



No. 372, 17/11/20

## Clearing the Way for Jesus

The newsletter of *Five Islands Christian Ministries* links Christians and churches from Helensburgh to Gerroa to promote church unity. Printer-friendly 2 x A4 PDF files of the newsletter may be downloaded from [www.5icm.org.au/index\\_files/ctwfj.html](http://www.5icm.org.au/index_files/ctwfj.html). Please send news items, prayer requests and comments to [admin@5icm.org.au](mailto:admin@5icm.org.au).  
*Distribution of this edition: 3,551*

### Prayer

Pray for the future of the **Illawarra Prayer Network** as it transitions to *Together for the Illawarra*. For the record, and those who can remember, here is some history.

In the late 1990's, the AD 2000 movement formed a network of combined church prayer groups in the Illawarra. On Saturday June 19th 1999 a prayer launch for the Harvest 2000 outreach was held. Ross Holmes (an AOG pastor) was the prayer coordinator for the Greg Laurie Harvest 2000 crusade in Wollongong. The prayer meetings continued after Harvest 2000 as ecumenical prayer meetings under the name of the Illawarra Prayer Network. A few years later, Jeff Stacey took over as President of the informal prayer network which was run in association with "Reach Illawarra" and David Bartlett's "Illawarra Pastors Network".

The fortnightly Clearing the Way for Jesus email prayer letter commenced on 21/9/2005 with a distribution of 77 email addresses as a combined newsletter for the Illawarra Prayer Network and the Five Islands Healing Rooms ministry (which subsequently closed in 2008). In 2006, Jeff Stacey stood down as President and, in the absence of applicants for the position, Derek Thompson, the newsletter editor, became the Coordinator. The prayer network joined Five Islands Christian Ministries to benefit from the mutual support, incorporation and charity status. The email distribution network has steadily grown to over 3,500 members.

### Illawarra Church News

**1. Philippa Clarke** emailed information regarding Uniting Church Retirement Villages.

"Uniting Mayflower Village Gerringong. Construction is underway to build 16 independent living apartments in our existing retirement village. An answer to prayer, has led to 14 of these apartments being sold, we have 2 apartments remaining for sale-these are 2-bedrooms. Move in date, is expected to be March/April 2021.

Uniting Nowra Retirement Village (Osborne St) now under construction and selling off the plan, there are 1 bedrooms, 2 bedrooms available for sale.

Contact Philippa Clarke on 0407 250 714 or via email [pclarke@uniting.org](mailto:pclarke@uniting.org)."

**2. CAP Course. Kiama Uniting Church** will run a free *Christians Against Poverty* (CAP) money course on 3 Fridays, 20th & 27th November & 4th December at 4pm at the church in Manning St. Kiama. This course teaches a tried and tested way of handling your money to assist you to pay bills, get out of debt and save as well. Booking is essential by phoning

Marion 4233 2490. It is proposed to hold the CAP course every three months, so if you are interested in attending a future course please phone Marion.

- 3. Christmas events.** Please email me about any Christmas church events for advertising in the next newsletter.
- 4. [ICentral316 Church of Christ](#)** at Kanahooka welcomed David Berner and his fiancé, Sam Barnes, officially into leadership last Sunday. Dave will be Associate Pastor alongside Tammy Tolman, the Senior Pastor.
- 5.** The NSW Government's **Covid-19 requirements** have been relaxed since last month allowing up to 300 people at a church service providing the 4 sq m distancing rule applies.

## ***5icm News***

- 1.** At last week's **5icm AGM** the *Illawarra Prayer Network* delivered its final report after 15 years with 5icm. The IPN's transition to *Together for the Illawarra* will be completed early next year. A link will be included in the next several editions of this newsletter to a sign-up page for *Together for the Illawarra*. We wish them well in running the prayer network and that it will continue to serve the churches of the Illawarra.
- 2.** The **Clearing the Way for Jesus** newsletter will continue on a monthly basis to advertise church events, promote church unity, support the 5icm member ministries and provide a forum for discussion on church matters. I will no longer be seeking prayer requests for the newsletter but, of course, I will include any that are submitted.
- 3. Wollongong Gospel Choir** has been unable to meet this year for rehearsals or performances.
- 4. Gary Hetherington** recently undertook a reconnaissance trip to Canowindra and Orange to prepare for a series of outreach meetings in early 2021. The ministers he met were very keen for him to come and contributed to his expenses. Gary found the Canowindra Services Club to be a perfect venue for the meetings.
- 5. [Albion Park Community Church](#)** submitted its first report to the 5icm AGM. The church fits well with the 5icm commitment to church unity. We invite one or two speakers from other churches each month. The church is attracting people who were previously not attending any church. Services are conducted around a community dinner with the traditional sermon being replaced by an after-dinner talk. On 21st November 5-7pm, Kevin Wilcock will be our after-dinner speaker. Friends of Kev when he was a pastor in the Illawarra are welcome to join us to say hello to Kev.
- 6. 5icm Finances.** For those who are interested in such things, the aim is to make 5icm self-funding from investments. Funds invested in Australian Ethical Investments went backwards in the first half of this year but have more than recovered and paid a dividend into 5icm's operating account to assist with costs. Income and expenses of all the member ministries are rolled up into a single financial report submitted to the [Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission](#).

God bless,  
Derek Thompson,

*Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.*

A registered charity.

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