

# northpoint

NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS



NOV  
2015

## Rain couldn't dampen spirits at 2015 Adventurer Camporee



Continuous rain couldn't dampen the spirits of more than 500 people who attended the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference's 2015 Adventurer Camporee from 18 to 20 September at the Stuarts Point Convention Centre.

Pastor Rick Hergenhan, Director of Youth Ministries for the NNSW Conference, says, "We had an excellent weekend, although the weather wasn't kind to us. But that didn't dampen anyone's spirit or enthusiasm."

On the Sabbath morning, the usual Adventurer Club parade was moved into the main tent, and was followed by the Sabbath morning program. "It rained the whole time, but once we finished, the rain stopped and everyone could return to their tents without getting wet," says Pastor Hergenhan. "Thankfully the worst of the weather happened while we were all under cover, which was a blessing."

The theme for the camporee was "Come Follow Me," and Dean Bennetts, CEO of Adventist Education in NNSW, was the guest speaker for the weekend. Dean says, "The recent Adventurers Camporee was a tangible reinforcement of the value of family, the impact of teamwork and the benefit of partnership. To see the Children's Ministry team, the Youth Department and the Adventurer leaders combine in such a fashion was truly inspiring to me, and reminded me that we are all ministering to the same people and we should never compete — only complement."

One of the highlights for the kids was the Sabbath afternoon concert by Colin Buchanan. "I tell you what, he's one of a kind," says Pastor Hergenhan. "He's worth seeing in action. He engages you in what he's doing so easily. He's funny, and his songs have a great message and are very original. I found him to be a real Christian gentleman and everyone loved him."

At each meeting, a craft activity was organised for the Adventurers by Lisa and Madison Pratt. Rhonda Ward assembled the craft packs. There was also a puppet show, organised by Jonathan Christian and the Hillview Church youth. "District Directors Sharon Bolst and Allan Bates did an excellent job of putting together the program and making the weekend run smoothly," says Pastor Hergenhan. "Eric Curasco and the guys from Port Macquarie did the music for us, and we give them a big thank you."

In spite of the rain returning on the Sunday, activities were still run for the Adventurers — including inflating the four jumping castles that were part of the activities package inside the tent, due to the rainy weather. "A big thank you goes to Pastor Daron Pratt for the animal nursery, and to Gil and Lyn Evans for their obstacle course," says Pastor Hergenhan. "We would also like to thank our District Directors from Pathfinders and volunteers. Neil and Karen Radford were also awesome to work with as usual. We're sad to see them go!"

— Adele Nash

Photos courtesy of Jonathan Christian — more photos on Page 3

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# OUR CONFERENCE

## From the President: My family, my church



One thing Christmas always reveals to me very clearly is that I love my family and I love my family time — and we're dysfunctional. Isn't it amazing that the people I love to hang out with the most — some of whom I only see once a year — can also be quite difficult to keep the peace with while ensuring that everyone feels that their needs are being met!

In spite of this, I would not swap my family for anyone else's in the world. We are totally unique and love each other — but we still have our challenges. I guess your family is probably the same in that respect — you have parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters

and grandparents who have their distinct individual (and sometimes difficult) behaviours. But you probably wouldn't have it any other way.

What I know about family time is that the word "acceptance" is probably the most important thing at all. It is not my place to reform or modify anyone else's behaviour in my family, but instead to love them unconditionally — just the way they are. When this attitude of acceptance permeates our gatherings, it's amazing how it makes us all better people.

This, of course, has a direct application for my other family — the church.

I love my church. I love worshipping together and having lunch with them. I love sharing in committees and boards, making the decisions that we have to make. I particularly love being in the trenches — doing evangelism, Bible studies, witnessing and sharing out faith together. I also love serving the community with my fellow church members.

