

northpoint

NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS



JUN 09

One Night Only

I cling to a red rope as I march with 19 other people across the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

We are made to walk as if we are tied to one another. The entire time I concentrate on the ground in front of me, or rather on the shuffling feet of the person in front of me so as to not step on them. The weather forecast promised a cool temperature, but trudging under the afternoon sun, the back of my shirt begins to dampen with sweat. The heat from the passing vehicles prickles my skin.

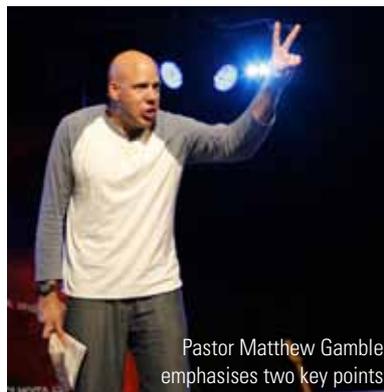
We take a wrong turn down a street. By the time we realize this, we have already covered a good distance. An agonising hike up an inclined street of Sydney and a number of pedestrian crossings later, we finally arrive at the mock camp at the Botanic Gardens in Sydney. A bubbly and energetic woman welcomes us and thanks us for participating in The Rescue – an international awareness campaign organised by Invisible Children Inc. – by sacrificing the comforts of home for a night. I look around me. There must be over a thousand people here who share a common purpose: to raise awareness of

Joseph Kony's child soldiers who are forcefully recruited into the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) under the semblance of religion.

We write letters to political leaders; we make phone calls to the media; we create art projects to be used in a presentation to the parliament. We want the whole of Australia and the world to acknowledge the plight of these child soldiers. For the remainder of the evening, we march to the Hyde Park Barracks Museum where we wait to be "rescued." Muted conversations, bursts of laughter, voices in three-part harmony, the strumming of guitars, and pulsing rhythms of a drum mellow out in the spacious compound of the museum. It is an incredible evening. Our "rescue" is marked by raucous screams of joy in the early hours of the morning.

Though I moan about my lack of sleep as I inch out of my warm sleeping bag bit by bit, I can't help but feel like I've accomplished something bigger than myself, something that Jesus Himself would do if He were here. That one child's life might be saved because I gave up one night of my life makes it all worth it.

**Lyndell Lawrence,
Avondale College Church**



Pastor Matthew Gamble emphasises two key points

What Would Jesus Do REALLY?

The Avondale School Multi-Purpose Centre was packed to capacity on Saturday, 16 May, with more than 1,200 people attending the NNSW Conference Youth Rally. Themed "What would Jesus REALLY do?" the event featured guest speaker Pastor Matthew Gamble, whose authentic and down-to-earth approach inspired the young and the not-so-young alike.

Matthew's 'take home' for the day was a challenge to step back and consider how Jesus did and would respond in all of life's situations. Matthew's exegesis of John chapter eight (the woman at the well) and then chapter four (the woman caught in adultery), highlighted Jesus' persual of doing things that were right, not things driven by perception, tradition or self-elevation.

With an intentional focus on service, the rally also highlighted practical applications to Pastor Gamble's message, with groups from around the Conference sharing the various mission projects they are involved in and

inspiring others to find practical ways to share the love of Jesus. One person commented: "I've never been to a rally where people were literally rallied for Jesus Christ. This happened on Sabbath and it was an amazing experience to be part of."

North NSW Youth Ministries is honoured to have been able to partner with Adventist Education (Avondale Schools) and Gateway Adventist Church to create this event. Our heartfelt thanks go to the many willing volunteers who combined in ministry to provide a life-changing opportunity for so many people.



Avondale School Chaplain, Leighton Heise with daughter Charlie

NorthPoint Online >

Be sure to visit nsw.adventist.org.au/northpoint to view this and previous editions of the NorthPoint newsletter online.



