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NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS


SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH



Grey Nomads Camp at Stuarts Point, NSW

JUL
2010

THE NEW RITE OF PASSAGE

For a technological generation born with the iPod, iPhone and iTunes, it's no surprise we've bred a culture of iNeed, iWant and iDeserve. But if we're really honest, the "me, me, me" mentality is not the exclusive domain of Generation Y and Z. And yet this demographic may very well be leading the way in the search for meaning and purpose, the search for something more than 'self', the search common to us all.

The YouTube clip I'm watching was filmed in a tribal village of Vanuatu and depicts an ancient ritual undertaken by teenagers in order to transition from adolescence to adulthood. I gasp as I watch this incredible 'rite of passage' as teenagers leap into the unknown, jumping from a wobbly platform eight stories high, with only jungle vines around their ankles in a primitive bungee, to the dirt below. Each participant emerges euphoric. Their rite of passage is complete and the experience has been 'life-changing'.

While this ritual may seem barbaric, such rites of passage are in fact a universal phenomenon — significant events within cultural groups that mark a person's transition to the next stage of their life. And while I'm certainly not endorsing jungle-vine bungee jumping, anthropologists have discovered that where a culture fails to provide a defined rite of passage, young people create their own and the outcomes are usually negative. Our evening news broadcasts provide constant reminders of the unhealthy ramifications of teenagers attempting to prove themselves through such things as drug use, illicit sex, binge drinking and street racing.

But at a time when youth culture is getting so much negative attention, there are many teenagers in our own backyard who are not only creating a positive 'rite of passage' journey, they are leading the way in developing resilience, character and a life-changing sense of purpose.

The YouTube clip I'm watching was filmed in a tribal village of Vanuatu and depicts a modern ritual undertaken by teenagers in order to transition from adolescence to adulthood. I gasp as I watch this incredible 'rite of passage' as teenagers leap into the unknown of a foreign country, forgoing their creature comforts and technology for 10 days of volunteer work and selfless giving. Each participant emerges

euphoric. Their rite of passage is complete and the experience has been 'life-changing'.

While most Year 12 students go to the Gold Coast to celebrate schoolies, this group of students from Macquarie College participated in our youth leadership initiative called StormCo, which stands for 'Service To Others Really Matters'. Staffed by youth who raise money and train for the privilege of being involved, StormCo is an adventure in service that has expanded exponentially across northern NSW and throughout Australia, with 39 teams from around this Conference alone, now involved in helping communities across rural NSW and overseas.

One StormCo team leader said, "The impact these students had on the community in Vanuatu is incredible, but the most amazing impact is the transformation in the students themselves."

Reverend Desmond Tutu once said, "Serve others! Almost the unfailing recipe for happiness and success. It is more blessed to give than to receive, because in giving — although it doesn't seem so — you receive."

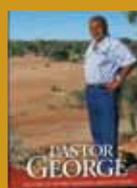
Jesus once said (in Matthew 25:40) "Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for Me."

The rite of passage for a postmodern generation? I believe it really can be through service to others; service without expectation; service for the satisfaction of knowing that you made a difference. Our young people are proof positive that it's life-changing!

**Sharlene Guest,
Director of Marketing
& Communications**



**In This
Edition...**



JOURNEYING ON...

The nine days spent by nearly 400 'Grey Nomads' at Stuarts Point Campground was far more than a mere stopping off place for retirees caravanning around Australia. It was also a wonderful time to renew old friendships and to form social contact with new friends. Campers came from every state in Australia (except Western Australia), and included some from overseas, even from as far as California.

But the most memorable and inspiring experiences of the Grey Nomads Camp in 2010 were the devotional and Bible study times. There were early morning prayer sessions with Pastor Gordon Smith, based on Jeremiah; Pastor Adrian Craig enriched our minds with deeper meanings of the stories in Daniel; and Dr Robert Kennedy's enthusiastic presentations each evening drew out practical lessons from the story of the prodigal son.

