

# northpoint

NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS



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Birrie Bridge near Currawah

## Let the theology come later

**“Please pray for us. Bushfires are coming down on us, we don’t know what’s going to happen.”**

That was the message. Short. Simple. Urgent.

These were friends phoning from Kinglake, Victoria, just as those devastating fires were racing through the area on Saturday evening. They were staying there with their son and daughter-in-law, and their two young children.

We’d been in our Sabbath bubble all day and hadn’t known anything about the fires. In fact, we’d just arrived home after a sunset walk along Soldiers Beach. The contrast between the two scenarios couldn’t be more marked.

We caught up on the situation a little through news bulletins over the evening. Reports the next day showed how destructive the fires were. Even then, from more than 1,000 kilometres away, it seemed incomprehensible.

Houses lost; livestock and animals lost; vehicles lost. But they don’t come anywhere near the loss of one life let alone the figure being suggested. And that number keeps rising.

Life comes into sharp perspective when there’s death. The effects of this on so many families will

continue way after the last flame has been extinguished. Long after the last house has been replaced.

The contact from our friends did make the fires personal. There was a touch of fear for them when we heard first thing Sunday morning of six people perishing in their car when caught by the fire.

Does prayer work? Yes. But it doesn’t always work the way we want it to. It doesn’t always give the results we expect.

To be honest, just as we have no idea why fires take some properties, leave others; some lives are lost, and others saved, so we have difficulty understanding how God’s hand works in these things.

That doesn’t mean He isn’t there or doesn’t care. We simply don’t have an all-encompassing answer to the ‘why?’ question.

But now is no time for theological debate, but time to help in practical ways. We have tens of thousands of people needing help and support — which includes prayer support.

The phone call came mid-morning the following day. Our friends were OK. Their son’s property had been untouched. We breathed a prayer of thanks for them, but prayed more fervently for families who have lost loved ones.

**Pastor Bruce Manners,  
Avondale College Church**



## Bushfire Support

A special and heartfelt thanks to all our churches, schools and individual members who have so generously donated to assist those affected by the Victorian Bushfires.

If you would still like donate, please do so through your local church or by contacting the NNSW Conference Office on (02) 4951 8088.



# OUR YOUTH

## Making 'His story' — my story 2!

History continued to be lived out as almost 500 teens and youth once again converged on Yarrahapinni over the summer for a truly incredible Summer Camp program. Inspired by the Disney Animation "Toy Story 2", the theme this year was "His Story — My Story 2".

Campers and staff were encouraged to tell "their" story of "His" (God's) story working in their lives. Many young people chose to give their hearts to God over the summer and committed to sharing what God is doing in their lives to those around them. School chaplains and ministers are now connecting with these campers in order to follow up on their commitments.

The summer camp legacy in North NSW is a special one, as campers and staff from past years now come back, some as parents with their own children. During our Junior camp, Ayla

Hudson, daughter of summer camp staff Lee and Nigel Hudson, was the fourth baby dedicated at Summer Camps in the last three years. Nigel and Lee consider Yarrahapinni their 'spiritual' home and church family. We cannot quantify what impact the summer camping program has had over many, many decades.

We cannot comprehend the dedication our summer camp staff have, as they give of their money, time, resources and expertise.

But we can thank parents for entrusting us with your children as campers over another very special summer — thank you.

**Pr Jeff Parker and Pr Bevan Craig  
Adventist Youth Ministries,  
NNSW Conference**



For more photos, videos and stories visit [www.nnswyouth.com](http://www.nnswyouth.com)



Never before has our church needed its young people to stand up and be counted as much as we do now.

We began as a church when a group of teenagers and young people were inspired with a vision to become God's representatives and to build an end-time church. Often they weren't sure exactly where they were going or what they were doing, but that didn't deter them — they stuck out their necks with one purpose in mind — to share the Jesus they'd come to know and understand.

