

northpoint

NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS



StormCo clowns being the 'hands and feet' of Jesus in outback NSW

AUG 09

Church websites win awards

Church websites in the North NSW Conference have won two out of three categories in the South Pacific Division (SPD) netAdventist Best Sites awards.

The Central Coast Community Church website, ccc.org.au won 'best homepage using a default netAdventist design' and the Moree Adventist Church website, moree.adventist.org.au, won the title of 'best netAdventist custom design theme', as well as also coming runner up in the 'best overall netAdventist site' category.

"I've spent a lot of time on my site and to see it progress and be acknowledged has

been rewarding," says Robbie Noordzy, webmaster of Moree Adventist Church. "I have to thank the netAdventist team for a great system (a work in progress) which lends itself well to the novice and is always open to feedback and development suggestions. The website is an important addition to our local church as a source of information and inspiration. It's an 'always open' and integral part of our evangelism."

Ralph Goodwin, webmaster of ccc.org.au says it's been easy to teach others to enter calendar entries and upload documents onto their netAdventist website to help keep the website current. "The website plays a supporting evangelical role to our church by providing

potential guests with information about us, when we meet and how to get to church. We also use the website to make information available to our members. Online sermons lift Jesus up with hundreds of downloads each month. These are listened to around the world, including expatriate members."

All SPD websites using the netAdventist software, the General Conference owned website management software available to all Adventist churches and schools, were eligible for nomination in the three categories.

"Some webmasters have put in plenty of work and innovation in the few months we've had the new version of netAdventist," says Scott Wegener, web developer for the Adventist Media Network. "It's been good to showcase a glimpse of what can be achieved with netAdventist but, more so, acknowledge some of the hard work that



has been put in by webmasters around the Division. It's easy to spend hours on a website and gain only a handful of visitors to reward the effort. We hoped that this might help encourage our webmasters to keep at it. You never know exactly who's passing through your site and how someone's walk to salvation has been influenced by their visit."

The leading webmasters of the winning websites each received a Logitech webcam and their home page was published in the RECORD.

The 'best overall netAdventist site' was won by North New Zealand Conference www.nnzc.org.nz

For more information on netAdventist visit web.adventistconnect.org



In The News...

The group of Avondale School Year 12 students known as 'Rokforce' (Reach Out 4 Kids) have recently featured in various news media promoting their service-based 'schoolies' adventure to a Cambodian orphanage in November 2009.

Check out some of the recent 'Rokforce' media items, including articles in the Sunday Telegraph, Newcastle Herald and a live interview on Rhema FM radio by visiting the NNSW Conference website at <http://nsw.adventist.org.au>



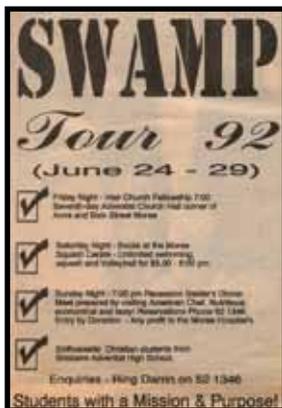


What's the *storm* all about?

Seventeen years ago, a group of Year 12 students determined that instead of organising school leaving parties or self-indulgent 'schoolies' trips, they would plan an

adventure with a purpose that would be far more fun and rewarding. They wanted to do something for someone who needed help. But what could they do? Where could they go? The outback town of Moree was the answer!

proportions and inspired many others since then — adventures now known as StormCo. Originally called S.W.A.M.P., an acronym for 'Students with a Mission & Purpose', these service-based adventures later became known as StormCo, which stands for 'Service To Others Really Matters'.



others," said Dr Mel Lemke, Chaplain at Avondale School and one of the founders of the StormCo movement.

"Service to Others Really Matters — this sums up what StormCo is all about," said Dr Lemke.



Service project: chopping wood

"StormCo is offering no strings attached, 'pure' service simply because we care about people."

"Of course, this service is Christ-based, and people are inevitably led to question what motivates us. This leads to opportunities for sharing our faith."

StormCo is built on five foundations:

NO AGENDA

Listen — StormCo teams enter a community with the express purpose of building a relationship



Building friendships

In 2009, there are now over 30 destinations (including Moree) being regularly visited by StormCo teams from throughout the North NSW Conference, with the specific purpose of serving that community in whatever capacity they can for the cause of Jesus Christ.

