

# northpoint

NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS

  
SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST CHURCH

AUG  
2014



## STORM Co trips build on community connections

In the June/July school holidays, STORM Co (Service To Others Really Matters) teams headed out to country towns around the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference — or even further afield, like the Tweed Valley Adventist College group who took their annual STORM Co trip to Fiji.

Groups from churches and schools in NNSW were joined by the Greater Sydney Conference's Macquarie Fields Church, whose team visited Coonamble. Other towns that got to enjoy the STORM Co experience were Toomelah (Lismore), Wee Waa (Avondale School), Cobar (Avondale School), Brewarrina (Central Coast), Walgett (Wallsend) and Lightning Ridge (Avondale Memorial).

Pastor Rick Hergenhan, Director of Youth Ministries for the NNSW Conference, and Pastor Michael Chapman, Associate Director of Youth Ministries for the NNSW Conference, headed up a team — with Karlie Fraser, Brodie Mason, Kayla Sleight, Andrew Thompson and Sharni Sattler — who took the Pinnacle Challenge out to the groups. They also made a stop at Collarenebri to do a job for the Walgett Shire Council. Pastor Hergenhan says, "They really wanted a STORM Co, but we had a gap in our timetable. So they worked with the local young people who STORM Co teams have interacted with before, and we ran the Pinnacle Challenge for them and had a picnic."

Pastor Chapman says, "It's just confirmed that STORM Co really creates a massive opening into the communities in the West of our conference. Teams have done a great job of creating an outstanding reputation for the church in areas otherwise untouched by Adventists. For example, Cobar was exceptional — the work there year after year means the community really looks forward to STORM Co with great anticipation."

"It's a similar scenario in Lightning Ridge," adds Pastor Hergenhan. "There has been some great work done there. Beulah James, the lay-leader of the church there, works hand-in-hand with the STORM Co team. She helps them find community service work to do and connects them with the right people in the community. There's so much good stuff going on for the church in Lightning Ridge."

The team also had a chance to catch up with the youth leaders and Bible workers in Moree while heading through. The two ARISE graduates working there — Braedon Entermann and Jed Walker — have a number of Bible studies going already.

If you are interested in being part of a STORM Co team, you can contact Pastor Chapman on (02) 4951 8088. Chrys Martin, who has a long and significant history of volunteer involvement with the conference's Youth Ministries work, is also working as the STORM Co advisor for the NNSW Conference. He was appointed to the role earlier this year and has a wealth of information for groups or individuals who need STORM Co advice.

— Adele Nash

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# OUR CONFERENCE

## *From the President:* Money and spirituality



Julian Archer, a Seventh-day Adventist and really good bloke from Toowoomba, Queensland, has recently written a book called *Help! I've Been Blessed!* on the incredibly relevant topic of money and spirituality — or more to the point, how God's financial blessings can also be a curse.

It's not often I say this, but I believe that this book is a must-read for every Seventh-day Adventist living in the Western world. You can download a free MP3 of the book from his website, <[www.faith-vs-finance.org](http://www.faith-vs-finance.org)>, or buy a copy at your local Adventist Book Centre.

Julian doesn't lay a guilt trip on us, but he reflects honestly on his own journey, and how financial independence and blessings had an adverse impact on his spiritual journey.

Wealth can be measured in lots of different ways, but to be spiritually rich is to be rich indeed. If the things that we are pursuing so vigorously as a culture — and even as a church — can make us spiritually poor, we maybe need to stop and reflect on what we really want to have.

In chapter 6 of *Help! I've Been Blessed!* Julian quotes some statistics from the United Nation's World Distribution of Household Wealth report from 2008. If you as an adult have a net worth — which is a combined value of everything you own minus your debts — of \$2900, you are wealthier than half the world's population. You make it into the world's richest one per cent if your net worth is \$691,000.

This is incredible. Julian notes that in financial terms, today's Western Christians are the richest group of Christians to ever live on the planet. I'm sure there are some people in our conference who fit into that top one per cent of the world's richest people. Most people in our world will work all day so they can buy some food for that night and the next morning, and then they'll go back to work the next day to do the same thing. They live a hand-to-mouth existence.