**ReFramed** is all about empowering young people to BE the church as it

was intended to be when it began. Reframed is all about learning how to "reframe" the distinctives of our church in the context of today! Reframed is about equipping the generation in our church that has the energy, the ideas and the creativity to be a relevant and dynamic community of Faith. You may not think that you have the skills for communicating Jesus to your world, however at Reframed you'll discover the next step in utilising those gifts.

**ReFramed** is running a series over 10 weeks on a Tuesday night, 7:30pm at the North NSW Conference Offices. You will be given skills in effectively communicating through giving bible studies, teaching and preaching. If that scares you, come along and see actually how exciting it is to learn how to do these things and really inspire and lead people to Jesus.

Topics include:

Moving beyond Mediocrity | Pr Murray Hunter

Nut and Bolts | Pr Tony Knight

Two for One | Jerry Unser

Prophetically Solid and Gen Y Church | Dr Alan Lindsay

4 Feet under the Table | Pr Jeff Parker

Milking the Word & Biblical Stories according to Mexican Theology | Pr Jorge Munoz

The Sermon Factory | Pr Bevan Craig

Reframed | TBA

For more information or to be involved in the **ReFramed** training, contact NNSW Youth Ministries on (02) 4951 8088 or visit [www.nnswyouth.com](http://www.nnswyouth.com)

# OUR SCHOOLS

## Leading in Music

Productive is an understatement to describe the time spent by the Macquarie College chapel band at Glenrock Lagoon over the Australia Day long weekend. Coming together with the purpose to grow closer to God as a band, the seven students achieved more in three days than they could have ever imagined.

Teachers Mr Scully and Mrs Jones, who put extensive effort into organising the camp, were thrilled with the output of the students. In addition to adding several more songs to their repertoire, the band also composed two completely new worship songs (with more on the way!)

The students and teachers alike were very thankful to have Macquarie College Chaplain Mrs Muirhead with them, who endeavoured to keep everybody focused on God through inspiring talks and worships. Teachers Mr Dustow, Ms Haliday and Mr Guest paid visits, offering support and advice, and encouraging the band members to be spiritual leaders in the school through their music. Having strengthened the bonds between each other and God, everyone left the camp assured that Macquarie College chapel would never be the same.

**Ben Hanley, Year 10 student, Macquarie College**



## WOSE! at Tweed

During February, primary students at Tweed Valley College enjoyed an awesome Week of Spiritual Emphasis (WOSE) with Ken and Julie Weslake as guest speakers. The theme for the week was 'My Dad the King'. Ken and Julie presented personal stories, and stories from the Bible that emphasised the awesome privilege we have to be best friends with Jesus – the King of the universe.

Julie is the Director of Children's Ministry at the South Pacific Division, so she had many creative

ideas and resources that help concepts stick in the children's minds. Combined with Ken's humour and great story telling ability, students and staff had a great week.

On the final day of WOSE, the theme concentrated on heaven, and the awesome day it will be when our Saviour takes us to heaven where there will be no more tears, worry or pain. The special backdrop of heaven painted by Julie Harrison was a special touch, giving everyone a glimpse of what is to come!

## Combined Schools Leadership Camp



Forty student leaders from Adventist Schools across the NNSW Conference converged on Yarrahapinni Adventist Youth Centre during 29 January–1 February to participate in the first-ever Combined Schools Leadership Camp.

This new initiative aimed to help equip and empower student leaders to influence positive change within their school communities, with a key focus being the development of spiritual leadership.

Senior students from Macquarie College, Tweed Valley College, Blue Hills College, Kempsey Adventist School, including school captains, prefects and house captains, enjoyed the inspirational, interactive and practical leadership development presentations by Dr Barry Gane, Director of Leadership and Professional Development at the South Pacific Division.

"Dr Gane's workshops helped me understand the difference between being a manager and a leader and made me want to develop more as a true leader," said Ben Hoper, Macquarie College Vice Captain.

Students also appreciated the powerful and thought-provoking

worships by Pastor Mark Baines, whose vibrant and creative portrayal of the demon-possessed man in the Gospel of Mark was definitely a memorable highlight.

