

FOCUS

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

SHALL WE CELEBRATE!

What do we celebrate? The things we celebrate tell us a lot about what is important to us.

The Christmas New Year “festive season” is behind us and, as I write, we as a nation are about to celebrate Australia Day. We celebrate wedding anniversaries, birthdays, graduations and other milestones that we consider of great significance.

As a church what do we celebrate? What does that tell us about our priorities? Again, we celebrate anniversaries, we celebrate building completions and we celebrate Pathfinder achievements that as a church body we feel are important.

If you’ve watched a soccer match, there is great celebration when a goal is kicked. There are dance manoeuvres, back flips, running dives and slides on the grass, hugs and high fives, and all sorts of other bizarre antics. But it tells us something that is true of life—“kicking a goal” is worth celebrating.

What does God celebrate? What is important to Him? What are the goals He wants us to achieve?

As I read the words of Jesus, one thing stands out to me when I think about those questions—there is great rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents (see Luke 15:7, 10). How does the celebration in heaven happen? Is it singing, dancing, high fives? I don’t really know, but what I do know is that God celebrates with all of heaven

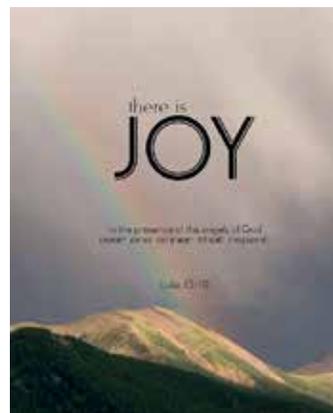
when a single person commits his or her life to Jesus!

What do we celebrate? I want to see us achieving the goals that God has in mind for us, and when we do, to celebrate with Him, because He has achieved great things in and through us.

Repentant sinners, finding Jesus as their personal Saviour, committing their lives in baptism to Him, becoming His disciples—that’s what we need to celebrate as a Conference!

As God’s goals are accomplished through us, may the church celebrations in 2017 be plentiful, and let’s remember to celebrate enthusiastically with all of Heaven.

PASTOR BRETT TOWNEND
PRESIDENT





The Vital Connection on the Streets Of Brisbane

It's another night at soup kitchen . . . it runs 52 weeks a year, rain, hail or shine. A team of faithful volunteers have gathered at the usual meeting place—the kitchen. Food is loaded and the first words to the team are said for the evening. The team is split between the two main roles it must fulfil: food preparation and serving. Although their functions are different, the end result is the same—team members are all there to meet the needs of the “street needy”—around 300 regulars are fed a three-course meal three nights of the week. We consider them as family; some we have known for years, others come and go. VITAL CONNECTION continues to reach people who might never enter a church. The team volunteers come from different backgrounds and different beliefs; more than half of the volunteers are other than Adventist, but they are there to serve alongside us. VITAL CONNECTION allows unique opportunities to reach others from different walks of life and, as important as the food is, it makes it difficult for our team to meet the needs of our family without the VITAL CONNECTION van. The van is simply called “Faith”—and it's been a faithful workhorse for many years.

As this article goes to print, the van is in need of a new gearbox and an engine rebuild.

Those who have worked in VITAL CONNECTION ministry

over the years have witnessed changes in attitudes and behaviours toward the service we provide to the disadvantaged on the street. A number of years ago, when serving under the Turbot Street overpass, attitudes were sometimes strained and people became impatient. The team always pauses to have grace over the food before it is served, often people were rowdy and loud and it continued for months. However, over time, as they felt the genuineness and heartfelt prayer over their food and for them, they became more orderly and respectful.

I had a unique experience with the police out on the street one evening. There had been a commotion in the crowd prior to our VITAL CONNECTION van arriving. I got up and said grace as per usual. After grace, the unrest subsided as the plates and cutlery were handed out. I heard a voice, “Excuse me, sir, can I have a word with you please?” I turned and was confronted by a burly police officer. He took me aside. I was a bit nervous as I didn't know what I had done.

He looked at me sternly, and asked, “Were you the one saying the prayer?”

I replied, “Yes sir.”

He looked at me for a long moment before he spoke, “Thank

you, I haven't heard a prayer in public for a long time. I'm a Christian as well." He continued, "If there's anything you need, just give us a call and we'll come down and support you."

I can remember our team looking at me from a distance, wondering what my conversation with the officer was all about. I mentioned it to them when we got back to the kitchen, and they were surprised with the officer's response. VITAL CONNECTION not only provides for the homeless out on the streets, but also enjoys opportunities to connect with others.