The meetings each morning and evening included interviews and reports of retirees whose prime focus in their travels is to witness of their love for Jesus, and to tell of His soon return. We were told of friendly, casual contacts at service stations and in supermarkets, assistance with flat tyres, and beach-side conversations that led to spiritual discussions and on-going Bible studies. Thousands of gospel books and magazines are being distributed, and several public evangelistic efforts have been conducted in outback Australian towns and overseas.

What a thrill it was that every meeting included an enthusiastic feast of good old-time gospel hymn singing, including some very popular contemporary numbers. Peter Dixon's entertaining and interactive concert on the first weekend had everyone laughing and singing along to old favourites.

The deeply spiritual Friday evening communion service, under the leadership of our president Pastor John Lang, will long remain in our memories.

For the final weekend we were blessed by the vibrant youthful ministry of 'The Promise' vocal group from Avondale College. Their beautiful music supplemented that of several Grey Nomad musicians in a delightful concert on the final Saturday night.

During the week, afternoon workshops were held on practical subjects such as retirement living, improving our health and financial planning for seniors. Probably the most inspiring was Pastor Bevan Craig's presentation about the growth and impact of StormCo in this Conference and the launch of 'Grey Storm' — a StormCo initiative for Grey Nomads.

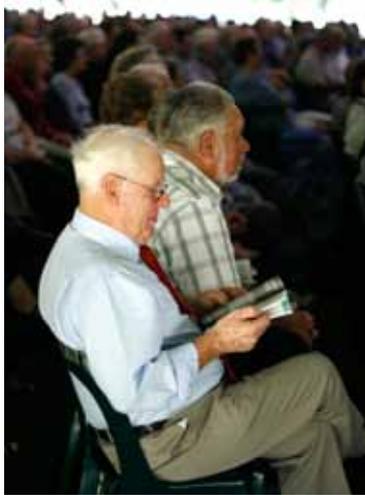
On one afternoon, bus loads of Grey Nomads enjoyed visits to Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Trial Bay Gaol and Bellingen.

The Grey Nomads Camp is not just for those with motor homes and caravans. Motel units and cabins at Stuarts Point Convention Centre, along with units at nearby Yarrahapinni youth camp were made available.

This is the second year that the Grey Nomads event has been held, with more than double the attendance of last year's camp. Plans are already underway for the Grey Nomads Camp in 2011, which will be held from May 6-14.

**Brian Townend,
Grey Nomad**





GREY
NOMADS
CAMP
2010



OUR ATSIM

100 Years of Hope

This year marks the centenary of Adventist ministry to Aboriginal people, which began in 1910 with Pastor Phillip Rudge's appointment to Kempsey. During the first weekend of May, more than 300 people gathered in Kempsey to commemorate this momentous anniversary and to celebrate God's leading throughout the past 100 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry (ATSIM).

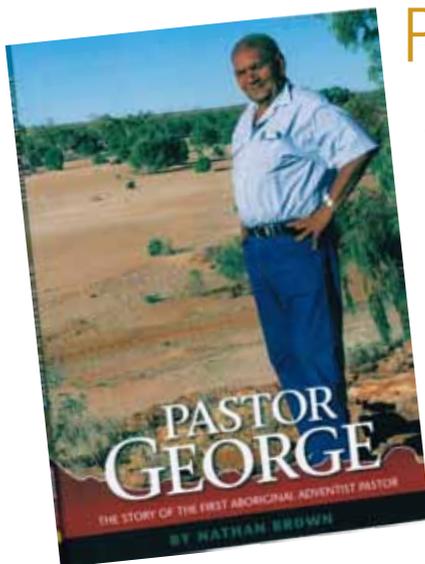
The centenary's theme of '100 Years of Hope' was beautifully illustrated in a backdrop depicting Matthew 24:30 "They will see the Son of Man coming, on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory." The hope of Christ's return also resounded in the music throughout the weekend, led by Garth Fatnowna and his parents Matthew and Faith Fatnowna. This message was reinforced in the passionate presentations from Pastor Johnny Murison, Greater Sydney Conference ATSIM Director, Pastor Chester Stanley, AUC President, Steve Piez, AUC ATSIM Director and others.

ATSIM workers from around this Conference shared reports and testimonies of their work in various parts of NSW and were re-dedicated to their ministry of reaching the Indigenous people in their communities with the Gospel message.