To keep up-to-date with news & events from around the NNSW Conference, view or subscribe to the weekly NorthPoint BULLETIN at nsw.adventist.org.au/northpoint

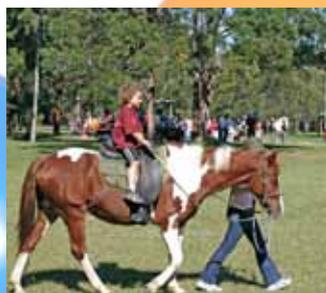


OUR ADVENTURER CAMPOREE

Castles, Clowns & Colin Buchanan



Pastor Brian Boyland



We can tell you that there were more than 750 people in attendance at the NNSW Conference Adventurer and Family Camporee during the first weekend of May. We can show you photos of the exciting activities (like jumping castles, clowns, go-carts, horse rides and even an animal farm) that put huge smiles on the faces of children and parents alike.

We can even describe the big parade where all the children marched around the Stuarts Point Campground in their uniforms, proudly displaying their Club flags and the badges they had earned.

And we can attempt to portray the atmosphere of the Camporee highlight — a

spectacular performance by Christian artist Colin Buchanan, whose ability to connect and communicate the Gospel story with children was truly extraordinary. With a background in teaching and youth work, and as a presenter on ABC's Playschool, Colin's calling to ministry through music was evident as he enthusiastically shared the story of salvation in song.

But it's nearly impossible to share with you the experience of worship in the Big Tent 'kid-style' — as Pastor Brian Boyland captured the essence of Jesus' power and miracles with incredible energy, making the bible stories he shared vivid and real.

And the sound of uninhibited young voices singing at full-lung capacity "Jesus, you are my best friend" is a glimpse of true, unbridled worship that simply has to be experienced to be believed.

In Mark 10:14, Jesus said "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

At the NNSW Conference Adventurer and Family Camporee the children came; unhindered, uninhibited, and with an excitement for Jesus that inspired every adult heart.

If you'd like more information about this fun-filled, family-orientated, Jesus-focused event

(run every two years to complement the Adventurer programs throughout our Conference), just ask one of the parents who attended. They won't even have to say a word; the smile on their face will say it all.

Sharlene Guest,
Director of Communications,
Marketing & Public Relations

Visit nnswyouth.com for more photos from the Camporee.



Colin Buchanan in concert

OUR CELEBRATIONS

Aussie 'muso' takes out prize in song writing contest



Ali Heise performs an original song during a NNSW Conference Youth Rally at Avondale College last year

Ali Heise, the song-writing engine behind up-and-coming Christian duo Ali & Leighton, was awarded second prize in the Gospel/Christian category of the UNISONG International Song Writing Contest for her song "Beyond My Plans".

Last year's winner in this category was fellow Aussie, Roma Waterman, with "I Was Carried", so Ali's win puts her in good company.

"I just submitted the song for fun and was seriously amazed when it won second prize!", says Ali.

Over the last few months, Ali and her husband Leighton have been juggling family and work responsibilities while recording their debut album, which is due to be launched in September this year.

Ali and Leighton head up an eponymous six-piece band, focusing on pop and acoustic ballads. Ali's song writing often deals with the joys and struggles of parenthood and marriage, as

well as clearly expressing her Christian faith.

Ali says "Beyond My Plans" is about God being so much bigger than anything we can dream of or imagine, and His plans for us far outweigh anything we can plan for ourselves.

Ali & Leighton are making "Beyond My Plans" available for radio play on a "sneak preview" basis. For more information visit www.aliandleighton.com (which includes "Beyond My Plans" audio) and www.unisong.com (follow link to "Winners Announced" and scroll down to Gospel/Christian).

As a Conference, we are so blessed by the extraordinary musical talents of both Ali and Leighton, who recently led children in praising Jesus through their worship music at our Adventurer and Family Camporee.

We wish them success as they continue to share the Gospel through their music ministry.

Waterski Winners



Tim competing in the Jump waterski category

latest achievements took place at the State and National Titles for Tournament Waterskiing. The State Titles saw Alyce win gold in Slalom, Trick, Jump and Overall in Under 17 girls.

Tim competed in the Open Men category and also won gold for each separate event and Overall gold after a run off for the Slalom.

Nationals were held near Port Macquarie and both Alyce and Tim competed in the Under 17's.

Local Avondale school students Alyce and Tim Bradstreet are continuing in their national and international waterskiing success, with recent selection as representatives of Australia in the upcoming World Titles. Their

They also both won all their events and respectively won the titles Australian Under 17 Girl and Boy Champion. This is the second year in a row they have won these titles but is the first time they have attained them out of a clean sweep of firsts.

