

# northpoint

NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS



MAY 2010

## Ben Carson Visits Avondale School

Last week, Avondale School was honoured to hear Dr Benjamin Carson from the USA speak on his experiences as a neurosurgeon. He presented the students with the notion that they can be anything they aspire to if they are willing to put in hard work. Internationally renowned as a world leader in his field, Dr Carson left a lasting impression on the school community.

The presentation took place in Avondale School's Multi Purpose Centre with the secondary students as well as Years 5 and 6 students attending. Local community members took advantage of the special event by coming to listen to Dr Carson.

Former Avondale School student, Stefan Aveling is currently studying Medicine at Newcastle University and found Dr Carson particularly inspiring. "Ben's books have been an integral part of my life", he says. "I remember reading them in primary school and being captivated".

As director of Paediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Dr Carson has had to work extremely hard. He spoke candidly about his experiences as a poor, unmotivated student and the journey towards success that was directed by his mother's 'can-do' attitude.

"To think big and to use our talents doesn't mean we won't have difficulties along the way", Dr Carson said. "We will, we all do. If we choose to see the obstacles in our path as barriers, we stop trying."

Dr Carson has authored over 100 neurosurgical publications along with three best-selling books. He has been awarded 38 honorary doctorate degrees and dozens of national merit citations. During his visit, Dr Carson took the time to visit the Secondary library and sign the school copies of his books. His influence will continue to inspire those at Avondale School.



## BIG CAMP 2010

We understand many members throughout our Conference feel they have been disadvantaged in the way Big Camp applications have previously been processed.

In an attempt to facilitate a fairer system, we are introducing a new method of processing Big Camp applications in 2010. All applications received by the closing date of 18 June 2010 will be given equal opportunity through a ballot system.

Please note the following:

1. As from this year, successful applications will be determined by ballot.
2. Unsuccessful applications from 2009 will be given first allocation, prior to the ballot. This provision will not apply in future years.
3. All North NSW Conference applications received by the closing date will be eligible for selection through a ballot process. Applications will no longer be processed by date received.

4. Each application will be scrutinised for:
  - \*membership within the North NSW Conference
  - \*attempts to manipulate the ballot system
5. Applications will be treated on an individual basis only. Group applications cannot be accepted however, successful applications may be grouped if requested.

The number of private tent sites will be increased in 2010. Application forms for Big Camp 2010 will be available in local churches on 8 May 2010 and can be downloaded from our website <http://nsw.adventist.org.au> from 10 May 2010.

All applications need to be received no later than 12 noon on Friday, 18 June 2010. Any applications received after this date and time will not be considered in the ballot. Notification of the results of the ballot will be posted by 6 July 2010.

## Upcoming Events...



**EMPOWER THE PEOPLE YARRAHAPINNI**  
21-23 May



**DARE WOMEN'S RETREAT YARRAHAPINNI**  
28-30 May 2010



**REFUELED CAMP YARRAHAPINNI**  
25-27 June



# OUR MINISTERS

## Pastor Esava Koro – Ordained to Serve



In Mark's Gospel, chapter 3 and verse 13, Jesus is described as calling a group of people to Himself, all of whom were at that time following and supporting Him in His ministry. Then in verse 14, He identifies 12 from that group (in some translation is added "To be called Apostles"), to be constantly with Him to learn from Him, and then to themselves work in full-time ministry on His behalf.

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we recognise that all who accept Jesus as their Saviour are called by Him to live for Him and to represent Him every day, trying by His power to attract other people also to Him and the joy of knowing and belonging to Him. However, we also know that God calls individuals to be in full-time ministry for Him, very much like He appointed the 12 from among His followers. The appointed leadership of the Conference observes the ministers in their early years, to look for obvious evidence of that 'Call', while at the same time giving time for the ministers to sense within themselves absolute confirmation of God's 'Call' to serve Him in full-time Ministry.

## My Journey to Ministry

I have five sisters and one brother. My sisters still live in Fiji with my Dad. My brother has lived in Sydney with his family for about 19 years.

