

# BAVINCK CENTENARY CONFERENCE



Brisbane School of Theology

*Shaped by His word: serving His world*

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## 6-7 DECEMBER 2021

Brisbane School of Theology is an operating name of Bible College of Queensland and our ABN is 55009670160.

BST is an affiliated college of the Australian College of Theology, CRICOS: 02650E.



*The Neo-Calvinism Research Institute*



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH





WELCOME TO

BRISBANE

## WELCOME TO THE BAVINCK CENTENARY CONFERENCE

**If the centenary of a theologian's death is marked by a conference dedicated to their life's work, one can be sure that the theologian in question has made a substantial contribution to the life of the church.** That the centenary of a theologian from one of the Netherlands' smaller denominations is being celebrated by scholars from Europe, Britain, North America, East Asia and Australasia is testimony to the abiding significance of their legacy. In all likelihood, Bavinck himself would be more than a little bemused by the fact that a commemorative conference in his honour would be hosted by an interdenominational college in Australia. Yet the Antipodean setting of this celebration aptly reflects the growth in Anglophone awareness of Bavinck's work over the last twenty years and the ever-expanding reach of his ideas.

What is the aim of this conference? Three concerns warrant brief mention. First, it is hoped that delegates will come to grasp something of the whole of Bavinck's life and work. Although much recent scholarly work has been directed toward Bavinck's contribution to systematic theology, this modern man of letters was more than a systematic theologian. In this regard, I am particularly pleased that we will hear papers addressing Bavinck's contribution to pedagogy, psychology, ethics and politics. These areas of Bavinck's activity have not received the attention they deserve in the recent literature yet they inform Bavinck's theology in important and unanticipated ways. Second, it is hoped that this conference will penetrate the structure of Bavinck's thought. While Bavinck's account of individual doctrines is certainly worthy of attention—and I am certainly looking forward to hearing excursions into Bavinck's accounts of the doctrines of God, creation, and the person and work of Christ—our primary focus is the macroscopic concerns of Bavinck's use of Scripture and philosophy, and his appropriation of the Reformed tradition. Arguably, a clearer understanding of Bavinck's habits of mind holds promise for a sharper focus on the details. Third, it is hoped that delegates will grasp something of the current state-of-play in Bavinck studies and the wider use to which Bavinck's thought has been and might yet be put in Protestant theology. Here, the roundtable discussions are sure to yield lively discussion, friendly disagreement, and point to new horizons.

Brisbane School of Theology is especially grateful for the support of the Vrije Universiteit, Kampen Theologische Universiteit, and the University of Edinburgh, without which it would not have been possible for our plenary speakers to travel to Australia and present their papers in person. And while it is disappointing that COVID-19 has in fact hindered this eventuality as well as the full participation of interstate and international delegates, we are also grateful for the virtual presence that the Zoom platform affords and are glad that this medium allows interstate and international delegates to participate from a distance. It is also worth noting that all 25 presentations can be viewed on the [BST YouTube channel](#) at the conclusion of the conference. Delegates are encouraged to view and review these recordings at their leisure.