VITAL CONNECTION has been operating for more than 20 years. It was birthed by a man named Brian Beadnell. Brian saw a need out on the street, went home and made soup and served it out of the back of his car. A few years later, VITAL CONNECTION came under the umbrella of ADRA Australia. It has operated out of a number of churches over the years, the last being Brisbane Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are very thankful to Central Church for their support over many years, which allowed VITAL CONNECTION to grow. About a year ago, Central Church needed renovations and therefore Vital Connection had to relocate in order to continue operating. We are now currently in St Lucia, operating out of a *Meals on Wheels* kitchen. With this new location, new challenges arise—big challenges—but we serve a big God.

One volunteer has been part of the team on a regular basis for the past two years. He is not a Christian, but has faith-

fully served as part of the VITAL CONNECTION team in whatever capacity was needed. One night, when we had all gathered together for final prayer, he was selected to say the prayer. His prayer was straight from the heart. Near the end of last year he shared with me that he had started attending one of our local churches. Last week, when I attended a local Adventist church, there was an altar call. He stood and accepted the call for baptism.

We desperately want to see the ministry of VITAL CONNECTION continue—for many, it's a statement of acceptance, love, joy and fellowship.

The VITAL CONNECTION team is privileged to have been allocated one of this year's Conference Wide offerings to support its work. Monies given will provide much needed equipment in order to continue ministry on the streets. It is hoped that, through the generous giving of our South Queensland Conference church family, old "Faith" will be repaired so it can continue to serve in the future as well as it has in the past.

We are blessed to be able to minister to the least of our brothers and sisters on the streets of Brisbane. Matthew 25:31-46 tells us that if we have done "it" for the least of our brothers and sisters we have done "it" for Him. May the good Lord prosper those who give freely to this offering, and may the money given continue to serve Him by serving others.

NEIL PULE

VITAL CONNECTIONS OPERATIONS MANAGER





The Whole Story

In July, 2008, it was with real anticipation that we sped along the highway toward Loma Linda in Southern California. We were going to visit one of the great health meccas of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, something I had dreamed of since becoming an Adventist 34 years earlier. Entering the large foyer area of the Loma Linda Medical Center, we looked up and were confronted with the words—“To Make Man Whole.” These few words encapsulate the Adventist health message and mission.

“In teaching health principles,” said Ellen White “keep before the mind the great object of reform—that its purpose is to secure the highest development of body and mind and soul. Show that the laws of nature, being the laws of God, are designed for our good; that obedience to them promotes happiness in this life, and aids in the preparation for the life to come.”¹

This simple statement of purpose envisions what Ellen White believed health ministry should be all about. It has God at the centre and a spiritual focus, and is not another secular or humanistic program but one integrating religious faith with a scientific understanding and application of the laws of nature to prevent disease or recover health. God is the creator of the laws of nature and He has established these laws if we will obey them as healing agencies for the wellbeing of the human race.

Along with this, Ellen White’s purpose statement affirms a biblical understanding of the nature of humans as an indivisible whole of body and mind and spirit with a moral imperative toward self-development to a high degree in each of these vital dimensions of life. Time spent in the preservation of physical and mental health is therefore not wasted, as this helps build the foundation for Christian character and service.²

The intimacy of connection between body and mind and soul, and the way that spirituality can be negatively effected

through sinful, unhealthy behaviours and lifestyles is a fundamental reason for following our health message according to Ellen White. Health ministry is also a way of uplifting others and adding to the quality and enjoyment of their lives by showing them a way of escape from the sickness and suffering and disease and death that they often bring upon themselves.

The purpose of health reform, although simply stated by Ellen White is profound, and these few thoughts just scratch the surface. I would like to finish with some words from Angel Manuel Rodriguez in his excellent article, “Health Reform in the Writings of Ellen G White”:

“Under the influence of Jesus’ concern for the sick, the Christian church has always cared for the unwell . . . Ellen White was interested in healing, but she looked at the complexity of the problem and emphasised prevention to bring healing and not only to avoid sickness. For her, prevention was a means of healing and restoration. Her program integrated science, religion, and moral responsibility, that is to say the rational, the spiritual, and the ethical dimensions of the human experience . . . Never before in the history of the Christian Church has such significance been attached to the question of health.”³

Although building on the great Christian legacy of healing, the Adventist contribution and understanding of health and healing and how they relate to the spiritual realm are unique. We would do well to value the approach we have been given by God through Ellen White and apply the healing agencies recommended, that we may be well in body and mind and soul.

References:

1. *The Ministry of Healing*, page 146
2. *Counsels on Health*, page 107
3. Rodriguez, Angel Manuel, “Perspective Digest, Health Reform in The Writings of Ellen G White”.