So how does God want us to relate to these blessings we have? Rather than feel guilty about what He's blessed us with, what have the Scriptures told us about how we're to use our blessings to help others?

— *Pastor Justin Lawman*

*Around The Traps is a weekly e-newsletter from Pastor Justin Lawman. It features a devotional and news from the conference. To subscribe, send an email to <[northpoint@adventist.org.au](mailto:northpoint@adventist.org.au)> with "E-newsletter subscription" in the subject line.*



## *From the General Secretary:* Thank you

2 Timothy 3 outlines 19 unattractive characteristics of people in the "perilous times" of the last days.

One of those characteristics is unthankfulness.

In order to take a stand against that, and because I love the people of this conference, I offer the following thanks to the faithful members of the North New South Wales Conference.

1. Thank you for faithfully attending your local church each Sabbath, no matter how big, small, warm, cold, empowering, visionary or challenging. Your presence is important and appreciated.
2. Thank you for recognising that your church, "enfeebled and defective though it be, is the only object on earth on which Christ bestows His supreme regard."\*
3. Thank you for supporting your local pastor through your prayers, affirmation and encouragement.
4. Thank you for supporting your local church and the global mission of the church through the faithful payment of tithe.
5. Thank you to our deacons and deaconesses and your willingness to be there early to open the doors, give a warm greeting to those you know and those you don't, ensure the church looks great, collect the offering, make sure the potluck runs smoothly, encourage the downhearted and lock up after everyone leaves.
6. Thank you to our elders who provide spiritual guidance, visit, support, preach and pray, bearing the yoke of leadership with our pastors.
7. Thank you for the practical things you do throughout the week that demonstrates that the character of Christ has motivated, moved and matured you.
8. Thank you for maintaining the devotional life necessary to bring you to church ready to encourage and give, rather than just needing to be filled.
9. Thank you that at those times when you just need to be filled you come anyway, and I pray that you often find what you are looking for.
10. Thank you that you love, support, finance and empower the most effective evangelist the world has ever known, your local community Seventh-day Adventist Church.

— *Pastor Paul Geelan*

*\*Page 396, Selected Messages Book 2, Ellen G White*



**NorthPoint is published by the Communications Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (North New South Wales Conference) Ltd.**

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## Capacity crowds for Dr Ben Carson's presentations



Dr Ben Carson, the internationally-renowned Adventist neurosurgeon who was awarded a Presidential Medal in 2008 and is credited as being the first neurosurgeon to separate conjoined twins who were joined at the head, came to Australia for a series of speaking appointments in July, which were sponsored by the Sanitarium Health Food Company and the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference.

As well as speaking to Sanitarium staff as part of their Life Matters program and giving a presentation to a group of pastors from the NNSW

Conference, Dr Carson gave a special presentation to the public on Friday, 11 July at the Newcastle Panthers Club. The venue was packed, with tickets having sold out well in advance. He spoke on the theme of "Overcoming Adversity Through Perseverance."

With a focus on the importance of education, Dr Carson and his wife Candy spoke about their passion for building leaders. Noting that medical history shows the importance of perseverance in the face of adversity, Dr Carson said, "Even if you fail, you learn something from that failure, and so you haven't completely failed."

Dr Carson's love of knowledge was inspired by his mother challenging him and his siblings to read two books every week and prepare a book report about them. He challenged people to spend half an hour every day learning something new — from geography to algebra — and noted, "Knowledge is a formidable foe of falsehood and a formidable ally of truth."

On Saturday, 12 July, Avondale Memorial Church was packed with members and visitors who were keen to listen to what Dr Carson had to share with them on the topic of "What Is True Faith?" Pastor Justin Lawman, President of the NNSW Conference, welcomed Dr Carson, noting that he'd never seen Memorial more full and that those who attended the event at the Panthers Club were truly blessed by it.

In sharing some of his life story, Dr Carson expressed how impressed he was by the story of Joseph in the Bible, noting that he aimed to be the best in every role he found himself in — from a slave to a prisoner to a senior government official. "When God elevates you and you do His will, that also elevates Him," said Dr Carson. "We should always manifest the faith we have, as we only have one duty — to proclaim His name."