"The mission of StormCo is to send teams of trained people to work for, learn from and encourage individual communities; sharing God's love by building bridges to all peoples through an adventure in service to



Waiting for the Pinnacle Challenge

StormCo Stat's

The StormCo initiative throughout the North NSW Conference has continued to grow, resulting in a total of 33 teams undertaking StormCo adventures throughout 2009. This is an increase from the 22 teams in 2008 and represents over 750 young (and not so young) people committed to serving others.

Almost one third of these teams have 'Avondale' in their name — Avondale Memorial Church, Avondale College, Avondale College Church and Avondale School. Five of our North NSW Conference teams

have committed to international StormCo trips, adopting overseas communities including Fiji, the Pacific Mission our Conference chose to adopt and support as a mainland Conference.

Across Australia, a total of 75 StormCo teams are registered to go on StormCo adventures in service this year.

For a list of this year's StormCo teams, their stories, photos and video clips, visit

www.nnswyouth.com



with that community. A team will go first to LISTEN, and then to serve.

NO EXPECTATION

Serve — StormCo teams commit to serve. They will work for a community and learn from them. Their goal is to SERVE without compensation.

NO WALLS

Encourage — StormCo teams are committed to support Christianity above denominational barriers. They have a mandate to ENCOURAGE others in their walk with God.

NO LIMITS

Return — StormCo teams maintain a relationship with the community. Their goal is to RETURN and be an ongoing positive influence in the community.

NO FEAR

Worship — StormCo teams are built through WORSHIP. They are not afraid to stand for their God as they serve in the community.

“Ingrained in many of our young (and not so young) people these days is the desire

to serve,” said Pastor Bevan Craig, Associate Youth Director and StormCo Coordinator for the North NSW Conference.

“The StormCo acronym is the catch cry of so many hearts today — service to others really matters. Research tells us that the big program or

worship event alone will not satisfy the heart searching for meaning in God. People are looking for purpose in belonging to a serving church where worship is not only an expression of song and sermon, but of serving humanity around them.”

During the July school holidays, 19 teams from our Conference ventured into outback NSW and even overseas on their annual StormCo adventures.

“Our StormCo teams are representing Jesus, being His witness, His hands and feet and as Paul said to the Corinthians, being the aroma of Christ,” said Pastor Craig.



Service project: Painting fences



Unconditional Love



Arts & Crafts

“This has and will continue to be one of the most effective avenues as set out by the example of Jesus while on this earth to introduce people to the Gospel and to a community of believers.”

The StormCo philosophy is profound. It's theology is compelling. Its model is Jesus. Serve without expectation, for no other reason than just because you can and because you care. What a witness!

Say where?

What do Goolooga, Toomelah, Gwabegar, Wee Waa, Moree, Collarenabri, Brewarrina, Bourke, Tabulum and Walgett, all have in common?

For one thing, they are all strange words to pronounce. For another, they are all names of isolated rural communities throughout the state of NSW. But the special thing that unites them all is StormCo. Each one of these towns and communities (and many more with equally unusual names) has been 'adopted' by a StormCo team from somewhere in the North NSW Conference.



OUR CHURCHES

A Big Day at Big Day In



Nothing gets Generation X and Y more fired up than a good cause. Can these generations of youth help stop the world's poverty cycle and help make poverty history? The youth of Wallsend Adventist Church think so. They have been stepping up to make poverty history for the past 12 years with an event called Big Day In.

The last weekend in June saw a team of youth stand up and challenge the 400 plus congregation to make a difference — one life at a time.

Big Day In partners with Asian Aid in helping families in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal to move out of poverty and into a life of education, health and survival. These individual children, and their immediate families, are supported for many years and trained to move beyond poverty and a life of disease, sickness and a similar recurring cycle.

During the Sabbath morning program, an offering was collected totalling \$12,820 to continue supporting the church's sponsor children that are sponsored as a result of Big Day In. This offering was about \$3,000 higher than last year. Families in

attendance on the weekend were also given an opportunity to sponsor children of their own. This year 31 more children were sponsored, which has a total dollar value of about \$13,000 per year. The Big Day In program consists of two major events over the weekend. This year Ali and Leighton Heise, who also

partner with Asian Aid, offered a concert on the Friday night — a concert with a cause. Leighton, who had just returned from meeting some sponsor children in India, opened our eyes to see the huge impact that child sponsorship has on individual lives and families.