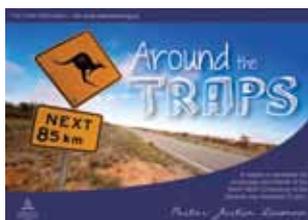
In any congregation, there's always a very unique set of personalities and behaviours. Some people present like the angel Gabriel and you know there's a God when you meet these people. Others are just a real challenge. But the amazing thing is that God loves us all. And it's as we accept and love each other — in spite of the challenges and dysfunction that can happen at times — that I think we see God more clearly.

In His great wisdom, He has put us in family and in community. In the things that are important in our world, these two have to be right near the top.

As the warm weather has greeted us, and we're reminded us that Christmas and holiday time is just around the corner, can I challenge you to put your full heart and soul into your family and your church? By your influence and presence, make it the happiest, most accepting and loving place in the world.

— Pastor Justin Lawman

*Around The Traps is a regular e-newsletter from Pastor Justin Lawman. It features a devotional and news from the conference. To subscribe, fill out the form at <http://nsw.adventist.org.au/around-the-traps> or email [northpoint@adventist.org.au](mailto:northpoint@adventist.org.au) with "E-newsletter subscription" in the subject line*



## From the General Secretary: New boards appointed

It's now been a couple of months since the North New South Wales constituency meeting. This is always a time of flux in church governance as a new Executive Committee and Boards of Directors are appointed to serve for the following four years. The Executive Committee was appointed by the constituency meeting and the names were listed in the October issue of *NorthPoint*.



However, if you need a refresher, those appointed to serve include: Pastor Justin Lawman, President (Ex Officio); Pastor Paul Geelan, General Secretary (Ex Officio); Russell Halliday, Chief Financial Officer (Ex Officio);

Abel Iorgelescu, church pastor, Coffs Harbour and Coffs Coast; Pastor Danny Milenkov, church pastor, Kanwal and Blue Haven; Hazel Eaton, teacher, Macquarie College; Alisha Christie, teacher, Tweed Valley Adventist College; Pastor Vern Parmenter, retired church administrator; Dr Wendy Jackson, theology lecturer, Avondale College; David North, business owner, Kingscliff Church; Jenni Lloyd-Ward, business owner, Glen Innes Church; Justin Boyd, IT Manager of Compassion Australia, Hillview Church; Neroli Page, physiotherapist, Wyee Church; Ros Camps, business owner, Alstonville Church; and Stuart Arblastor, Sanitarium Manager, Wallsend Church.

The Executive Committee members are also members of the Education and Aged Care Companies, and appoint the boards of directors of those two companies. They have now completed their work and appointed the following boards:

### Seventh-day Adventist Schools (North NSW) Limited

Pastor Justin Lawman — President (Ex Officio)  
Pastor Paul Geelan — General Secretary (Ex Officio)  
Russell Halliday — Chief Financial Officer (Ex Officio)  
Dean Bennetts — Chief Financial Officer (Ex Officio)  
Sherry Hattingh — Lecturer, Avondale College  
Dr Andrew Matthes — Lecturer, Avondale College  
Allan Butler — Retired finance director  
David North — Business owner, Kingscliff Church  
Geoff Crews — HR company owner/director, Wallsend Church  
Colin Hone — Financial planner, Gateway Church

### Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (North NSW) Limited

Pastor Justin Lawman — President (Ex Officio)  
Pastor Paul Geelan — General Secretary (Ex Officio)  
Russell Halliday — Chief Financial Officer (Ex Officio)  
David Knight — Adventist Senior Living CEO (Ex Officio)  
Alan Harris — Consultant, Avondale College Church  
Ross Penman — Manager, Sydney Adventist Hospital  
Dr Julianne Millar — GP, Lakeside Church  
David Heise — Retired IT manager, Avondale Memorial Church  
Jim Williams — Retired TAFE teacher, Avondale Memorial Church  
Rob Lynn — Retired pastoralist, Alstonville Church

I want to thank each of these individuals for their willingness to serve the mission of the church in these crucial roles.