I gave my life to the Lord when I was 14 years old, and got involved in most areas of the church: Pathfinders, Youth programs and being a Deacon. I married Ateca when I was 21. My wife was not an Adventist, but after one year of marriage, she was convinced by the Holy Spirit to accept the Seventh-day Adventist Bible truth. We have four beautiful girls — Lilly, Vika, Elenoa and Latifah.

I first sensed the call of God in 1992 but denied it as I was given a scholarship by the Fiji Government to study Engineering at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane. After I graduated in 1997 with a Bachelor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, I went back to Fiji and worked for Telecom Fiji for five years. I slipped from the faith when I got back to Fiji and even though I was earning good money as an Engineer and running a successful business, I still felt that there was something missing in my life.

We migrated to Australia at the end of 2002 and were nationalised as Australian citizens. It had been my intension to work permanently for Optus here in Australia, but God intervened. I worked in Sydney for a year but the search for fulfilment never

An Ordination service is when Conference Leaders, other ordained ministers and local church leaders plan a special service to publicly recognise the minister's 'Call' by God. In that service, the minister is committed in prayer to God and challenged to "Go out, and be, do and say as Christ would have it done" — very much like Christ charged the 12 Apostles at the commencement of their ministry.

On 13 March 2010, at Maitland Church, Esava Koro was in this way ordained to ministry. Pastor Graeme Christian, Ministerial Secretary for the Australian Union Conference preached the service. Pastor John Lang, President for the NNSW Conference conducted the ordination prayer and Pastor Gordon Smith, Ministerial Secretary for the NNSW Conference delivered the charge. During the service, Esava's wife Ateca, was also recognised as being integral to the successful ministry of her husband. Esava and Ateca — thank you for the years of effective ministry you have already given, and may God richly bless your home and your lives in your commitment to continued full-time service for God.

### Pastor Gordon Smith, Ministerial Secretary, NNSW Conference



An article about Pastor Esava Koro's ordination was also published in the Maitland Mercury newspaper on 23 March 2010. In the article, titled "Pastor puts faith in building community", Pastor Koro speaks about his desire to break down barriers between the church and the wider community.

To read the complete newspaper article and view footage of Pastor Esava Koro's ordination, visit <http://nsw.adventist.org.au>

left me. In my search for fulfilment, I ended up at Avondale College to undertake further studies. Theology was the course suggested and I did not think twice, but accepted the course straight away.

The emptiness in my life was filled on my first day at College in 2004 when I experienced for the first time the announcement of prayer before the commencement of a lecture. Prayer was not part of the school program that I went through, and when Dr Ray Roennfeldt prayed, I could confidently say that the Lord reaffirmed His call on my life that morning.

After graduating from Avondale in 2005, I was called to serve at Mirriwinni Gardens and Bellbrook during 2006. In 2007, Kempsey South Adventist Church was added to my responsibilities, and I really thank God for those years of fruitful ministry.

This is my fifth year in ministry and I am enjoying every bit of it. My greatest desire is to share with people the love of Christ in the most practical way possible. Building relationships in the community by meeting people where they are, is very important before we can invite them to Jesus. My mission and my vision are summed up in 1 Corinthians 2:1–5.

### Pastor Esava Koro

# OUR SCHOOLS

## A Week of Worship at Kempsey

Kempsey Adventist School (KAS) is celebrating its highest enrolment ever, with well over 300 students currently attending the school's rapidly expanding Crescent Head Road campus. The school has experienced tremendous growth over the past seven years with student numbers growing rapidly from 9 in 2004 to 323 at the commencement of 2010.

Recently, the KAS Pastoral Care Team facilitated a Week of Worship (WOW) for both the primary and secondary school, helping many students share their gifts and talents with the other students. Michael Chapman, Assistant Pastor at Kempsey Adventist Church, was the speaker for the secondary students, while his wife, Bethany Chapman, Assistant Pastor at Port Macquarie Adventist Church, enjoying sharing with the primary students. Both Michael and Bethany demonstrated relevance and enthusiasm as they spoke about making good decisions, keeping the students totally focused throughout the daily meetings.