Tim Bradstreet broke the Australian records for the Under 17 boys' and Under 21 men's overall score. He equalled the record for boys' Slalom and Jump and was chosen

as highest ranked male for the Under 21 World Titles which will be held during October in Chapala, Mexico. Alyce was chosen as reserve for this team but will instead be sitting her HSC exams.



Alyce competing in the Slalom waterski category

OUR SCHOOLS

WoMPs, WoWs, FLAGs, WoSE and... what's that?

I am one of the most blessed people on the planet! Now before you get carried away and want to challenge that statement let me tell you why! For many years I have been blessed with the opportunity to attend these special, high intensity, spiritually challenging programs — variously referred to as WoMPs, WoWs, FLAGs, or some other creative acronym.

Now I get to participate as a pastor supporting kids, teachers, chaplains and parents who are blessed by and contribute to the blessing of others at these events. And let me tell you, if you're still with me, that these are amazing events! Not because of the great effort that goes into the planning and delivery, great though that is, but because of the spirituality of the young people who make these events happen for their peers! And the power of God

experienced in the lives of our children and young people as a result is truly awesome.

While the names have been abbreviated to the max, the experiences of Weeks of Spiritual Emphasis (Weeks of Prayer for the those who have been around a little longer), have been extended beyond our wildest dreams!

I stand in awe of the power of God seen in children and young people who are so passionate about their relationship with God. Kids and young adults who will stand, sometimes timidly, sometimes exuberantly, before their peers and declare unequivocally both their passion for God, and their stunned comprehension of what He has done for them. I would add, and what He is doing through them! This year I was privileged to spend time in the prayer

room created for the Avondale students. I got to 'listen in', in a sense, on their private moments with God. No, no I didn't eavesdrop, I was invited to share. What a privilege! How could anyone come away from such moments unchanged!

I also witnessed hundreds of young people take a heart-shaped piece of communion bread, break it with their own hands, and share in the depth of God's unending love! How could I come away from such a moment unchanged? Our whole church was blessed as these young adults led the church in worship that Sabbath and shared their amazing passion with hundreds of fellow worshippers. No old or new Christian could possibly come away unchanged!

So whether it's a FLAG week, a WoMP, a WoW or a WoSE, or any other acronym some creative

chaplain dreams up, these weeks where the flag of God's Kingdom is raised high on this planet, are amazing experiences. Amazing because they declare our allegiance to the Kingdom of God; amazing because they result in decisions for citizenship in that Kingdom; amazing because they provide opportunity for the reality of heaven to touch the foolishness of earth.

We serve an awesome God, and He has claimed our school campuses as His. No-one on this planet is so blessed as those who see children and young people declare their allegiance to the God of all creation; the God of their schools; the God of their lives! I am truly blessed!

**Pastor Ian Howie,
Gateway Church**

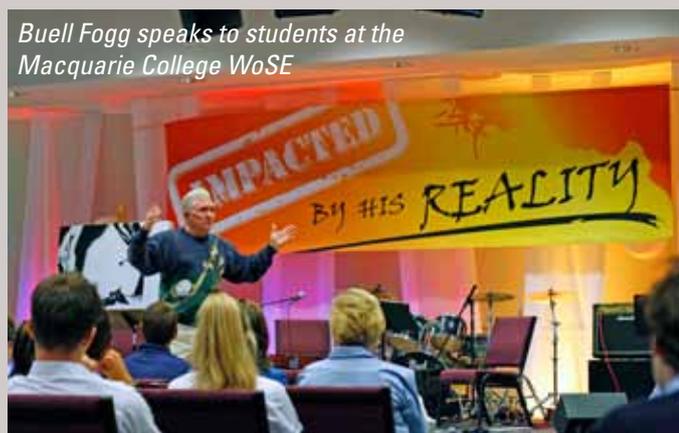
Macquarie College WoSE

Internationally acclaimed speaker and storyteller Buell Fogg was the guest speaker for the Macquarie College WoSE during March, presenting on the theme "Impacted by His Reality".

Students and staff were inspired by a man who has a dynamic relationship with God, and who challenged everyone to get to know Jesus personally.

