



No. 470 7/4/26

## 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 2 x A4 PDF file of the newsletter may be downloaded from [www.5icm.org.au/resources.html](http://www.5icm.org.au/resources.html).  
Distribution of this edition: **3,977**

### Church of the Week (for Prayer Support)

**Hope Church 2508**, a member of Australian Christian Churches, meets at Unit 3, 23 Cemetery Road, Helensburgh, at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. The senior minister according to the church About page is Ps John Janman. In addition to the usual church ministries, the church runs several community services including Hope Community Pantry and Helensburgh Men's Shed.

### Church of the Week (next week)

**Albion Park Uniting Church** is located on the corner of Terry and Russell Streets, Albion Park. Services are held on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Unlike most churches, the Sunday School and family Service is held in the evening. The senior minister is Rev. Mark Greenlees, who is shared with Shellharbour Village Uniting Church. Later this month, the church will become more environmentally responsible and make a saving on energy costs, by installing solar panels and a battery. The Operation Christmas Child workshop and Illawarra collection point is hosted by the church. The church is proud of its long history stretching back to the first Methodist service in the area held on Christmas Day 1838.

### News.

- Hillsong Wollongong** has announced that its new pastors will be Josh and his wife Ryan Rockhoff who previously served as Kids and Youth Pastors at Hillsong Sydney.
- The **National Church Life Survey** will be held late in 2026. Churches can [sign up now](#).
- The former Illawarra Community Baptist church has sold its building at 22 Bong Bong Rd, Dapto and the building is now available for long term lease. Ps Kevin Harris said Illawarra Community Baptist Church is now meeting in homes until they can find other accommodation to make a fresh start.

### 5icm News

- Lesslie Newbigin, in his book *Truth to Tell*, p. 26, wrote about, "a dichotomy which runs right through our culture, a dichotomy represented on every university campus by the divide between the science faculty and the faculties of arts and humanities." He traces this split back to Descartes who "sought a basis of certainty in his own mind and not in the faithfulness of God." (p. 27). This led to Descartes's successors to confront God with the doubt as to whether he really existed at all." Next time: the rise of critical reasoning.
- The next edition of **Clearing the Way for Jesus** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 21st April 2026**. If you have any items or events to share with Christians of the Illawarra, just email me, advertising is free. To subscribe to this newsletter, or if your email address is changing, please [email me](#) or message me on Facebook.

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

## Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

**Illawarra Seniors Band rehearsals** are on the first 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 am Tuesday 21st April**, IRT William Beach Gardens, Kanahooka.

### Friday 17th to Friday 24th April, Evangelism Outreach & Mission Event

Hosted by Wollongong Pentecostal Fellowship for anyone interested in doing missionary work. [Download flyer.](#)

Guest Trainers: Raj (New Zealand) and Ryan (Malaysia)

Details: Commissioning Service 7:00 pm 17th April

8:00 am to 8:00 pm 18th to 22nd April Wollongong FO

9:00 am to 5:30 pm 23rd & 24th April Training Sessions

Zoom Training 7:00 pm 23rd & 30th March, 6th & 13 April.

Contact: 0491 700 452

### Saturday 18th April, Dapto Uniting Church Op Shop Fashion Parade

Details: 2:00 p.m. church hall, 122 Princes Hwy, Dapto. [Download flyer.](#)

Tickets: \$10, book by contacting [Janet Hyam](#) 0431 410 189

### Saturday 2nd May, 9th May, Restoring Foundations Course

A course presented by Elijah House Ministries for Senior and Assistant Pastors and their spouses (only 18 spaces available). Childcare is not available.

Details: 9:00 am to 4:30pm Anchorpoint Illawarra, Level 1, 345 Lawrence Hargrave Dr, cnr Railway Pde, Thirroul. [Download flyer.](#)

Cost: Early Bird closes 28/3/26: \$165, Standard \$185

Registration: closes 30th April.

Contact: [Adrienne Erwin](#) 0476 325 199

### Saturday 9th May, Mother's Day High Tea

Details: 2:00 p.m. church hall, 122 Princes Hwy, Dapto. [Download flyer.](#)

Tickets: \$20, book by contacting Janet Hyam 0431 410 189

### Saturday 16th May, Seen - Women's Conference

Hosted by Kiama Baptist Church

Details: 9am-4pm The Pavilion Kiama, 2 Bong Bong St, Kiama

Cost: Adult \$75, Concession \$65, Highschool \$55 [Register here.](#)

Contact: [contact@kiamabaptist.church](mailto:contact@kiamabaptist.church)

### Sunday 17th to Pentecost Sunday 24th May, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Resources are available on the [World Council of Churches website.](#)

### Friday 29th May, Illawarra Prayer Breakfast

Speaker: Jen Gurry, the founder of Diamond Women

Details: 6:30 a.m. The Fraternity Club

Cost: single ticket \$63, early bird table of 10 \$510, after 31/3/26, \$600.

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