The KAS Chapel Band and Singers led out each morning and many students participated in the drama productions each day, led by Pastoral Care Team member, Mrs Kristie Thompson. As the students gathered at the end of the week, they gave thanks to God for the blessings that He had supplied during the week, with many students publically committing to follow Christ through the school's Bible study and baptismal programs.

In 2010, students and staff at KAS will also look forward to occupying four new primary classrooms, which will include a purpose-built Pre-Kindy facility, two new Science laboratories and Secondary classrooms, along with a new Industrial Technology facility. Planning is also now well underway for the school's new Administration facility which will include an architect designed Student Services Centre and provide KAS with further opportunities to meet the needs of students in the Macleay Valley.



## Week of Mega Praise and Worship at Avondale

Recently the Primary students of Toronto Adventist School joined those at Avondale School for their Week of Mega Praise. The theme was 'Jesus, all about life' with Avondale's new secondary chaplain, Brian Reed speaking every day.

Students, teachers and parents all contributed to the production of the dances, dramas, skits, musical items, video clips and audio-visuals happening throughout the program. The students thoroughly enjoyed listening to Brian's stories and the strong message behind them.

"The Primary Week of Mega Praise has been outstanding," said Avondale School Principal, Dr David Faull, who now also has Toronto School under his management. The students thoroughly enjoyed getting involved during the worship services and also in the 'Meet Jesus Room'. This was set up in the library classroom with the aim to get students to experience who Jesus says He is.

Dr Faull also recognised the work put in and noted how everyone did their best throughout the week. "Excellence comes as the result of doing our best and God will bless what we do."

This was followed by a Week of Worship for the secondary school, in which students got involved in an exciting and challenging program. With international speaker, Pastor Eddie Hypolite, the program centred around the theme 'LIVE'.

The music was led by the Avondale School worship band. There were a number of special items including drama, dance, music, art and video. All the way from London, Pastor Eddie Hypolite gave his personal testimony and challenged everyone to live intentionally for Christ.

He also challenged the self-centred attitude encouraged by society and instead inspired students to acknowledge the direction which Christ provides in our lives.



## Weeks of Worship at Tweed Valley College

The theme for our high school Week of Spiritual Emphasis (WOSE) this year was "Cutting Loose for God", and I can tell you that many students in our high school made the decision to do just that in 2010. It was a fantastic week that featured an excellent drama from the Year 9 and 10 drama class, inspiring worship music with a new-look chapel band, creative ice breakers, videos and inspirational speaking from our guest speaker, Pastor Richie Reid.

WOSE is all about getting involved, learning, growing and making decisions. It was really great to have Pastor Richie here at Tweed Valley College (TVC). Richie is a chaplain at Sydney Adventist College and he communicates well with students and staff alike. He presented a true picture of Jesus to our students and strongly encouraged all of us to cut loose from the things that hold us back from really living for God. On our final day, many of our students took hold of this opportunity to cut loose for God and came down the front to pick up a card that said "Today I choose to cut loose for God" and an encouraging Bible verse was attached. Many students were touched by the message of the week, and there was a great response. There is nothing more exciting than watching young people move toward God and be unashamed to live for Him.

The guest speaker for our primary school WOSE was Matthew Moore. The theme for the week was "Mt EXTREME: God's Ultimate Challenge". Throughout the week we explored what it means to live an extreme life for God. It was great to see students' involvement with the singing, drama, quizzes, welcomes, prayers and comments on the videos. We learnt about some extreme animals and people who take sports to the highest level. Most of all, we learnt that Jesus Himself was someone who was extreme. He introduced Christianity and encourages us to live for Him. On Friday the students had an opportunity to take a card that said "Today I choose to be extreme and really live for God". It was awesome to see almost all of our students take a card to symbolise their commitment to live their lives for God.

**Marty Bernard, Tweed Valley College Chaplain**



## OUR COMMUNITY

### ADRA Op Shop Opens in Guyra

A new Op Shop opened in Guyra on Wednesday, 17 February 2010. The shop is being operated by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) from the Seventh-day Adventist Church Hall in Aboomala Street and will be open every Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00am through to 3:00pm.