The program included worship music led by the College's worship band and a prayer room which was used throughout the week.

This WoSE also included a special evening presentation for parents and others in the wider school community, in which Pastor Fogg spoke about "A Different Kind of Radical".



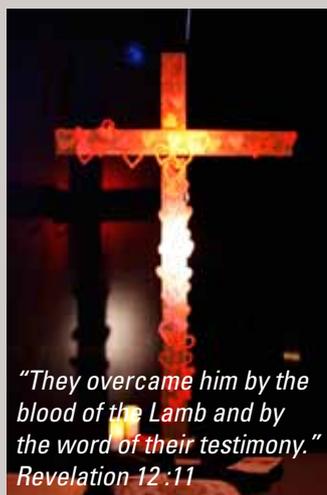
Buell Fogg speaks to students at the Macquarie College WoSE

WoW at Avondale

The theme for the Avondale High School Week of Worship (WOW) during March 2-6 was **Testify** — a theme springing from the book of Revelation where God’s people are engaged in a spiritual battle with Satan. He is angry because he knows his time is short, but the people of God are victorious because of the blood of Jesus and because of the word of their testimony — the story of Jesus in their lives.

His Story: Our week of worship was all about Jesus and the opportunities we have to testify about Him, about what He means to us, about His presence in our lives, about what we know to be true about His good news.

Your Story: The week was also about how each of us has a story to tell of Jesus in our lives. We live to TESTIFY to Jesus in our lives and the ways He has put our lives together to reflect who He is. Throughout the week, four individuals shared their personal testimonies about the presence



*“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”
Revelation 12:11*

of Jesus in their lives. Friday was an open testimony time for students to share their testimony, and it provided opportunity to celebrate the blood of Jesus through communion.

Each day we featured a creativity that Jesus has put within our school community or within the guest speaker’s giftings. The purpose was to encourage the young people of Avondale School to pursue the gifts God has given them and to allow Jesus to fully be a part of the expressions of those gifts as they journey with Him throughout their lives.



Some items in the specially-designed Prayer Room at the Avondale School WoW

CCAS WoSE

WoSE (Week of Spiritual Emphasis) at Central Coast Adventist School (CCAS) was great fun and very inspirational. For Kindy to Grade 4, the theme was Wall-e (Pictures of Jesus). There were puppets, music, prizes, stories, and powerful clips from the movie Wall-e that illustrated the story of Jesus sacrificing His life to save this world. Pastor Bevan Craig was the guest speaker and he covered subjects like mistakes and forgiveness, unconditional



Primary students perform at the Central Coast Adventist School WoSE

love and the value Jesus places on each individual. An appeal made to the Grade 3 and 4 classes resulted in 53 students requesting Bible studies.

For the middle and senior school, Pastor Matthew Gamble was the guest speaker and the theme was “Sleeping In”. He challenged the students to be ‘awake’ to the opportunities and benefits of walking with God everyday.

KAS WoW

His Story? My Story? Who’s Story? WOW! Well that’s what it was all about and it’s what got the students thinking about the BIG little three letter word (God) and the little BIG two letter word (Me). At first glance, anyone would think it was an English class gone wrong, however the reality is the theology was profound! Kempsey Week of Worship (WOW) saw our Associate Youth Director, Pastor Bevan Craig speak of the enormity of God’s story (His Story) and what our response (My Story) is when we realise who God really is and what He’s done for us. Students were blessed by WOW



Students lead out in worship music at the Kempsey Adventist School WoW

which saw the school juggling chapels for both the primary and the secondary students each morning. School Chaplain, Kieren Jackson is very keen for the senior school to be mentored in giving Bible studies to some of the younger students. Not only does this assist in connecting with all students who want to learn more about Jesus, but it empowers young people in their own ministry journey.

During the week, every student was invited to Kempsey Adventist Church on the following Sabbath, where three of the students from the school were baptised. Pastor Murray Chapman, pastor of the Church, was the proudest man on the day as he had the privilege of baptising two of his granddaughters. Pastor Chapman sees the continuing critical need to integrate school and church life, particularly when they both share the same campus.

Kempsey Adventist School has seen incredible growth over the last couple of years and is proving that Adventist Education is truly one of our greatest evangelistic successes.