The weekend provided an opportunity to reflect on God's guidance in the past and seek His direction for the future.



(Clockwise from top left) Faith Fatnowna, Terrace Evans, ATSIM workers from around Australia



Pastor George in Print

A new book written by Signs Publishing Company's Book Editor, Nathan Brown tells the story of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's first Aboriginal pastor.

"This is the inspiring story of how God took a quiet Aboriginal man, born on a reserve, turned his life around, and led him to become one of the best known and loved Indigenous pastors in Australia. For all

who knew Pastor Quinlin — and those who will get to know him by reading his story — this book will be absorbing reading that will bring both smiles and tears," says Pastor Don Fehlberg, Associate Director of ATSIM for the AUC.

"Pastor George — The Story of the First Aboriginal Adventist Pastor" was written by Signs' own Nathan Brown on the request of the church's

ATSIM department and was launched at the ATSIM centenary celebrations in Kempsey earlier this year. Kempsey is also Pastor Quinlin's hometown, where he lived prior to his death in February 2008. At the centenary, a copy of the book was presented to George's wife, Esther, who shared his ministry for 44 years.

"The project took about six months and was one that I much enjoyed," says Nathan. "I only met George once and that was only briefly in 2005, so I travelled to Queensland and northern NSW in October last year and spent time with many of George's family, friends and colleagues, as well as visiting the Aboriginal reserve where he grew up.

"I learnt a lot and hope I have been able to share something of George's good story in the book we have created," he says. "Thank you to everyone who helped in producing the finished book."

"Pastor George — The Story of the First Aboriginal Adventist Pastor" is available from the ABC for \$14.95.

OUR MINISTERS

Pastor David Fletcher — A Double Dedication

On 10 April 2010, Gunnedah Adventist Church witnessed a double dedication. During the church service, David and Joanne Fletcher brought their daughter Jaerah Joyce Fletcher to be dedicated. In the afternoon, David was ordained to gospel ministry.

It was truly a very special day and local church members were outnumbered by visiting family, friends and guests by nearly three to one, filling the church to capacity.

Pastor John Lang, NNSW Conference President, focused the congregation's mind on Jesus, as he outlined the wonderful prophetic fulfillments in Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection as he preached in the morning. Jaerah and her parents were committed to God in the dedication service, where Pastor Gordon Smith, Ministerial Secretary for the NNSW Conference, shared the importance of David and Joanne being the channels of God's grace, for their daughter to grow up in that grace, knowing and loving Him.

Pastor Graeme Christian, Ministerial Secretary for the AUC, led out in the afternoon service. In his sermon, he emphasised the characteristics that are important for a minister to successfully fulfil God's calling. Bob Dale, General Secretary for the NNSW Conference, shared some of the details of David's life and ministry. The afternoon service was enhanced by the music of Wayne

and Rhonda Landall, parents of Joanne, who led out in the singing, and then presented a beautiful duet.

The local church excelled in providing more than enough beautiful, nutritious and tasty food for themselves and all the guests. So good was the day, that many of the locals seemed reluctant to leave when the meetings ended, and enjoyed extending the fellowship nearly to the end of Sabbath. It was a day that reminded all present of the fulfilment and joy that will be experienced in Heaven and the Earth made new.



(L to R) Julia and husband Pastor Gordon Smith holding baby Jaerah, with Joanne and husband Pastor David Fletcher

David's Journey...

David was born in Rockhampton to Graham and Helen Fletcher. He was just 12 years old when he lost his mother to an illness. A little later his dad remarried and David had a new mum, Winifred. David is the youngest in the family of brothers, Andrew and Heath.

His primary school years were spent at Mackay Adventist School, Emerald and Maryborough Public Schools. His high schools were Aldridge and Pine Rivers Adventist School.



David attributes his growing desire to become a Minister of the Gospel to his mother and father, Pastor Ray Kent and Pastor Mike Brownhill who provided David with valuable work experience at Pine Rivers Church. Years 1998 to 2001 were spent at Avondale College where David graduated with a BA in Theology.