"The worships and workshops reminded me that, like King David in the Bible, leaders aren't always perfect, but when we aim to focus those around us on God and are authentic in what we believe, God can use us to be an effective influence for Him," said Aaron Ralph, School Captain at Kempsey Adventist School.

"It was fantastic to bring together student leaders from around the Conference and it was truly rewarding to see them develop an understanding of what it means to be spiritual leaders in their school communities," said Brendon Guest, teacher at Macquarie College.



# OUR CHURCHES

## Bus Shelter Advertising

Erina Church member, Kerralyn McPhee, noted signs on bus shelters in her area advising "You can't hide. Advertise here." What a great place to advertise she thought and she firmly believes that God put the words into her mind "Fearful of the future? Try Jesus." She wanted a poster to link people to the "Try Jesus" Bible lessons offered by the Adventist Media Discovery Centre.

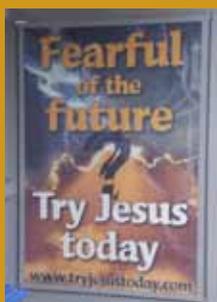
She located an Adventist graphic artist who designed the poster, which is now on display in bus shelters in Bateau Bay and Long Jetty on the Central Coast. Kerralyn felt that a website was needed as an introduction to the Bible course for people in the community who have no idea about Jesus.

"God led me to a website designer and others who have helped by writing the script for the website," Kerralyn said.

Many have commented that they feel

the website is very professional and that it is positive to have a link on the site to the Adventist Media Discovery Centre website so that they can obtain the "Try Jesus" lessons. Results have been steady, with 50 per cent of visits to the site being direct traffic. The Erina Church Board were happy to support this project with a monetary grant. Kerralyn is happy to support other churches who are interested in implementing this type of evangelism.

For more information, email [northpoint@adventist.org.au](mailto:northpoint@adventist.org.au)



## First Investiture at Maclean

December 13, 2008 was a milestone for Adventurers in Maclean. Our Northern Rivers District Directors, Ros & Daryll Camps invested children at Maclean for the first time. Some years ago Alice Bushell put children through the Adventurer bookwork but an official investiture has not been held.

Maclean is the Scottish town in Australia and true to community, a piper played the entry march. Our single Pathfinder, Leah Gale, had the

honour of carrying the Adventurer flag.

The service that followed was largely conducted by the Adventurers and teachers, supported by a powerpoint presentation. Pastor Paul (club chaplain) took a sermonette on strengthening the family. The children were delighted to receive their class pins and awards and celebrated later with a picnic lunch.

**Jane Richardson, Maclean Church**



## Seminar Series at Swansea

People today are bombarded by advertising that promotes particular products to improve health. Many are searching for simple and honest answers, ways and methods as to how to improve their health. Swansea Adventist Church held a series of seminars for the community over a period of five weeks from August 1 to September 28, 2008 with two sessions each week.

"We were very fortunate to have the expertise of our newest church members Don and Aileen Sforcina as the speakers, as they have conducted these seminars successfully in many parts of Australia," said Pastor Jan Jankiewicz.

The topics for this first series included Disease Proofing your Life, Nutrition for the 21st Century, Super Foods for Super Health, Overcoming Obesity and Anxiety, Stress and Depression. All of these topics promoted a healthy vegetarian diet which would assist the participants to find solutions for their health issues.

The seminars were very well attended, with the afternoon session being more popular attracting between 60-80 people. Numbers were smaller for the



evening session, but they drew people from as far away as Toongabbie, the Central Coast and Stroud.

One participant commented: "I have been inspired to take charge of my health and well being after procrastinating for so long. Enjoyed the recipes very much. So much to think about and many habits to change. Very enjoyable. Thank you."

The seminars included information sharing, cooking demonstrations and taste testing. It was a great opportunity to forge friendships with the local community as well as those who came from as far as Mayfield. A presentation dinner was held on 5 October 2008 with the participants sharing their own vegetarian meals with the group.

The seminars were followed up by a Recipe Club held once a month through to the end of 2008.

