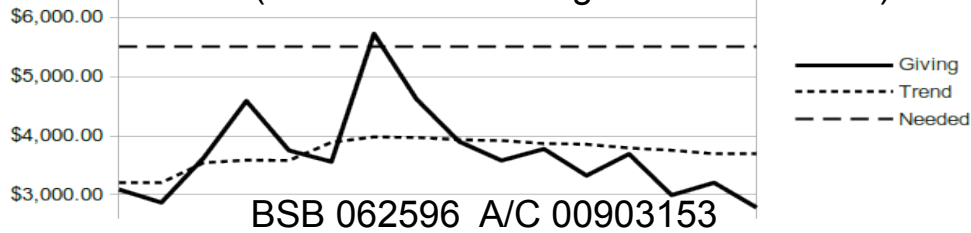


## Financials (NOTE Earmarked gifts NOT included)



Thank you for your heart of giving and commitment.

## Birthdays this week

Monday	Ben McNaught
Thursday	Matthew Gummerson
Friday	Andrew Southwell
“ “	Andrew Webb



## Anniversaries this week

Monday	Paul & Marilyn Volkart
Tuesday	Phillip & Robyn Gummerson
Friday	Russell & Alison White



## Contacts

<b>For Eldership contact and Pastoral Care:</b>		<b>elders@rivochurch.com</b>	
Andrew Cowell:	0426 838 948	Linc Marlow:	0490 804 708
Phillip Gummerson:	0414 765 200	Dave Ward:	0414 929 946
<b>For Deaconship matters:</b>		<b>deacons@rivochurch.com</b>	
Brett Davis:	0409 841 058	Stuart Waller:	0419 445 660
<b>Kids Church:</b>	Rhiannan Morsillo	(rhiannan.cowell@gmail.com)	
<b>Youth:</b>	Stuart Thomson	0408 820 630	
<b>Connect:</b>	Warwick Gummerson	(warwick@gummerson.com.au)	
<b>Facebook:</b>	Jade Cowell	0450 508 947	
<b>Church &amp; Building Bookings:</b>	(rivochurch.com/church_calendar.php)		

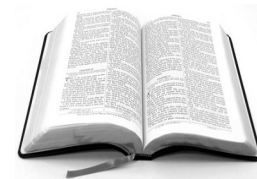
# Connect

News from Riverstone Community Church



30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Topic:** Ezra: Restoring  
**Speaker:** Phillip Gummerson  
**Chairman:** Nathan Fredericks  
**Creche:** Ratumu Family



### Next Sunday

*A Better Story:  
Real Family*

**Sp:** Brett Davis  
**Ch:** Nathan Fredericks  
**Cr:** Oskars & Lucy

### The Sunday After..

*Mother's  
Day*

**Sp:** Linc Marlow  
**Ch:** Andrew Cowell  
**Cr:** Stu & Maybelle

## The Program (D.V.)

**10:00am**  
 Church which includes:  
 Prayer and Praise  
 Creche  
 Worship  
 Communion  
 Preaching

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 Visitors – go to [rivochurch.com/new](http://rivochurch.com/new)



# Prayer, Praise & News.

- \* **Rhys & Rhiannan Morsillo** – A new baby to be born soon.  
**Pray** – For safe delivery.

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- \* **Andrew Webb** – Battling cancer – 3<sup>rd</sup> immunotherapy last week.  
He has difficulty eating and is on prescription pain meds.  
**Pray** – For a miracle recovery.
- \* **Dave Ward** – Small fragment of previous blood clot near his heart.  
**Pray** – That the blood thinners dissolve the clot safely.  
**Pray** – That the procedure to correct arrhythmia goes ahead.
- \* **Gordon Family** – **Pray** – For comfort following the sad loss of Eric.
- \* **Moulang Family** – **Pray** – For Sarah Moulang, the Owen, Hearsey, and Gummerson families following the sad loss of Wal.
- \* **Jim Frame** – Jim & Jenny were at Rivo church before moving to Qld some years ago. Jim suffered from MS and went to be with his Lord last Thursday. **Pray** – For Jenny and family.
- \* **Ken Harding** – Speaking this morning at Coastlands

## Christianity vs Hinduism

The most important thing to remember about Christianity is that it's not about just another deity to add to all the others. God demands exclusive worship; all other 'gods' are fake or finite. They didn't make the whole world. They don't run everything. They don't know everything about the past, present, and future (Isaiah 43:10, John 13:19). They are not the source of all truth, beauty, and goodness. The Triune God of Scripture is. And also, we must remember that the world is something God made, it is neither identical to God, nor a part of God. So, neither are we identical to God nor a part of God.

Continued on next page

Most traditions in Indian religion are what we in the West call *pantheistic*; they say that God and the world are identical.

In this way, there is no ultimate distinction between you and me, you and the computer you typed your comment on, or you and some planet in a galaxy billions of light-years away from us. Everything ultimately reduces to just one thing. This is the basic force of the well-known Sanskrit phrase *Tat Tvam Asi*, which is translated in English as "*you are that*". The force of this phrase is to dissolve the distinction between you and whatever you perceive.

Theistic traditions such as Christianity reject pantheism. We say, "*you are not that*". You are not identical to what you perceive. When you perceive something other than yourself, you are perceiving something that really is distinct from you.

Pantheism also dissolves the distinction between good and evil. If everything is one, then there is no real distinction between good and evil. Indeed, consider the notion that you should take care of your mother and sister. Is it distinct from the idea of neglecting them? Of course it is! You should take care of your family, and you shouldn't neglect them. The former is morally right, and the latter is morally wrong. The moral distinction between them is real. But if the moral distinction is real, then pantheism is false, since it denies moral distinctions.

Morality also refutes polytheism (which may be the 'popular' Hinduism you're more familiar with). The gods can't dictate what is right, since they disagree with each other. But if they follow what is right, then someone above them commands what is right. This is a dilemma polytheism can't escape. Instead, there has to be a single standard of morality. There has to be a 'God of gods' to which all other 'deities' should bow. But that is the God of Scripture!

You are not God, and God is not you. Rather, He made you. You may not **be** God, but you're **loved** by God. As are your family members. Indeed, God so loved the world that he gave his unique Son so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life ([John 3:16](#)). This is the heart of the good news about Jesus Christ.

Extracted from Creation .com