— Pastor Paul Geelan

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## OUR CONFERENCE

### Applications now open for Summer Camps 2016



Applications are now open for Summer Camps 2016. The Junior Camp for tweens aged 10 to 12 will be held from 5 to 10 January. This will be followed by Teen Camp 1 (11 to 17 January) and Teen Camp 2 (18 to 24 January) for teens aged 13 to 16.

You can book online at <http://nnswyouth.com.au> — when booking, you can choose from a list of fun and challenging activities to take

part in. Some of the activity options include abseiling, archery, horse riding, kayaking, sailing and wakeboarding.

The Summer Camps held at Yarrahapinni provide a place where your child will experience fun activities, great speakers, amazing music and captivating dramas. The aim of this all is to serve as an invitation for them to commit their lives to God's Kingdom or challenge them to continue growing in their journey with Jesus.

—NorthPoint

Find out more about Summer Camps 2016 at <http://nnswyouth.com.au>



### Wanted: church bulletin secretaries!

Are you a church bulletin secretary in your local church?

Are you currently subscribed to the *NorthPoint Bulletin* that's sent out every Tuesday with advertising and information from around the conference?

If not, then we'd love to have you on our mailing list. You can sign up by filling out the form at [http://nnsw.adventist.org.au/news\\_entries/4781](http://nnsw.adventist.org.au/news_entries/4781). You don't actually have to be a bulletin secretary to subscribe either — anyone is welcome to add their email address to the mailing list.

The *NorthPoint Bulletin* is sent out weekly and contains advertising for upcoming events, job opportunities and some classified ads. If you wish to advertise your church's events in the *Bulletin*, email [northpoint@adventist.org.au](mailto:northpoint@adventist.org.au) by 5.00pm on Mondays to make sure your ad is included.

—NorthPoint



# OUR CONFERENCE



## Seven STORM Co teams head west to connect with communities



In the September/October school holidays, seven teams headed out to show that Service To Others Really Matters (STORM Co). This number of teams was an increase from the same time last year, and it included some teams who were out for their first-ever STORM Co trip.

The towns visited by STORM Co teams were Brewarrina (Toronto Church), Bourke (Gosford Church), Coonamble (Lakeside Church), Glen Innes (Avondale Memorial Church), Goodooga (Avondale College), Tenterfield (Avondale Memorial Church) and Quirindi (Central Coast Community Church).

"This was really good to see," says Pastor Rick Hergenhan, Director of Youth Ministries for the North New South Wales Conference. "We took the Pinnacle Challenge out to visit the teams in Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Quirindi, Bourke, Brewarrina and Goodooga. As in the past, we take the Pinnacle out to support teams in what they're doing in their kids' club programs. All of the teams ran kids' clubs, and it's a real eye-catcher and head-turner to have the Pinnacle turn up! It's always very well received and is a good opportunity for local kids to do something really different."

Pastor Hergenhan notes that there was a good turn-out of children from the communities they visited. "There were lots of kids in the towns we visited, especially from the Indigenous communities," he says. "This was particularly noticeable in Brewarrina, as there are strong ties to the Adventist community there. We also saw kids come in to visit who have been to Summer Camps and Big Camp, and we're making some great connections there."

STORM Co provides a great way to build relationships in local communities, as well as for young people to get involved in evangelism and building relationships within the teams they're part of. "It was really fantastic to see the new teams out there — we love seeing youth groups excited to do things and choosing to try STORM Co," says Pastor Hergenhan. "We had clubs involved in service projects too — there were people involved in painting community assets around towns, doing backyard blitzes, visiting older folk in nursing homes and so on."

Another strong point of STORM Co is the opportunity teams have to work with local pastors. "It was good to see our teams working with pastors, communicating strongly," says Pastor Hergenhan. "Marty Thompson from Quirindi and Pastor Adam Cinzio from Glen Innes visited us while we were there. We also saw Keith and Danuta Stockwell from Brewarrina too. With the work that Keith and Danuta are doing, along with the Adventist Aviation Association and Bible workers, the Brewarrina Church Plant is seeing results in church attendance."

