



'Well done, good and faithful servant!' Rev Graham Checkley at Balmoral Beach.

Ettalong Baptist Newsletter, 20th August 2026

From the Pastor:

This Thursday is the memorial service for Graham Checkley. We are expecting a very large crowd at the service. Please keep the Barrenjoey Road Car Park free for family of Graham. The service will be Live Streamed and will be playing on the TV in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who is helping to make this service special for the Checkley Family. Graham was a much-loved man in our church and I pray as our church puts on this funeral it will be a reflection and honour for all he meant to us.

This Sunday is our Church AGM. Thank you to Wynda for compiling our 2025-2026 Annual Reports. At the end of this newsletter are two additions to our reports. The first is a revised and updated report from Crossroads Counselling and also a Property Report.

Alpha commences this Sunday. Please be praying for all our participants, and for those who will be helping to run Alpha.

Blessings
Pastor David

9.30am Sunday Morning Service, 23rd of August:

Topic: A True, Perfect Sacrifice **Bible Passage:** Hebrews 10:1-18

'[Kid's Church](#)' is on during our 9.30am service. All children are welcome!

Paul, Sheila 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/iMjKbiou0hk?feature=share>

Annual Congregational Church Meeting, this Sunday 23rd August:

You are invited and encouraged to join us for our Annual congregational meeting after the morning tea this Sunday 23rd of August at 11am.

Thank you:

Ruth and John MacFarlane would like to thank everyone for their Cards and support after the loss of John's brother James.

Alpha – Starts this Sunday 23rd of August. 4pm – 6pm:

Are you interested in joining Alpha as a participant. Invitation flyers are available listing the planned dates and the topics we cover. Please speak with David for more information or to register your interest, by email david@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au or phone 0448 431 234

Thank you to all who have offered to help with Alpha. We could still use help with child minders, caterers, and group helpers. Please email David.

Thank you to those who have offered to pray for Alpha. If you are able to commit to praying for Alpha and would like to receive weekly prayer updates please email David.



Ministry of Leftovers Announcements:

Ministry of Leftovers will be closed on the following dates

- Thursday 20th August
- Wednesday 2nd September
- Thursday 3rd September

Caroline has noticed some jobs listed below, to do before our Spring Fair in 2 weeks, if you could assist with these, please get in touch with Caroline.

- Leaf removal -which there is likely to be more after today, as the gutter man is coming to clean the high roof gutters.
- Cobwebs on fences, walls and windows.
- Clean windows in the Hill Hall for the Fairs Café
- Dusting stock upstairs, including glassware
- Re-arranging stock in MOL

Nehemiah 3:1-2 reminds us of the beauty of God's people working together.

A BIG thank you for all your help, it is very appreciated. - Caroline.

Spring Fair notice to Cake, Slice and Sweet Makers:

Thank you for agreeing to make some Goodies for our Cake Stall. As you will be aware, I am sure, for sale we need to wrap our goods securely and ensure you list the ingredients you have used. Also place the day goods were made or best before used by date.

This stall always sells out fast!

It would also assist the stall holders if you placed a price on your goods, if not the coordinator will price the goods for you.

Thank you Jean Lynch

Cake Stall Coordinator.

Spring Fair, only 2 weeks away. Saturday 5th September, 9am – 1pm:

1. Thank you to everyone who have made things for the fair! e.g., planting pots of flowers and shrubs etc., making craft items, thinking about cakes, donating good quality items to Ministry of Leftovers, thinking about what you will do to help, ordering/organising supplies, etc.

2. Press Releases: If any stall coordinator has something interesting about their stall or an announcement to share over the radio please let Heather know so she can prepare a press release and let David and Linda know for their radio interview on Rhema FM.

3. We Need Prayer Warriors. We have been asked by visitors in the past for prayer. Heather and the Fair organisers need to know who they can take people to for prayer. Prayer warriors will need to sit around the fair and pray for anyone who asks.

4. We Need Three Volunteers to Meet and Greet. Greeters speak to visitors, to encourage and bless them and help everyone to feel welcome. Meg Toon is coordinating this activity and can help you know how you can volunteer in this way.

Please be in prayer for this major activity of our church. The Fair raises funds for our Mission Partners and is a positive outreach to our community, neighbours and friends.

Heather Crawford, Fair Coordinator phone: 0419 297 496

First Aid Training here @ EBC Saturday 19th September 9am – 4pm:

We are holding another First Aid Training Day here next month, if you did this in 2023, it's now time to renew your certificate.

The cost will be \$120 each (as long as we have 10 or more people). Please speak with David Gilchrist if you can't afford this. Please don't let price be a reason not to sign up for the course.

Lynette has put up a notice on the notice board in the Fellowship Hall that you can add your details to register for the course. Alternatively, please email Lynette your details to register for this First Aid Training.

Please let Lynette know by Tuesday 15th September if you are able to do this training.

Thank you, Lynette: office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au

Ladies In Fellowship Together Advanced Notice:

In September our LIFT Lunch will be held on Friday 11th, rather than on the first Friday of the month which would be the day before the Spring Fair, when so many will be involved in setting up etc.

We'll meet at Yi An Chinese restaurant in Woy Woy at 12.30pm.

