people with Anglo/European heritage. However, the level of diversity in the community is increasing.

Corowa's largest nearby centres are Albury/Wodonga (50mins), Wangaratta (45mins), Wagga Wagga (2hrs), and Melbourne (3hrs).

The link to the Corowa census data is here:

<https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/109031181>

Visitor & Community information on the Corowa Region can be found at:

<https://www.visitthemurray.com.au/places-to-go/east/corowaregion/places/corowa>.