Pastor Hergenhan adds, "Everyone made an effort to work together and we would like to give them all a big thank you for the time they took to be the hands and feet of Jesus. It really does make a difference. Everyone's working together for the same reason — each different part that people play works to achieve the bigger goal."

— Adele Nash

## OUR CONFERENCE

### Mid-North Coast churches celebrate 2015 UR Church journey

On Saturday, 10 October, church members on the Mid-North Coast who have taken part in UR Church training and small groups this year gathered at Port Macquarie Church to celebrate the journey that they have been on, and to learn more about the final two manuals of the process. The afternoon program was well-attended and featured special music from the Avondale Advent Brass Band, who travelled all the way from Hillview Church in Morisset where they had performed in the morning.

Following a welcome, prayer and song service, Pastor Bob Manners spoke about the experience of the churches in the region, and noted that a strong percentage of church members are still involved in small groups as part of UR Church. "That tells me that there's something in these manuals that is making a difference," he noted. "God is in this work . . . When we sow the seed, He will provide an abundant harvest."

Pastor Manners also spoke about how ministers from other faiths have praised the television advertising that was part of the UR Church program. "The ads were first-class and have had a benefit to Christianity in general in the area, but have really put us out there at the forefront," said Pastor Manners.

Russell Halliday, CFO of the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference, spoke about the experience the conference office team has had with UR Church and invited team members who were at the celebration event to the front to answer questions about the process. He explored how it had changed and challenged them, and noted that "God stretches time so that people can connect with Him and still get all of their other life commitments met."

In speaking about Training Manual 7, Pastor Paul Geelan, General Secretary of the NNSW Conference, said, "It's a practical guide — there are action steps in every chapter." He also spoke of the stronger connections formed through UR Church.

A short sermon was presented by Matt Parra, Evangelism Director for the NNSW Conference. He explored how God can do extraordinary things in ordinary circumstances and can turn anything into His classroom. The focus was also on how God grows us to be ready to do His work. "Success comes when you can handle it," he noted.

Anna Beaden shared a special item that she had written earlier in the year before Pastor Neil Thompson, Ministerial Secretary for the NNSW Conference, concluded the program and encouraged everyone to follow Jesus wherever He leads us.

— Adele Nash



### New opening hours for Better Books and Food in Cooranbong



Following on from the success of their weekend sale event in late August (see the October issue of *NorthPoint*) — particularly with the requests that came in from

people asking for Sunday trading — Better Books and Food (BBF) management has decided to extend their opening hours. The new BBF hours are as follows:

**Monday to Thursday:** 9.00am to 6.00pm

**Friday:** 9.00am to 3.00pm

**Sunday:** 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Nic Coutet, General Manager of BBF, is pictured above with some of the BBF team and says, "The extended hours on weekdays give us the opportunity to meet the needs of people who aren't able to come in until after work to grab their soy milk and Weet-Bix. On Fridays, we've got an extra hour so you can pop in after picking the kids up from school. The Sunday opening hours are a direct response to your requests — you asked for it and we're listening to you!"

The Sunday openings also feature a healthy sausage sizzle and live music every weekend. This aspect of the Sunday openings was first utilised on 18 October and Nic says, "It was an absolute success with a great atmosphere. We have a lot of families who come on Sundays and we would love to see you there too."

As well as the same great products that you've always loved, BBF is adding new items to their range all the time, including some new non-alcoholic lines of grape and peach juices that have recently arrived (you can even taste test them if you like — see below). The antique and second-hand book section is also back — "Come have a browse," says Nic. "You never know what you'll find!"

Another new addition to the shop is a healthy fresh food fridge, which features fresh sandwiches and ready-to-go salad packs. The kids' section has also seen some changes, with a TV in there playing *Veggie Tales* DVDs.