Sanitarium's staff have been focusing on Dr Carson's life story this year through reading *Gifted Hands* as part of their Life Matters program. Julie Praestiin, Corporate Communications Manager for Sanitarium, says, "The Life Matters program is designed to give all our staff who come from different faiths and backgrounds the opportunity to explore and understand Christianity. This year, we have been studying the inspiring life of Dr Carson and how he developed his talents to use them for fulfilling God's will in his life. The visit by Dr Carson and his wife Candy to Sanitarium in New Zealand and Australian gave employees the opportunity to meet and hear directly from the person who has been inspiring our journey. Their willingness to give us their time and share their personal stories has further deepened our understanding of using our talents in God's service."

— Adele Nash

Photos courtesy of Ann Stafford



## OUR CONFERENCE

### Newcastle event raises funds for Books In Homes

Books In Homes, a charity that focuses on providing disadvantaged school children with books of their own, was the beneficiary of the Dr Ben Carson event held at the Newcastle Panthers Club on Friday, 11 July. John Church, compère for the evening, told the audience, "It's a great thrill to tell you your small, modest entry fee is being donated to Books In Homes."

He then announced that because of the sold-out event, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North New South Wales, Sanitarium and Dr Carson were honoured to be able to present the charity with a cheque for \$10,277.

Kim Kingston, manager of Books in Homes for the Hunter region, was present on the night and shared what the charity does in the area with Carrington Public School and St Dominic's Centre for Hearing Impaired. She spoke about the connection between reading and improved academic outcomes. Because of the funds raised on the night, it is expected that another two local schools will benefit from the Books in Homes program.

At a pre-event meeting, Dr Carson took time to read to a small group of children from Carrington Public School, who appreciated his telling of *There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Meerkat* by P Crumble and Louis Shea.

Dr Carson is a strong supporter of Books In Homes and says, "In a time when we very frequently put children in front of the television as soon as they're able to sit up or hand them the controls for video games as soon as they have manual dexterity, children are often diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder. It is very important to spend time with them reading and discussing what has been read. This develops their analytical mind instead of a mind that just reacts. People who are well-informed tend to be hard to manipulate."

Brett Kingston, Chairman of the Charitable Foundation for Books In Homes Australia, said Dr Carson did a similar reading event for Books In Homes in New Zealand last year. He explains that the children who benefit from Books In Homes receive three books per term out of a catalogue. "They choose the books and then are able to take them home," says Brett. "The schools we've gone into see children learn to respect books and it means children can now also take books home from the school libraries."

Many children who benefit from the work of Books in Homes come from bookless homes. Brett also noted that he discovered a statistic that disturbed him a number of years ago — it was that 82 per cent of the nation's prison inmates had poor literacy skills, which would have been "developed" in childhood. He says, "We're about breaking the poverty cycle for children through education."

— Adele Nash

Find out more about Books In Homes and how you can support them at [www.booksinhomesaustralia.com.au](http://www.booksinhomesaustralia.com.au)



# OUR CONFERENCE

## “Gifts for our Children” launched in NNSW

July saw the mail-out of the “Gifts for our Children” strategy to all churches. Pastor Daron Pratt, Director of Children’s Ministries and Family Ministries for the North New South Wales Conference, says that this strategy is the culmination of a lot of prayer, thinking and research.

“Gifts for our Children” is a package of 14 posters focusing on seven themes crucial to promoting the growth of our children’s spirituality

Pastor Pratt says, “Having grown up in the church, I have noticed that there is a serious problem when it comes to the retention and discipleship of our children. Despite the best programs, resources and budgets thrown at youth and children, we still have a serious problem when it comes to retaining our children. We are losing more than half of them from our pews and this is just not good enough, especially when Jesus says that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to children.”

The seven themes covered in the gifts include:

- Mentoring in intergenerational communities
- Memory events
- The power of time with children
- Parents as primary spiritual mentors
- The power of stories and God encounters
- Strong marriages
- Service and mission

Pastor Pratt says, “The posters are designed to be displayed each month on church screens and notice boards. One poster each month focuses on what homes can do and the other focuses on what churches can do to promote the spiritual growth of our children in each area. Church board/leadership discussion guides are also provided.”