PASTOR NEIL MARKS
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH MINISTRIES

CENTRAL THINKING

Red dirt, flies, dogs, crafts, kids and an enthusiastic thirst for knowing Jesus, such are the happenings in the centre of Australia. In May, 2016, Sandra Suilai and I had the pleasure of heading to Central Australia to run kids clubs during Pastor Ted Wilson's visit to Alice Springs and Finke Churches. While there, we were able to also conduct a STORM Co pre-trip. One theme consistent in these communities and surrounds is the hunger people have for the message of Jesus' love and the promise of an everlasting life with Him. Working with the team out there and seeing the vast country made us realise how isolated these communities are and their need to hear the invitation Jesus offers to become part of the family of God.

We were humbled running our kids club for the young people who were happy sitting in the red dirt, with their pet dogs and lizards, singing songs about Jesus. They asked to sing the songs over and over, they hung on to every word said about the love that Jesus has for them.

A STORM Co team comprising of South Queensland youth are planning to head out to Alice Springs and its surrounding communities this coming 2017 Easter. The team is combining with Northern Territory youth in order to train and equip them during a two-week "hands on" community projects training event. The objective is for the Northern Territory STORM Co team become proficient at running their own STORM Co trips in due course. The team will be working on community events with all ages, ranging from young children to seniors in the community. The program will focus on families and how to build and maintain interpersonal relationships.

Good Friday has been set aside to be a STORM Co EGG-STRAVAGANZA, a fun family day in the middle of town. The team has been working closely with the Local Council,

CEO, cultural groups, businesses and churches in order to showcase youth local talent. The day will be filled with jumping castles, "Pinnacle Of Terror," kids crafts, social football games, clowning, face-painting, kids game areas, giant bubbles, Easter egg hunts and a BBQ lunch.

The STORM Co team are producing the musical "The Witness" which is a musical passion play telling the story of Jesus' life and ministry as witnessed by the apostle Peter. The program offers spiritual and inspirational meaning to this time of year, as well as family entertainment. Those present will see the gospel come to life as the Apostle Peter sings the story of Jesus Christ: His astounding and miraculous ministry, His tragic death and His world-transforming resurrection. "The Witness" will be performed at the ANZAC Oval in the middle of the town and the team expects a crowd of around 1000 people. The STORM Co team feel honoured and blessed being able to share the gospel to this many people in one place.

The STORM Co team are asking you to help with this journey as we fundraise toward the goal of getting the team to the Alice Springs together with the equipment they will need for the projected program.

If you are able to help financially, please contact the SQ Youth Department on 07 3218 7777 or Rebekah on <latte4rb@gmail.com>

Every dollar will be used for this ministry event, it is yet another opportunity to share the Good News of a soon-returning Christ.

Jesus reminds us, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).

REBEKAH BERNOTH
REGIONAL YOUTH COACH AND STORM CO LEADER





SORRY—KITCHEN CLOSED

Sanitarium has operated the Kitchen Sanitarium café at 145 Eagle Street, Brisbane, as a pilot program over the past eight years. After assessing the results of this pilot program and the potential replicability of the concept, a decision has been made that the operation will close at the end of February. The decision not to move forward with this venture is part of a larger shift in business focus and efforts towards growing direct consumer engagement, including Sanitarium’s digital

and social media engagement program. This broader program also includes the growth in Vitality Works, Sanitarium’s corporate health and wellness business, which is already building deeper direct relationships with individuals right across Australia and New Zealand.

SARA MCGREGOR
SANITARIUM PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER



There's Something In The Air

It was a fine Sabbath morning on December 10 with a slight breeze blowing when Pastor Chris Foote, Neil Pule, Ryan our pilot, and myself gathered together for prayer before heading out in a small plane to Chinchilla. By small, I mean a very cozy four-seater plane—a Mooney—with a small storage compartment in the rear. It was the first time all three passengers had flown with Adventist Aviation Association (AAA), whose ministry is to meet with and encourage our regional and remote churches. So it was humbling experience to be able to be used by God in this way.

Once we were up in the air, the view was stunning, which was good because it distracted me from the turbulence of the small plane where you feel every little bump and turn. We thanked God we had a highly skilled pilot. He got us there—and back—safe and sound with the greatest of ease.

We arrived to a friendly welcome at Chinchilla airport and were then taken to Chinchilla's Seventh-day Adventist Church for a day of friendship, fellowship and worship. Neil and myself led out in the lesson and shared a little of the work that ADRA Australia is doing in South Queensland. Pastor Chris shared with the attendees a message about the biblical concept of family. All enjoyed a wonderful fellowship lunch as a church family before the afternoon program was spent on learning about how men

and women think differently and the impact this has on relationships.