ADRA Op Shops rely on donated goods and are staffed by volunteers. They are funded by their own operations. Op-shops are an important community service that benefit a wide range of individuals: They supply affordable clothing and other goods to those in need, provide the pleasure of giving to those donating goods, give volunteers a

sense of purpose and acknowledgment in making a difference, and link a community of people.

Funds raised from ADRA Op Shops are used to fund a range of local ADRA community projects such as women's refuges, at-risk youth intervention, drug and alcohol counseling, as well as literacy and job skill training. They already have a wide range of clothes, bric-a-brac and furniture in store and will also accept donations of saleable items from the community. If you want to find out more phone Helen Tunham on 0468 640 071.

(As published in the Guyra Argus newspaper)

## OUR FELLOWSHIP

### Experiencing God: A Blueprint to Grow



The theme for the weekend was 'Experiencing God: A Blueprint to Grow'. Erna Johnson, Women's Ministries Leader for the South Pacific Division, shared from the Sermon on the Mount about what it means to us as Christians and how to grow in Christ using this as our "blueprint". It was wonderful to see the women praying together, supporting each other and showing they cared when life seemed to be too tough. The retreat catered to women of all ages — the youngest at 13 and the oldest at 90 — who joined together in fellowship, bridging the age gap to worship together over the two-day event. It was also a wonderful way to mentor the younger women in the Church and also the non-Adventist ladies who attended.

The first Women's Retreat at Lake Keepit was held in March 2003 where 28 ladies attended, mainly from the western area of the Conference. The weekend was one of spiritual growth and fellowship, something many had never had the opportunity to experience. On Friday, 26 March 2010, 49 ladies made their way from as far west as Gulargambone and east to Gosford and from further up the coast, to join together at this great location for the eighth consecutive year. It was a time to continue and foster the previous fellowships formed, to form new ones and to gain a wonderful spiritual blessing.

An offering of \$1,379 was collected and will be used to provide 'GodPods' for Papua New Guinea, through the ministry of It is Written Oceania.

# OUR CHURCHES

## Port Macquarie Celebrates Easter



Hundreds of people went on a journey through time as they witnessed the key events in the life of Jesus in a special Easter program called "His story, Our Story". Held over two nights, 28–29 March on the grounds of the Port Macquarie Adventist school and church, "His Story, Our Story" was a dramatic outdoor presentation re-enacting the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

The experience began in a Bible village, which entertained people while they waited for their tour to begin with various activities and displays depicting life 2,000 years ago. The Bible village had all sorts of activities including 'Lydia's Lentils' and 'Potiphar's Pots', as well as chariot races and animals to meet.

The walk-through then began with guides leading groups on a journey through the various scenes in the life of Jesus. Along the way, the public met actors in full costume, including shepherds, Roman soldiers, priests and many others. This interactive presentation appealed to all ages with sights, sounds and smells making it an unforgettable experience for the whole family. Many were deeply moved by the depiction of Christ's crucifixion and death. The whole experience really brought to life the events of Jesus' life.

More than 50 people were involved in presenting the program each night, with many more helping out behind the scenes. Locally developed and presented by members and friends of the Port Macquarie Seventh-day Adventist Church, it is planned that "His Story, Our Story" will become an annual event leading up to Easter.

## Kanwal Cook-Off

With the assistance of Beth Kosmeier, Kanwal Adventist Church members ran a very successful Vegetarian Cooking and Nutrition program during the month of March. It was held every Monday evening over five weeks with approximately 40 in attendance at each session.

Pastor Lyndon Schick started each session with a short lecture on various aspects of healthy living, particularly in respect to nutrition. The program concluded with a banquet in which the attendees tried their hands at preparing vegetarian savouries for the meal.

Three different main-course recipes were demonstrated each evening — with demonstrations by Marien Dorrington, Lenice Jones, Barbara Sutton, Jenny McLeod, Faye Burgess, Tania Gorry and Beth Kosmeier.

The program was voted an outstanding success, with the majority of those attending requesting to be notified about future programs.