On Sabbath morning Pastor Mark Craig challenged the audience to live the "6:8 LIFE" (taken from Micah 6:8). When we really meet Jesus — he gives us a heart to serve. Well done Wallsend youth! Your passion is changing lives.

**Pastor Jeff Parker,
Wallsend Adventist Church**



And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Adventurer's African Markets



Gosford Adventurer Club held an African Night Market on 13 June 2009 at Central Coast Adventist School hall, to raise funds for a Kenyan orphanage. The African-themed event was attended by hundreds of people. Children from the Adventurer club operated stalls selling a variety of African-themed items as well as food and drink made by the Adventurers themselves (with some parental assistance, of course!). Live music, crafts, face-painting and other activities all made the night a memorable one for the Adventurers and their families.

An incredible total of \$6,349 was raised, with all proceeds going towards the Club's support of the Nakura Baby Orphanage in Kenya. The funds raised will help purchase much-needed school supplies such as uniforms, shoes, bags and books. "I know the orphanage will be really blessed by all our efforts," says Adventurer Club leader, Sharon Bolst.

Gosford Adventurer Club has 60 children aged between four and nine, who enjoy learning about what service to others is all about.

**Sharyn Brady,
Gosford Adventurer Club**



Coffs Harbour Missionary Outreach

On Tuesday morning, 23 June 2009, several people from the Coffs Harbour Seventh-day Adventist Church attended a missionary fundraising event at the Salvation Army complex in Coffs Harbour. This is an annual event where the Salvation Army women raise funds for a designated missionary project. This year the funds were raised to aid the women of Myanmar. Monies raised will be to aid self-help and self-employment groups, help with medical costs and equipment, train health workers and fund projects to rebuild cyclone-ravaged areas.

A morning tea was provided and several tables of various craft items were on display for sale. Each visiting church group was asked to provide an item and following morning tea, we were entertained by a variety of talents, along with congregational singing.

Lois Willis and Margaret Hivon sang a duet and we were blessed to have visitors from Victoria, Narelle Milekic who played the piano to accompany her daughter Leah on the violin. These items were very well received. We really enjoyed our time of fellowship with other Christians here in Coffs Harbour and also help those in need in Myanmar.

**Margaret Hivon,
Coffs Harbour
Adventist Church**



Lakeside Celebrates 40 Years



Our pastoral team, Pastor Clive and Monica Nash, sang about God's love.

Following the service a bountiful lunch was provided, during which the anniversary cake was cut by our oldest member, 93 year-old Glen Coombs, with our youngest member, 11 week-old Zaria Ashton 'assisting'.

On Saturday, 1 July 2009, Lakeside Adventist Church celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special day of celebrations. The weekend began with a Friday evening musical worship conducted by Peter Dixon and his band. Special music the following day in Sabbath School was presented by Lara Kuivisto on the violin. The church service included a presentation to two charter members who are still currently attending Lakeside, health permitting. Pastor Graeme Christian, Ministerial Director for the Australian Union Conference, preached a powerful sermon on faith, certainty and hope.

Following the luncheon a Memories Program was held. It included a PowerPoint roll call of all Lakeside ministers and a presentation of old photos which brought back many happy memories. Pastor Roger Nixon, a former pastor and Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon, interviewed the two oldest members, Ivy Jones and Glen Coombs. Ivy has been a member since the early 80's and Glen since the mid 70's. Pastor John Lang unveiled a plaque to commemorate the 40 years of the church. The theme of the anniversary was "To God be the Glory".

**Pam Hill,
Lakeside Adventist Church**

Blessings of Baptisms

On 18 April 2009, Nambucca Heads and Macksville Adventist Churches combined together for a special service with Pastor Miroslav Stilinovic for three lovely people — Belinda Novikki, Owen Cozen and Robert Scott — who gave their lives to Jesus in baptism. This was the outcome of studies of Daniel and Revelation with Senior Elder Richard Lumsden of Nambucca Heads Adventist Church.

Earlier, after a previous Daniel Prophecy in August 2008, there were another three lovely people who also were baptised. Phil White, who travelled from Coffs Harbour each session, and brother and sister, Mitch and Melarnie McLean of Nambucca Heads, who also studied with Richard Lumsden. After the baptism services, a luncheon was enjoyed with much fellowship and love.