David spent his first three years in ministry at Karalundi Aboriginal College. He then accepted a call to the NNSW Conference where he ministered at Glenn Innes and Tenterfield. He then served as Chaplain at Kempsey Adventist School in conjunction with pastoral ministry at Port Macquarie. This is his second year at Gunnedah and Quirindi Adventist Churches.

Joanne Landall from Stranthurpe noticed a very eligible bachelor just over the border. They had become acquainted while Joanne visited her parents at Karalundi during David's time there. A web of love was spun, culminating in marriage at Stanthorpe in August 2007. Joanne and David are now the proud parents of Jaerah Joyce.

While at Karalundi, David demonstrated exceptional capacity to adjust to Aboriginal culture and understanding of Indigenous ways. The children and adults developed great respect for David. David has endeared himself to the people with whom he ministers. These same people have become acquainted with his very insightful dry sense of humour along with his love and knowledge of Scripture.

OUR CHURCHES

To Atoifi with Love

In July 2009, some members from Wauchope Adventist Church joined with Eastward Missionary College and Brian Larwood in a missionary trip to Atoifi Hospital to re-roof the hospital. When they returned, they shared with the church members in Sabbath School some of the needs of Atoifi and the ongoing maintenance required for the hospital.

The members were very interested in the work in the Solomon Islands and as a result of this, one member came up to Sabbath School Superintendents Brett and Sharon Higgins and said, "I know you will be having an appeal to raise funds for Atoifi so here is the first donation of \$5". The following week Sharon let the Sabbath School members know that she had received this \$5 and as a result, an anonymous donor said they would match dollar for dollar the funds raised by Wauchope Church.

Dr Kuma receives cheque from Wauchope Church



So they committed to raising funds until 30 June and have so far raised \$3,340. The project is called "To Atoifi with Love" and the emphasis has been that even a little can make a big difference.

"It was a real blessing to see the money coming in on a free-will basis from small to large

amounts and we are the ones who have been blessed by the project," says coordinator Sharon Higgins.

Chester Kuma, Associate Health Director of the South Pacific Division and Director of the Adopt-a-Clinic program, received their first cheque of \$3,340. More is still to come and will be sent to the hospital to support their daily needs.

Tough Questions at Erina

Each Friday and Sunday night between 30 April and 16 May, a series of lectures were presented at the Erina Adventist Church under the general title "Life's Toughest Questions". Topics included: Why do bad things happen to innocent people?; Of all religions, is Jesus the only way?; If God is love, why hell?; If Christians know God, why aren't they any different to the rest of us?; Christianity? Been there, done that!; Why bother? What's God ever done for me?



Dr Kimberly Docking

The speakers for this series were Pastors Garth Bainbridge, Ian Howie, Brendan Pratt, Kayle De Waal, Dr Kimberly Docking and Dale Hokin, a theology student at Avondale College. Advertising cards were letterboxed in the Erina Church territory and members were encouraged to invite people from the community to attend. Although attendance some nights was less than was hoped for, it was encouraging that people from the wider community did attend each night.



Wauchope Show

The rural town of Wauchope recently celebrated its 100th annual regional show and Eastward Missionary College were on hand (on behalf of the Wauchope Adventist Church), to run a Health Expo based on the eight laws of health, to bring health awareness to the people as they passed through the showground.

Seventeen students and a couple of past students and teachers were on duty to take approximately 40-50 people through the free health assessments dealing with body fat percentage, weight, water percentage, lung peak flow, the Harvard Step Tests for cardiovascular health and Your Health Age assessment. Lifestyle counselling followed, which included an invitation to Wauchope Church's monthly health programs. Twenty four of these people signed up for follow-up programs. One family that visited the Health Expo also visited Wauchope Church the next day.

Swansea Baptism

Steve Bowskill was recently baptised at Swansea Adventist Church. The theme of the day was "Thy Father is Calling you". The sermon was built on the several calls to Moses and God's promise of "I will never leave you" despite the problems he faced.

Steve Bowskill was first contacted through the All Power Seminar in 2009. Steve was brought up in a strict Christian environment but changed worship styles many times. When Steve heard the 'blessed hope' of the Gospel he grasped it whole-heartedly. He is now an active member of the Swansea Adventist Church but he also supports and fellowships with the 'My House' church plant in Newcastle.

