

St Carthage Catholic Church '1886' Silverton  Thanks Les for this photo.

# Ettalong Baptist Newsletter, 12th November 2026

## From The Pastor:

Is Peter speaking to us when he urges, “Friends, this world is not your home, so don’t make yourselves cosy in it”? (1 Peter 2:11 from The Message paraphrase by Eugene Peterson) We trust in the Lord. We have faith in him! He has claimed us and calls us his child. But he has yet to come for us. So here we are, caught between what is and what will be. No longer orphans but not yet home. What do we do in the meantime?

Indeed, it can be just that—a mean time. Time made mean with disease, deceit, death, and debt. How do we live in the meantime? How do we keep our hearts headed home? Hebrews 12:2-3 says,

“Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honour, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he ploughed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!” (The Message)

Look to Jesus. Ponder his life. Consider his ways. Meditate on his words. Jesus, just Jesus.

Pastor David Gilchrist

## 9.30am Sunday Morning Service, 15th of November:

Always Look To Jesus Christ, from Hebrews 12

**'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/tN4d5Kxh4lA?feature=share

## Carols In The Stadium – Sitting Together In The Western Stand:

Last year people were turned away from Carols in The Stadium. To fit more people in this year the Western Stand which is in the shade will have ticketed seating. If you would like to sit with a group from Ettalong Baptist Church, please see David Gilchrist (0448 431 234) before this Sunday 15th November that you would like to sit with us, so we can purchase a group of seats together. David will be purchasing tickets this Sunday evening.  Adults are $12.50, 4 to 15 year olds are $5. Please pay David.

## Christmas Events:

- **Sunday 29th November 9.30am: First Sunday in Advent service with communion.**
- **Saturday 5th December, 2.30-4pm: Gingerbread Man Decorating Day.**
  **Gingerbread men kits are $18 each and have to be booked by TOMORROW 13th November,**
  For more information grab a flyer and contact Joy for bookings on 0417 443 372.
- **Sunday 6th December 9.30am: Christmas Family Service with the children from Kids Church.**
  Christmas Carols, Christmas Play and a short message for the whole family.
- **Monday 7th December 6.45pm to 9pm: Women's Gingerbread House Decorating Night.**
  Gingerbread house kits are $47. Phone or text Margy: 044 743 1234 .
  For women this is a great opportunity for you to invite a friend because as well as having a really fun night Anna Davis, our BWSC high school teacher, is giving a short evangelistic Christmas message and she is truly an inspirational speaker.
- **Saturday 12th of December: 5pm Nativity Service & 6pm Christmas Market**
  All money raised at our Christmas Markets will be given to the Ford family in Ukraine. Please sign up to help by writing your name on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Carols In the Stadium Saturday 19th December 2026.**
  This year's special guest is Colin Buchanan.
  Tickets are on sale through Ticketek NOW https://www.carolsinthestadium.com.au/#tickets
  Tickets are $10 for single tickets and $25 for a family ticket (which admits up to 6 people: 2 adults and 4 juniors). Children under two are free.

## Ladies In Fellowship Together: LIFT Christmas BREAKFAST:

Friday 4th December 8.00am. This will be our final LIFT gathering for 2026. We will be meeting at Terrigal Crowne Plaza, where we will enjoy a delicious 'buffet breakfast'

As always, all ladies are welcome. Registration is necessary and numbers will be limited to approximately 20. If you wish to attend, please book early with either **Marion: 0401 344 814 or Di: 0411 273 124**

**COST: $39 for Central Coast residents - to be paid to Di Wagemaker before 27th November.**

($40, if you wish to round up the cost and donate to missions)
NB. Please place your payment in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your name.
Thank you, Marion Edwards

## Ettalong Baptist Men's Christmas Dinner, Saturday 5th December:

This year's men's Christmas dinner will be held 6pm, Saturday 5th December, at YI AN Chinese Restaurant, Woy Woy. $30 Banquet Supreme.

**Numbers required by Wednesday 2 December.** Thanks, Ian Ph: 0411 012 125

## Nativity Scene and Christmas Tree:

This year our Kids Church have asked if we can put up our big Christmas Tree on the stage of the Church Auditorium. Our Nativity scene with Robert and Merryll Mead's nativity figures will also be put up on the stage again this Christmas.

**Can you help?**

- We will be putting up The Nativity Scene and start putting up the Christmas Tree on Thursday afternoon the 26th of November, from 12pm.

Please let David Gilchrist know if you can help (Phone: 0448 431 234).

## National Church Life Survey:

Thank you to everyone who has taken part filling in an NCLS Survey for Ettalong Baptist Church.

A number of people have started the online survey but have not finished it. To complete your survey please go to https://mysurveys.ncls.org.au/start/attender and use our church code BA104100.

