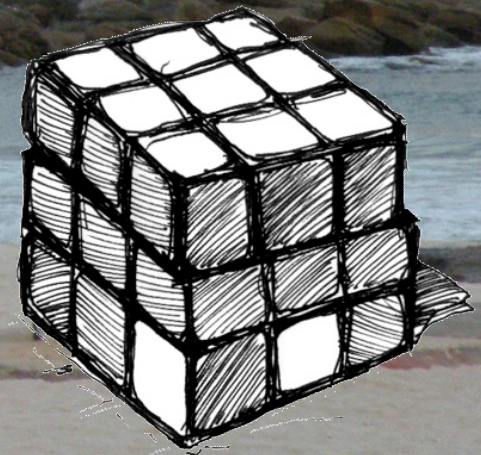


MARQUEBRA BAY CHURCHI



** The name is under construction and may change as the branding process develops*

WELCOME

WELCOME TO MAROUBRA BAY CHURCH

This is the prospectus for a new church¹ among the beach culture of the Maroubra Bay area. It is the purpose of this document to explain what we are doing and why, so that Christians with a heart for this area can consider if they would like to join us on this new endeavour. If you are not a Christian who follows the Lord Jesus daily, this document may be of little use to you. Although Maroubra Bay Church welcomes all people, this document is intended for committed Christians who are looking to join a church and be active in sharing their faith and building a church that seeks to live that faith out in practical ways.

Our desire is to be a church that does the small things well; that is, to influence individuals through networks and personal relationships. Through this, we seek to be a community that has real relationships centred on the desire to know our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Rather than using large programs and evangelistic campaigns to attract new people, we work to influence our friends and our community through organic connections and bring Jesus to bear on people's minds through everyday activities. Our focus is on people not programs - where we seek to make Jesus real in everyday conversations and for everyday concerns.

If this sounds like the sort of church you would like to belong to, please keep reading.

¹ A local congregation in the partnership of St Johns, Maroubra

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

OUR VISION

It is our vision that in creating a new church, we will create new opportunities for people to hear about and come to know the Lord Jesus. The second part of our vision is that we would also be a blessing to surrounding churches and existing congregations. The vision is not to compete with other congregations. Our vision is to work in partnership and cooperation, putting aside our parochial hearts, so that together we will all learn more about what it means to follow and live for our Lord and saviour. As a result we will be praying that this new church will enrich and bring renewal to other churches as the body grows and is strengthened.

With this in mind, it is our vision to create a new church fellowship that meets by the beach in Maroubra Bay Church seeking to reach out to the many different groups of people, predominantly in their 20s and 30s. It is our vision that this church would reflect the easy-going atmosphere of the beach and show how the Lord Jesus can deeply enrich our lives as well as our community.

Therefore we are working towards the establishment of a vibrant Christian community within Maroubra Bay:

- A community that knows its neighbours and is known for their good deeds in the community.
- A community that actively seeks to introduce people to the good news of Jesus as Lord and saviour.
- To have this community focus particularly on singles, couples, and young families in the 20-40 year age bracket living in this area.

OUR GOALS

It is our goal to be a church that lives firmly in the culture yet is uniquely shaped by the gospel. Since we will never fully be shaped by the gospel as we should, it is our goal that we be a community that seeks to disciple one-another on towards this goal.

Rather than focusing on unrealistic goals that either demotivate or cause people to burn themselves out, and rather than having a vague goal of just preaching the gospel that doesn't help people know what they are really on about. Beachside is all about disciples making disciples. This says two things:

1. **ORIENTATION** - We are all about making disciples of Jesus Christ first and foremost.
2. **MULTIPLICATION** - We seek to multiply the number of well-trained and equipped disciples in order to grow more disciples who follow Jesus.

1. Orientation of Discipleship

Like Paul in his letter to the Colossians, we seek to present everyone perfect in Christ (Col 1:28). There are only two types of people in the world; those who belong to the Dominion of Darkness (Col 1:13) and those who belong to the Kingdom of the son God loves (Col 1:14). The only way from one to the other is through the reconciliation that comes through the blood of Jesus on the cross (Col 1:20). Everything that we do should seek to move people out of the dominion of darkness and into the Kingdom of the Jesus. However, even when people enter into the Kingdom of Jesus, their journey doesn't end, as they continue to be matured and strengthened in their faith. Therefore, everything that Maroubra Bay Church does will be to move people towards maturity in Jesus Christ. Thus the arrow below shows the intentionality that shapes Maroubra Bay Church.