The baptism was conducted by Pastor Ray Eaton and all were blessed by musical items from 'My House' musicians Samantha, Tristan and Billy; All Power musicians Rina, Kaye, Don and Lew; and Swansea Church theology student Siosi, George, and the Kei Family. We rejoice with Steve in the assurance of salvation and victory gained.



Dorrigo Seniors Lunch

On 20 May, Dorrigo Adventist Church held their 29th Annual Community Lunch. A lot of planning and advertising went into the event, resulting in an attendance of 49 guests. The hall was beautifully decorated by Derna Reid. The lunch consisted of soup, a baked vegetarian dinner and dessert and was much appreciated. Seventy-seven Dorrigo Primary School children presented recorder and choir items, which the 'oldies' thoroughly enjoyed. The 'Tarnished Brass' ensemble from Coffs Harbour, arranged by Pastor Sally Watson, also serenaded the guests. Many expressed their appreciation and even the staff were delighted by the success of the day.



Tarnished Brass perform at Dorrigo

Kid's Story

How many churches have pastoral staff who fit the part of acting out a well-known Uncle Arthur story? Murwillumbah Adventist Church had the pleasure recently of watching new farm worker "Dougie" planting seed under the strict instructions of farmer "Robbie". However, once farmer Robbie went off to other work, Dougie got tired of planting just two seeds in each hole. It was with some enthusiasm that Dougie emptied the remaining hundreds of seeds in just a few holes and felt most pleased with himself.

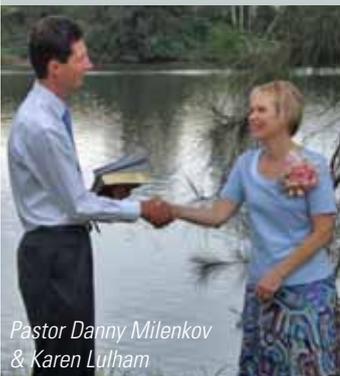
Obviously Dougie had forgotten that what one sows, one reaps. The grief and heartache associated with being found out some weeks later was pitiful and well represented. Our children had no problem in picking up the intention of the story as it was so ably demonstrated before them by Pastor Brett Townend and Darryl Groves.



Darryl Groves & Pastor Brett Townend

Wauchope Baptism

Friendship evangelism is still the most effective method of winning souls for Jesus. This was proved with the baptism of Karen Lulham into the Wauchope Seventh-day Adventist Church on 24 April, through the friendship of her colleague, Racheal Parsons.



Pastor Danny Milenkov & Karen Lulham

Karen emigrated from the UK in 1985. She and her Australian husband Rick moved north to Rick's hometown of Wauchope, where Karen started working for the Department of Community Services (DOCS). This is where she met Racheal, who befriended her and started praying for her. At first, Karen was not receptive to

Taree Encounters Jesus

The Taree youth were involved in hosting the 'Encounter' series for the church and community during 10–17 April. The passionate young people of Taree Adventist Church were geared up to advertise and coordinate this exciting evangelistic series. The program was well attended throughout the week.

The Keynote Speaker was Charissa Fong from the Greater Sydney Conference. Charissa was born and raised on Sydney's North Shore. She is currently a university student who has a passion for Jesus. Charissa is a gifted public speaker and captivated the audience.

Throughout the series, Charissa spoke about Jesus and His love for us. The Taree youth assisted with special items, ushering, singing and hosting the meetings at the church.

There were 21 people who responded to the call for Bible studies and baptism and five people requested re-baptism. The Holy Spirit has touched the lives of many people to make life-changing decisions during the program.

The 3ABN Australia team recorded the messages, which will be featured on 3ABN in the near future.



Charissa Fong presents at Taree Church

Spiritual matters, but slowly, the Holy Spirit worked on Karen's heart, especially after she started to read 'Steps to Christ' which Racheal had given her.

Racheal attended AYC in 2009, and came back with a burden on her heart and a strong desire to witness more for God. At a youth communion service just after AYC, everyone was asked to take a six-inch nail for every person that God put on their hearts that night. Racheal took two and continued to pray for opportunities to share Jesus with Karen.

