



No. 431 23/7/24

## 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: 4,247*

### Church of the Week

**C3 Haven Community Church** (formerly C3 Shellharbour) meets at Lot 1/18 Mount Brown Rd, Mount Brown (formerly St Aidan's Anglican Church) from 28/7/24. The senior pastors are Jason and Tara Kent. Services are on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### Church of the Week (next week)

**St Matthew's, Jamberoo** at 22 Chapel Lane is part of the [Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Parish](#), Kiama. The present building was opened in 1879. The Kiama parish senior minister is Fr Chris Roberts (Parish Priest), assisted by Sr Maureen O'Halloran (part time Pastoral Assistant), Louise Cobby (Parish Secretary) and Gai Delavere (Catechist Coordinator). Services at Jamberoo are held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

### Church News

- Dapto Anglican Church** has farewelled and thanked David and Marianne Rietveld for being their interim ministers. The church is seeking to fill the senior minister's position.
- Rod and Christine Bayley** will be farewelled from **Wollongong Baptist Church** on Saturday 3rd August as they leave to plant **Calderwood Valley Baptist Church**. Ps Mark Roberts is now the WBC senior pastor. A commissioning service is to be held at 10a.m. Hope Theatre, University of Wollongong, on 11th August for those leaving WBC to be a part of the church plant.
- I was pleasantly surprised to see Ps Ralph Estherby as the speaker at **Chaplaincy Australia, Empower 24** (see details in Events below). As children, Ralph and his brother Stephen, also a Uniting Church minister who lives in the Illawarra, and I used to play together when our parents, who were cousins, visited each other.
- Comment.** It is interesting that two Pentecostal churches, Hillsong Wollongong and C3 Haven, have moved into buildings formerly used by traditional churches. If they are successful in their new locations, it might imply that traditional churches need to review their traditions.

### 5icm News

- I have made a new video entitled "**Which God?**", which deals with pluralism, relativism and atheism, all in 20-minutes flat. I have added it to the [www.gospelfacts.au](http://www.gospelfacts.au) website and on [YouTube](#). David Andrews, a professional musician and member of Dianella Church of Christ in Perth, emailed, "Well produced. Nice vision, music sounds great and the narration is excellent. Well done." David is an old school friend from Penrith High School, so receiving his response was another pleasant surprise.

2. The **Illawarra Seniors Band** played at the Seniors Group at my church, Albion Park Uniting, last Thursday. I can recommend them for church groups that meet through the week. They don't just play brass music; they sing and lead community singing as well. The band doesn't charge for its concerts (which are of one to one-and-a-half hour's duration) but are usually given lunch. I noticed that they are still seeking a percussionist. They play a mix of marches, Broadway musical tunes, Christian songs and hymns, and even John Lennon's "Imagine".
2. The next issue of the ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 6th August**. Please email me your church's ecumenical events for sharing with Christians of the Illawarra. I see some events advertised on the Internet, but it is not clear if the invitation includes those of other churches. 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.

Website: [www.5icm.org.au](http://www.5icm.org.au) | email: [ficm@spin.net.au](mailto:ficm@spin.net.au) | phone: 4256 5780 | 

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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.

### **Tuesday 23rd July, The Men's Well**

Rev. Mark Beaton conducts a group for men who are separated (e.g., estranged/widowed) or divorced from their ex or current partner.

*Details:* 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Northern Illawarra Uniting Church fellowship hall, corner Princes Hwy & Point St, Bulli. [Download flyer](#).

*Contact:* Mark Beaton on Mob: 0430 209 195 or email: [mark.beaton2@gmail.com](mailto:mark.beaton2@gmail.com)

### **Friday 26th & Saturday 27th July, Chaplaincy Australia - Empower 24**

Two day gathering for pastors, leaders, and chaplains.

*Speakers:* Ps Ralph Estherby, Deb Kuhna, Susan Marcuccio

*Details:* Fri 9:30am-1pm; Sat 9am-3:30pm at Lighthouse Church, 1 Railway Station Square, Wollongong.

*Cost:* \$150 for both days.

### **Saturday 27th July, Christmas in July**

*Details:* 12 noon at Dapto Uniting Church hall, 122 Princes Hwy.

*Cost:* \$35 each. No walk-ins. Booking essential, by emailing Janet at [exercisecare@gmail.com](mailto:exercisecare@gmail.com) for bank details

### **Thursday 1st August - CMS Meet the Missionaries**

*Missionaries:* Lachlan and Candy Grice preparing to go to Taiwan.

*Details:* 12:30-2:00 p.m. at Fairy Meadow Anglican Church, cnr Princes Hwy and Jardine St, Fairy Meadow. BYO lunch, tea & coffee provided. *Contact:* [Mia David](#)

### **Saturday 3rd August, Mental Health First Aid Training Day**

*Details:* 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Newday Church, 25 O'Briens Rd, Figtree. [Download flyer](#).

*Cost:* \$220 per person (includes morning and afternoon tea), optional catered lunch \$15.

### **Wednesday 7th August, Illawarra Seniors' Band Concert**

*Details:* 10:30 a.m. Marco Polo Aged Care, 11 Watergum Way, Woonona

### **Friday 9th, Saturday 10th August, Basecamp Men's conference**

*Details:* Livestreamed from Katoomba to **Kiama Presbyterian Church**, cnr Terralong & Shoalhaven Sts, 7:30pm-9pm Friday, 8:45am-3pm Saturday. [RSVP on Facebook](#).

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