

The Oyster

"... filtering life's junk. Unearthing life's gems."



January 2015

What to do with Your Junk

By David Trounce

Another year over and most of us are talking about the year ahead. But what about the year behind?

What about the last 10, 20 or 30 years behind? What's hiding back there?

Imagine for a moment that the sum total of your life's experiences are down there in the basement labelled and in boxes, ready to be brought out into broad daylight upon your death for inspection.

Any happy memories in there? We know what to do with those, don't we? They are the stuff slide shows are made of.

What about some of the other stuff, over there in that corner with a bed sheet draped over the top of it. What's under there?

Unfaithfulness that destroyed an important relationship? A bunch of stuff you stole throughout the years?

All the lies you told those you loved, along with the hidden shame? Anger, hate, envy?

What about the stuff you've got hidden back over there that nobody even knows about?

How do you feel about all that stuff following you about each year?



It seems that the older we get, the more that mountain of stuff grows, and the more it grows, the heavier it gets and the harder it is to escape its menacing dark shadow.

What will you do? Sure, there's the psych, the pilsner, the pills, the porn and the poker machines.

Like all man made religion, these provide the brief hope of forgetting. But the mountain remains and its shadow only lengthens, and we know this by painful experience every time we put our head on the pillow. Maybe sleep will help. Maybe when I wake up in the morning everything will be brand new?

There is a waking from the dead that does make things new – the Gospel of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's the only thing in Human History that has ever promised – and followed through on the promise – to remove the mountain of guilt, and He has promised that whoever comes to Him, He will in no way cast out. So Come.

What Love is Willing to Do

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

God loves His people. He demonstrated His love by sending His Son to die. The Son loves the Father and so was willing to suffer in our stead.

Jesus did not wrestle His angry Father to the ground and snatch the whip out of His hand. Likewise, God did not force His Son to be merciful to humanity.

What Jesus did when He suffered and died was His Father’s idea. Yet Jesus was willing to die. The crucifixion was God’s idea and Jesus was a willing offering. Why?

Because God loves those He has made and called to be with Him.

Why is this so hard to believe? Why do we struggle to believe that God loves us this much? The answer is shocking.

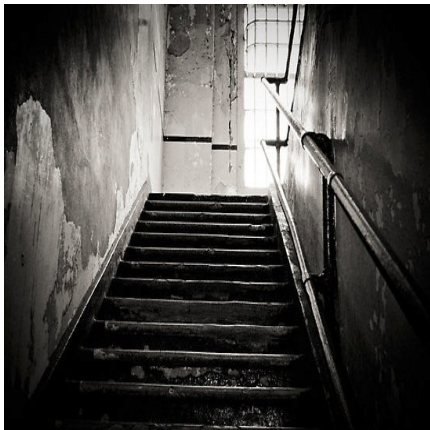
We actually prefer darkness. Like a guilty lover who can no longer look her husband in the eye, we prefer to hide in the darkness. Like a guilty lover, we cannot tolerate the love and affection which we know we do not deserve.

Men love darkness – not because the darkness is pretty. It isn’t. Those who live in darkness spend their lives looking over their shoulder. They spend their lives in anxious mistrust and fear, and in the darkness man is led away to destruction.

Men love darkness because their deeds are evil. We know our deeds are evil, but the only place we imagine we will find relief from our guilt is under cover of darkness. It doesn’t work.

To those who come out from the cover of darkness, God offers eternal life – a New Life in His Light, a guaranteed starting over again. The reason why God wants to forgive your sin is because, while you are enslaved to sin, *you are not living*. The reason why God wants you to forgive the sins of others committed against you is because, while you are living with guilt, shame and bitterness towards others, you are not living.

Because God loves you, He wants you to live. He wanted this for you so much that He was prepared to take your guilt and punishment and die. Come out of the darkness and accept God's offer of New Life, a new start.



News and Events

Lemon Jam

Mixed local market stalls
10-2pm. A local band
plays from 1-4pm.



Lemon Jam is a series of music events being held on the waterfront Henderson Park, Lemon Tree Passage on the fourth Sunday of every month. Support local musicians and get down to the waterfront for a jam!

Two Ways to Live

Two ways to Live is a simple booklet with some eternal truths about where we have come from and where we are heading.



The message at the heart of Christianity is this:

God is the Creator of the world and He created humanity to rule over and enjoy the earth which He had made. But, Humanity, wanting to rule without God has rebelled against Him.

God judges (and will judge) humanity for this rebellion. Man in declaring his independence from God has also separated himself from the source of life.

That rebellion has left us in a state of death.

In his love, God sends Jesus to die as an atoning sacrifice. In his power, God raises Jesus to life as ruler and judge.

This is the Good News of the Gospel.

In the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are presented with the possibility of life on God's terms, in his world. And that life is eternal life to all who repent and believe.

Get the Booklet: Our Church Book Shelf has a whole bunch of these booklets. Drop in and grab a free copy.

What's Not on This Month

Women's Get Together

The local get together of our women folk meets on the first Friday each month,
March to December.

Next get-together is on Friday
March 6th, 7pm,
Tanilba CRC Church.
Call Ella on 4982 4507

Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at Henderson Park,
February to December.

The next Breakfast is Saturday
February 7th 7.30am

For more Information call
David on 4984 5442

Published By Tanilba CRC.

02 4984 5442

Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace
Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.

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 our Church's activities 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 February.

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 next meets on the
first Friday in March 2015
at 7pm in the church hall,
Tanilba Bay.

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

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

Church Service: 9am Sunday

www.tanilbacrc.org.au