Then came an invitation to attend a Barbara O'Neill health lecture, which was on a Sabbath morning during the church service. Karen attended and has kept coming every week. Then Pastor Danny Milenkov ran a 'Search for Certainty' program, which she also attended and she hasn't looked back.

It was a joy for Racheal to be able to reveal at the baptism, just how God had been working, and Racheal presented Karen her nail in a frame, and the verse from Jeremiah 31:3. Unbeknown to Racheal, that was Karen's favourite verse. How great is our God?

OUR CHURCHES

TVC Students Baptised

Exciting news! Jamie-Lee Thompson was baptised on 27 March at Ocean Shores. It was a beautiful afternoon where friends and family gathered to witness a young lady who is calm and sure that Jesus is her Saviour and she has chosen to live for Him.

More recently, Quentin Smith-Hall was baptised at Bray Park Adventist Church on 10 April by Pastor Warren Price. It is great to see young people choosing to live out their faith in Christ and be baptised. It was encouraging to hear Quentin's journey and how teachers at Tweed Valley College (TVC) and supportive church members have lead him to know God personally.



Jamie-Lee Thompson (centre)



Quentin Smith-Hall with Pastor Warren Price

A Very Brave 'Shave for a Cure'



Tara's husband (L) and father (R) cut her hair prior to the shave

Tara Gates lost her mum to cancer when she was only four years old. As she has grown, she has had a desire to do something to ensure others don't have to experience such loss.

On 29 May, members of The Haven Church hosted a special lunch in support of Tara, who participated in the "Shave for a Cure" fundraiser by having her

head completely shaved. She was supported by her husband Callan, her father Robert Collings, family and friends. So far, she has raised over \$7,500 for cancer research.

Tara was joined in her efforts by her boss, Pastor Jeff Parker, who also had his head shaved on the same weekend in support of Tara and to raise awareness for cancer research. Jeff is a miraculous survivor of cancer himself.

Next time you drop into the Conference Office, come and see Tara and Jeff in the Youth Department and congratulate them on their brave efforts.



Tara and Callan Gates with matching hairstyles



Moree partners with AAA to run Sabbath 'Brekkie' Club

Moree Adventist Church has been boosted lately by the arrival of children for their weekly Sabbath 'Brekkie' Club. The breakfast program was the idea of church elder Sydney Richards and his wife, Rongo, who have also provided funding for the initiative.

The club supplies breakfast for community children from 8:00am to 9:15am every week, and has grown in size to an average of 19 children attending every Sabbath. They usually stay to attend Sabbath School and the church service also.

John Clake, a local school teacher who is having Bible Studies in preparation for baptism later this year, is volunteering his car to transport children from their homes to the 'Brekkie' Club. Sydney and Rongo also bring along four 'unchurched' children each week. Their mother reports "My children will often get up in the morning asking if it is church today".

Moree Church has also been encouraged by the attendance of some Avondale College students, who assist at the club and lead out in the worship service every third week. Many of these students also run the annual StormCo trip to Moree each July. The drive to Moree would take more than six hours but the students are flown in, thanks to the Adventist Aviation Association's (AAA) John Kosmier and Gary Fraser, with the support of the NNSW Conference. Moree Church is greatly appreciating the ongoing support of AAA in partnering with them in this growing ministry.



Photos: Avondale College students with children at the 'Brekkie' Club

Outdoor Outreach in Moree

Moree Adventist Church commenced its 'outdoor outreach' as a response to a request from Indigenous elders to run an open-air evangelism series at the 'mission' following last year's outreach seminar 'Walking with God'. A number of Indigenous folk attended the meeting, which was well supported by the Indigenous local elders, Maureen, Jess, May and

Pauline. Some people sat on the verandahs of their homes, some listened and watched from the road, while others listened from under nearby trees and in cars.

Pastor Eti Seupule-Feau said "It was fascinating that all I could hear were people calling out from the dark as I was preaching. Towards the conclusion of my presentation, one lady called out from the dark requesting her favourite hymn."

