



Thanks, Julie, for this lovely sunset on the beach photo.

Ettalong Baptist Newsletter, 6th August 2026

From the Pastor:

“Jesus said... “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.” (John 11:25-26 NIV)

This week our Pastoral Elder, dear brother, and good friend Graham Checkley went home to be with his Lord. We grieve deeply, and we will miss Graham terribly. Yet even in our sorrow, we do not mourn as those without hope. In Christ, we know that Graham has died, but he is not lost.

Graham loved and served the Lord Jesus. He would be the first to say he was not perfect, but he trusted the One who came into the world to save sinners. God loved Graham so much that Jesus Christ died for him, rose again, and lives today. By grace, Jesus forgave Graham and gave him the gift of the Holy Spirit. Graham belonged to Christ. Today he is in God’s presence, praising his Lord, free from the troubles and sins of this world, and held in the presence of God’s glory.

We read in the papers and on social media, that Graham has died. That is true, and we feel the sorrow of it. But in Christ, death does not have the final word. Graham is more alive today than he has ever been, having entered the doorway to eternity with Christ his Lord.

Please join me in praying for Graham’s family, and for all who loved him, that the Lord would comfort them with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection and surround them with his tender peace and care.

Blessings
David

9.30am Sunday Morning Service, 9th of August:

Topic: A Better Promise For You! **Bible Passage:** Hebrews 8:1-13

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

Merryll, Jane 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/40L71m5GDQU?feature=share>

Kid’s Church Meeting this Sunday 9th August after church:

There is a Kids Church meeting this Sunday, straight after the 9.30am service, in the Barrenjoey room. This is a way to thank the teachers, supporters and anyone interested in helping out or praying for Kids Church.

Annual Congregational Church Meeting, Sunday 23rd August:

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

Coast Baptist's Prayer & Worship Night:

Join Central Coast Baptist churches for a combined Prayer and Worship Night at 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.

Alpha:

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



Ladies In Fellowship Together Lunch Tomorrow (Friday):

You are invited to join us for lunch at Pelican's Woy Woy, on Friday 7th August at 12.30pm.

All ladies are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there. More information: Marion 0401 344 814

Men's Breakfast 8am next Saturday 15th August:

The men's fellowship breakfast will be held next Saturday 15th August, 8am, at BBF Café, Woy Woy.

More Information phone or message Ian on 0411 012 125.

Thanks

Ian Makepeace

Graham Checkley's Funeral, Thursday 20th August:

Graham's memorial service will be held at Ettalong Baptist Church at 12.30 pm.

Spring Fair, Saturday 5th September:

1. Thank you to everyone who has already started making things for the fair (eg, 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

Operation Christmas Child Boxes will be available at the Spring Fair:

As a part of the Spring Fair again this year, Beth and Heather will be selling the Christmas shoe boxes already packed to make it easier for you to contribute to this worthwhile appeal.

Boxes will also be available from Beth to fill your own boxes.

Skills For Life Donations and Deposits:

When donating to the ministry of Kisii and Mango Tree Academy, **please label your donation 'Skills for Life'**. Please do not use the names Kisii or Mango Tree Academy, etc.

When Placing Your S.F.L. Donation Into The CHURCH OFFERING BOX:

If giving to Skills For Life through the Church Offering Box, please note clearly and specifically what your donation is for:

- If your donation is for child sponsorship, please state this clearly with your name, so we know what it is for and which child your donation is for.
- If your donation is for a specific cause, such as roof repairs, please state clearly "Skills For Life – Roof Repairs" (or whatever the specific cause is).
- If your donation is for is a general donation, please state clearly "Skills For Life – Donation" and it will be allocated wherever the need is.
- If your donation is for Benwel personally, please state clearly "Benwel", and it will be deposited into his personal account.

When Banking Your S.F.L. Donation DIRECTLY INTO SKILLS FOR LIFE ACCOUNT:

If giving to Skills For Life directly into the Skills For Life Account please WRITE in the REFERENCE SECTION what it is intended for, e.g. **child sponsorship** and **your name**, so that the money goes to the intended child.

If it is for a specific cause, please write the cause in the reference section.

Thank you

Jean Lynch (SFL President)

Filling In The Australian Census – Religion Question:

The Australian Census provides one of the most significant sources of information about the religious landscape of our nation. The data collected helps inform public understanding, policy discussions, research, funding, media reporting, and the way faith communities are perceived and engaged by government and wider society.

For Baptists, the census presents an opportunity to accurately reflect the size and presence of our Baptist movement across Australia. While many of our members may naturally identify themselves simply as "Christian," selecting "Baptist" as their religious affiliation provides a clearer picture of your Baptist community and its contribution to Australian life.

We should note that there is no general "Christian" option on the census. There is only a general "Other" option and a free text box for people to write in.

Please see click the link below for a recent podcast from The Pastor's Heart (Dominic Steele) that has an excellent short discussion with Mark McCrindle and Michael Stead over the importance of how we respond to the Religious Affiliation quest on the census. [Link Here](#)

Steve Bartlett
Director of Ministries

Religious Education Ministries (YouthLife) Prayer Notes:

Last Saturday morning, August 1st, REM held a Prayer Meeting at Woy Woy Anglican Church. There is a copy of the Prayer notes attached to this Newsletter.

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.




 COAST BAPTISTS
PRAYER & WORSHIP
 COMBINED CHURCHES NIGHT

SCAN HERE
 TO RSVP


5:30pm Free Dinner	16 August	Green Point Baptist (MPC) 386 Avoca Drive, Green Point
6:30–7:30pm Worship Service (with kids program)		