Too soon, it was time to say our farewells before flying back to Archerfield airport where we arrived safely at around 4 in the afternoon. The Sabbath was a real blessing and we thanked God for travelling mercies.

We don't have to travel far to be God's hands and feet; we are needed in our own backyard!

Let me take this opportunity to encourage you all to join AAA in their ministry to our church families in rural Queensland. For more information on how to do so please feel free to contact me at the SQ Administration and Resources Centre; Phone: 3218 7777 Email: <irenalarking@adventist.org.au>.

Oh, and one final point, if you wish to overcome your fear of turbulence, then a flight in a small plane is a good remedy and highly recommended!

DR IRENA LARKING
SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE ADRA DIRECTOR

Irena Larking



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

The following are some of the highlights and decisions that were made by the Executive Committee and the Board of Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited during December meetings.

The Executive Committee:

- Granted Company status to the Murri-Wantok Company (formerly ATSIM group).
- Disbanded the Great Lakes SDA African group after their leaders resigned membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- Approved leadership recommendations of the New Life Adventist Company:
 - ◆ Company Leader: James Finau
 - ◆ Church Clerk: Tia Uta-Collins
 - ◆ Treasurer: Saili David
- Support the Hinkler Church to 80 per cent (up to \$8,000) to purchase and install air conditioning.
- Approved the distribution of proposed 2017 interest earnings as follows:

◆ Specific Distributions to Trust/Reserves	\$ 40,000
◆ Local Church Development Reserve	\$ 100,000
◆ Capital Project Funding	\$ 100,000
◆ Working Capital	\$ 20,000
◆ TOTAL Projected 2017 Distribution	\$ 260,000

The Board of Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited, recorded and approved the following:

- Pastoral call for Greg Campling—Northern Conference, Southern African Union Conference to Ipswich Church (Accepted).
- The final Pastoral Staffing list for 2017 (see this edition of FOCUS).
- The 2017 operating budget of \$15,656,494 for Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Ltd with a projected surplus of \$2325. Projected Tithe for the year amounts to a 1 per cent increase over 2016 of \$14,459,739 in total.
- The Conference Offering Calendar Offering Breakdown (2017):
 - ◆ Local Church Budget 21
 - ◆ Education 11
 - ◆ Conference Wide Offerings 3
 - ◆ Health 1
 - ◆ Annual Convention 2
 - ◆ Appeal Expenses 1
 - ◆ GC / SPD / AUC 13
 - ◆ **TOTAL 52**

PASTOR COLIN RENFREW
GENERAL SECRETARY

South Queensland Conference

PASTORAL STAFFING FOR 2017

Afamasaga, Sam	Logan City Samoan
Ah Siu, Jedidiah	Cornubia Samoan Ipswich Samoan Riverview Samoan
Campbell, Lachlan	Landsborough Sunshine Coast Church Plant
Campling, Greg	Ipswich
Cobbin, Kendell	Springwood
Collum, Mike	Gold Coast Central Surfers Paradise Company
Edgar, David	Maleny Redcliffe
Faiumu, Tusi	North Central Samoan Deception Bay Samoan Scarborough Samoan
Faraimo, Toetu	Springwood Samoan Browns Plains Samoan Harvest SDA Community Company
Feaveai, Andrew	Toowoomba Central Millmerran
Fitzpatrick, Leathan	Caboolture Associate NPCC Chaplain (0.3 FTE)
Flamenco, Walter	Brisbane Spanish Gold Coast Spanish supervisor Brisbane Spanish Bilingual
Garrard, David	Murri Group ATSIM—Coordinator
Gibson, David	South Brisbane Associate (0.5 FTE) Victoria Point / Victoria Point ILU Chaplain (0.5 FTE)
Gillespie, David	Southpine New Life
Groves, Darryl	Gatton Esk Laidley
Hamilton, André	Pine Rivers
Harrington, Sharyn	Refresh Northpine Community Company (0.6 FTE)
Hebbard, Steve	Gympie Yandina Gayndah (oversight)
Hobbs, Ray	Rockhampton Associate Yeppoon Associate CARV Chaplain
Humphries, Wayne	Brisbane Central Redhill