Pastor Eti invited her to come out from where she was standing in the dark and join the worship team in singing 'In the Sweet By and By', her favourite hymn.

Pastor John Binge of the local Pentecostal Church also attended the meeting and offered to assist with the music for the outreach program.

Pastor Binge commented on how much the Indigenous people enjoyed this type of program. He further stated "I always knew that you people (Seventh-day Adventists) had the message and I am here to assist you in telling the people."

The outdoor outreach program is being run for six months, two Sundays per month.



Moree locals enjoying the 'outdoor outreach' program



Pastor Eti Seupule-Feau preaches outdoors

Moree Markets — an opportunity to witness

The first Sunday of every month is well known in the Moree community, as the town comes alive for the Moree Markets. It's also well known to the Moree Adventist Church, who take the opportunity to share Jesus and the good news of the Gospel at their market stall.

Moree Church member Robbie Noordzy, coordinates the market stall with tremendous support from other church members. A lot of time is spent duplicating and packing DVDs, loading and unloading the trailer in the early hours of Sunday morning, and reversing the process at the end of the day. The effort is worth it for church members, who believe it is an opportunity to share God with people in their community, particularly those who are still searching for the truth.

As part of its 20 year plan, Moree Shire Council approached Robbie and Pastor Eti at their market stall in February in order to gain a denominational perspective, as the Adventist Church is the only religious organisation with a stall at the market.

"People request DVDs, Signs magazines, Bible Studies and installation of 3ABN and HOPE channel, as well as occasionally asking for pastoral advice," says Pastor Eti. "It is also a great opportunity to promote Avondale College and StormCo, which is an outreach that the Moree community look forward to in July each year."

The most requested DVDs are: Father's Love Letter, Outback Series of C. D. Brooks, Kenneth Cox's Revelation Series, Digging Up the Past and Keepers of the Flame. In November last year, Moree Church gave away approximately 170 DVDs at the market.

One local businessman heard about 3ABN and came to the church's market stall and requested to have 3ABN installed at his home. Another local businessman asked to have 12 DVDs delivered to his workplace.

Members from other local churches often comment on how wonderful it is to have a church stall at the market.



Moree Church's stall at the Moree Markets

OUR SCHOOLS

A Rising Star at TVC



Year 11 student Lachy Townend recently achieved a significant sporting milestone. This year he made the under 18's Gold Coast Waves, first division basketball team as the starting point guard. His team recently participated in the division one state championship at Carrara. His team came equal first in their pool, but on count back (for and against) were relegated to third, which precluded them from the finals playoff.

Interestingly, the competition was so tight that Lachy's team — the Gold Coast Waves — defeated Maroochydoore, who went on to win the competition. Lachy played a pivotal role in the games and made two crucial three-point shots on the buzzer to advance his team. We are very proud of Lachy's achievement and admire the dedication and commitment he has to his training.

When I arrived at Tweed Valley College (TVC) this year, we did all we could to encourage people to join our choir. Lachy demonstrated his musical ability in the compulsory audition and made it in to the choir. He insisted that he didn't want to join. Having heard about his basketball expertise, I challenged him to a game of one-on-one with the understanding that if he lost, he would join the choir. Ah, my apologies, but Lachy won't be singing in the choir this year.

Paul Fua,
Principal, Tweed Valley College

TVC StormCo Report

During the first week of the holidays, eight of our brave, willing and talented senior students embarked on a StormCo service trip to the town of Tabulam in NSW. This was a six-day adventure in which the focus of the trip was to unconditionally serve the community, and of course, have a lot of fun while doing it! I would like to point out that this is no ordinary holiday activity for the average 15-17 year old. Facebook, MSN and mobile phone coverage were sadly not available out in the sticks, so it was back to the good old ways of socialising and working together as a team.

TVC has run StormCo trips to Tabulam for many years. We have built very positive rapport with the community and they eagerly await our return every year. The students who participated in the trip this year were always kept busy with around 40 children to entertain at our Kid's Club every day. Puppets, songs, drama, face painting, clowning, games and craft formed our segments of Kid's Club each day. We also cleaned up the local tennis courts, helped an elderly man weed his veggie garden, hosted a free pancake meal and organised various other community building and social activities in the evenings. A highlight at the end of our week was the 'Pinnacle Challenge'. Pastor Jeff Parker and his team kindly drove all the way from Newcastle so we could extend and challenge the kids in Tabulam.