This month’s focus is on mentoring and intergenerational communities. Pastor Pratt says that mentoring is “one of the best ways to provide support for our children and

to pass on our faith to the next generation.”

He notes, “As children see how God works in the good times and — more importantly — in the not so good times in the adults that surround them, they are more likely to adopt the faith of the next generation.”

Current research supports the idea of consistent mentoring and children’s participation in intergenerational communities. Cara Powell and Chap Clark found in their “Sticky Faith” research that children and teens

flourish when they are surrounded with five significant adults who can speak into their lives. Pastor Pratt says, “These are adults whom we trust, who know them by name and stand for the same ideals and values that we as parents stand for.”

Further, Powell and Clark discovered that there is a strong correlation between children attending all age intergenerational worship and “Sticky Faith.” “This is as close as their research came to finding the ‘silver bullet’\* in developing a faith that sticks for our children and teens,” says Pastor Pratt.

Each poster also gives some practical steps that churches and homes can put in place to help make sure that this crucial factor is happening for children. Pastor Pratt says he looks forwards to seeing churches and homes working together in the next seven months to grow a generation of spiritual champions.

— *Pastor Daron Pratt/NorthPoint*

\* *Pages 93 to 122, Sticky Faith by Kara Powell and Chap Clark; 2011; Zondervan*



## NNSW teens take part in AUC’s Chosen leadership training



The Australian Union Conference’s (AUC) Chosen teen leadership week, which runs every second year, was held at Bonny Hills in the second week of the school holidays (7 to 11 July). A total of around 80 teens from across the AUC attended the week, with 15 from the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference — Sheri Pickering, Kate Dorman, Christopher Petersen, Jacob Northey, Charlie Tasker, Damon Lemke, Jessica Krieg, Ella Webb, Luke Seeman, Callan Bolst, Sam Duke, Ryan Cuff, Jessica Krause, Jacinta Franks and Karelle Mason — taking part.

Sunny Thapa and Kirsten Groves joined them as mentors, along with Pastor Rick Hergenhan, Director of Youth Ministries for the NNSW Conference, and Pastor Michael Chapman, Associate Director of Youth Ministries for the NNSW Conference.

The teens are taught a variety of things focusing on leadership skills, as well as building up the whole person. Pastor Hergenhan says, “It ranged from personal

hygiene through to time management, setting goals to achieving great things. It was about rounding out young people as leaders and growing them to achieve God’s full potential for their lives.” Pastor Chapman adds, “There was also a focus on biblical masculinity and femininity.”

The week featured guest speakers every night. Glen Gerreyn was the speaker for the final night. Glen was a Young Australian of the Year and is a Christian. “He was able to help them dream big and give them some ideas on uncovering what holds them back,” says Pastor Hergenhan. “Glen reminded us about the power of a dream, and that if we can achieve our dreams without God’s help, then we’re not aiming high enough.”

Glen also spoke about the seeds of greatness and how others can sometimes try to destroy your dreams. “He gave a lot of practical advice,” says Pastor Hergenhan.

Pastor Derek McCutcheon was another guest speaker and Pastor Chapman says, “His focus was on doing life well. He encouraged the teens to be better than mediocre.”

As well as enjoying great fellowship and interesting speakers, attendees also enjoyed the praise and worship team’s work. The team included NNSW locals Adam Schulz, Nimrod Maua and Michael Key.

Pastor Hergenhan says of Chosen, “We’ve had overwhelmingly positive feedback from everyone who went. We look forward to the contribution they’ll make in their local churches to build up the body of Christ wherever they’re placed.”

— *Adele Nash*

## OUR CHURCHES

### Holiday fun at Wallsend

Sergei the Russian Ringmaster and Hiccup the Italian Clown were the stars of Wallsend's recent circus-themed "Weird Animals" holiday program. The program, which ran from 30 June to 4 July, attracted up to 170 children a day from the church and local community. Wallsend has hosted the annual holiday Kids' Club for more than 10 years.

Children participated in enthusiastic singing led by Jake Whittaker, Krystal Parker and the Wallsend youth band. Plenty of energy was expended in "untamed" games, whilst culinary expertise was honed in the "critter" kitchen.