Hutton, Simon	Northpine Associate Chaplain
Je, Young-Gab (Brian)	Brisbane Korean Mitchelton
Je, Young	Gold Coast Korean Mt Tamborine (0.5 FTE)
Kane, Steve	Coastlife Gold Coast Christian College Associate Chaplain
Karauria, Peter (Lay)	Emerald Longreach
Kelava, Jakob	Brisbane Croatian Rosewood
Kelsey, David	Dalby Chinchilla
Kewley, Daniel	St Andrews Rosedale Coral Coast School Chaplain
Krklec, Mladen	Springwood Associate
Lieder, Shaun	Ipswich Adventist School Chaplain (0.2 FTE)
Lindsay, Annalise	BAC Associate Chaplain (0.5 FTE) Springwood Associate (0.5 FTE)
Marks, Neil	Wynnum (0.5 FTE) Health Director (0.5 FTE)
Martinez, Jean-Pierre	BAC Chaplain
Masci, Arturo (Lay)	Beaudesert
Mawer, Trevor	Stanthorpe Warwick Summit
Milosavljevic, Dusan	Salisbury
Okesene, Gideon	Kingaroy Murgon Nanango Group
Parker, Darrin	Garden City Trust Services Director
Pearce, Mark	South Brisbane African Company
Piturlea, Emmanuel	Sherwood Romanian (0.7 FTE)
Popovic, Miljan	Eight Mile Plains Associate
Pule, Francis	LifeSwich Church Plant Harrisville Ipswich Adventist School Chaplain (0.2 FTE)
Ratray, Carl (Lay)	Roma and District
Redman, Neil	Northpine Christian College Senior Chaplain
Reilly, David	Cooroy Noosa Christian College Chaplain
Richards, Kelly	Pine Rivers Associate (0.5 FTE)
Riley, David	Reedy Creek Melody Park Chaplain Coordinator
Rivera, Humberto	Sandgate Deception Bay Kingston Samoan

Roberts, Gary	Bay City Hervey Bay Maryborough
Rusterholz, Heinrich	Bribie Island Nundah Albion
Scheffer, Ricardo	Mt Gravatt Associate Fijian Associate
Stefani, Wolfgang	Park Ridge Flagstone
Strickland, Willie	Cook Island Group Children's Ministry (Adventurer / Pathfinder) Director
Toogood, David	Gold Coast Central Associate Surfers Paradise Company Associate
Tuialii, Pat	Bay Islands Group (Global Mission)
Turner, Mark	Rockhampton Yeppon CARV Chaplain
Tyler, Neil	Logan Reserve Inala
Ugljesa, Jacob	Glenvale Associate Darling Downs Christian School Chaplain
Urrea, Tony	Capalaba Victoria Point ARV Chaplain
Van Rensburg, André	Eight Mile Plains
Vidacak, Zeny	Mt Gravatt Fijian
Ward, Steve	Maroochydore Nambour
Wareham, Scott	Caloundra Caloundra ARV Chaplain, Kilcoy
Webb, Joseph	Caboolture
William, Ernst	Edens Landing Helensvale
Wojnar, Ernie	Hinkler Gin Gin Childers
Wolverton, Casey	Glenvale Highfields
Yeo, David	Gladstone Biloela Monto
Simon Siew	Brisbane Asian (Global Mission)
TBA	Sunshine Coast Adventist Fellowship



Summer Camps

Summer camps in our South Queensland Conference are bursting at the seams! This year the Youth Department ran three camps for 10-18 year olds, which saw around 250 campers and 110 staff enjoy the programs on offer. The theme for the camps was “Outrageous”. Presenters included Gideon Okesene, Jeff Parker and Lachlan Campbell. A large majority of the campers made significant commitments to Jesus. The Youth Department would like to offer a huge thank-you to all the staff, parents, campers and Camp Somerset management for making this season of Summer Camps so memorable. All praise goes to Jesus for this incredible ministry.

PASTOR SEAN BERKELEY
YOUTH DIRECTOR





Welcome To A New Team Member Here at the Conference Office

Name:
Steve Cowley

Position:
Education Project Officer (Management)

Job Description:
Provide support to our Adventist Schools in South Queensland through the areas of data management and analysis, learning management systems and collaborate with the Project Officer (Learning) regarding secondary curriculum matters.

Family:
Wife—married to Victoria 5 years (BAC Early Learning Centre)

One son (Zac), one step-son (Jaime), four step-daughters (Natalia, Daniela, Valerie and Vicky), one granddaughter (Blue), and one cat (Jabberwocky).