As a result of these seminars there have been requests for Bible studies and home visits and participants indicated an interest in attending other health related seminars, as well as Archaeology and Prophecy seminars.

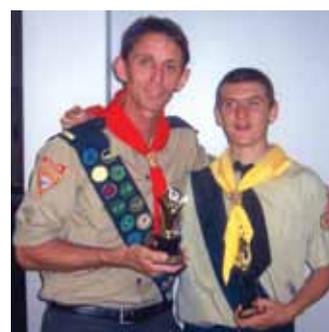
**Lesley Howie, Swansea Church**

## Wallsend Pathfinders

All that hard work paid off on 6 December 2008 when the Wallsend Pathfinder Club had its Investiture. There were many experiences related and awards given, with the award of the day being the Directors Award to Stephen Brock.

Stephen came to every event that was held and participated in each activity - no matter how challenging. An inspiration to others and an achievement to acknowledge.

**Ray Boyce, Wallsend Church**



*PHOTO: Chris presents Stephen with his award.*

# OUR COMMITMENTS

## Baptisms at Memorial Church



On November 29, 2008, Colin Richmond was among the nine baptised from Avondale Memorial church.

Until mid 2007, Colin was a minister in another Christian church. He was searching for a greater understanding of God. Witnessed to by a couple attending Avondale Memorial, they



invited him to attend church with them.

He came and felt very much at home and knew that this is where God wanted him to be. Adrian studied with him and Colin made a decision to be baptised. Colin is very committed to witnessing to others of the joy of following Jesus.



The day held a multitude of celebrations as eight others joined Colin in baptism.



*PHOTOS (L to R): Julie Brown, Jannifer Burn, Kirillie Lawrence and Colin Richmond being baptised by Pastor Adrian Craig.*



*PHOTO: Candidates standing for the commitment at Avondale Memorial Church before their baptisms.*

## Wauchope Baptism

Approximately 120 friends, family, work colleagues and church members attended the recent baptism of Kathleen and Bill Hayes at Bill's brother's home at Wauchope.

It was a gusty Sabbath afternoon, but this did not dampen the excitement of Kathleen and Bill and their guests as they gathered around the swimming pool to witness the culmination of months of Bible studies, visits and encouragement.

Kathleen has come from a Catholic family background, and never dreamt that she would ever leave the church of her family, so her decision to become a Seventh-day Adventist has not been an easy one. Many of her family are nuns and priests and are beautiful, loving people. But sadly, the Catholic religion never encouraged her to read her Bible and learn the truth for herself.

Bill had been raised a Seventh-day Adventist, but had, like the prodigal son, walked away to experience the world, but when he met Kathleen while home visiting his family, this clash of religions was sure to create a problem. Surprisingly, Kathleen's father did not object to the pair becoming a couple.

So determined were they to find the truth and follow it, that when they received a mail box flyer, Kathleen wanted to go, and so they both attended not one, but two 'Prophecies of Hope' seminars run two consecutive years, presented by Pr. Danny Milenkov, and it was his joy to conduct their baptism.

We wish this lovely couple all the best in the years ahead as they serve the Saviour they love so much. Welcome to the Wauchope family!



*PHOTO: Bill and Kathleen celebrate their baptism*

## Celebration on the Central Coast

Sabbath, 24 January 2009 was a fantastic day because it was the Sabbath and because Dean and Mabel Butcher were baptised at Shingle Splitters.

Craig Young and Pastor Wayne Krause were honoured to participate in seeing two people commit their lives to Christ and His church.

Their three boys came into the water with them and both went under the water and rose to new life at the same time.

Friends and family, who had longed for this day for a long time, watched two people who are passionate about seeing

their friends come to Christ, show their own obedience to God by being baptised.



*PHOTO: Dean and Mabel's three sons watch as their parents are baptised*

## Celebration at Tweed Valley

Exciting news! Jaemi Costigan was baptised on Sabbath afternoon, 21 February 2009. We didn't get blessed with the best weather in the world as it was pouring rain and quite windy; however nothing was going to wipe the smile of Jaemi's face on Saturday. It was so exciting to see so many people standing in support and encouragement of a young lady standing up for Christ.