Drama in the Bible room reinforced the daily Bible point, with children learning that "Jesus loves you!" even if you are left out, different, don't understand, do wrong or are afraid. Professors Klooliss, Brique and Brane in the Imagination Station wowed the audience with amazing science experiments. A daily DVD clip in the Kids' Vid Cinema highlighted the lives of children around the world.

According to program organiser Amanda Halliday, the week is not just about fun and games. "We want the children who attend to learn more about their best friend Jesus who loves them at all times. We also encouraged participants to contribute to the selected ADRA Project," she says.

This year, slightly more than \$1500 was raised to fund 30 drip water irrigation systems for Mongolian families.

— Joy Guy



### Numbers grow for Gosford's lay-led outreach

Gosford Adventist Church recently organised a series of sequential evangelistic meetings for the first half of 2014, using local church members to present the programs.

Pastor David Price, Gosford Church's minister, says, "Pastor Justin Lawman, President of the North New South Wales Conference, has asked pastors to train and unleash their members in service programs to the community, and so that is what we have attempted to do."

He explains, "First off, we launched Dr Neil Nedley's Depression Recovery Program, which was expertly taught by Linda Cloete, a Nurse Educator from Avondale College and the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Next was a Youth Mission, where Avondale lecturer and local youth leader Robby Morgan organised and taught a program called God is LOVE. More than 56 young people attended on each of the two Saturday nights it ran."

He adds, "Now Avondale's Workplace Health and Safety Officer Doug Cloete is presenting the Secrets of Prophecy series. It commenced at the Gosford Golf Club on Friday, 27 June and it was exciting to see 80 people attend with 18 community visitors. On the following Sunday night, 72 attended, with 13 visitors. But when we moved to the church hall, 90 people packed into our half hall, which was set up for only 70 people using a seminar table seating configuration! So the numbers went up as 81 Adventists from all over the Central Coast packed in to hear the Word of God taught with an Adventist end-time flavour."

When asked about the success of having so many church members attend, Pastor Price attributed it to the presenter being a local member with a very relevant, but relaxed, teaching style. "I think members can relate to a person like themselves actually presenting the program," he says. "I firmly believe that is one of the key ingredients for our success under the blessing of the Holy Spirit. It shows that lay-led outreach is very successful!"

— Pastor David Price/NorthPoint



# OUR CHURCHES

## Retirees take on Vatuvonu fly 'n' build challenge



Avondale Memorial Church would most likely have the highest concentration of retirees in the South Pacific Division. Having said this, they also produce an amazing number of volunteers for fly 'n' build projects. When Val and Elwyn Ferris told Sandy and John Bryant that the historic, beautiful Vatuvonu School had been condemned and was about

to close due to the poor state of the dormitories, there was little hesitation.

At very short notice, building materials were purchased on the island of Vanua Levu, and John and Sandy, along with Gary Bryant and Alan Tinworth, landed at Savu Savu for the two-hour drive to Buca Bay.

There was no real problem about bringing sophisticated tools with them because there is no power at Vatuvonu. It was back to the "good old days" of hand saws, planes and mixing cement by hand.

How would you manage to renovate your home in seven working days without power tools and quick trips to Bunnings? In that time the girls' dormitory was transformed with louvred windows, 10 new toilets, 12 new showers, wash tubs and basins; and tiling was completed in the boys' dormitory, along with and endless finishing and painting. This also involved removing massive white ant infestations.

It may be a bold thing to state that one small team has saved the school, but the fact is that the Fiji Mission had made a decision to close the school at the end of 2013.

The result is so outstanding the Prime Minister of Fiji came in to reopen the facilities.

We salute our retirees who never lose their commitment to mission work. John and Sandy have completed at least 13 trips to Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Cambodia. Sandy and John, Gary and Alan, you could have spent your money lazing on the deck of a cruise ship. Instead you gave of your time and labour in sweltering heat and poor conditions to serve God. Blessings on you.

— Dr John Hammond



## Lakeside Church celebrates couple's baptism



Sabbath, 21 June was a special day at Lakeside Church as those attending church that day witnessed the baptisms of Maureen and Harold Sunderland.