Rev Dr Bruce Pass  
Brisbane School of Theology

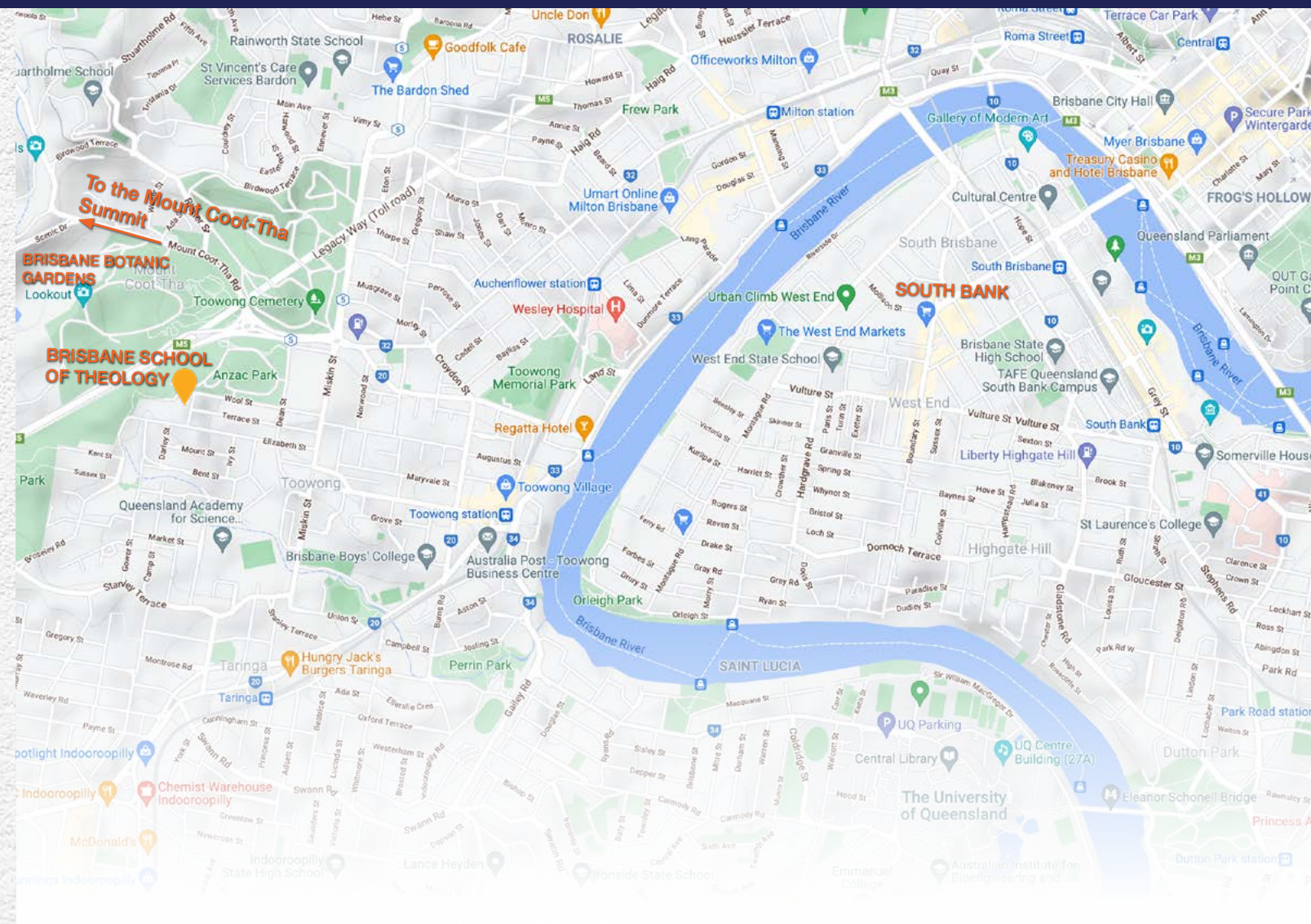