Denominational Employment:
Academic Dean and teacher at Brisbane Adventist College (2009-2016)

Principal of Darling Downs Christian School (2003-2008)

Teacher at Mountain View Adventist College (1999-2002)

NEW FACES AROUND THE CONFERENCE



Pastor Dan Kewley

- Married to Jacqueline and has two, sons Archer and Knox.
- He is returning to South Queensland Conference after gaining a Theology degree at Avondale and serving in the Western Australia Conference for the past five years.
- He enjoys quality time with his family, history podcasts, golf and Liverpool Football Club.
- Dan and Jacqueline are looking forward to ministering in the Bundaberg region and being closer to their respective extended families.

Pastor Jacob Ugljesa

- Has moved to Toowoomba with his wife Dari, after he graduated from Avondale College with a Theology degree.
- Jacob spends his time reading anything and everything, hiking mountains and tasting nice foods.
- He has just recently started full-time ministry at Glenvale Adventist Community church and at Darling Downs Christian School.



CALOUNDRA
MAN OVERBOARD!

Pastor Steve Ward has reportedly deserted Caloundra church in search of more successful fishing partners, at Nambour(!). On Sabbath, January 14, Caloundra members took the opportunity to bid Pastor Steve and Gabe farewell, plying them with some appropriate camping gear as some consolation, as well as loads of appreciation and best wishes for their future fishing (for souls in particular). The Ward team is highly regarded by all at Caloundra and is being replaced by Pastor Scott and Celeste Wareham, the two teams exchanging their roles at Nambour and Caloundra. A warm welcome to Pastor Scott and Celeste and their three children.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY KEN DOVE

LANDSBOROUGH
THE GREAT FISH RUN



The Powers twins shown here with orphans cygnets in their care till ready for release

“Twinnies” Pelican and Seabird Rescue facility was recently broken into. Their cold room was forced open and their stock of fish for feeding the birds in their care was stolen.

One of the Landsborough Church members heard of this on the local TV

news and considered it an opportunity for the church to help with a donation to assist with replacement food.

To receive the donation the “Twinnies,” Paula and Bridgette Powers, were invited to attend Landsborough Church to receive the donation.

On Sabbath December 31 they arrived at church and were interviewed by Dr Percy Harrold, responding in unison to the questions asked of them and were most appreciative of the support.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY GLEN WOOSLEY

GATTON
HANDY ANDY



December 3, was Pastor Andy Krause’s last Sabbath with us at Gatton Adventist Church and it was a high day for everyone. We had our annual Pathfinder Investiture Day during the Sabbath School time instead of the usual Sabbath School, then in the main service time we had a baptism of four people. Robyn Collinge came to Gatton church in mid-2012 as a volunteer tutor when we had a ADRA Community Centre running under Ngaire Dare’s leadership and a youth program “Get Set For Work.” Even though that program has ceased to run, Robyn has been able to remain a volunteer in our community centre in various capacities and roles through this passage of time. Because the community centre is within the one building which also included our church, she states she “has been afforded the great privilege and pleasure of not only meeting but sharing with many people belonging to this truly wonderful church family; their sincere welcome and inclusion of me in so many ways is inspi-



rational, yet for myself, humbling. For all of this, I have an almost overwhelmingly deep gratitude.” Robyn has come from a Christian background and has found that she feels welcomed into our Gatton church like one of the family.

The church also had three of its young people choose to follow their Saviour in baptism. All originate from Papua New Guinea so we had a baptism with a PNG flavour, Emolyn Seth, Jamila Karapen and Shoneton “Shaun” Karapen, this was then followed by a big feast for lunch.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY CHERYL KRAUSE

BRISBANE TONGAN
YOUNG SHYROCK BECOMES ELDER



December 17, was a historical day for the Brisbane Tongan Seventh-day Adventist church. During the worship service, the very first Tongan member was ordained into service for the church. Mr Umeahola, also known as Shyrock Faamani, was ordained as church elder by Pastor Murray Hunter. The special occasion was witnessed not only by his church family, but also by his parents, his siblings and other family members who travelled from New Zealand and Sydney especially for the occasion.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY LAISA OTUKOLO



MITCHELTON

IN MOTION



A little while back, five young adults from the Mitchelton Adventist Church flew out on a day trip organised by the Adventist Aviation Association (AAA) to visit and worship with Adventist members in the south-west Queensland town of Dirranbandi. A combined total of about 20 people gathered at one of the local member's house and the Mitchelton team led a full worship service: singing hymns, accompanied by their guitars and ukuleles, sharing an engaging Bible discussion on the church's role in the community and a powerful sermon about keeping our roots firmly planted in Jesus. The worship and fellowship was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a plentiful meal was kindly prepared by the Dirranbandi members. The Mitchelton young adults look forward to flying out on many more AAA trips to connect with and encourage the Adventist community in the rural towns.