Over a period of time, they had become friends with Mavis and Rob Borrott, as they all lived in fairly close proximity to each other. Rob invited them to attend

Pastor Peter Watts's program in the Bonnells Bay Community Hall last year.

The program, which was titled "Is God for Real?" ran over three weeks and, after its conclusion, Pastor Watts began visiting the couple in their home and invited them to join a Bible study group at the home of Ngareta and Craig Rorich.

At about the same time, a young College couple, Daniel and Ferna, started calling on them with the *Beyond* DVD series. They found these to be a great inspiration. They soon began attending church each Sabbath and, at a baptism towards the end of last year, they indicated their desire for baptism.

They are very thankful to the Borrotts for inviting them to Pastor Watts's program, as that was the beginning of their journey back to God and to Lakeside Church.

— Pam Hill

## Walkathon aims to raise funds for Kidz 4 Him

Janene Tomlinson says, "The need is great and the hour is late — those at the front line urgently need our support." And this is why she and her husband John — a duo she describes as "two oldies from Avondale Memorial Church" — are working together with a team to undertake a walkathon starting on 2 September at the Fernleigh Track, Belmont, through to Port Macquarie.



Covering a total distance of 270 kilometres, the Tomlinsons aim to raise funds to support Kidz 4 Him, a mission run by the Moodie family in Zambia. "Being Seventh-day Adventists means we believe Jesus is about to return and there is much work to be done," says Sheree Moodie.

"We want to help them change lives for God's Kingdom, which is their primary goal," says Janene. "And people can help us in this by sponsoring the walkathon. Monies raised will go to completing the church, which is already in use, but unfinished; a small kitchen for food preparation; a toilet block; and the construction of a training centre for evangelism. . . . Matthew 25:40 says, 'And the King shall answer and say unto them, "Verily I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."'"

— Janene Tomlinson/NorthPoint

If you wish to assist by donating to the walkathon, please contact John or Janene Tomlinson on (02) 49772114

# OUR SCHOOLS

## Performing arts students shine at Avondale School



Performing arts students shine at Avondale School in the inaugural musical — *The Story*. Featuring the Senior Concert Orchestra, Secondary School Choir and Onstage Drama Team, *The Story* tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time, presenting the Bible in a chronological, novel format, from Genesis to Revelation.

This collaborative production is a testament to the exceptional performing arts program at Avondale School. Months of planning and rehearsals culminated in performances on 18, 19 and 21 June in the school's Multi-Purpose Centre, where the students performed to a sold-out audience of more than 600 people on the Saturday night. "We were

very excited to showcase the exceptional talent we have at the school," explained music teacher Shelley Parsons. "The students put so much time and energy into the production and were eager to share it with the community."

*The Story* presents God's redemptive plan for His people, using sequences from Scripture and commentary, to tell a seamless story from Eden's garden, to an empty tomb, to the throne of Heaven. It tells the story of a true God who loves His children, who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. Featuring songs from the Dove Award-winning recording, *The Story — The Musical* has been superbly crafted by master arranger and orchestrator David Hamilton, based on the best-selling music written by Bernie Herms and Nichole Nordeman.

With dedicated, caring staff who have a passion for Christian education, Avondale School offers a holistic approach that goes beyond academics, to physical and spiritual development. Avondale School aims to inspire students to develop their full potential and mentoring them to be outstanding citizens in their community.

— Michelle Bof

*The offering on Sabbath, 23 August goes toward supporting Adventist Education. Adventist schools provide caring, learning communities that spiritually and academically equip, challenge and inspire students to make a difference. Adventist schools also promote excellence, nurture growth and inspire a life of service.*



# FEATURE

## Hymns becomes broadcaster's forum: Journalist Geraldine Doogue returns as compere in conversation



Journalist and broadcaster Geraldine Doogue will talk about religion in Australia during a concert at Avondale celebrating the Christian tradition of hymn and song singing.

Geraldine returns as compere for the seventh Hymns and Songs of Praise, which Avondale College of Higher Education will host on its Lake Macquarie campus in August. The host of ABC Radio National's *Saturday Extra* and ABC Television's *Compass* will also answer questions about religion and journalism in Australia during an extended

interview halfway through the concert.