Our team bonded really well and the trip was a time where we could connect with God in a way that we often cannot do at home in our comfort zone. This year we were blessed by having four staff attend who have been on many StormCo trips: Mr Lawson, Mr Jones, my wife Robyn and myself. These dedicated teachers kindly volunteer their holiday time, and without them trips like this would not be possible. I would especially like to thank Miss Smith and her sister Melissa who kindly organised the craft activities this year. This takes many hours of shopping and preparation.

Marty Bernard,
Chaplain, Tweed Valley College



Reunion at Avondale



Former student Valda Blair (centre) with current Avondale students

Catching up with friends, revisiting the grounds and having the opportunity to share memories was the focus at recent reunion celebrations at Avondale School. The Avondale School community re-grouped with past students and staff joining present affiliates for a fantastic commemoration program.

The year of 2010 marks Avondale School's 30th anniversary of learning at their current Avondale Road campus. A theme for the celebrations, 'Friendship, Family and Faith', was emphasised throughout all the programs.

On Friday, the whole of Avondale School came together for a chapel service. The students were visited by the oldest Avondale student, Valda Blair, who is 94. The celebration was capped off with an anniversary cake.

On Friday night and Saturday morning, programs were held in the Multi Purpose Centre with the Concert Band and Choir performing. These special musical features were an outstanding contribution with former members enjoying the chance to join in.

Throughout the weekend, all were reminded of Avondale School's beginnings. Initially, there were just eight students in one simple room. The history of the school was made into a unique feature complete with a historical display and Reunion Booklet. Both were compiled by Ron Sparke, former history teacher and librarian.

The booklet covers an official history of the school and includes a number of contributions from people with memories and experiences from their time at the school. As well as written record, the booklet includes some very interesting photographs from the last 30 years. The statements of recall from various past students and the comprehensive documentation of the school's history makes for a very interesting read.

All who attended the reunion made the most of touching base with old friends, re-telling old stories and seeing the dynamic community that makes up Avondale School today.

Susan Rogers,
Avondale Schools

Toronto's Alphabet Day

Toronto Adventist Primary School recently ran a special Alphabet Adventure Day for children aged 2–5 years. Attendance was high with 45 children and their parents coming for the morning of activities.

The children had great fun playing with Lego, cooking, face painting and eating ice-cream. With a different activity for each letter of the alphabet, they were kept very busy.

None of the parents who brought their children had ever seen the Toronto Adventist Primary School before. They were pleasantly surprised at the beautiful grounds, polite children and the creativity of the classrooms.



Parents were also able to learn about the Pre-Kindy program starting next term at Toronto Adventist Primary. The program will run on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will cost \$27 per day.

Education Directors of the NNSW Conference, Ralph Luchow and Marilyn Hansen attended the day. They were also impressed with the facilities and fantastic students at Toronto Adventist Primary School.

Susan Rogers,
Avondale Schools



POSITIONS VACANT

Macquarie College invites applications for the following two positions:

Senior Office Manager and Executive Assistant Public Relations, Marketing & Events Manager

Experienced educators with some administrative and IT experience but wanting a change might also consider applying for the positions. Applications should include a Curriculum Vitae, a statement addressing core competencies and selection criteria as well as contact details of three referees.



Position descriptions and selection criteria for the respective roles are available on the Macquarie College website at www.macquariecollege.nsw.edu.au.

Please address applications to The Principal, Macquarie College.



CAPE & CASE (otherwise known as *Curriculum for Adventist Primary Education* and *Curriculum for Adventist Secondary Education*) meetings are being held at Avondale School during 19 and 20 July 2010.

These meetings are a professional development program for teachers and staff of Adventist Schools throughout NSW. The meetings will include high-quality keynote presentations from Ben Maxson and Colin Prentice, as well as providing opportunities for subject-specific professional development and networking.



\$29.95

\$19.95

\$19.95

DVDs at the Adventist Book Centre

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