Mitchelton Church also has two ongoing seminars on "Current Events" and "Current Topics", run by two doctors, Andrew Cronk and Dwane Jackson, for the spiritual wellbeing of our church. On the second Sabbath of the month Andrew opens our eyes and ears to events taking place in the natural, political, and religious world that show the return of Christ is imminent. Sharing insights from the Bible and Ellen White's writings, Andrew delves into current events to show how prophecy is being fulfilled before our eyes. Andrew's desire is that all are prepared for our Lord's return.

ARTICLE BY JOHN STEHN AND SUSANNA JE, PHOTOS BY SUSANNA JE AND ANDREW MILLER

WATSON PARK

A ROAD WELL TRAVELLED



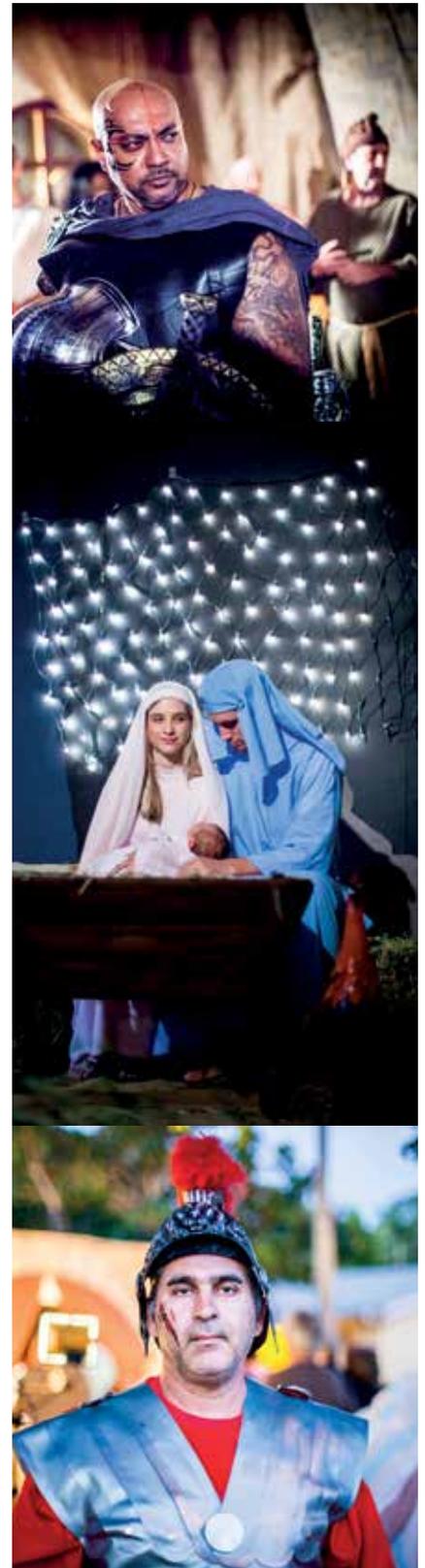
The Road to Bethlehem (RTB) coordinating and planning committee of 2016 wish to thank all who contributed to this year's program. Because of your dedication and commitment, the event was a resounding success, once again.

The event saw more than 300 volunteers being actively involved, with many more helping behind the scenes before and after the program. This year a number of young people took up leadership roles. Team members ranged from the age of just three weeks to over 80 years!

This continues to be a significant mission outreach. More than 2650 people visited our Road To Bethlehem program this year and enjoyed seeing a dramatisation of the story of Jesus' birth. For many of the visitors, it was their first time to come, while others have been coming year after year. A large proportion of those who come to RTB are unchurched and are not formally connected to any faith at all. However, it seems that the fascination to hear about Jesus remains.

Road to Bethlehem is a ministry, and continues to be a seed-planting evangelistic event. The Lord remains in charge of the harvest—see you at Road To Bethlehem 2017.

ARTICLE BY JOHN GAMBORG PHOTO BY CHARMAINE PATEL





The Creator Created Creativity

Creativity is largely misunderstood, under-utilised, trivialised and—quite frankly—it often gets ignored altogether. I believe that creativity powerfully displays God’s character perfectly. I also believe unexpressed creativity denies God. In order to understand creativity, it is helpful to have a working definition. Creativity has been described as the use of original thoughts to bring something new into being; transcending traditions, rules, patterns and relationships and creating meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, interpretations; generating solutions; originality, progressiveness, or imagination; it is perceiving the world in new ways. Many of us would agree strongly that human beings are innately designed to think beyond themselves and now. Neuroscience confirms our brain’s complexity and ability. For example, a piece of brain tissue the size of a grain of sand contains 100,000 neurons and 1 billion synapses all communicating with each other. This leads some of us daring to believe and imagine the possibility of, well, anything and everything being possible.