BBF is also inviting regular shoppers to be part of their focus groups. "Come to the store and sign up!" says Nic. "The focus groups are a great chance for you to share feedback about the shop, and what you want and need."

— NorthPoint



# OUR CHURCHES

## Dr Arlene Taylor's inaugural visit to Avondale Memorial Church



Why do we need to avoid questions starting with "Why" when speaking with adolescents? What does science say about Jesus' example of forgiveness as recorded in the Gospels? Which are the most effective ways to make our own self-talk more positive, and what are the implications of this improvement for our leadership and/or parenting skills? How can we age-proof our brains?

These questions were addressed by Dr Arlene Taylor in a series of presentations on brain function at Avondale Memorial Church during her recent tour of Australia in September. Coinciding with the final weekend of Week of Prayer (11 to 13 September), Dr Taylor's inaugural visit to Memorial Church was a real highlight.

Dr Taylor asserted that scientific research backs up what the Bible says about things relating to brain health and function. It is a refreshing perspective from which to read Scripture. By way of outreach to the local community, Sunday morning's topic on "How To Age-Proof Your Brain" filled the Fellowship Hall with both church and community members, many from local retirement villages.

Following a delicious free breakfast provided by the Avondale Memorial Catering Team, Dr Taylor soon had her audience interacting at ease and laughing out loud. Apparently a lot of mirthful laughter is prescribed for the ageing process. Who knew? As one man said, "I was watching Arlene Taylor's presentation and I realised that as she speaks, I'm watching her model what she's talking about at the same time. She's amazing!"

What a gift. We hope to see Dr Taylor back in Australia again next year.

— Lisa Thomson



## Two firsts for Coonamble Church



On Sabbath afternoon, 26 September, Coonamble Church celebrated its first-ever baptism. Having not long turned 18, Lydia Revelly, the youngest daughter of Mathew and Lisa Revelly, felt the time was right to make the commitment to follow her Saviour into the waters of baptism. Many family members and friends travelled out for the occasion to celebrate the day with Lydia, and enjoyed a social afternoon after the ceremony.

The activities didn't stop as the sun set on the Sabbath day. A community Country and Gospel Night had been organised, where approximately 80 adults and children turned up to listen to local and imported talent perform. A big thanks go to Anna Beaden, who anchored as the main act, and featured in what was an entertaining and spiritually uplifting night.

— Shaun Hepworth



## International Children's Sabbath at Boolaroo



Sabbath, 25 July was International Children's Sabbath, and it was only fitting that the children and youth of Boolaroo Church led the worship time together.

The whole service focused the Second Coming of Christ, and with rousing songs, choruses and hymns the tone was set for a wonderful inter-generational worship. Every child and young person at Boolaroo Church had a part in the program: song service was led by one family, prayer time was led by another, there were special items from other families and a family-led Scripture reading.

The service then took a testimonial/interview tone, with a number of children each

interviewing an adult they had chosen. Each adult was asked to explain what the Second Coming meant to them and what their favourite verses or promises were about the Second Coming. It was a delight and wonderful encouragement to all seeing adults sharing the tenets of their faith with each of their interviewees.

Benjamin Mchechesi led the scriptural study for the day, and presented an insightful and well-arranged biblical study on the wonderful hope we each have in the Second Coming of Jesus, challenging each person present to entrust their life to Jesus and be ready for that wonderful day. Attendees and members were greatly blessed by the thoughts and worship ministry led by the children and youth. Maranatha — the Lord is coming!

— Andrea Hoschke



## Second annual chaplains conference a chance to grow in ministry



In mid-October, the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference's school chaplains had their second annual chaplains' conference, which was organised by Pastor Alvin Schick, Chaplaincy Coordinator for the NNSW Conference. The chaplains from around the conference gathered at the Aanuka Beach Resort in Coffs Harbour for a few days together where they got to share their stories, engage in personal development, share resources and worship together.