MEET A CHRISTIAN

ATTEND A MEETING

UNDERSTAND THE
GOSPEL AND RESPOND

JOIN A GROWTH GROUP

DOMINION OF DARKNESS

KINGDOM OF THE SON

BECOME AWARE
OF JESUS AND
HIS CHURCH

HANG AROUND
CHRISTIANS

MEET WITH A
CHRISTIAN

READ THE BIBLE
REGULARLY WITH
SOMEONE

GET QEQUIPPED TO
START DISCIPLING
OTHERS

COLOSSIANS 1:28

COLOSSIANS 1:13-14, 21-22

However, rather than running a busy 'program-based' ministry that keeps its few members busy with organisation, Maroubra Bay Church will seek to focus on people not 'busy' programs. Hence the focus will not be programming each of the above steps, but seek to train people to organically take individual people through this process of discipleship. To do this the focus of Maroubra Bay Church will be to spend time hanging out together and learning from each other without burdening people's time with extra church duties.

At the heart of what we do, we are about making disciples of Jesus Christ; disciples that love Jesus more than the things of this world. Since we live in such a beautiful place by the beach, we want to excel at praising God for his goodness to us and to learn how to enjoy all God's blessings to us each day. But at the same time, we need to be reminded that we are just tourists here, taking in the sights and making the most our time and resources here, waiting for Jesus to return and restore our true home to us – one where the sea will shine like turquoise, the sky like emeralds and the glory of the Lord will embrace us like the sun. This is the future 'heaven-on-earth' that we wait for, hope for and pray for everyday as we share this hope with others.

2. Multiplication in Discipleship

Rather than seeking to add people to church, our goal is to multiply the number of people who can 'make disciples'. As such training people at Maroubra Bay Church is our central purpose focusing on sharing personal testimonies, one-to-one training and how to read the Bible better personally and with others. Rather than being a church whose members seek to invite their friends and neighbours to come hear the gospel from the 'professionals', Maroubra Bay Church seeks to train its members to be able to share the gospel with people where they are at and/or read the Bible with them so that they can meet Jesus where they are at and in the context of established relationships. The 'front-line' of gospel ministry should not be between the pulpit and the pew but in the workplace, in the park or in the coffee shop between friends.

Therefore it is the goal of Maroubra Bay Church that most of its members be actively seeking to read the Bible with a least one person, trusting in the power of God's word to change and transform people's hearts and minds. As more and more people feel confident reading the Bible with their friends, there will be more and more opportunities for non-Christians to meet Jesus personally in everyday situations without having to actually 'come' to church. This is our goal.

However, the ideal goal is not just to see non-Christians become disciples, it is to see them become 'disciple-making' disciples.

SHOULD YOU JOIN US?

As a congregation of St John's Anglican Church, it is expected that many of our members will come from St Johns. However, as a new church, it is also hoped that Christians who live in the Maroubra Bay and have a heart for their suburb will also consider joining us. As such, you should consider if your calling, passions and abilities fit the kind of church that we are envisaging.

Please Join Us If:

- You have a passion to see people in the Maroubra Bay / Beach area introduced to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- You are keen to belong to a vibrant community that seeks to live out the gospel before the world in a vibrant community style.
- You are keen to move forward in your faith and ministry, and aren't satisfied with a static faith.
- You desire to belong to a community that openly and honestly seeks to know God personally through his word and in prayer.
- You are keen to learn what it means to be a disciple who makes other disciples for Jesus.
- You want God to challenge you and push you in your faith.
- You are happy to worship as a family, and experience a church without a focused kids ministry, but desiring to grow together as a family, following Jesus together.

Please Don't Join Us If:

- You are disgruntled with your current congregation and are just looking for a new start.
- You prefer a congregation that has a regular pattern that you can follow, and doesn't ask too much of you.
- You don't like change or flexibility.
- You don't like living your Christian life in public and in view of the world around you.
- You want your kids to go to a Sunday school each week at church, and for church to be a time for you to focus on God's word without the demands of your children.

WHO ARE WE?

It is our desire and goal to be a people who are shaped thoroughly by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Of course we will never perfectly reflect the gospel in our contexts and relationships. But this is the standard to which we aspire:

We will be:

1. Jesus-centred through recognising our great need for forgiveness that can only be found in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12)
We will be committed to growing in our love for Jesus and seek to live for his glory with zeal.
2. Jesus-centred through being word-centred (Col 3:16)
We will be committed to knowing Jesus and his gospel primarily through his word, the Bible.
3. Word-centred through being gospel-centred (Rom 1:1-4)
We will be committed to the proclamation of the gospel as laid out for us in the Scriptures.
4. Gospel-centred through being mission-centred (Rom 10:14-15, Acts 1:8)
We will be committed to continuing the mission of Jesus by being witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.
5. Mission-centred will mean we must be prayer-centred (Romans 12:12, Eph 6:18)
We will be committed to depending on God for all things, and in every aspect of life through prayer.

