



Taken at Elephant Rock Patonga. Thanks, Jessica Tilden, for this beautiful photo.

Ettalong Baptist Newsletter, 23rd July 2026

From the Pastor:

This Sunday at our 9.30am service, we will read Hebrews 7:1-10 and meet one of the Bible's more mysterious people: Melchizedek. He is described as the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High. His name means "king of righteousness," and Salem is connected with peace. He appears only briefly in Genesis, where he blesses Abraham and receives a tithe from him, and then he disappears from history. Yet Hebrews shows us that this short moment in Genesis still matters. Melchizedek reminds us that God is not limited by the things people often use to measure importance—family background, job title, reputation, success, or what others think of us. In everyday life, it is easy to judge ourselves by what we have achieved or how we are seen. But this passage points us to a better hope: our security is found not in our status, but in God's faithful purposes.

Hebrews shows us that Jesus is greater than Melchizedek. This does not put down Abraham, Israel, or the Old Testament priesthood. Instead, it helps us see more clearly the grace God gives us in Christ. Melchizedek blessed Abraham, but Jesus brings a blessing that reaches into every part of life—our work, relationships, worries, choices, and failures. Melchizedek points toward righteousness, peace, and a priesthood that lasts; Jesus fulfils all of these perfectly. He meets us with mercy that does not run out.

As we read Hebrews 7:1-10, we are invited to trust Jesus not just as someone we believe in, but as the priest and king who steadies us today. He calls us to receive his peace, live in his righteousness, and offer our lives with gratitude to the one who has already given himself completely for us.

Blessings
David

9.30am Sunday Morning Service, 26th of July:

Topic: Greater Than Melchizedek, **Bible Passage:** Hebrews 7:1-10

'Kid's Church' is on during our 9.30am service. All children are welcome!

Marion, Heather and others will be at the front after the service for anyone who would like prayer.

The service will be livestreamed: https://youtube.com/live/P4J8_Y_hvz4?feature=share

Attention: Barrenjoey Road Carpark to Remain Closed:

Our carpark in Barrenjoey Road will be closed until about the middle of next week and will therefore not be accessible this Sunday morning. Please use the rear car park.

Alpha:

An introduction to the Christian Faith. We will be starting Alpha Sunday 23rd of August, 4pm to 6pm.

Are you interested in helping with Alpha? Please see Pastor David now:

- We need child minders, caterers, and group helpers
- Most of all we need people to be praying. Please consider joining our Alpha prayer team. You can pray at home and will be given a list of things to pray for each week.

Are you interested in joining Alpha as a participant. Invitation flyers are available listing the planned dates and the topics we cover.

Please see David by email or phone 0448 431 234

Coast Baptist's Prayer & Worship Night:

Join Central Coast Baptist churches for a combined Prayer and Worship Night in 5.30pm, 16th August 2026 at Greenpoint Baptist Church and Christian College. Enjoy a free dinner together before lifting your voices together in worship.

The event is free, but please RSVP for dinner on the Coast Baptists Worship Night page:

<https://gpbc.au/coast-baptists-worship-night>

or scan the QR code on the event posters on our Church Noticeboard.

Registrations for Bethshan Women's Retreat closes Tomorrow:

Women's Retreat is 14 to 16 August, at Bethshan, Wyee. **Hurry, registrations close tomorrow Friday, 24 July.** The Women's Retreat registration forms are available on the information table in the church foyer.

Let Margy know if you require a lift or can provide a lift to or from the retreat.

Speak to Margy Gilchrist for any enquiries, 0447431234.

Spring Fair, Saturday 5th September:

It's just 6 weeks until our Spring Fair. This major event is when we raise most of our funds to raise financial support for our 9 missionary partners.

- Please place your name on the volunteer board in the Fellowship Hall (Downstairs Hall). Talk to Heather for clarification of what needs to be done.
- Is there anyone with some basic machine sewing skills who could help out with some sewing of small quick and easy items to sell on the Craft Stall? Heather has all the supplies needed. Please see Heather, if you can help in this way.
- 2 litre Small Ice Cream containers are still needed for our homemade ice-cream stall. Please give them to Heather or leave them in the church kitchen.

Thankyou. Heather Crawford Fair Coordinator phone: 0419 297 496

Aldi Grocery Ministry, more volunteers please:

We require more volunteers, to help with our Sunday evening food pick-up. Please pray if you can help in this ministry. This ministry operates on a roster, so you won't be serving every week. It is a real blessing to be able to help people in this way. See Jane or phone: 0425 263 763.

EBC's Prayer Groups, All Welcome:

- **Sunday Mornings 8.45 – 9.15am.** A small group of people meet to pray each Sunday morning before the 9.30am service at the **back of the Fellowship Hall** (Downstairs Hall). You are welcome
- **Monday mornings 8.30am to 9.30am in Hill Hall.** This prayer gathering is a time of praising the Lord and dedicating the week's ministries and the guidance of the Church to the glory of God.
- **Tuesday Zoom Prayer group.** This is held at 10am. Please see Greg or Elizabeth Beckenham to join.
- **Connect Groups.** Please take time to pray as a group. We encourage everyone in the church to join a Connect Group. See Heather Crawford for available groups.
- **Ettalong Baptist Church Prayer Chain. Can We PRAY For You?** Please send your Prayer requests or Praise Points to ettalongbaptistprayerchain@gmail.com, **available 7 days a week.**

Giving:

Our bank details are:

Account Name: Ettalong Baptist Church – Bendigo Bank

BSB Number: 633 000

Account Number: 225 369 099

You may also give cash or cheque by placing your offering in the box next to the main entrance door in the church auditorium.

Ettalong Baptist Church, Safe Church Team:

To report a child protection concern or incident please contact: Pastor—David Gilchrist (phone: 0448 431 234) Jane Keuning (phone 0425 263 763) or Jean Lynch (phone:0425 749 224)

Find Important Church Documents on our Website:

You can download and print documents or simply read and fill in documents online!

<https://ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au/documents/>

Your Newsletter Items, Including Photos:

Please send your Newsletter items & photos to: office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au by **12.30pm Wednesday.**

If you would like a copy of our weekly Newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to the address above, with your name and email address.

There are printed copies in the foyer, the newsletter is also posted on our Ettalong Baptist Church Website.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter by email, please reply ALL to this email with the word **UNSUBSCRIBE** and we will remove you from this email list.

Thanks to those who have sent their photos for the Newsletter, keep them coming please!

Alpha starts...

Sunday 23rd August



Prayer and Worship Night, 16 August, Green Point Baptist Church:

Dinner at 5.30pm, Worship Service at 6.30pm.