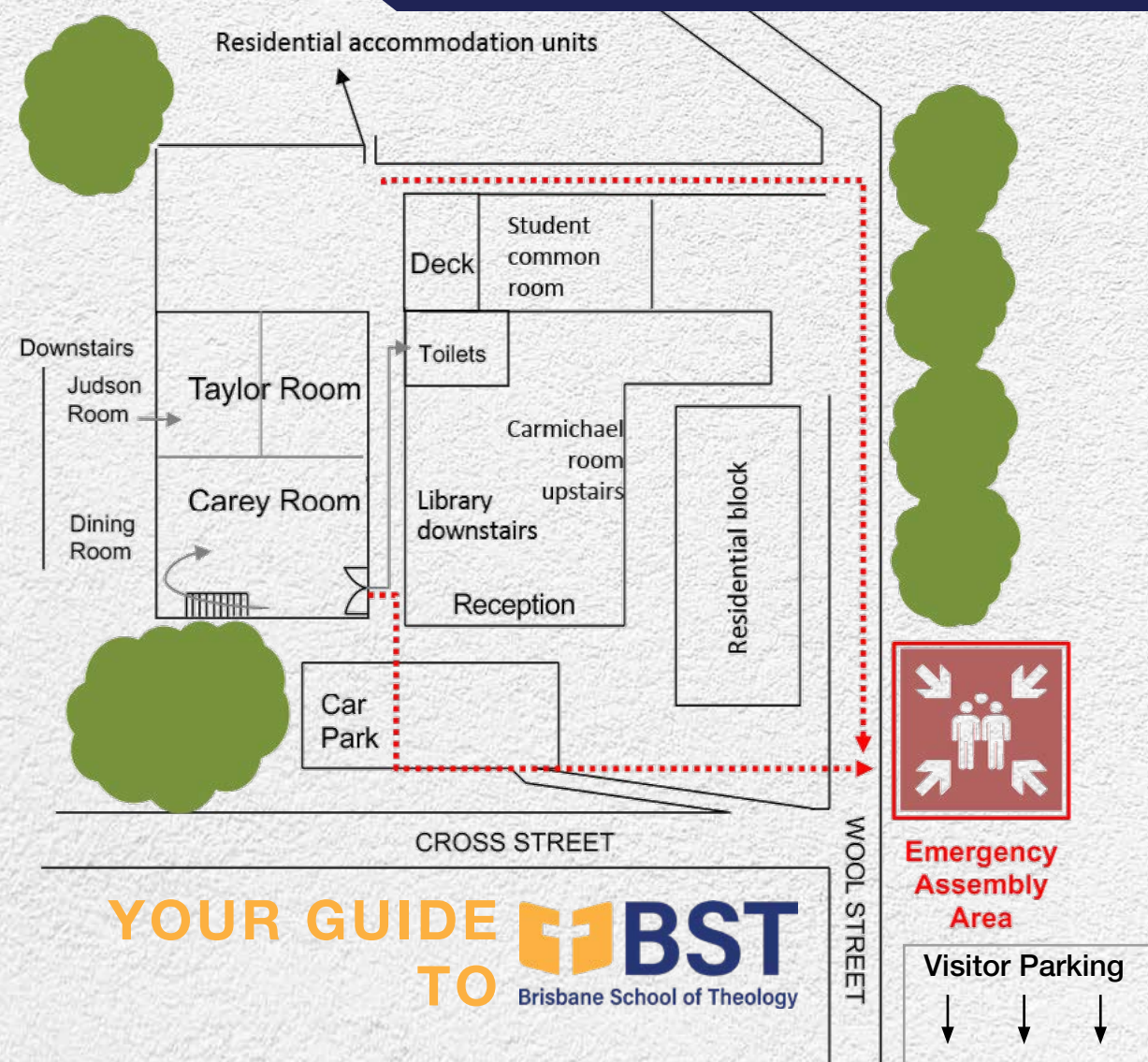
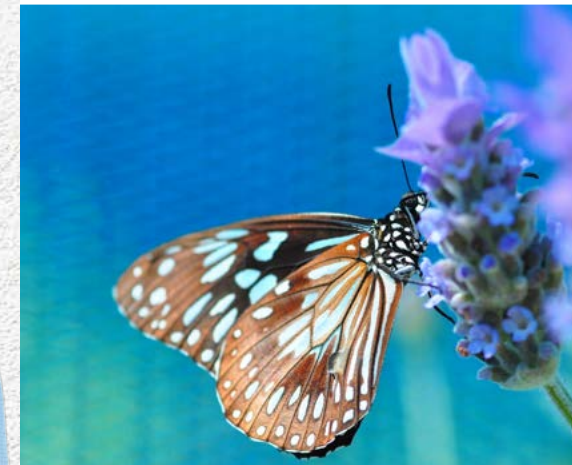
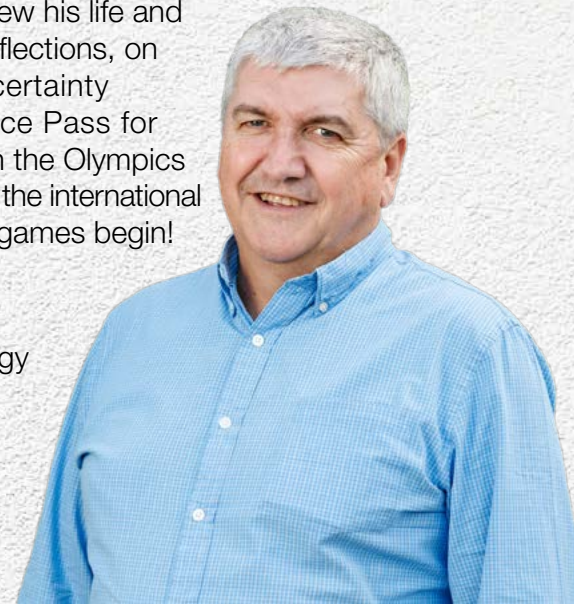


## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Brisbane School of Theology is delighted to welcome delegates (online and in person) to the **Bavinck Centenary Conference**. BST aims to provide quality theological education for its students, and foster theological reflection in the wider community. In the century since his death, appreciation of Bavinck's contribution to Christian thought and practice has been steadily gaining momentum. The centenary is a timely moment to pause and review his life and legacy. We are thrilled with the calibre of contributors to these reflections, on such wide-ranging areas of his influence. In the midst of the uncertainty created by the COVID crisis, I want to commend Rev Dr Bruce Pass for coordinating such a wealth of local and overseas scholars. With the Olympics coming to Brisbane in 2032, what could be a better foretaste, than the international cast drawn to its School of Theology for this conference! Let the games begin!

Rev Dr Richard Gibson  
Principal, Brisbane School of Theology

*Richard Gibson*





# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## MONDAY 6 DECEMBER

[Join us on Zoom](#) | Meeting ID 950 4942 5733

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome | Rev Dr Bruce Pass, *Brisbane School of Theology*

9:30 Herman Bavinck as a Politician | Dr James Eglinton, *University of Edinburgh*

11:00 Coffee

### 11:30 Concurrent Short Papers

*Taylor Room* | [Hosted in Main Conference Zoom Link](#)

Moderator: Rev Dr Richard Gibson, *Brisbane School of Theology*

- Dr Mark Baddeley, “Bavinck on Union with Christ” | *Queensland Theological College*
- Mr Greg Parker, “‘Yes I’m Changing’: Sketching lines of Development from *Reformed Dogmatics to the Guidebook for Instruction in the Christian Religion*” | *PhD candidate, University of Edinburgh*
- Assoc Prof Benjamin Myers, “Aesthetic Organicism in Coleridge: a Study in the Philosophical Background to Bavinck’s Use of the Term” | *Alphacrucis College*

*Judson Room* | [Zoom Meeting ID: 937 0905 2314](#)

Moderator: Dr Wally Wang, *Brisbane School of Theology*

- Rev Dr Andrew Errington, “The Place of the Decalogue in Bavinck’s Ethics” | *Newtown Anglican Church/Charles Sturt University*
- Dr Justin McLendon, “Neither Martyr nor Monk: Bavinck and the Imitation of Christ” | *Grand Canyon University*
- Prof Nicholas Aroney, “Bavinck and the Kingdom(s) of God” | *University of Queensland*

*Carmichael Room* | [Zoom Meeting ID: 998 1815 4130](#)

