

The Oyster



...Because out of such tombs comes infinite treasure.

Tanilba CRC Newsletter, April 2014

From Darkness to Light

By David Trounce

At 8:30pm on March 29th, a large part of our world turns off its lights and sits in the dark for an hour. The event is known as Earth Hour, and millions participate.

The act of turning off our lights is a symbolic recognition of two things. First, that all is not well with the environment. Second, that we are somehow responsible for the mess.

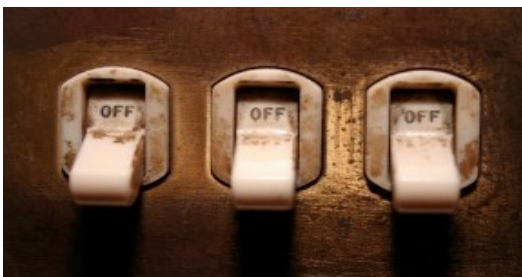
A couple of weeks after this, we have another, more ancient event: Easter. Note the similarities that follow.

Like Earth Hour, the crucifixion of Jesus was also marked by a period of darkness. While Jesus hung on the cross, we are told a darkness fell over the face of the earth from noon until 3pm.

Furthermore, the Crucifixion is a reminder that man is responsible for the mess our planet is in. Man has sinned in the way he lives and the results have been disastrous – but the Easter solution is very different.

In Earth Hour, we return every year to the darkness and admit our guilt.

At Easter, Jesus, by His death, took all of that guilt and responsibility upon Himself. It was a once-and-for-all event, never to be repeated.



The reason it was a once-and-for-all event is that by this sacrifice God was acting on our behalf, doing what we could never do, no matter how many light bulbs we extinguish.

Easter celebrates our deliverance from darkness. We no longer need to live with a cloud of guilt hanging over us for our sin. Jesus has carried it to the cross and nailed it there for good.

“That doesn't seem fair”, some will argue. “Surely we ought to clean up our own mess?” True, but let's be frank. We can never undo all that our sin has done in this world. And so, God has stepped in to do it for us. This is love.

For those who believe the Good News, caring for our earth is no longer motivated by guilt or fear, but by gratitude for God's kindness.

Our care for creation is not because we believe it is on the brink of ruin, but because we believe that God, in His mercy, has paid the price for the damage we have done, and will one day restore all things. Like everyone else, we work and we plough, but now we plough in hope.

From Enemies to Friends

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”

Letter to the Romans, Chapter 5:8-10.

By David Trounce

Back in January the news carried the story of an 8 year old boy camping out in a caravan that caught fire during the night, with 8 people inside.

The young boy managed to rouse the rest of the sleeping campers, including a 4 and a 6 year old.

He got them out to safety, but then went back inside to get his grandfather, and never came out.



Perhaps your response to this is grief mingled with admiration. We grieve over the loss of life, but we applaud the bravery.

Who would you be willing to die for? A neighbour, your wife, your children, your husband? What about the scoundrel who robbed you of all of the above things - would you die for him?

Most of us would like to think that we would rise to the occasion to save our loved ones. But those who have experienced disaster at the hands of wicked men are unlikely to feel the same compassion toward them. This is what makes the crucifixion of Jesus so unique in history. While we were enemies, while humanity was reviling Him, He was crying out, *“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”*

One of the reasons that Jesus could say this is that, ultimately, those who crucified Him were not taking from Him anything that He had not already decided to give.

Nobody took Jesus' life away from Him. He laid it down of His own accord and when He was ready, He took it back up again.

Jesus did not go to the cross because He sinned. He went to the cross because you sinned against Him. To us who were once enemies of God a way has been made for reconciliation – and it happened, not while we were friends, but while we were enemies.

Jesus died your death: the death of a person under God's judgement and heading for the lake of fire. He took the wrath that was upon you and then rose from the dead in order to give you life – Eternal Life.

News, Views and Events

Celebrate Life with us This Easter

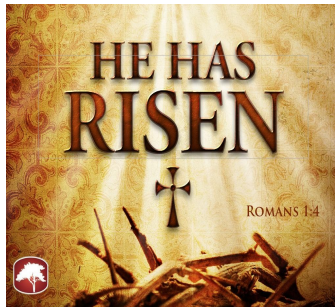
If you treasure life, we invite you to come along to one of our Easter services this April and celebrate with us.

All Welcome

Good Friday Service: 9am, April 18th, 2014

Easter Sunday Service: 9am, April 20th, 2014

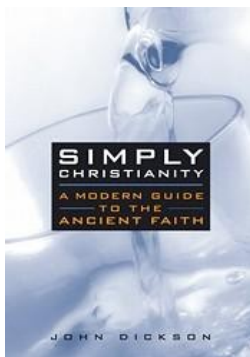
Cnr Peace Pde and Tanilba Ave, Tanilba Bay



What's it All About?

Learn 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 know 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.

Good Friday

Friday, 18th April.

9am at Tanilba CRC.

Cnr Peace Parade and
Tanilba Avenue, Tanilba Bay

All are welcome to attend.

Women's Get Together

Join with other local woman
on Friday April 4th for an
evening Dinner and chat.
7pm, Tanilba CRC church
hall.

Call Ella on 4982 4507

Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of
the Month.

At Henderson Park,
Lemon Tree Passage.

7.30am

For more Information call
David on 4984 5442

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 at 7pm on the first
Friday of each month, March to
December, in the church hall,
Tanilba Bay.

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

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

Church Service: 9am Sunday

www.tanilbacrc.org.au