



No. 404 30/5/23

## 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](http://www.5icm.org.au/resources.html).

Distribution of this edition: **4,005**

### Church of the Week

We are praying for all the churches of the Illawarra, one church each week. This week, pray for [C3 Believe Church](#) which meets at 10:00 a.m. at the University of Wollongong Innovation Campus, Squires Way, Wollongong. The senior ministers are [Ps Andrew & Janine Kubala](#). The church holds a prayer and healing service on the last Sunday of each month.

### Church of the Week (next week)

Remember in your prayers next week, [Gospel Mission Church](#) which meets at 10:00 a.m. at the old Presbyterian Church building in Mayne Pde, Unanderra. The senior ministers are [Ps Charlie & Theresa Harb](#). Services are in both English and Lebanese languages. Carol Derrick, who attends the church, asked for prayer for church growth.

### Illawarra Church News

- 1. YWAM Wollongong** is now 18 years old. They are holding a series of Winter Worship nights at Central Church, 4 Fitzwilliam St, Port Kembla (see below for details).
- 2. Rev. Geoff Flynn** will be concluding his placement as the senior minister of "The Church in the Mall", **Uniting Church Wollongong Mission** on 30th June 2023. He started in Wollongong back in 2014 and his last Sunday will be 4th June. Geoff is finishing strongly. Last week the church had 3 baptisms and commenced a new weekly congregational prayer meeting for the church. Thanks for your service. **Rev. Doo Ah Leeming** will cease ministry at Wollongong Mission on 30th June, but will continue as the Tertiary Ministry Chaplain.
- 3. This is National Sorry Week** which raises the upcoming referendum for the **Voice to Parliament**. The "yes" case is supported by the [Sydney Anglicans](#), the [Uniting Church in Australia](#), the [Catholic Church](#), the [National Council of Churches in Australia](#) (which represents 33 denominations) and [Common Grace](#). Not all Christians are in favour. I spoke to an Anglican Bishop last week who will vote "no". [James Dargin](#) of the Waringarri Aboriginal Fellowship, Kemblawarra is promoting the "no" case, as is the [Australian Christian Lobby](#).
- 4. The Spirituality in the Pub** committee has decided it is time to close. Their last meeting will be at Jamberoo Pub on Monday 19th June, 5:50pm for a meal, or 7:30-9:00 pm for the last SIP gathering.

### 5icm News

- 1. The 5icm Mid-Year meeting** was held on Monday 22nd May. I reported that although the Clearing the Way for Jesus newsletter distribution had increased to over 4,000 emails, there have been larger than normal unsubscriptions recently. With the closure of Wollongong Gospel Choir, 5icm would like to support the formation of another Christian combined church choir. If anyone is interested in joining or leading such a choir please contact me.

Jill White of the Illawarra Seniors Band reported that band membership is not restricted to seniors, but since most concerts and rehearsals are in normal working hours, it is mainly retired people who join the band.

Gary Hetherington reported his plans to plant a church in Canowindra. All costs for his recent outreach at Canowindra were covered by donations received on that weekend. One difficulty is in finding accommodation for team members.

- 2. Illawarra Seniors Band.** If you are interested in booking the band or joining it, please contact Jill White, the Secretary, by email: [I.S.Band@hotmail.com](mailto:I.S.Band@hotmail.com)
- 3.** The next issue of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 13th June**. If your church would like to be a **Church of the Week** at a particular time, just contact me. Church news items, prayer requests, and combined church events can be included in the newsletter for sharing with Christians of the Illawarra. 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 once a month on a Tuesday morning at 10.30am (these currently vary) at the Port Kembla Senior Citizens Community Hall.

*Next Engagement:* **Tuesday 27th June, Kiama Uniting Church**

*Details:* 10:30 a.m. Kiama Uniting Church, 19 Bong Bong Rd, cnr Manning St, Kiama.

**Saturday 3rd June, Gong Men's Day 2023**

*Speaker:* Dr Brian Rosner, Principal of Ridley College

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

*Cost:* \$55 / \$45 concession (includes lunch). [Tickets available online](#) until 29/5/23.

**Saturday 10th June to Monday 12th June, Big Book Sale and Mini fair**

Fundraiser for Homestead of Hope (assisting the homeless and marginalised) and KBECET (supporting the Christian Education teacher at Kiama High School. 1000s of books, DVDs, CDs, jigsaws, most items \$2 or less. Cakes, craft, plants, bric a brac. Devonshire tea and coffee while you browse. Sausage sizzle and drinks. EFTPOS available.

*Details:* 9am-4pm Kiama Catholic Church, 96 Manning St, Kiama.

**Saturday 24th June, Zoe Fundraiser**

[Zoe Foundation Australia](#) rescues children from slavery in the sex trade and runs a children's home in Chiang Mai, Thailand

*Details:* 6:00 p.m. Kiama Baptist Church

*Cost:* \$80 for a 2-course meal. There will be entertainment and auctions.

*Contact:* Tony & Margaret Boothroyd 0422 105 533

**Saturday 24th June, Written in Chalk Documentary**

Director, Richard Attieh will host a Q & A session after the screening.

*Details:* 7:00 p.m. Kiama Anglican Church, Church Point Centre, 2 Terralong St, Kiama.

*Cost:* free (popcorn provided) [Download further information](#).

**Wednesday 28th June, YWAM Winter Worship Nights**

*Details:* 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (includes 1hr worship + a cuppa) at Central Church, 4 Fitzwilliam St, Port Kembla. [Download flyer](#).

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