(L to R): Pr Stilinovic, Robert Scott, Belinda Novikki, Richard Lumsden, Owen Coxon



(L to R): Melarnie McLean, Pr Stilinovic, Mitch McLean, Phil White

Aprons for the Men in Alstonville



Every man needs a shed and every man in the shed needs an apron. Since August 2005, senior men meet in a shed at the Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village. The number varies between eight and 20 attendees. The Shed provides a focus for senior men in facilitating a healthy culture of mateship, fun and learning opportunities that improve health.

Local businesses and individuals have supplied woodworking equipment, tools and timber. Projects undertaken include Rosella, Sugar Glider and Possum

nesting boxes for Wildlife Carers, bird feeders and a variety of small furniture items.

Brian Sparke, who plays a central role in organising shed activities along with Paul Mitchell, the Adventist Retirement Village Manager, decided it would be a great idea to produce aprons for members of the Men's Shed. And who better to complete the project than Creative Hands, a ladies' craft group who meet at the Retirement Village every Wednesday morning?

The official handing over of 30 aprons took place on Wednesday morning, 24 June when the craft ladies from Creative Hands led by Ruth Harris, met with the men from the Alstonville Village Shed for a celebratory morning tea.

**Lionel Hughes,
Alstonville**



OUR SCHOOLS

Drug Action Month at Central Coast

The use of alcohol and drugs amongst young people in Australia is well recognised as a significant problem for the community, however it can often be seen as too difficult to do anything about. Central Coast Adventist School (CCAS) has recently taken a significant step towards addressing drug and alcohol issues by running Drug Action Month throughout June.

"The aim of Drug Action Month has been to reach as many students as possible with the message that they are valued and deserve a life that is better than what drug and alcohol use offers," said Nicole Walkinshaw, Drug Action Month coordinator.

Drug Action Month included chapel presentations, a resource stall at lunchtime and a number of varied activities were run during lunchtime each Friday. Topics included the way that drugs and alcohol can affect a person's athletic ability, how to help keep friends safe at parties and the potential long-term consequences of drug and alcohol use. Throughout the month, students were encouraged to ask questions and learn about the impacts of drugs and alcohol.

Students were given the opportunity to make posters relating to what they thought was the most important message about drugs and alcohol. Anna Coleman, a Year Nine student, designed the winning poster with the slogan, "Be the life of the party. You don't need drugs to have fun."

The final event for the month was a live band and pancake lunch that has left the school with a small fund to encourage future projects around drug and alcohol education. It is hoped that this event will continue in future years.

"Too often we hear about the problems and not enough about solutions. Often, we ignore the problems or falsely assume that these issues are not part of our schools and the life of our youth and teens. I pray that they are not, but the reality is that they are. Drug Action Month is one way that CCAS has been proactive in dealing with the issues of drugs and alcohol amongst teens and youth. Despite the societal pressures out there they do have choices and they can make choices that honour their bodies, themselves, their families and their God," said Dean Bennetts, CCAS Principal.

"Addiction to drugs and alcohol takes control of people's lives and brings about destruction. God's desire for us is that we live abundant and full lives free from harmful addictions. During Drug Action Month this is what we have been communicating to our students," said Elia Crevar, CCAS Secondary School Chaplain.

CCAS is committed to encouraging students to make positive choices about drugs and alcohol.

CCAS is a Kindergarten – Year 12, co-educational school located in Erina. CCAS has been serving the Central Coast region since 1969 and is celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2009.

**Brenton Luchow & Nicole Walkinshaw,
Central Coast Adventist School**



Annual Billy Cart Grand Prix at Tweed Valley College

The second annual Tweed Valley College Billy Cart Grand Prix proved a huge success, with a significant increase in competitors this year — moving from 13 to 20 teams. More than 600 people attended the event, including three new schools joining the event this year.

There were some fascinating entries with the White Dove Funeral's Coffin and the Weekly Warriors machines being much more successful this year and holding up well under the speed. Congratulations to all those who participated. It was so good to see an increase in entries.

"We had a number of businesses, and four different schools put in teams," said David McClintock, Principal of Tweed Valley College. "It was great to see teams from Blue Hills College, Tweed Valley College, Gold Coast Christian College and King's College involved."

"We could not run the day without the help of a huge army of volunteers and I would like to thank the parents, teachers and community members such as the SES and Fire Brigade," he said.