Baptism is a symbolic act that Christians are able to publicly declare that we are taking off our old self, washing away our sins, and are starting a new life with Jesus Christ. Good on you Jaemi for making this important decision in front of all your peers. Thank you all who stood in encouragement and support for her on this day.

## Ancient Mysteries Revealed

Incredible answers to life's most tantalising questions

Does life have a purpose? Or are we here, as a result of some cosmic accident?

The Ancient Mysteries Revealed series looks at recent discoveries in archaeology and the predictions of the ancient Hebrew prophets that will cause the most sceptical person to question what is happening in the world.

Avondale Memorial Hall  
525-526 Freeman Drive  
Cronulla NSW

Commencing Friday 13 March 2009 - 7:30pm  
Don't miss these FREE exciting presentations

## EMPOWER THE PEOPLE

Friday 6 March to Sunday 8 March 2009  
Yarrahapinni  
Cost now \$90 (was \$115)  
Applications: [nsw.adventist.org.au](http://nsw.adventist.org.au)

For more information contact the North New South Wales Conference:  
Phone: (02) 4951 8888  
Email: [Wklymp@nswadventist.org.au](mailto:Wklymp@nswadventist.org.au)

### Speakers

Dr Russell Barrell   Johnny Wong   Dr Alan Lindsay   Dr Justin Lawrence

## POSITIONS VACANT

**Avondale Retirement Village** provides excellence in quality aged care in a caring and supportive Christian environment for 162 High and Low care residents. Rare opportunities have arisen for appropriately skilled and qualified staff with a passion for aged care in our new state of the art Avondale Adventist Aged Care Facility.

- RN TEAM LEADER** FT Mon – Fri
- RN NIGHT DUTY** 4 nights / week
- RN CARE PLANNING** 3 days / week
- RAO Kressville Lodge** PPT
- Casual AIN**
- CSE positions** also available with a view to permanency.

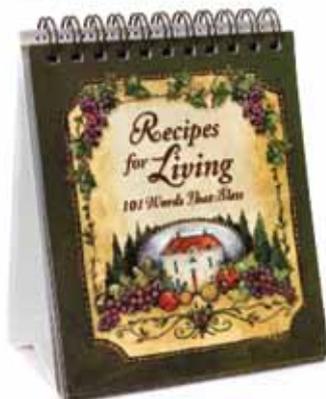
For further information please phone (02) 4977 0148. Applications to: Beverly Moss, Director of Nursing. Email [don@aacnsw.com.au](mailto:don@aacnsw.com.au) or Fax (02) 4977 0146.



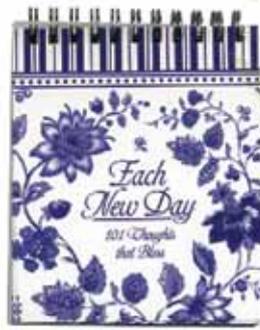
## Easel Books

Easel Books come in a variety of designs for different occasions. Each Easel Book contains 101 messages to encourage, bless, cheer, inspire, and much more.

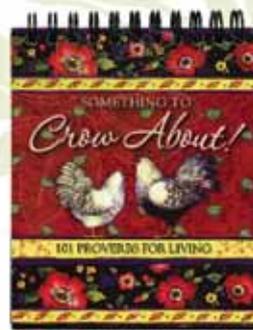
Normally \$19.95ea **WHILE STOCKS LAST - ONLY \$12.95ea**



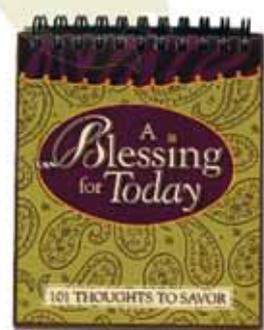
Chateau Vineyards 14948



Newport Blue Kitchen 17161



Rooster Duet 15259



A Blessing For Today 15051



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