We will seek to:

6. Love God with all our mind, body and spirit: We will be committed to worshipping Jesus as living sacrifices, where we are willing to sacrifice every aspect of our earthly lives to live for and love Jesus (Romans 12:1-2). We will be committed to saying 'No' to the ways of this world and seek to live like God, to be godly and holy, and to grow in the fruits of the Spirit (Titus 2:1, 1 Peter 1:14, Gal 5)
7. Love for brothers: (John 13:33) We will be committed to meeting with our brothers and sisters in order to love them and show by unity that Jesus really is among us (Heb 10:25, John 13:35).
8. Love for neighbour: (Mt 11:37, Mk 12:29) We are committed to loving those not only around us, but also those who are far away in need of our love and help. This will manifest itself in:
 - Desire to love people in our neighbourhood in practical ways (1 Thess 4:12)
 - Seeking to provide material help to those in need around the world, and in particular the needs of Christian brothers (2 Cor 8, 1 Tim 6:17-19)
 - Supporting missionary work both locally and internationally that seeks to bring the message of Jesus to everyone (1 Tim 5:17-18, 1 Cor 16:1-2,
9. Love for this world: We will be committed to being good stewards of everything that God has entrusted into our care, including our wealth and the environment around us.

WHERE ARE WE?

Location

At the moment we don't have a location to meet although we are speaking with a number of local establishments. In one respect a location is not what defines a church, since it is the relationships that makes church, church. However a physical location will shape a lot of the practical things about church. So please be praying for a location and discussions with local establishments. We will keep you informed via the website as to developments.

Photo of Mission Team praying for the establishing of Maroubra Bay Church.

Maroubra Beach SnapShot:

As a beachside suburb, there are many who choose to live in Maroubra for the beach lifestyle. There are other good reasons why people live in Maroubra including: relative affordability in the Eastern Suburbs, access to good shopping centres (Eastgardens and Pacific Square) and access to the city (35 minutes); multiple cafes and restaurants and access to UNSW. As such Maroubra attracts a range of people from students to workers, families looking for affordable housing, various nationalities (Including French, Chinese, Indonesian, Greek, etc) because of a range of services (such as consulates, French speaking schools, etc).

However Maroubra by the beach attracts a particular sub-group of the above. Currently there are predominantly two types of people:

1. Young renters: those who rent in the multitude of apartments by the beach, usually a cheaper and older style of apartments. These people are usually young students or workers sharing, or young couples without kids. More and more the couples are unmarried and range from trades-people to white-collar and professionals.
2. Young families: those who are looking to make a step up into a house as they have their first or second child. However with the dramatic increase in housing prices, these young families are usually professionals with a high income who choose Maroubra because the houses are usually bigger and newer or able to be renovated into a newer-style of house.

The other noticeable feature of Maroubra is that it is an attractive surf beach. Of particular importance is that Maroubra Bay has a particular 'feel' like that of a small village or beach community. As such people not only like to live in this area, they also like to hang out here – which is reflected in number of small cafes and restaurants. This village feel is especially true mid-week with mostly only local traffic. Yet on weekends is transformed into a magnet for beach-goers from all-around Sydney. This is especially true of weekends in summer when thousands of people travel to Maroubra beach.

WHEN ARE WE DOING IT:

PHASE 1

Preparation Phase (Feb-June 2011)

During this stage we will seek to develop a plan and approach to starting a new church in Maroubra Bay. This will also mean the creating of a Mission team to pray and plan:

- Formation of Mission Team
 - Information Day (19th June 2011 @St Johns)
 - Promulgate Vision paper through St Johns
 - Finalise Meeting place for Maroubra Bay Church
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PHASE 2

Underground Phase (Jul-Sept 2011)

Phase II will be the promulgation of the vision paper to build interest and support for this new congregation. It will culminate in the formation of the Launch team that will start to meet underground.

- Create Website
- Promulgate Vision Paper online
- Gather a Launch Team (20-30 people)
- Start Meeting weekly and building team-work and trust

PHASE 3

Launch Phase (Oct-Dec 2011)

Phase III will be the Launch of Maroubra Bay Church, where the launch team goes public:

- Set Launch Date
 - Local Advertising in Maroubra and Web
 - Raising Awareness in the local community
 - Focusing of training people to disciple others
 - Start individuals following up particular people to disciple
-

PHASE 4

Initial Growth Phase (Jan-Dec 2012)

Phase IV will be the bedding down of people into Growth Groups that meet weekly:

- Creating of new Growth Groups
- Training people to train others
- Evaluating progress monthly with reports to parish council quarterly

For more information please email Tim at:

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or visit our website at: