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## Clearing the Way for Jesus

The newsletter of **Five Islands Christian Ministries** links Christians and churches from Helensburgh to Gerroa to promote church unity. A printer-friendly 2 x A4 PDF file of the newsletter may be downloaded from [www.5icm.org.au/resources.html](http://www.5icm.org.au/resources.html).

Distribution of this edition: **4,228**

### Church of the Week

**Berkeley Life Centre** at 54 Kelly St, Berkeley. The senior minister is Rev. Wayne Pickford, a former prison guard and professional wrestler, who has led the church since 2007. Wayne is assisted by Glenn Prentice, a student minister. Services are on Sunday 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The church runs "Second Chance" Op Shop in Winnima Way, Berkeley. A prayer point is for the filling of all the 6 church department leadership positions.

### Church of the Week (next week)

"**Sound Church** at 1/7 Hargraves Ave, Albion Park Rail. The church's new name (previously Increase Church) reflecting its vision: "*Releasing the Sound of Heaven: The preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world, making disciples of the nations.*" Our name speaks to Acts 2:1 "... and suddenly there was a **Sound** from Heaven.... Our desire is to see the **Sound** of Heaven released across the Illawarra, and as is mentioned in Acts 2:6 "*And when this Sound was heard, the multitude came together...*". We desire to see the lost come to Christ as they hear the Heavenly Sound of His Spirit, through His Church, being released.

The new senior ministers are Ps Stuart & Rebekah Haack. Services are on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. We request prayer for strength and focus during this time of transition, building, and the implementation of the Vision we have received."

### Church News

1. Last Thursday Ian Morrison and Jaedon Scott were commissioned as [SRE teachers](#) for Albion Park High and Oak Flats High.
2. This week is the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. [Download resources](#) from the World Council of Churches website. Rev. John Gilmore, the president of the National Council of Churches Australia, wrote "unity is not a quest for uniformity. Nor is unity to be fully found through a process of negotiation," (see his reflection [here](#)).
3. "The greatest task before the church today is simply to take her stand humbly but decisively upon the accomplished work of Christ upon the Cross and to go forth into all the world with the proclamation that here, and here alone, at the place where all men are made nothing, is the place where all men may be made one." Lesslie Newbigin.

### 5icm News

1. **5icm Mid-Year Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. at 1 O'Gorman St, Albion Park on 20th May. This is not a business meeting, but an informal gathering to encourage church unity.
2. The talented **Jon Seccombe** has expressed interest in leading an **Illawarra Christian Choir**. But now we need to get sufficient people interested in joining the choir. Please email me your expressions of interest in joining.

3. The next issue of the ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 28th May**. Please email me your church's ecumenical events early for sharing with Christians of the Illawarra and avoid clashes. To subscribe to this newsletter, please [email](#) or message me on Facebook with your email address.

God bless,  
Derek Thompson,  
*Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.*, a registered charity.

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## ***Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra***

**Illawarra Seniors Band rehearsals** are on the third Tuesday of each month from 10.30am at the Port Kembla Senior Citizens Community Hall. *Contact: [Jill White](#), the Secretary.*  
*Next Concert: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday 4th June, John Paul Village, 15 The Avenue, Heathcote.*

### **12th to 19th May (Pentecost), Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Further information and Australian resources are available [here](#).

### **Saturday 18th May, Red Shield Concert 2024**

*Cost: \$15, concession \$5, tickets at door*

*Details: 6:30 p.m. Wollongong Salvation Army 11-13 Burelli St.*

### **Saturday 18th May, Seen Women's Conference**

Hosted by Kiama Baptist Church

*Speakers: Allyson Beddoe (Kiama Baptist) and Kirsten Long (Epping Baptist Church)*

*Details: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Kiama Pavilion, 2 Bong Bong St, Kiama.*

*Cost: \$75 adults, \$60 high school, \$60 concession card holders, extra \$45 if you choose Reflective Creativity workshop (tickets include morning & afternoon tea and lunch).*

### **Monday 20th May, 5icm Mid-Year Meeting**

*Details: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. 1 O'Gorman St, Albion Park. RSVP: [ficm@spin.net.au](mailto:ficm@spin.net.au)*

### **Saturday 25th May, Dapto Uniting Church Op Shop Fashion Parade**

Fun fashion parade, musical entertainment, clothes for sale, all welcome including men.

*Details: 2:00 p.m. in the hall behind Dapto Uniting Church at 122 Princes Hwy, Dapto*

*Cost: suggested donation of \$10 (includes afternoon tea)*

*RSVP: to Janet by email [exercisecare@gmail.com](mailto:exercisecare@gmail.com) (due to the popularity of this event you should book your seat, or a table)*

### **Saturday 25th May, United, Wollongong Women's Conference 2024**

Event by The Gospel Coalition Australia, Illawarra.

*Speaker: Grace Jones on Ephesians.*

*Details: 9:30am-3:30pm, Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibsons Rd, Figtree*

*Cost: \$55, concession \$50 (includes morning tea and lunch) [Register by 15th May](#).*

### **Friday 31st May, Illawarra Prayer Breakfast**

*Speakers: Leila & Danny Abdallah. Cost: \$66.70 for a single ticket.*

*Details: 6:30 - 8:15 a.m. Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow*

*Cost: \$55, concession \$50 at [Trybooking](#)*

### **Saturday 1st June, Gong Men's Day**

*Theme: Cross-Shaped Man*

*Details: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibsons Rd, Figtree.*

*Cost: \$55, concession (students/unemployed/retired): \$45.*

*Booking: [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1211361](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1211361)*

See the [5icm Events page](#) for **more events** and the **Regular Events** list.