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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. Printer-friendly 2 x A4 PDF files of the newsletter may be downloaded from www.5icm.org.au/resources.html.

Please send news items, prayer requests and comments to admin@5icm.org.au.

Distribution of this edition: **3,709**

Prayer

1. We don't usually include prayer points for world events but **Russia's invasion of Ukraine** carries the possibility of escalating to a war that will involve us locally. For those of us who can remember, USA did not like Russia placing its missiles in Cuba but that crisis was averted by diplomacy between the leaders. Now Russia is determined to not have NATO on its doorstep, so let us pray that a diplomatic solution is forthcoming.
2. Christians are not powerless in the face of the **storms and local flooding** of the past week. Just as Jesus spoke to the storm to be still, Christians can pray the same way in Jesus' name.
3. **A prayer for lent:** May we make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. For there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; there is one God and Father of all, who is Lord of all, works through all, and is in all. (Ephesians 4:3-4)

Illawarra Church News

1. As advised in the last newsletter, **Towradgi Congregational Church** ended over 70 years of faithful service to God and the local community late last year and the property has now been sold. A celebration service has now been organised at the church for 2pm on Saturday the 23rd April to be followed by afternoon tea and sharing. Anyone who has any involvement with the church over the years is invited to attend. Should you require any details please phone **Narelle Morris** on 0402 059 612.
2. **Jon Secombe** recently wrote and published a new song entitled "Ever Living Rock" for youth groups and has made it freely available from [this link](#) (have a listen). He will pass on a copy of the song and sheet music to anyone who contacts him at info@jonseccombemusic.com.
3. **City on a Hill, Wollongong** is holding preliminary services and will have its official launch over Easter. Ps Joel Deacon said the Wollongong church is independent, although the parent church in Melbourne is associated with the Melbourne Anglican Diocese.
4. The State Government's **Covid-19 restrictions** for places of worship have been relaxed. Covid-19 Safety Plans are now optional, check-ins are not required, and density limits no longer apply, face masks are not required although are recommended where physical distancing is not possible. Anyone may attend church services regardless of vaccination status. Singing is allowed. Anyone who has, or might have, Covid-19 should not attend (see [NSW Government website](#) for what to do).

Sicm News

- 1. Wollongong Gospel Choir** is hopeful of recommencing their regular Tuesday night rehearsals on 15th March if the venue can be secured. For confirmation, see their [Facebook group](#) or [website](#).
- 2. Albion Park Community Church** is the Illawarra's only ecumenical church and a member of Sicm. This Saturday, the guest after dinner speaker will be Jim Tait from City Central Presbyterian Church, Wollongong. On Saturday 9th April the speaker will be Ps Carolyn Meers, the senior pastor at Central Church Port Kembla.

It would be helpful for catering if visitors from other churches informed Ps. Mel Moore-Foye on 0401 646 610 or mel@albionparkcommunitychurch.com. Meetings are on Saturdays 5pm to 7pm at the Albion Park Showground HACCCentre and include a free community dinner.
- 3. Gary Hetherington** recently visited Canowindra to pray and plan with church leaders for the upcoming outreach campaign. Gary has issued a call for volunteers to help with the outreach. Volunteers are welcome to contribute to the Canowindra outreach as they are able. Gary is still holding five Zoom meetings each week: Two prayer meetings for Canowindra and the central west of NSW, one prayer meeting for the nation, a teaching class on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and a Communion service on Sundays at 11: 00 a.m. Visit [Gary's Facebook page](#) for latest details and to contact him via Facebook messenger. The zoom meeting details are on the [Sicm website](#).
- 4.** The next issue of the monthly ***Clearing the Way for Jesus* newsletter** will be sent in Easter (or Holy) week on **Tuesday 12th April**. Please email me any items for the next newsletter prior to that date.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,

Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.
A registered charity.

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Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

Wollongong Gospel Choir –(see above news item) **Rehearsals are normally held on Tuesdays during school terms.**

7:00 pm. At Wollongong Senior Citizens Centre, 192 Gipps Road, Gwynneville.
Contact: [John Sandercock](#) 0499 444 151

Tuesday 5th April

Illawarra Senior Brass Band
Kiama Uniting Church Women's Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Morning Tea; 10:30 a.m. the Band
Cost: \$10
Contact: [Gail Pickles](#) 4232 1630

Saturday 9th April (Note: another change of date)

Walking Between Worlds Workshop
Learn how to offer better support for LGBTI+ people and do less harm.
Speaker: Anthony Venn-Brown OAM.
Venue: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Central Church, 4 Fitzwilliam St, Port Kembla
Cost: \$30 per person (includes morning tea). [Download flyer](#). [Facebook page](#).

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