OUR CHURCHES

Noah's Ark at Wauchope

The congregation at Wauchope Church were treated to a special Children's Service program with the children taking the entire church service on Saturday, 4 April. Members and visitors were impressed by the abilities and commitment of the children in presenting the story of Noah's Ark. All the children, right down to a 16 month-old toddler, were decked out in simple costumes depicting the era.



Some of the children also carried face masks to represent various animals. A hand-painted backdrop of Noah's ark created by Christie Higgins, helped set the scene. It was delightful to see the children wanting to pass on what they had learned about Noah and the flood and to see them taking an active part in our local church program.

Lifeboat comes to Cessnock

Lifeboat Community Services was originally developed by a small group of volunteers from the Charlestown Adventist Church back in February 2005. Over the years, a number of charitable foundations like Newcastle Permanent, NRMA Insurance and others have provided funding and support. A mobile van and vehicle were purchased to provide a ministry that provides personal services, financial consultation, food and fellowship to the needy around the Newcastle area.

Cessnock Adventist Church is now part of the Lifeboat Community Services. The initial project is for

the Lifeboat vehicle to be at the parking lot behind the Cessnock ADRA Op Shop on the first Monday of the month. The aim is to provide some food, bread, help and support for families and children and persons who may be in need.

The project is well supported by Cessnock church members, volunteers and recipients. Those attending are very appreciative of the food being offered.



Kid's Club at Kurri Kurri presents PowerLab

The community children were back for the next installment, Power Lab. What a time we all had with some 37 children having fun playing, doing crafts, Chadder, science experiments, and even walking on water in the Bible story time.

The challenge is generally staffing. The youngest person on the Kurri Kurri Kid's Club staff is 50+. The challenge is finding new recruits and each year we have enough to continue. Youth from Cessnock and Maitland Church helped. Shazz lead the Games, Jeanette a team leader, Rochelle did science experiments and did the intro and finale each day. Karen and David were responsible

for crafts and Racheal did all the photography.

The finale was the best ever with some 110 people booked to share a meal and see what the children had done. It's a great time to meet the children and the rest of their families.

Kurri Kurri Church is now getting ready for the next Kid's Club on July 20 – 24. If you are interested in being part of a great ministry, contact Pastor Mark Venz on 0408 363693.



Archaeologist visits Kurri Kurri

Recently, David Downs presented a series; Pyramids of Egypt, Tombs and Temples of Egypt and Babylon City of Gold in the Kurri Kurri Adventist Cottage. David Downs captivated the imagination as he led the people through the Bible Lands and connected the places and stories in the Bible. The cottage was filled with more than 40 people in attendance each day.

Each person, after attending the series, was offered the *Digging Up the Past* DVD series.

At the close of the series, the people were invited to another series which is being presented by Des Fowler and Bert Cozens on Prophecy. Seven have accepted the invitation and are currently enjoying the series 'Prophecy of Hope'.

Follow the Bible at Lakeside

On Sabbath, 11 April the multi-language Bible came to Lakeside Church. This event was organised by Moira Irvine, one of the church elders. During the church service, 15 different people read Revelation 14:6. Some read in their native tongue while others read in a language they had learnt. The text was read in the following languages — English, Arabic, Polish, French, Fijian, Portugese, Swedish, Dutch, Spanish, New Guinea Pidgin, Solomon Island Pidgin, Albanian, German, Finnish and Korean. Ja-young (Janet) Kim dressed in the Korean national costume to read directly from the multi-language

Bible as Revelation happens to be in the Korean language in the 'Follow the Bible' special edition.

Pastor Clive Nash organised the printing of 'Follow the Bible' reading guides for children and adults and these were given out at the end of the service. Many members and visitors came forward after the service to look at this special Bible.



A Men's Shed in Alstonville

There will be some happy possums in the local Alstonville area thanks to the efforts of those involved with the Alstonville Village Shed. But the possums aren't as happy as the blokes who made them.

Co-ordinator of the men's shed in the grounds of the Alstonville Adventist Aged Care facility, Brian Sparke, said the shed allowed residents of the aged care home an opportunity to get together with other blokes and use the woodworking equipment onsite.