All ladies are very welcome to join us.

For info: 0401 344 814. Marion.

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.**

Join us for FUN RAISING on Wednesday Mornings:

- **Games mornings for FUN raising!!**
- We meet in Hill Hall every Wednesday morning 9.45am to 12pm (School Terms). We serve Cafe Coffee and Hot Chocolate. This morning is thoroughly enjoyed by all that attend.

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.

Addendum to our book of Annual Reports for 2025-2026:

Property – Maintenance Report

Property Officer: Vacant

- The property is showing its age and continues to require ongoing care. We appreciate the many people who have undertaken tasks to keep the premises in a safe useable condition.
- Pat and Alan have completed various low level painting tasks.
- Bev maintained the lawn in immaculate condition and Pat has assisted with the garden.
- Bev and Robert cleared some low hanging branches on the Men's Shed tree.
- Contractor Sos has kept the top roof and gutters clear preventing leakage of water to the upper rooms. Peter and others have kept the low-level gutters clean and preventing overflow onto walkways.
- Geoff had previously resigned as Property Officer, due to increasing physical limitations, but has continued to assist with technical matters particularly in the plumbing and electrical areas. In the current year we have undertaken the following:
- Baptistry: the broken tiling was covered with a Villaboard sheet then sealed and painted. Other tiling defects were repaired.
- The baptistry plumbing was modified to improve operability. An additional inlet water cock was installed to allow for control at the baptistry. A submersible pump to circulate cold water from the bottom onto the heating elements to create uniform temperature throughout the baptistry without manual assistance and allows the heating to take place in about 6 hours. It is possible to use this pump to empty the baptistry through a hose to water gardens, albeit at a low pressure.
- Various tap washers on toilet hand basins have been replaced and reseated. The Hill hand basin taps are displaying other problems and due to age will need replacement.
- The power wire under the auditorium to the front air conditioner has been partially replaced due an age-related intermittent failure. Defective circuit breakers in the main kitchen distribution board have been replaced with up-to-date CBs. We have experienced similar events in the past and can expect similar incidents in the future.
- A pre-inspection test run of emergency lighting indicated that the battery life of the auditorium flood light was again defective. The unit was replaced by a complete modern LCD unit which hopefully will meet the regulations for several years. The emergency flood unit in the upstairs hall has worked well for several years.
- A Technical report on the large water leak was prepared. The age of the failed underground copper pipe was a factor in the incident. The sandy nature of the soil resulted in most of the leakage water going downwards for an undefined period, before some came to the surface and was seen. This resulted in a very large water bill.
- In view of the above and the chance of another similar event, a programme to regularly read the incoming water meter and to be alert to potential losses is currently under way.
- We were alerted by Ausgrid that the vegetation was too close to power service line to the Men's Shed. Following Ausgrid rules for 'ordinary people' we trimmed the tree to generous margin away from the line, as it is our responsibility. The view of the tree from east and west remains unaltered.
- We have kept in touch with NSW Transport on the adjacent road works to represent EBC interests and have advised members of events that would impact their access and parking of cars etc.

The Team
August 2026

Crossroads Counselling Report

Counsellor: Meg Toon

Over the past year, Crossroads Counselling has continued to provide Clinical Counselling plus Pastoral and Professional Supervision face to face in the Crossroads Counselling room at EBC, or via on-line or phone sessions.

The decision to keep my Counselling and Supervision registrations with Christian Counsellor Association of Australia, but to drop my Registered Music Therapist and Registered Nurse accreditation was made mid 2025, but I include those skills within the counselling practice as and when appropriate.

Clinical Counselling has been primarily for adults in our area presenting with a wide range of individual and relationship issues. Supervision has primarily been for Pastors and Clergy from across the mainstream churches plus Allied Health Professionals. The Professional and Pastoral Supervision assists professionals to maintain safe practice and wellbeing, dealing with or avoiding burn-out, while offering a reflective space for each supervisee to pause and reflectively talk over their often complex work challenges.

At the beginning of 2026 I felt The Lord leading me, under the umbrella of Crossroads Counselling, to run a Wednesday games morning during the January summer break for the many people in our local community who are lonely and isolated, with the aim of friendship and fun including good morning tea, and an opportunity to seek counselling assistance if needed.

After a month's pause, I strongly felt that this group should resume weekly during term-time, and so with the blessings of EBC Pastor, Elders and Deacons, and with the much-appreciated assistance of a core group of EBC people, we have met in the Hill Hall with an attendance of approximately 6-8 people. We offer an open invitation to anyone, especially lonely neighbours who you might know, to join us, asking only a few dollars for the morning coffee/chocolate including contribution to the operation of the espresso machine.

I am intending by God's Grace to continue to practice at least until June 2027 and continue to welcome new and returning clients for counselling and supervision, including seeing people for highly subsidised rates if required, on a short-term basis.

My thanks again go to Pastor David, the EBC Elders, Deacons and Office staff for their encouragement, prayer and help when needed.

Blessings,

Meg

July 2026

Meg Toon BA.(Music), M.Couns., RN Ret'd., RMT Ret'd.

CCAA Reg. Clinical Counsellor & Supervisor. PACFA Reg. Clinical Counsellor.

Crossroads Counselling.