Pastor Justin Lawman, President of the NNSW Conference, attended the retreat and shared his desire for schools to be a frontline evangelistic endeavour. He says, "It was absolutely wonderful to have all of our chaplains together. It's very inspiring to hear what's happening in our schools, and about how passionate this group of chaplains are for the mission of the church. The chaplains each spoke about what's working in the schools they serve, and it was so inspiring and encouraging!"

The theme for this year's retreat was teamship, focusing on leadership and building teams. Dean Bennetts, CEO of Adventist Education in North New South Wales, also attended the conference, and spoke to the chaplains about his vision for schools and churches working together. He used the metaphor of a bridge between the unchurched and churched, with campus churches and schools being a significant part of that "bridge" used to enable people on their faith walks.

Pastor Mel Lemke, Chaplain at Avondale School, says, "Pastor Schick led us in developing our goals for 2016. Work commenced on this at the conference and will continue in our local schools. Pastor Neil Thompson, Ministerial Secretary for the NNSW Conference, shared some thoughts and did some brainstorming with us, making sure we were doing the important things rather than being distracted by the urgent things. He also talked to us about how to use our goals to give direction to the things we spend time on, and how to clear the clutter of tasks that bog us down and keep us from the important things."

In addition to the chaplains attending, pastors of school campus churches from around the NNSW Conference were invited to be part of the group. This saw Pastor James Greensill (Gateway Church), Nimrod Maua (The Haven Church), Graham Stewart (Forster/Tuncurry and Taree Churches) and William Moala (Lismore Church) join the team.

Pastor Lemke says, "The opportunity to sit, share, play and connect with our colleagues over the four days was invaluable. Without doubt, the NNSW Conference has the strongest school chaplaincy program and support team in the whole South Pacific Division — and probably the world to my knowledge. We are blessed to be world leaders in this strategic pastoral care and evangelistic ministry."

— NorthPoint/Pastor Mel Lemke



## OUR SCHOOLS

### Avondale School Hospitality students impress Southlake Business Chamber



Avondale School had the pleasure of hosting members of the Southlake Business Chamber & Community Alliance (SBCCA) for a breakfast meeting on 19 August. The SBCCA's monthly meeting was held at the Avondale School's Cooranbong campus, with Senior Hospitality students hosting the catering.

Avondale School's Public Relations Officer Kerrie Howells said, "Our school is greatly supported by the Southlake community and it's local businesses. We felt a way to network and show our support to these businesses and individual organisations was to reach out to the SBCCA, invite them visit our campus and to host one of their monthly business meetings.

"This was also an opportunity for us to showcase to the Business Chamber our talented VET (Vocational Education and Training) Hospitality students, who regularly host functions for our school and visitors as part of assessment tasks with their regular course studies. The senior students prepared and served a scrumptious hot and cold breakfast, worthy of high praise and most definitely equal to hospitality industry standard."

SBCCA Coordinator Natalie Mounsey said, "The whole event was done beautifully. The food was amazing, the tables looked lovely, the coffee was delicious, the school was immaculate, the music was a very special touch — and did I mention the food!"

Guest speaker and business management consultant Julian Campbell from Catalyst for Growth addressed the chamber about the importance of business networking, highlighting ways to find innovative and creative solutions to transform their businesses.

— Kerrie Howells

*The Southlake Business Chamber & Community Alliance meets every second Tuesday. Keep in touch with local issues, events and projects, and take the opportunity to know other businesses and community organisations in the community. RSVPs are essential. Please contact Robert on 0417 672 449 or email [coordinator@southlakemac.com](mailto:coordinator@southlakemac.com)*



# Leadership

## IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

FREE EVENT FOR ALL LEADERS

Presentations by  
Dr Paul Ratsara

Pr Justin  
Lawman

Pr David  
Asscherick



5-7 February 2016 at Avondale College  
Register at [nsw.adventist.org.au](http://nsw.adventist.org.au)