

The Φ yster

"... for the love of Symmetry"



August 2015

Beauty by Design

By David Trounce

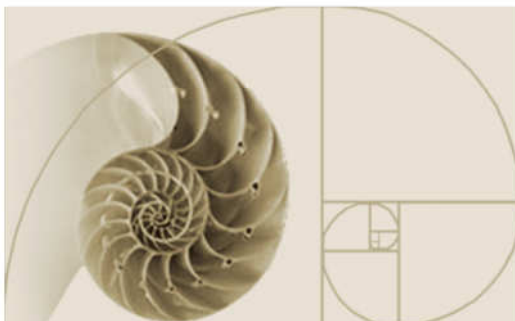
What do rabbits, DNA, the Parthenon, mathematics, flowers, Mozart and your credit card have in common? They are all connected by a beautiful, yet not fully understood symmetry in the world.

That pattern is Phi (Φ or 1.618), the Divine Proportion or Golden Ratio. You can see this ratio throughout creation in botany, zoology, the human body and face, the colour spectrum, musical scales, chords and astronomy.

The DNA molecule is also based on the golden ratio. It measures 34 angstroms long by 21 angstroms wide for each full cycle of its double helix spiral.

The ratio between these two numbers approximates Phi.

Statistical experiments have shown that people will involuntarily give preference to proportions that approximate Phi, or the Golden Ratio. Our perception of beauty is very often (unconsciously) tied to this ratio, as can be seen by its use in the world's most recognisable art and architecture, including da Vinci, Van Gogh, Monet, Renoir, Notre Dame, the Parthenon, Taj Mahal and the Ancient Pyramids.



One of the most beautiful examples of this design in creation is the human body.

Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, Roman architect (c. 25 B.C.), remarked that the human body is the pattern for the perfect building. He famously inscribed the human body into a perfect circle and square, demonstrating how the entire body follows the Golden Ratio.

Even the most ardent evolutionist will admit to the overwhelming appearance of beauty and the evidence of design in creation.

What might all of this tell us about the Designer? Well, it might suggest that creation was no accident. Perhaps the Designer had a purpose in mind, which begs the question, what might that purpose be?

Maybe His purpose was to tell us something about Himself. Perhaps God is beautiful.

Maybe it was that we, having seen His handiwork everywhere, might desire to reach out and make contact with Him directly.

And, if that were true, then perhaps His ultimate plan was to come and introduce Himself to us, which He has done.

Living on a Planet where the Trees Skip for Joy

"He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing." (Job 26:7)

Let the Rivers clap their hands and the Hills sing for Joy.

Wonder surrounds us. The created world gives us daily glimpses of a power, wisdom and beauty beyond ourselves. Creation is speaking. It sings to those who will listen. From the mathematical elegance of a water molecule to the beauty and perfection of a snow crystal, creation sings and we are invited to dance.



In spite of being marred by man's often destructive handiwork, nature still bears all the marks of a Divine Creator who delights in divine beauty. Creation and its beauty, its precision and its purposefulness continues to amaze and enthrall us.

It would be a sad and selfish world if we had no one to thank for it.

We view it all through beautiful eyes, so delicately arranged, so sophisticated and complex, eyes beyond all human understanding and which we cannot simply duplicate.

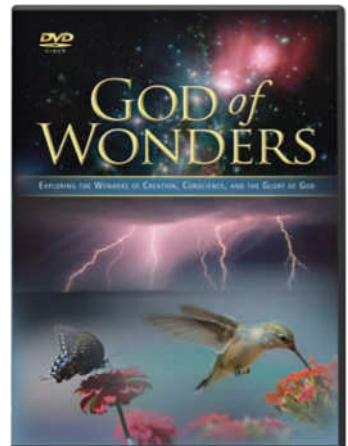
We breathe in its air, a perfectly balanced 79/21 mix of nitrogen and oxygen, without which we could not live. We hear its sounds, taste its goodness and feel its warmth. But do we truly appreciate its wonder, and are we willing to give thanks to the One who made it?

God's wonders surround us, and these marvels reveal much about our Maker. Creation is speaking to those who will listen.