Last year, the \$750 raised went to the SES. This year the \$2,300 raised went to the Emergency Department at Murwillumbah Hospital. The event was opened by Phil Rouge, Director of Nursing from Murwillumbah Hospital.

The OPEN (Senior students, businesses and teaching staff) event was the most contested series of races and "made for an interesting spectacle for all onlookers".

Event organiser Colin Louwen said he couldn't believe the creativity and time that the parents and students had put in to making their cardboard boxes so spectacular; it was a tribute to all involved.

This year the event had more participants, a bigger crowd and in turn was able to help the local community in a bigger way. Plans are already being in place to improve the event even more next year.

**David McClintock, Principal,
Tweed Valley College**

OUR PASTORS

Top Geographers

This year over 90,000 students from 807 schools took part in the 2009 Australian Geography Competition. The competition tested student's knowledge of skills, developing countries, environmental issues and geopolitics in Geography.

This year, Macquarie College scored nine High Distinctions, nine Distinctions and 23 Credits, an outstanding and overwhelming result and as a group scoring well above the national averages for such a challenging national competition. The Australian Geography Competition is a very challenging exercise, the results of the 2009 competition is rewarding

for both students and teachers at the College. The study of Geography touches every aspect of our lives and it is important socially and environmentally that young people learn more about the world and their place in it. The competition, now in its fifteenth year, is a joint initiative of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association. The aims and framework of the competition attempt to test and develop a better understanding of today's issues — globalisation, climate change, immigration levels and land degradation.

**Aaron Williams,
Macquarie College**



Sharing musical talents

Students from Macquarie College's Concert Band, Stage Band, Chapel Band and Vocal Ensemble shared their musical talents with other Adventist schools and churches during their recent tour of the mid-north coast.

More than 63 students and staff from the College travelled to Kempsey Adventist School and Blue Hills College where they performed a wide variety of musical items,

including concert pieces, vocal and choral items, and a selection of jazz, classical and sacred items.

A tour highlight was an opportunity to 'busk' at Brisbane's busy South Bank promenade along the Brisbane River. The tour culminated with performances at the Kingscliff Adventist Church, where the students took the church service on 11 July.

Macquarie College students are currently preparing to share more of their musical talents in their upcoming performances in the 'Back to the 80's' musical, which they will perform at the Civic Playhouse in Newcastle from 9–12 August.

**Andrew Scully
Macquarie College**



Dr Krause (we presume)

Q. Which church are you currently pastoring?

I am blessed to be the pastor of the Central Coast Community Church in Wyong, on the Central Coast of NSW.

Q. You have just returned from a visit to the United States of America. What was the purpose of your trip?

I travelled to Pasadena, USA to receive my doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Q. Congratulations on this fantastic achievement. What was the subject of your doctorate?

My doctoral paper was on "Developing a reproducible Church Planting Process for the Australian Seventh-day Adventist Church," a topic I hope will be relevant to what we do as a denomination and to what we do at Central Coast Community Church.

Q. How long did it take you to complete your study?

It took seven long years, but it was definitely worth it. There is no way I could have completed this doctorate without the support of my family — they deserve this as much as I do. To have my wife Tracey and my daughter Jessica, along with my

mum and Dad (Ernie and Merlene) at my graduation was fantastic.

I also want to thank the NNSW Conference — particularly Pastor John Lang, who along with the South Pacific Division, encouraged me (and helped pay for the degree).

Q. What do you hope your study will achieve?

I have made lifelong friends through my time of study and hopefully my research will be useful to our church in Australia as it continues its mission. I would love to see the day when our pioneering heritage as a church planting movement returns.

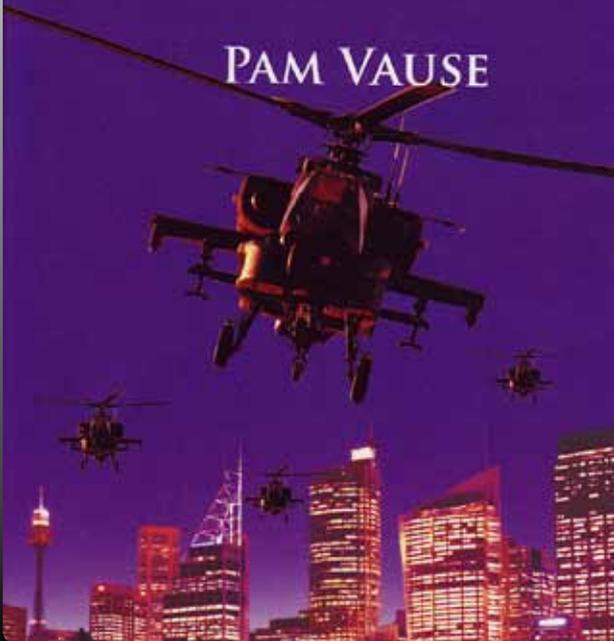
Q. What do you love about Central Coast Community Church?