Mr Sparke said about 15 men get together on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:00am and noon. He said it didn't matter how long it took to build things, as being together for friendship and getting involved in the activity were the main aims of the shed. He said the shed was 'important' to the men who do go along.

The shed was opened last year as an initiative of Alstonville

Adventist Aged Care, Alstonville Uniting Church's men's group and U3A.

The men's first main project was to build possum boxes, which were recently handed over to the Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers.

Carer Giles White said the boxes would be used by volunteers who are looking after the brushtail possums.

Interested members of the community can attend the shed located at 45 Pearces Creek Road, Alstonville. Cost is a gold coin donation to cover tea and coffee. It's not all about woodwork though. There are plans to start a leather-work group and a group to do some small-scale potting plants this year.

For more information, phone Alstonville Adventist Aged Care Village manager Paul Mitchell on 0403 319 588.

As printed in the Alstonville Advocate newspaper

ANZAC Day at Dora Creek

Instead of the "traditional" ANZAC Day service at Dora Creek, it was decided that the program would focus on God's protection and deliverance in times of war.



Eight people, who were in different countries during World War II, briefly told of the Lord's protection and providence for them and/or their families at that time. Stories were told of experiences in Germany, Burma, Malaysia/Singapore, Papua-New Guinea, Solomon Islands, France and Australia.

The display included an Australian flag, a small selection of medals, a slouch hat and sprig of rosemary. Australian and New Zealand flags decorated the rostrum. One church member wore his own medals and one his late father's.

50th celebration at Swansea Church

The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Swansea's inauguration as a church was held on Sabbath, 2 May with over 80 people attending. NSW Conference President, Pastor John Lang was the guest speaker, while Pastor Gordon Smith facilitated the Sabbath School lesson. The occasion brought together past members and pastors of the church. A history of the church was presented by Ruth Wallace (a member since 1963) and her daughter Karen Wallace, who grew up in this church. Two fine musicians, Jolanta Mielczarek, a lovely soprano, and Cleve House, who shared his testimony and

sang his own compositions. Both musicians had travelled from Victoria for the occasion.

The celebration was marked with deep sorrow as two church Elders, Harry Wolfenden and Fred Hall, had both passed away in the preceding week. Harry had been a foundation member of the church and had been looking forward to this special occasion. His wife Daphne attended the afternoon service and cut the Anniversary cake with other long standing members William (Rollo) Wallace and Neville Mackaway.

The day was one of sharing wonderful memories, stories and anecdotes. It was reported by one visitor that "the program was beautifully prepared and that the day was a great blessing".





Sydney Opera House
June 15, 7.30 pm
 Tickets (before June 5)
 Avondale College staff and students
 Email: enquiries@avondale.edu.au
 Others
 Email: uwctours@tpg.com.au



Avondale Singers and
Albuquerque Youth Symphony

with Mount Albert Grammar Orchestra
 and combined choir from Fort Street School,
 Broughton Anglican College and
 Summit High School

United World Concert Tours and
 Avondale College present

FREE CONCERT

POSITIONS VACANT

AVONDALE RETIREMENT VILLAGE | COORANBONG

Recreational Activities Officer – Kressville Lodge

We are seeking appropriately skilled and qualified staff with a passion for aged care to join our excellent team at Kressville Lodge. This is an exciting part-time position (46hrs per fortnight) developing and providing recreational activities for Low Care residents in a delightful 40 bed facility.

RN NIGHT DUTY – Avondale Retirement Village

We are seeking appropriately skilled and qualified staff with a passion for aged care to join our excellent team in our new state-of-the-art Avondale Adventist Aged Care Facility. This position is for 3-4 nights/week supervising AIN's to ensure the delivery of quality care for High Care residents and is available for support of low care staff on other levels.

CASUAL AIN, CSE – Avondale Retirement Village

We are seeking appropriately skilled and qualified staff with Cert III or Cert IV in Aged Care who have a passion for aged care to join our excellent team in our new state of the art Avondale Adventist Aged Care Facility. There are casual positions available in High and Low Care & Low Care Dementia Specific.

Applicants will need a current Police Certificate clearance.

For further information on any of these positions or to make an application, please contact Beverly Moss, Director of Nursing
 Tel: (02) 4977 0148, Fax 4977 0146, Email don@aacnsw.com.au



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