'God of Wonders' is a DVD production that takes you through the beauty and wonder of Creation.

The photography is breathtaking and the science is compelling, showing us that you do not have to "check your brains at the door" to believe that behind all this glory there exists a Genius and Joyful Creator.

You can pick up a copy of 'God of Wonders' from Koorong.com.au or Amazon.



Things I tell my Kids

My kids never grow tired of investigating the world around them. They marvel at the kinds of things God has made for our pleasure, reflections of His Goodness.

Here's a bunch of things I want to tell my kids this week.

Slugs have 4 noses and the leech has 32

Butterflies taste with their hind feet. A snail can sleep for three years. Ants don't sleep.

Mosquitoes have 47 teeth.

The brain of a cockroach is in its body, so even if it loses its head, it can survive for 9 days before it would finally die of hunger.

An ant has two stomachs – in one stomach it stores food for itself and in the other it stores food that is to be shared with other ants.

The hummingbird is the only bird that can fly backwards and elephants are the only animals that can't jump.

Our fascination with creation, its beauty, complexity and strangeness runs deep.

But sometimes, rather than explore it, study it, observe its lessons and imitate its wisdom, we are inclined to worship it.

It's kind of like hugging the cake rather than thanking the cake maker.

Where would I like to see my kids land with all this trivia? I want them to land where all truly great men land...

"This most beautiful system of the sun, planets and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being. This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all."

Isaac Newton



Women's Get Together

The local get together for women next meets on Friday August 7th and September 4th, 7pm, Tanilba CRC Church.

Call Ella on 0439824507

Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at Henderson Park, next on Saturday August 1st and September 5th at 7.30am.

For more information call Steven on 4984 5442

Pete's Kitchen

Pete's kitchen is on every Thursday in school term time at 6pm at the Baptist Church, Tanilba Bay. Come along and enjoy a meal among friends and neighbours.

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Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace Parade, Tanilba Bay.

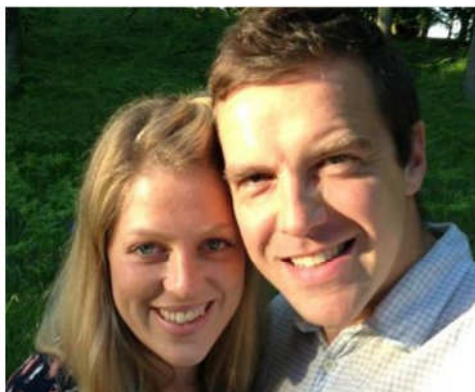
Meet Steven and

Nicola Goring...

From early in August, Steven and Nicola Goring will be serving our local Parish on the Tilligerry Peninsula at Tanilba CRC.

Nicola, born in Australia, met Steven while in Scotland, and the two have been married for four years.

Steven was born and raised in Scotland and most recently served as Pastor in Blairgowrie. He and Nicola are looking forward to settling down in Australia.



After graduating from Strathclyde University in 2000 with a degree in Chemical Engineering, Steven spent the next ten years working for Teen Ranch Scotland, part of an international organisation that provides outdoor adventure, life skills and Christian Education to young people.

Steven has also completed studies at Edinburgh Theological Seminary and hopes to do further studies in Australia.

Steven will be serving the local Parish four days a week, providing teaching, preaching and pastoral ministry to the local Christian community.

He will also be providing teaching and support at Tanilba Shores Hostel and Tanilba Bay Public School alongside the many other Christians who volunteer their time and effort to support our community.

We are delighted to have Steven and Nicky come to our church and settle in our community with a willingness to serve over the next twelve months.

You can hear Steven preach most Sundays at 9am at Tanilba CRC and we warmly invite you to do so. You can contact Steven and Nicola (Nicky) on 49845442.

About our Church Community...

Tanilba CRC is a Community Church that began on the Peninsula over 50 years ago. We believe in the Bible. We believe that Life is a Gift and we believe that God has created us to know Him and to live for Him in true family and community through His Son, Jesus.



If you would like to find out more about our Church's activities on the Tilligerry Peninsula, we invite you to contact us or attend one of our Regular Activities for more information.