



No. 464 9/12/25

Clearing the Way for Jesus

The newsletter of **Five Islands Christian Ministries** links Christians and churches from Helensburgh to Gerroa to facilitate church unity. A printer-friendly 3 x A4 PDF file of the newsletter may be downloaded from www.5icm.org.au/resources.html with or without photos. Distribution of this edition: 3,917

Church of the Week (for Prayer Support)

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church at 18 Stewart St Wollongong. The Parish Priest is V. Rev Sophronios Konidaris. Services are on Sunday 8:00 to 10:45 a.m. and other days as advised. Details from the Internet: "The Church of the Holy Cross not only serves as a place of worship but also as a gathering point for cultural celebrations, including Greek Easter festivities that enrich the local community. This blend of visual beauty, spiritual significance, and community engagement makes the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross a cherished landmark in Wollongong, fostering a welcoming atmosphere for all who enter."

Church of the Week (next week)

"**NewDay Church** is part of the churches of Christ movement and we call 25 O'Briens Rd, Figtree home. As a church family we find commonality around the statement of being 'Christ's Family Boldly Serving Others' and we've been encouraged the last couple of years to see God growing our family with a thriving Children's ministry. We operate a childcare centre on site and have various business leasing spaces as well which has enabled ministry and mission through a midweek coffee ministry, strategic volunteers and opportunities for people to connect closer to our organisation. Amongst everything though, as per our statement, Christ comes first and there's nothing more important. Services are held at 10am each Sunday morning." Emailed by Jono Prince, Lead Pastor.

News.

1. **Rev. Tom Pardy**, the chairperson of the **Wollongong Wesley Faith Community**, has informed us that they have made the painful decision to cease operating. The final service will be on Sunday 21st December. The Wollongong Wesley Uniting Church property on the Mall is under the responsibility of the Illawarra Uniting Church Presbytery. Enquiries about the property should be directed to Vi Richardson, the [Presbytery Administrator](#), on 0491 185 320.
2. **Scripture Union Family Missions** commence in the Illawarra from Boxing Day (see details below). If you are interested in helping out contact [Hannah Kidson](#) SU Mission Facilitator on (02) 9638 9051.
3. **Wendy Nunan** has written a book entitled "**Wollongong's Old Roman Catholic Burial Ground Revisited, now known as Andrew Lysaght Park.**" For further information contact Wendy [here](#) or download the order form [here](#).
4. **The Men's Well** now has its own website at <https://themenswellgroup.com.au/>
5. Holiday season approaches, so don't forget to pray that there will be no drownings or vehicle fatalities in the Illawarra.

5icm News

1. At the end of the year, some of you will be changing email addresses. Please don't forget to let me know your new address by [emailing me](#) or messaging me on Facebook.. Thank you for supporting church unity in the Illawarra this year. Have a happy and holy Christmas. As usual, there is a version of this newsletter containing photos on the [5icm Resources page](#). Gmail rejects newsletters with photos as spam.
2. The next edition of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 27th January 2026**. If your church is launching new initiatives next year, use this newsletter to share them with the Christians of the Illawarra.

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 | 
Email me to [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe](#) from this newsletter, or if you are [changing email address](#).

Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

Illawarra Seniors Band rehearsals are on the third Tuesday of each month from 10.30 am at Shellharbour Salvation Army Corps, Cnr Ulster & Leawarra Ave, Barrack Heights.
Contact: [Jill White](#), the Secretary.

Next Concert: **10:30 a.m. Tuesday 9th December**, Hammondcare, Shone Ave, Horsley

Tuesday 9th December, Illawarra Seniors Band at Jamberoo Carols in the Park

Hosted by Jamberoo Combined Churches. Includes Jamberoo Public School, SingSpace Vocal Ensemble, barbecue and glow sticks.
Details: 6:30 p.m. Reid Park, Jamberoo.

Wednesday 10th December, Kiama Carols in the Park

Hosted by Kiama Combined Churches. Features local singers, musicians, school choirs.
Details: 6:30 p.m. Hindmarsh Park, Kiama.

Saturday 13th December, Figtree Community Carols

Details: 5:30-9:30 pm Figtree High School and Figtree Anglican Church.

Sun. 14th Dec, Christmas Celebration in Osborne Park opposite Wollongong Harbour

Hosted by the Wollongong Salvation Army Corps. Everything is free.
Details: food, live music, family activities, from 10:30 a.m., Carols at 12:30 p.m.

Sunday 21st December, Port Kembla Baptist Church Christmas Carols

Children's' activities from 5:30 p.m., free sausage sizzle from 6:15 p.m., carols 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., visit from Santa Clause at 81 Illawarra St, Port Kembla, phone 4274 1663.

Friday 26th December, Boxing Day, to 6th January 2026

Scripture Union Bulli Family (Beach) Mission

Details: Bulli Beach Tourist Park, 1 Farrell Rd, Bulli

Directors: Will Brown, Amy Rerekura & Josh Pullin

Contact: [Hannah Kidson](#) SU Mission Facilitator (02) 9638 9051

Saturday 27th December to 5th January 2026

Scripture Union Gerroa Family (Beach) Mission

Details: Seven Mile Beach Holiday Park, 200 Crooked River Rd, Gerroa

Directors: Tom & Sarah Poole

Contact: [Hannah Kidson](#) SU Mission Facilitator (02) 9638 9051

Saturday 27th December to 6th January 2026

Scripture Union Corrimbal Family (Beach) Mission

Details: Corrimbal Beach Tourist Park Lake Pde, Corrimbal

Directors: Jon & Louise Blencowe

Saturday 27th December to 6th January 2026

Kiama Summerlife Scripture Union Family Mission

Details: Coronation Park, 74 Manning St, Kiama

Directors: Ryan Tong & Emily Streeter

Contact: [Hannah Kidson](#) SU Mission Facilitator (02) 9638 9051

Saturday 3rd January to Sunday 11th January 2026

Albion Park Scripture Union Family Mission

Details: **Launch night** 3rd January at 6-8pm at Albion Park Anglican; free **Community BBQ** 6-8pm Calderwood District Park (sausage sizzle, face painting, outdoor games, Bible Talk); 5th to 9th January free **holiday program**: K-6 at All Saints Anglican Church 10am-12pm and youth 7-12 at Albion Park Uniting Church 9:30am-12:30pm
Directors: Declan Smith & Elise Pratt

Contact: [Hannah Kidson](#) SU Mission Facilitator (02) 9638 9051

Friday 9th January 2026, Scripture Union Burgers & Bush Dance

Free burgers, ice cream, bush dancing, a Bible Talk, All Welcome.

Details: 6-8pm Albion Park Anglican Church 253 Tongarra Rd.

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