If you are an Elder, Deacon or Ministry Leader it would be very helpful if you can complete a Leaders Survey online. If you still need to complete this leadership survey, please go to https://mysurveys.ncls.org.au/start/leader and use our church code BA104100. Thank you to our church leaders who have already completed the leadership survey.

## Volunteer Opportunities:

Beth Wykes is retiring from being our Kitchen Coordinator. Caroline Murphy is retiring from being our Funeral Catering Coordinator. We have a need for one or two volunteers to become the ministry leader for each of these important ministries.

Are you interested in being the Kitchen Coordinator for the church Kitchen? Are you interested in being the Funeral Catering Coordinator? Job descriptions are available. Please speak with Jimmy Chamberlain, Lynette Tilden, Denise Psaila or David Gilchrist from the Nomination Committee, if you are interested in either of these opportunities to serve.

## Help needed with Recycling:

The church has a large number of cardboard fruit trays that need recycling and won't all fit in the church recycling bins. If you have room in your bin please see Jane Keuning and she will give you trays to recycle. Thank you.

## Letter from the Truloffs:

Hi Friends,

We just wanted to send a short email to say HI! And to give a brief update and a few pr.y requests.

We have been really excited to see our 2 barista trainees growing and developing their skills. We are grateful for Max & Essie's contributions to the program also.

The cafe team is going well. We are so thankful that we are building stronger relationships, and even our new staff are feeling a part of the team. One of our new staff just finished his 3 month probation period. At his evaluation he really opened us to us, it was a privilege to be on the receiving end of his vulnerability. We are surprised by how quickly the new staff are trusting us. It seems that because our older staff trust us already, they are feeling comfortable more quickly to discuss deep things. We are beginning to see some fruit of laying solid foundations 2.5 years ago when the cafe first opened. We give thanks to the Father!!

Please be thinking of us as we navigate a few staffing challenges. Working with people is a joy! But with that comes challenges, so please ask for wisdom and grace as we seek to be people of Light in this space.

Please be pr.ying for our leaders (head barista - Chris, head chef- Theo & service captain - Casey). We are grateful for them! We have been working alongside them closely and wish to build kingdom values into their leadership skills. Please be thinking of us as we engage with these 3 key people.

We are thankful for good health at the moment, but please ask for good sleep at night and opportunities to rest. Please remember Libby (grade 12) and Ella (uni) as they come to end of semester with all their assessments and exams. Please remember Connor & Ashlee, who are expecting their first child in April! Yes!! We are going to be grandparents, which we are very excited about!

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, We are truly so thankful for your pr.yers and that we don't walk this path alone. Much love

Becky & Dan

## Reaching Out With The Reyes Family Newsletter:

There are printed copies of this Newsletter in the church foyer.

## Skills For Life Fundraising Events:

**NOV - Saturday 21st – 10.30am**: **Hatters Tea House, Ettalong** - Devonshire Tea: $13.50pp

**DEC - - Secret Santa lunch Thursday 10th December @ Ettalong Diggers Bistro:**

To RSVP and for more information please contact: Jean Lynch 0425 749 224 or Diane Harris 0412 291 065

## Memorial Avenue Carpark:

The carpark behind the church is part of Memorial Avenue. The Council has zoned this section of road a carpark. Unfortunately, a few bad drivers think this carpark is an excellent place to drive dangerously, doing doughnuts and burnouts in the gravel. This has broken windows, terrorised neighbours, left a terrible mess and is very dangerous for pedestrians and any cars that are parked in the carpark.

While Transport NSW are working on the Roundabout, they are trialling having a line of barricades through the middle of the carpark to deter cars from driving dangerously. After the trial we will put in a submission to council asking if something permanent can be done to deter people driving dangerously in the carpark.

Have you been affected by dangerous driving in the Memorial Avenue car park? Has it happened while you have been parked or walking through the carpark? Do you have anything that can help us with our submission to council? If so, please speak with Jimmy Chamberlain (phone 0412 448 744)

We are very grateful to council for the use of this carpark. Council provide this essential service for us and faithfully maintain it. However something needs to be done about the bad driving in the carpark before someone is hurt or even killed.

## 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.**

## Ettalong Baptist Church, Safe Church Team:

To report a child protection concern or incident please contact:

Pastor—David Gilchrist (phone: 0448 431 234) Elder – Jane Keuning (phone: 0425 263 763) or Jean Lynch (phone: 0425 749 224)

## Giving:

**Our bank details are:**

Account Name: Ettalong Baptist Church – Bendigo Bank

BSB Number: 633 000

Account Number: 225 369 099

We encourage you to use Direct Deposit for giving, but you may also give using cash or cheque by placing your offering in the box at the main entrance door to the auditorium.

## 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.