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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 A4 size PDF files of the newsletter may be downloaded from www.5icm.org.au/resources.html.

Distribution of this edition: 3,839

Prayer

1. Scripture Union Family Missions (SUFM) will be held in the Illawarra this summer. See below for details. If you want to volunteer to help out, contact the Missions administrator at Scripture Union NSW (SUNSW), on 9638 9000 or by emailing missions@sunsw.org.au.

Location	Address	Dates
Albion Park	Albion Park Anglican Church Terry Street & Russell St, Albion Park	26th Dec, 2022 - 7th Jan, 2023
Bulli	Bulli Beach Tourist Park 1 Farrell Rd, Bulli	26 Dec 2022 - 6 Jan 2023
Corrimal	Corrimal Beach Tourist Park Lake Pde, Corrimal	26 Dec 2022 - 7 Jan 2023
Gerroa	Seven Mile Beach Holiday Park & Discovery Holiday Park 200 & 107 Crooked River Rd, Gerroa	26 Dec 2022 - 5 Jan 2023
Kiama Summerlife	74 Manning St, Kiama	27 Dec 2022 - 6 Jan 2023
Wollongong	Wollongong Surf Leisure Centre 201 Pioneer Road, Fairy Meadow	27 Dec 2022 - 6 Jan 2023

Scripture Union's State Director, Ian Altman, writes, "Around 1000 volunteers are gearing up to take the Good News of Jesus Christ into caravan parks, summer music festivals, skate parks, and beaches. ... Please pray that "God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ" (Col 4:3)."

2. Pray for safety on **Illawarra roads and waterways** over the holiday season. You might have noticed from the above table that there is no SUFM at Gerringong this summer. From the SU website: "Gerringong SUFM Director, Tim House, suffered a broken neck and spinal injury while swimming at the beach during mission last year." He is recovering.

Illawarra Church News

1. **Together for the Illawarra** has [reported](#) on the Australian Bureau of Statistics census figures for the Illawarra. Christianity in the Illawarra **declined** by **7.92%** between **2011 and 2016** and **9.68%** between **2016 and 2021**, both figures being worse than those for the nation and state. We have work to do.
2. **Deacon James Arblaster** from Albion Park will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Brian Mascord at 10am Saturday 10th December at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral. When James became a deacon earlier this year it was said the worship was so enthusiastic it nearly raised the roof. What will happen when he gets priested? The ordination will be livestreamed. For the link and more information go to <https://dow.sh/Ordination2022>.

5icm News

1. **Wollongong Gospel Choir** is taking bookings for 2023. The choir performances are free of charge. They sing at fund raisers, weddings, nursing homes, etc., but prefer not to sing at Sunday morning church services because some choir members have commitments in their own churches. For further information, see the WGC [Facebook group](#) or WGC [website](#).
2. The **5icm AGM** was held in November. It was noted that the cost of Public Liability Insurance increased to over \$900, which underlines the benefit of ministries joining together. 5icm is partly funded by disbursements from its investments in Australian Ethical Investments but these decreased in value this year due to Covid. Any ministries that would like to take advantage of 5icm membership, which includes PLI, incorporation, and charity status please email me for the Benefits of Membership document.
3. The next issue of **Clearing the Way for Jesus newsletter** is scheduled for **Tuesday 7th February 2023**. At the end of each year some workers, especially teachers, move on to other employment with a resultant change to their email address. Please don't forget to let me know your new address. It is free to subscribe to this newsletter, just [email](#) or message me on Facebook. It is also free to advertise on the 5icm website and in this newsletter Christian events that are open to all churches.

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

Website: www.5icm.org.au | email: 5icm@idx.com.au | phone: 4256 5780 | 

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Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

Wollongong Gospel Choir – Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays during school terms.

7:00 pm. At Wollongong Senior Citizens Centre, 192 Gipps Road, Gwynneville.

Contact: [John Sandercock](mailto:John.Sandercock@wollongongnsw.gov.au) 0499 444 151

Friday 9th December, Shellharbour Carols by Candlelight

Hosted by [Shellharbour City Council](http://shellharbourcitycouncil.nsw.gov.au).

Venue: 6-9p.m. Albion Park Showground. A free Park N Ride shuttle bus will operate between 5:30 & 9:30pm from Croome Sporting Complex

Friday 9th December, Lumen Christi Christmas Carols

Details: 6:30 p.m. in Good Samaritan School grounds.

Registration: Parishioners and visitors need to register their attendance at www.lumenchristi.org.au/Christmas

Saturday 10th December, Figtree Community Carols

Figtree Anglican Church is hosting this free event of music, carols, fireworks.

Details: 5:30p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Figtree High School

Saturday 10th December, Carols in the Burgh

Helensburgh Combined churches' event.

Details: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Rex Jackson Oval, cnr Park Ave & Blackwell St.

Sunday 11th December, [Carols in the Carpark](#)

Hosted by Austinmer & Thirroul Anglican Church.

Details: 6:00-8:00 p.m. 49-51 Moore St, Austinmer

Sunday 11th December, [Carols in the Street](#)

Hosted by Corrimal Community Church

Details: 4:30 p.m. Coffee van & sausage sizzle; 5:15 p.m. Carols at 9 Augusta St, Corrimal

Wednesday 14th December, Carols in Kiama

Kiama Combined Churches' event featuring Ss Peter & Paul School and parish choirs, Alchemy Chorus South Coast, Sing Australia Kiama, SingSpace Vocal Ensemble, and more.

Details: 6:30-8:00 p.m. Ss Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Manning St, Kiama.

Sunday 18th December, Carols in the Carpark

Hosted by Port Kembla Baptist Church in their carpark, corner of Illawarra & Cowper St.

Details: 5:30-7:00 pm children's activities; sausage sizzle 6:15 pm; Carols 7:00-8:30 pm.

Sunday 18th December, Carols in the City

Hosted by Wollongong Congregational Church on their front lawn in 33 Market St.

Details: 6:30 p.m. free sausage sizzle, 7:30 p.m. Carols in the church.

- **Rev Owen and Linda Lukins** will be hosting their third **Group Tour to Norfolk Island in September 2023**. The Tour Leader component for this holiday will be donated to the Combined Churches Youth and Children's Ministry of Norfolk Island.

10 nights 8 to 18 September 2023 from \$2,990 pp twin share. Price includes return airfares, accommodation, car hire and several shared dinners and experiences and compares well with other package deals. If you've always wanted to visit Norfolk Island this is a perfect opportunity to do so in the company of like-minded people. For more details phone 0425 265 133 or email lukinslin@gmail.com

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