

# The Oyster



*Life goes Better when we Clump Together.*

Tanilba CRC Newsletter, December 2013

## The True Humanitarian

by David Trounce.

I read somewhere recently that, “If you love humanity then you don't need a God telling you what to do.”

Why is it that those who so often chant the mantra, “Love is all you need”, never want to get on to a crowded bus?

Kids – they love humanity. They will sardine themselves into a single carriage leaving the rest of the train empty just so they can be together.

Humanity cannot be truly loved from a distance. Yes, we ought to send our gifts to the needy and the poor. But how can it be said that we love humanity when we help the Syrian whom we have not seen, yet ignore the widow next door whom we have seen?

*“While Jesus was having dinner, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him..”*

People wanted to be around Jesus. They followed Him.

Well, some. Many of those who were actually entrusted with the message to, “Love your Neighbour as yourself”, had trouble with Jesus' love for Humanity.



They felt that all this eating and drinking together with those on the fringe was going overboard. Jesus, however, thought it the most natural thing to do with those you truly love.

Which reminds me of Vincenzo Ricardo. Do you know him? No? Nor did anyone else. His body was found slouched in his living room chair. He had been dead for 13 months.

His television was on. It was his only companion. That television had a lot to say to Vincenzo, but it didn't seem to care if he lived or died.

How can a human being vanish for over a year and not be missed by anyone? Alienation. Separation. Distance. The reason we celebrate the coming of Jesus as the Son of God in to this world at Christmas is that He loved this Sardine-world of Humanity.

He loved us by bridging the distance between us and our neighbour. He loved us by becoming one of us and first bridging the distance between us and Himself.

## Fill the Cup and Don't Say When....

“...spend the money for whatever you desire. Oxen, sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your heart desires. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.”

God, to the People of Israel (Deuteronomy 14:26)

by **David Trounce.**

The fare may be simple or it may be rich, but whatever we eat, nothing adds to the pleasure more than eating together.

This world started with a Garden Feast and it will end with a Banquet – a table surrounded by love.

There is no other time in the year where this feasting together is on display with so much colour and life as at Christmas time. It is a time for feasting and rejoicing together.

Some see God as a miserly character – someone who comes to rain on our Parade. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Sacrifices of Old Israel did not consist of piling up the dead animals before a God as though he needed feeding.

The food was for the feasting, and the feasting was for the joy of all the people in God's Presence.

The party turned nasty when we decided to take our cake and eat it in the corner without a word of thanks. When we insisted on having the feast without the Host.

Man has behaved a bit like the kid who comes home from school on his birthday. Mum has spent all day making the Cake so that he can celebrate with friends and family. But, upon walking in the door and seeing the cake, rather than hug his mum, he hugs the cake and runs off with it in to the bedroom, to eat it in selfish solitude.

Doesn't that strike you as an odd response to so wonderful and loving a gift? It is odd, but we do it every day with the good things that God has given us in creation.

Rather than adore the Baker, we have chosen to adore the cake. But the pleasure is fleeting because the cake is fleeting. God loves the Feast – but He longs to share it with you. He became a Man and ate and drank with us. He even died in our place to ensure our seat at His table forever.

The appropriate response is to say 'Thank You' and perhaps confess that for too long we have lived life dazzled by the cakes, and now it is time to befriend the Cake Maker.



# News, Views and Events

## Combined Churches' Christmas Service.

This year's Annual Peninsula Combined Churches' Christmas Service is on at 5.30pm, Sunday, December 8th at the Tanilba Bay Baptist Church.

**All are Welcome. Invite your Friends.  
Bring a Plate of Food to Share at Supper.**



## Christmas Eve Carol Service

Join us at Tanilba CRC cnr Peace Parade and Tanilba Ave for our Annual Carol Service.

Tuesday December 24th at 6pm.

Followed by a light Supper.

**All Welcome**

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## Help a Local Family

Do you know of a family in need this Christmas? At Tanilba CRC we have this thing called 'a Larder'. From it we provide food, children gifts, Spending Vouchers, and other necessary household items to needy families.

Are you a Family in Need? Do you know someone in Need?

Please Call David on

**4984 5442**

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## RSL Carols

5pm on Saturday  
7th December.

All Welcome.

## War on Christmas...

Five months into the first World War, troops along the Western front took a Christmas Eve break from fighting to sing carols to one another across the battlefield.

The following morning, German soldiers emerged from the trenches and began to approach Allied troops while calling out "Merry Christmas" in English.

Luckily, it wasn't a trick; dozens of British fighters came out to greet them and shake hands, some even exchanging cigarettes as gifts. Later dubbed the Christmas Truce of 1914, it was one of the last examples of wartime chivalry.

May you also find the time to come out from the trenches and make a truce with one another this Christmas.



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.

**Some Regular Activities may be Suspended over the Summer Holidays.**

### 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)