"Geraldine brings to Hymns and Songs a personal Christian commitment, a generous ecumenical spirit and several decades of experience in exploring the spiritual heart of Australian culture," says senior theology lecturer Dr Lyell Heise. He is producing the concert with Valmai Hill in their roles as Director and Assistant to the Director of the South Pacific Division's Institute of Worship.

Backed by the Institute of Worship Orchestra and led by Avondale vocal ensemble The Promise, as well as soloists Albert Mataafa and Marian Moroney, Hymns and Songs of Praise will be highly participative — the audience will serve as a massed congregational choir. The "energy and quality will far exceed what is normally possible in a local congregation," says Lyell.

The concert will open with the premiere performance of prize-winning composer and local Cooranbong resident Blake Robinson's composition "Sky Passage," with Blake guest conducting the orchestra. Among the hymns and songs to follow are "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Softly and Tenderly." Young Avondale alumnus and composer Benjamin Milis will also guest conduct a performance of his song "Worthy." The similarly named, and popular, "Worthy Is The Lamb" closes the concert.

Inspired by the BBC Television program *Songs of Praise*, Hymns and Songs of Praise celebrates "the timeless music and lyrics that continue to inspire Christians" and "the contemporary expressions of praise that are a tribute to the ongoing creativity of Christians in the worship community," says Lyell. Offering praise to God in a musical form is also biblical, with Avondale Conservatorium director and The Promise artistic director Aleta King noting the Bible's use of psalms and songs. "Understanding and celebrating our spiritual roots strengthens us in our identity and purpose for the future," she says.

The Institute of Worship first presented Hymns and Songs of Praise in 2005. Lyell and his colleagues have since taken the concert, and the orchestra, to every mainland state in Australia and, this year, to Auckland and Papatotetoe in New Zealand.

— Bianca Reynaud

*Hymns and Songs of Praise with Geraldine Doogue, Avondale College Adventist Church, Saturday, 23 August 7.00–9.00pm. \$20 (single), \$15 (concession/student), \$40 (family — two adults and two or more school-age children). Find out more at <[www.avondale.edu.au/events](http://www.avondale.edu.au/events)>.*

# POSITIONS VACANT

## Position Vacant | Adventist Senior Living

### Sales and Site Manager



The Wyee Point Lifestyle Community is in need of a Sales and Site Manager to sell villas, and to manage new and existing residents. Reporting to the Lifestyle Communities Manager, it is a critical role in the success of the village and resident enjoyment within the community, while having a major impact on the financial result of the organisation. For more details, please contact Lorin Bradford (02) 4977 0112 or via email at <l\_bradford@adventistseniorliving.com.au>.

Applications close on Friday, 15 August 2014.

## Position Vacant | Adventist Senior Living

### Development Manager



The organisation is looking for a Development Manager to manage the contract administration and associated construction processes for this development phase. Reporting directly to the CEO, this is a senior role within the organisation and will be a terrific opportunity for a building professional with a strong commitment to mission to play a strategic role in the ongoing growth of the organisation. For more details, please contact David Knight (02) 4977 0000

or via email at <davidknight@adventistseniorliving.com.au>. **Applications close on Friday, 15 August 2014.**

For more vacant job positions, visit [www.adventistemployment.org.au](http://www.adventistemployment.org.au).



# Macquarie College Anniversary

## Saturday, 6 September 2014

Campus Tours | 3 - 5 pm  
Formal Dinner | 6pm

An invitation to all past and present College community

Book Tickets | <http://www.stickytickets.com.au/17407>  
\$55 per person



88 Hobart Road, New Lambton NSW

# rocky mountains tour 2015

See the great Rocky Mountains of Canada before the next General Conference meeting! The tour includes Banff, Jasper, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Ketichan and the Columbia Icefield Parkway, with a two-day trip on the Rocky Mountaineer train. See the famous Butchart Gardens on Victoria Island, AND enjoy a seven-day cruise from Alaska along the Inside Passage from Vancouver.

For details or to register your interest, please contact Pastor Harold Harker on (02) 4385 8282 or email [harold.harker@gmail.com](mailto:harold.harker@gmail.com).



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