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

Distribution of this edition: **4,276**

Church of the Week

Cross Connect Church. The senior minister, Rev. Ray Szwek, emailed the following.

"Let me tell you something about us...

We started out as a church for Christian bikers back in 2019 but have broadened our focus as a predominantly Pentecostal church to help people connect to God. The senior pastors who started the church were Andrew McLaughlan and Ray Szwek until Andrew left for Queensland in 2022 to possibly start another up there.

Senior Pastors are now Rev Ray Szwek and his wife Anna Szwek

We have a YouTube channel for all our sermons. Services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and up to this week were held at 161 Berkeley Rd, Berkeley. We are now in need of an alternative venue. [**urgent prayer request**]

We are a church who like to outreach, give support to other churches and get involved in prayer and Gods work in the Illawarra.

We are called CROSS CONNECT not just because we want the lost to connect with the Cross of Christ, but we believe all churches that lift up the name of Jesus should connect with one another. Remember we are one body in many places.

We have a Monday night men's group with the bikers. A Tuesday night prayer meeting. A Wednesday night bible study. A Thursday night ladies' group and a Friday morning Prayer with other churches. All are welcome.

We are on Facebook and This is our YouTube channel link

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChWDvaj54_ox83gQqJEcrtw

If your church is having an outreach of sorts text me on 0422 892 560 and leave a message. Thank you."

Church of the Week (next week)

Austinmer Anglican Church (All Saints) at 49-51 Moore St, Austinmer. The parish also includes St David's Thirroul, which we will pray for another time. The senior minister is Rev. Nathan Sandon assisted by Rev. Jon Clare (who provides senior minister oversight of St David's), James Massey (Children & Youth Minister), Liz McCoy (Mission Minister), Joshua Fullerton-Harvey (Ministry Apprentice) and Megan Whittington (Parish Office and Administration). Services are held on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Their vision, according to their website, is to connect with others to show God's love and proclaim God's salvation in Jesus, to be transformed by God's Word & Spirit, and to grow in diversity, Christian maturity and numbers, all for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Church News

1. [Calderwood Valley Baptist Church](#) launched on Sunday. They meet in the Learning Hub of Calderwood Christian School Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Rev. Ian Barnett** (senior minister at Dapto Anglican Church) requests your prayer support for the upcoming [7th National Grandparents Conference](#).

5icm News

1. The www.gospelfacts.au website has received 700 visitors and the "Which God" video has received 36 views on [YouTube](#). There are discussion guides suitable for small groups on the [Resources page](#).
2. The next issue of the **Clearing the Way for Jesus** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 3rd September**. If your church has any ecumenical events for sharing with Christians of the Illawarra, please email me and I will add them to the 5icm Events page. 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 | email: 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.

Saturday 24th August, Op Shop Fashion Parade

Northern Illawarra Uniting Church Ladies Fellowship present a Dapto Uniting Church Op Shop fashion parade, Op Shop clothing sale, and afternoon tea.

Details: 1:30 p.m. Northern Illawarra Uniting Church, 191 Princes Hwy, Bulli

Entry Cost: \$10

Tuesday 27th August, Men's Well Meeting

A group for men who are separated (e.g., estranged/widowed) or divorced from their ex or current partner.

Venue: Northern Illawarra Uniting Church

Contact: Mark Beaton on Mob: 0430 209 195 or email: mark.beaton2@gmail.com or visit ["The Men's Well" on Facebook](#)

Wednesday 4th Sept, Illawarra Seniors' Band Concert

Details: 11:00 a.m. Warrigal, 50 Harbour Blvd, Shell Cove

Tuesday 10th Sept, Watoto Children's Choir Concert

At the heart of the [Watoto Children's Choir](#) is a message of God's unfailing love.

Details: 6:30pm (doors open 6:00pm) C3 Church Thirroul, corner Lawrence Hargrave Dr & Railway Pde. [See webpage](#).

Cost: free entry, an offering will be taken, merchandise available for purchase.

Saturday 21st Sept, Calderwood Christian School Fair

Saturday 21st Sept, Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Northern Illawarra Scripture and Chaplain Board

Details: 6:30 p.m. C3 Thirroul Church Centre

See the [5icm Events page](#) for **more events** and the **Regular Events** list.