I love the fact that from our church, two couples have been involved in starting a church in Palmserston North, New Zealand with over 100 in attendance, and at the age of 86, another church member is helping with a church plant in Sydney. There's also 13 people from our congregation helping with the Kariiong XChange church plant. I really believe that church planting springs from the very nature of God and that Central Coast Community Church can be part of a new church planting movement that can shake the world.



FINAL AGENDA

PAM VAUSE



FINAL AGENDA ONLY \$19.95

Pam Vause in her novel draws on her knowledge of Bible Prophecy and brings it into action in the lives and events of her subjects in 'Final Agenda'. Stories that intertwine keeping you glued to her book just to find out 'what is happening next'. Yes, this novel can be scary but it shows the awesome power of God and how it overpowers evil. You can relate to characters as they seem so real and you feel that you are part of the story. This is an incredible novel about end-time events right up to the Second Coming of Jesus. If you don't really understand end-time events of Bible Prophecy, this book will enlighten you, will frighten you, but most of all, will encourage you to get to know God better. It will help strengthen your faith so you will be ready when Jesus comes again. This book is suitable for all ages, with parental guidance recommended for younger children.

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Asian Aid seeks new CEO

Asian Aid is looking for a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) after the resignation of Sharon Heise, whose four and a half years with Asian Aid has seen it grow into an international organisation with a stronger focus on development.

Asian Aid is a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and helps children, people and communities living in poverty. Visit www.asianaid.org.au for more information or contact Bruna Tawake on mobile 0400 101 411 or email btawake@optusnet.com.au

Avondale Retirement Village

Homecoming Open Weekend



- Stage 8 & 9 units now showing
- Luxury 2 & 3 bedroom villas
- Friday August 28, 9am - 11am & 1pm - 3pm
- Sunday August 30, 9am - 11am & 1pm - 3pm

For further information phone:

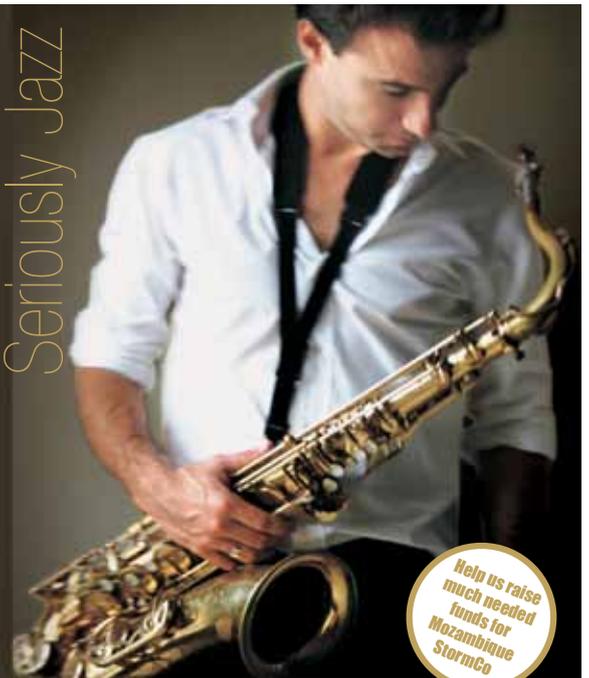
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Help us raise much needed funds for Mozambique StormCo

Aug 15, 7:30pm, Avondale College Education Hall

Regular Seating: Adult \$10 • Family \$25 • College Facilities/Child \$5
Premium tables for 6: \$110 includes refreshments, reservations essential
Regular tables for 6: \$90 • *Regular tables for 4:* \$90

Drinks and light meals available

Tickets available at Student Services 4980 2148 or book on 0408 732 183

Mozambique StormCo Fund Raiser sponsored by Re-Gen and Avondale College



New CD/DVD *In Motion* available through Newmarket Music
www.adriancunningham.com



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

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