## A Diamond in Coffs Harbour

On 20 February 2010, Eric and Jean Meyn were congratulated by their Coffs Harbour Church family on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, which was celebrated with a Fellowship luncheon where a surprise cake was presented and enjoyed by all. It was a happy occasion to remember their 60 years of happily married life together.

Eric and Jean (nee Hurst) were married on 14 January 1950 at St

Judes Anglican Church in Randwick, NSW where Jean's parents had also been married in 1924. Their Diamond Anniversary day was celebrated in Coffs Harbour with friends in their Villa at Boambee Gardens Retirement Village at Toormina, followed by a dinner at the Ex Services Club.

Many flowers, cards and letters of congratulations were received from family and friends as well as from HM Queen Elizabeth II, the Governor General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce, the Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, The Governor of NSW Marie Bashir and the Premier of NSW, Kristina Keneally.

Eric served his country as a pilot in WWII, being an Officer in the RAAF and serving in Australia and Canada. On retirement, both Eric and Jean have served tirelessly with Coffs Harbour Legacy. They have always been active and still participate in golf and tennis.

Eric was baptised by Pastor John Lang in 1999 at Coffs Harbour and has always been active in the church as a Deacon, in Treasury and Sabbath School, while Jean is a busy team member assisting with Fellowship luncheons.



## Lakeside Cleans Up

On Sunday, 7 March 2010 Lakeside Adventist Church had 21 people participate in Clean Up Australia Day. The team worked for two hours and cleaned up along the main road from Bonnells Bay School to Mirrabooka. This resulted in several trailer loads of rubbish being collected — stuff from general papers and bottles to the shell of a canoe and old television sets.

"I was very happy with the number of people who came to participate and it really helped to get the job done in a short amount of time," said Matthew Pearce, Youth Pastor at Lakeside Adventist Church.

"This kind of community project should happen in every church, as it's a practical and positive way that we can make a difference in our communities."

The church plans to be involved in Clean Up Australia Day again next year, along with other plans to be involved in helping people in the peninsula area around which Lakeside Church is located. In March, young people from the church delivered Easter eggs throughout their neighbourhood and invited people to attend their Easter Church Service on 3 April. During May, church members will be going door-to-door doing odd jobs or helping elderly people with tasks around their homes.

"We want to make a difference in the community and be known as the Adventist young people that are willing to make a difference in the community," said Matthew.

# 100 YEARS OF HOPE

One hundred years of sharing God's love with the indigenous community in Australia will be celebrated over the weekend of 30 April to 2 May at Kempsey on the mid-north coast of NSW. The celebrations will begin on Friday evening with guest speaker Pr Johnny Murison. Pr Chester Stanley, Australian Union President will preach on Sabbath morning.

There will be a book launch, storytelling, music, good food and fellowship throughout the weekend. All are welcome to come to Kempsey Adventist Church, 108 Crescent Head Road, Kempsey to celebrate together. For more information contact Pr Murray Chapman on tel: (02) 6562 5025.

## 2011 REFORMATION TOUR



The next Australian Union Conference (AUC) sponsored Reformation Lands Tour for both church employees and lay members is planned for 15 May to 23 June 2011.

The five-week itinerary includes traveling throughout Europe and the UK, visiting places of interest involved in the Protestant Reformation story, including Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Czech Republic, England and Scotland.

The tour provides an historical, geographical and on-site perspective of the Protestant Reformation and a better understanding of the theological issues behind the prominent reformers responsible for the restoration of many New Testament teachings.

This is an opportunity for pastors, teachers and lay members alike to gather appropriate pictures and other relevant resources to share the Reformation message with their congregations and their local communities.

Expressions of interest and inquiries should be made now to Pr Russel Stanley, (02) 4365 0553, 0405 181 047 or email [rstanley@hotmail.net.au](mailto:rstanley@hotmail.net.au)

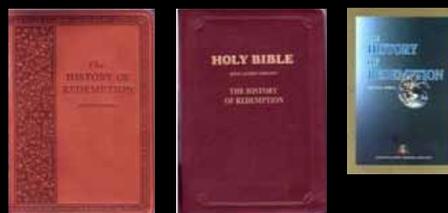
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