

# The Oyster

*Because Life is Precious*



Tanilba CRC Newsletter, September 2013

## Growing Old

By David Trounce.

Is age an enemy? For many age is something to be fought and feared.

While we are young, hope tends to flourish. Each birthday means growing stronger, smarter and more productive. But how do you sustain hope when it becomes obvious that the House is starting to creak and sway? What do you do when you've reached the summit of physical and mental fitness?

How do you maintain Hope in the later chapters of life?

For Pierre Cornielle, a French playwright famous for his tragedies, old age was a reason to despair. Growing old for him meant increasing darkness and loss.

***“Oh rage! Oh despair! Oh age, my enemy” Pierre Cornielle***

By contrast, the wise King Solomon, while he acknowledged the very real difficulties of old age, thought that growing older should lead to increase.



Cornielle saw it as approaching midnight, while Solomon saw it as approaching the noonday sun.

The key difference between these two men seems to be in the object of their hope.

C.S. Lewis is a most helpful thinker here and asks, “What is it that a man in love wants when he courts a girl, woos her and becomes engaged to her with a view to marriage? Answer: He wants more of the relationship that he already has.

He wants the deepest, richest, most satisfying mode of togetherness with her that is possible for him to have. In other words, he wants more of what he has already.”

If our hopes in life are pinned to things which fade away, then age means the demise of hope; it means increasing darkness. For Solomon and for Lewis, age, along with its difficulties, meant drawing nearer to the Object of their Affections: The un-fading gift of Eternal Life and a Resurrected Friend. Where does your hope lie?

## Terrified By Weakness

*“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers; it is to him you shall listen; just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said...”*

*“Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.” (Deuteronomy 18:15-16)*

When God visited His people at Horeb, He did it with Peals of Thunder, Fire from Heaven and a terrifying voice.

The people panicked and asked God to come up with another way of communicating. So He did.

He sent them a Prophet, a flesh and blood man they could relate to who would say pretty much the same things.

He came in weakness and gentleness. They didn't like it at all. They wanted signs from Heaven.



God warned them that when He came, they must be careful to listen to Him. They didn't. People usually don't admire or give heed to apparent weakness.

The God at Horeb they could hear but could not bear. God en-fleshed in meekness and lowliness they would neither hear nor bear. “Depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man.”

They found the Kindness and Patience of Jesus intolerable. They found His apparent weakness and gentleness an insult. Jesus didn't call down fire from Heaven. He healed with a touch.

We live in a world that thinks that the power is in the noise. Might makes right, and all that. We just don't handle weakness very well. Perhaps this is why we feel the need to hide the weak, the infirm and the helpless from our view.

Jesus could bring on the noise. James and John were hoping He *would* call down a little fire from the sky. Jesus *could* call on a Legion of Angels, and Peter, sword in hand, would have been delighted. But Jesus *didn't*.

Jesus was crucified in weakness yet lives by the Power of God. Rather than deny our weakness, Jesus came into this world to overcome it. He became weak so that we might become strong.

This is true Power. Power clothed in weakness.

# News, Views and Events

## Men's Breakfast. Saturday, September 7th, 2013.

Come join other local men in our Community for a Hot Breakfast on the 1st Saturday of the month. 7.30am in Henderson Park, Lemon Tree Passage.

**All Welcome.**

Details: Phone David Trounce. 4984 5442



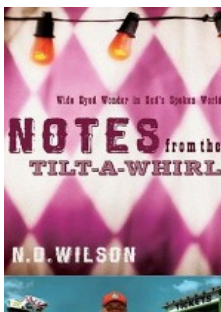
## Good Reads...

### Notes From The Tilt-A-Whirl: Wide-Eyed Wonder in God's Spoken World.

by Nate Wilson.

What is this World? What kind of place is it?

“The round kind. The spinning kind. The moist kind. The inhabited kind. The kind where water in the sky turns into beautifully symmetrical crystal flakes sculpted by artists unable to stop themselves.



The kind with people who kill and people who love and people who do both.”

This world is beautiful but badly broken.

In Notes from a Tilt-a-Whirl, Wilson brings all the voices of creation in together (including the ants, earwigs, butterflies, and his children) to tell the story of the world as God made it.

He sees the ups and downs of life much like a carnival ride, with the immeasurable joy of knowing that there is an Operator who will bring the whirling symphony of life to an all-satisfying end.

Welcome to His poem. His play. His novel. Let the pages flick your thumbs.

## Myanmar Ladies' Night

Did you know that Myanmar (Burma) was once the wealthiest Country in Asia, ahead of China and Japan?

Today it is one of the poorest.

Tanilba CRC holds a monthly Ladies' Dinner and Fellowship Night on the first Friday of each Month at 7pm.

The Theme for September 6th is Myanmar, its Food, Customs and Culture.

### Come try some Hot Mohinga!

If you would like to come along or find out more information, please call Ella Burgoyne on 4982 5407.

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## Pete's Kitchen

Hosted at the Baptist Church, Pete's Kitchen is a weekly Combined Churches Soup Kitchen.

It's informal, free and open to anyone who wants to come along for a meal and some conversation.

Thursday Evenings, 6pm

All Articles along with their citations are published on our website at [www.tanilbacrc.org.au](http://www.tanilbacrc.org.au)

## 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 Mallabulla.  
Our Ladies' Bible Study Group  
also meets at Mallabulla 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)