Moderator: Mr John Coulson, *Brisbane School of Theology*

- Dr Dong Woo Oh, “Bavinck on the Means of Grace” | *Coram Deo Theological Seminary*
- Rev Dr Cameron Clausing, “The Church, our Mother? The Role of the Church in Bavinck’s Theological Method” | *Christ College*
- Prof Phillip Hussey, “Thomas Goodwin and Herman Bavinck on the Allure of a Supralapsarian Christology” | *Covenant Theological Seminary*

1:30 Lunch

### 3:00 Roundtable: Bavinck & Projects of Theological Retrieval |

Moderator: Rev Dr Bruce Pass

- Prof Oliver Crisp | *University of St Andrews*
- Prof Koert van Bekkum | *Kampen Theologische Universiteit*
- Dr Nathaniel Sutanto | *Reformed Theological Seminary*

4:30 Herman Bavinck’s Use of Scripture | Prof Koert van Bekkum, *Kampen Theologische Universiteit*

6:00 Dinner

7:30 Herman Bavinck’s Use of Philosophy | Prof Oliver Crisp, *University of St Andrews*

## TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER

[Join us on Zoom](#) | Meeting ID 950 4942 5733

8:30 Herman Bavinck’s Appropriation of Reformed Sources |  
Prof Henk van den Belt, *Vrije Universiteit*

10:00 Coffee

### 10:30 Concurrent Short Papers

*Taylor Room* | [Hosted in Main Conference Zoom Link](#)

Moderator: Mr John Coulson, *Brisbane School of Theology*

- Prof George Harinck, “Bavinck and Pedagogy” | *Vrije Universiteit/Kampen Theologische Universiteit*
- Dr Michael Bräutigam, “Bavinck and Psychology: Some Observations 100 Years On” | *Melbourne School of Theology*
- Mr Hendra Thamrindinata, “Bavinck on Natural Science” | *PhD candidate, Evangelische Theologische Faculteit Leuven*

*Judson Room* | [Zoom Meeting ID: 937 0905 2314](#)

Moderator: Rev Dr Richard Gibson, *Brisbane School of Theology*

- Dr Simon Kennedy, “‘Held together by one leading thought’: Bavinck’s Philosophy of History” | *Christian Heritage College/University of Queensland*
- Dr Myk Habets, “Theosis, Epectasis, and the Work of Grace in Herman Bavinck” | *Laidlaw College*
- Rev Luke Collings, “Bavinck on Divine Simplicity” | *Moranbah Anglican Church*

*Carmichael Room* | [Zoom Meeting ID: 998 1815 4130](#)

Moderator: Dr Wally Wang, *Brisbane School of Theology*

- Dr Tae-Hyeun Park, “‘Bavinck on Preaching” | *Chongshin University*
- Assoc Prof Gayle Doornbos, “Trinity and Creation: Bavinck on the vestigia trinitatis” | *Dordt University*
- Ms Jennifer Patterson, “Nature, Grace, and Humanity: Comparing Herman Bavinck and Henri de Lubac” | *PhD candidate, Catholic University of America*

12:30 Lunch

2:00 Herman Bavinck as a Trinitarian Theologian | Dr Graham Cole,  
*Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*

### 3:30 Roundtable: The State-of-Play in Contemporary Bavinck Studies |

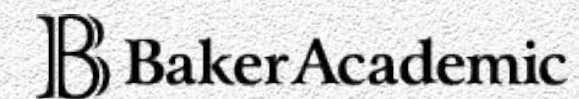
Moderator: Rev Dr Bruce Pass

- Prof Emeritus John Bolt | *Calvin Theological Seminary*
- Dr James Eglinton | *University of Edinburgh*
- Prof George Harinck | *Vrije Universiteit/Kampen Theologische Universiteit*

5:00 Close of Conference



With special thanks to our partners...



Visit the Crossway discount link [crossway.org/BCC21](https://crossway.org/BCC21) for conference attendees to be able to download a free ebook of Bavinck's Christian Worldview. The link will be active starting 6 December and remain live through the weekend following the conference. Please note the link will not appear to be working until 6 December.



Thank you for joining us!

