

# The Oyster

*...Navigating Life's Pointy Edges.*



Tanilba CRC Newsletter, January 2014

## Who do I Belong to?

by Robert Champness.

When I say that I have a right to something, what rights do I have? There is the right of ownership and there is the right of possession. I own it if I have purchased it, made it or otherwise brought it into being (such as a poem). The right of ownership has precedence over the right of possession.

If I both own it and possess it, I have no problem but what if I own it but someone else possesses it? In that case I have to establish the superiority of my claim. That is usually done in a court of law. We can apply those rules to practically anything, but who has a right to me? Who has a right to tell me what I should or must do?

Figuratively speaking, laws are made to preserve the King's peace (i.e. the King is ultimately responsible to keep law and order in his kingdom) and so laws are made on his behalf to keep law and order. Other laws are made for the proper functioning of society. Because we choose to live in a society, laws must be made so that that society can properly function for the good of all its citizens.



So, who owns me and who has a right to tell me what to do?

Man was made with freedom to choose. That is what made it possible for Adam to go the way he did.

The Bible tells us that God not only planned that Jesus should be the creator of all things and that He should sustain all things, but that in Him all things are to be reconciled and brought together.

As a human being, you are owned by Christ (He made you) and you have been endowed with freedom to choose. In the exercise of that freedom we have all "gone our own way". As a Christian, however, you have been saved from the consequences of that waywardness and you have been reconciled to God through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To whom do you belong? God - our true Father - or yourself? Are you an orphan, or a Son or Daughter?

## When Disaster Strikes...

What is our fascination with Disaster? Are we bent on our own destruction or acutely aware that in a just world, someone has to pay for the wreckage we have caused?

### By Robert Champness

Why are there so many movies based on the destruction of the world and the annihilation of the human race, and why do we flock to see them?

One of my earliest recollections of predictions of world disaster was from Herbert W. Armstrong. He predicted the end of the world by 1975. He quoted men like Churchill to show that in 1975 the world would be beyond the point of redemption due to falling food production and increasing world population.



Of course he was wrong and his predictions did not eventuate. Never-the-less, catastrophes are never far from the mind of man, or from his heart, for that matter. Why do you think that is?

I can remember that back in the 1960s there was a prediction that Newcastle was going to be hit by a giant tidal wave (we would call it a tsunami these days). I was working at Tighes Hill then, and of course Tighes Hill would feel the full brunt of it. What happened? I was told that hundreds of people lined the wharves at Newcastle harbour to watch it come in. If you can't avoid it, you might as well enjoy the full impact of its arrival. It never arrived.

Then there was the end of the world by nuclear devastation. Newcastle was a target because of its BHP works. The front page of the Herald contained an aerial photograph showing the likely devastation. I was only a kid, but it must have been rather devastating for those adults who lived with that fear.

Why is man so bent on believing we are on the verge of catastrophe? Maybe it is because we know deep down that this world must face judgement – judgement from a just God who made us and holds us accountable for how we live. Mankind needs a Super Hero, a Rescuer, but there is none, apart from God Himself who “So loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish but have eternal life”.

# News, Views and Events

## Tilligerry Adult & Community Education.

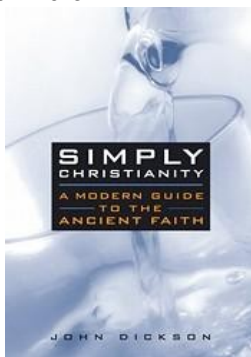
TACE is located in the community library at Lemon Tree Passage. It's equipped with Printing, Copying and Internet Services as well as a hub for local community activities.

For information on up and coming activities ring Sue on 4982 3986. Also Note that in the school holidays the Mon & Thurs hours are 10-12pm.

### What's it All About?

#### Learning about the Christian Faith

Most people have an opinion about the Bible and the Christian faith it teaches, but not everyone has had the opportunity to learn why it is that this faith endures, and why over the last two thousand years since the birth of Jesus, it has only ever known increase around the world.



Why do so many people believe the Bible and seek to follow its teachings – even (in some cultures) at the risk of their own lives?

What does the Bible actually teach? Is it reliable?

Simply Christianity is an opportunity for people from all walks of life to gather around a table together and ask these, and many more questions about the Christian faith.

These small and friendly Groups are open to anyone and meet over five sessions with plenty of opportunity to explore the meaning of the Bible, its authenticity, its impact on our lives and the reliability of the Claims of its central character – Jesus of Nazareth.

If you would like to know when these groups are being held in your neighbourhood, please

**Call David Trounce on 49845442 for more info.**



### Tilligerry Men's Shed

The Men's Shed is a place where men can get together, join in activities and talk about what's on their mind.

It is a fully equipped workshop where skilled and unskilled men can share time with each other, swap yarns and work together on community projects.

“Men's Sheds” is a charitable not-for-profit association. For more information about Activities and meeting times Contact Kevin Coleman.

Lemon Tree Passage Rd,  
Mallabula  
Ph: 02 4984 5931

---

### Help a Local Family

Do you know of a family in need. Are you a Family in Need? We have Hampers and Vouchers available for the Holidays. Please Call Ella on  
**49824507**

## About our Church Community...

Tanilba CRC is a Community Church that began on the Peninsula over 50 years ago. We believe in the Bible. We believe that Life is a Gift and we believe that God has created us to know Him and to live for Him in true family and community through His Son, Jesus.



If you would like to find out more about the Christian Church on the Tilligerry Peninsula, we invite you to contact us or attend one of our Regular Activities for more information.

---

### Wednesday Prayer Meeting

At the church. 7pm.  
All Welcome.

### Social Groups

Make New Friends.

Soup Nights, Kite Flying,  
Cricket, BBQ'S, Day Trips,  
Family Games and more.

Join one of our Social  
Community Groups in Lemon  
Tree Passage or Tanilba Bay.  
These Groups are open to all and  
meet in February, May, August  
and November each year.

### Weekly Bible Study Groups

We run two Bible Study Groups.  
Our Family Bible Study and  
Supper Group meets at 4pm on  
most Sundays at Mallabula.  
Our Ladies' Bible Study Group  
also meets at Mallabula on  
Fridays at 10am.

### Men's Breakfast

Come join other local men in our  
Community for a Hot Breakfast  
on the 1st Saturday of the month.

All are welcome and we meet  
at 7.30am at Henderson Park,  
Lemon Tree Passage.

### Women's Social Group

This group is open to all women  
and meets on the 1st Friday of the  
month at 7pm at the church hall  
in Tanilba Bay.

Come share a meal and a  
conversation on a Friday Night.

### Published By Tanilba CRC.

Christian Reformed Church  
02 4984 5442  
Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace  
Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.

### Church Service: 9am Sunday

[www.tanilbacrc.org.au](http://www.tanilbacrc.org.au)