Thinking outside the square, AKA creativity, aligns perfectly with the wonder of God’s character and essence. Creativity suggests mystery and power; in a raw and primal way, it points us back to the beginning, back to a Creator God Who knelt in the mud and, with bare hands, fashioned a man who had a family resemblance.

After Adam and Eve were handcrafted and the breath of God gave them life, humankind was declared to be created in the Creator’s image. God left His fingerprints throughout the entire earth that now encapsulates and highlights His creativity; stars and auroras, flowers and down feathers, pinnacles and plunging waterfalls.

Later in history, the incarnate Jesus reminded humankind of our call to live an abundant life. He declared that mustard seed faith is enough and that supernatural power and discernment is available to one and all. He challenged traditions and demonstrated what disruptive love looks like. What if the life of Jesus is a glimpse of what creativity looks like? What if creativity is having an awareness of God and then responding in thoughts, actions or words? What if this fresh view of creativity is the first step to unleashing our creativity?

So my question is: What if we’re not called and anointed as creative beings because of our talents and skills? What if that raw and primal urge to creativity is a calling and anointing to worship because creativity in its highest form, is worship?

What if creativity expressed is humanity’s quiet but inadequate applause for the creation performed by God? What might happen in our churches, schools and homes if we gave ourselves permission to give our creativity back to God 100 per cent? What if we stopped apologising for our creativity and allowed the Holy Spirit to saturate us fully so we overflowed with innovative thinking and artistic expressions? Let us not limit creativity to songs, stories and paintings. Focusing on the end-product of creativity such as a melody or the finished quilt leaves us bereft of honouring the creative journey and the role the Holy Spirit has. When we focus on creativity as a spiritual process rather than product, creativity becomes accessible to anyone. And since we are all created in His image we all should encourage one another to fully express worship in creative ways. To disallow creativity is to refuse God full access to oneself. To surrender partially to God is not surrender. No-one get partially married or partially born, it’s all or none.

Never has my spiritual growth been fuller or more meaningful than when I use symbolic expressions in the creative arts to worship. Creativity has been both healing and transformative. I have been challenged and chastised, encouraged beyond measure and found God’s love to be deeper and more vivid than I could have imagined were possible this side of heaven. In closing I want to challenge you to set aside preconceptions about creativity you may have and allow God to reveal Himself to you through creativity. Creativity is not a thing, it is a way.

Rochelle Melville describes herself as an Intentional Creative. When she’s not painting, art journalling, or woodworking, she’s writing, instagramming and renovating the family home. Rochelle is currently studying to become an Art Therapist and is passionate about helping people release their innate creativity and use art for health and healing. When Rochelle worships God, she often has ink on her fingers and paint in her hair.

ROCHELLE MELVILLE

GOLD COAST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

THE BIG BUILD

Gold Coast Christian College have recently received a BGA (Building Grant Approval) for an additional specialist building for the high school, with building commencing in 2017. This building will incorporate an art/music department, general classrooms and ultimately a new Industrial Technology facility, along with bathroom facilities on the top and bottom floor of the new building. Principal Guy Lawson is excited about the project, as it will increase the resources for students and complete all facilities needed for our Secondary Campus. In addition, there is a project which includes refurbishments to the current office, and converting the current music rooms into extra office space for College administrators.

ARTICLE BY GOLD COAST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION.

TEACHERS REALLY SERVE IT UP



The teaching staff of Gold Coast Christian College had a marvellous time recently engaging in a team builder with a cooking twist. Each person was given a randomly assigned bandana and once they revealed their colour, assigned to that colour team with two other teachers. Each team was then given an ingredient to “hero,” and \$25 to spend on other ingredi-

ents to create their dishes. The “hero” ingredients were: eggplant, pomegranate, tofu, cinnamon, lentils, eggs and lemons.

After the assigned time and plenty of dicing, slicing, stirring and baking, there was a smorgasbord of food for the three ancillary staff judges to mark. Mrs Poa, Mr Kirkland and Mrs Hunt enjoyed judging with Mrs Poa saying that it was difficult to choose a winner with such great food!

The winning team was Mrs Black, Mrs Williams and Miss Smith with Pomegranate salad, juice and mousse!

Team Tofu rolled in last—a valiant effort by Mr Waring, Mr Ace and Mr Davidson!

Our new Year 1 teacher Hayley Ryan commented, “When I heard that team-building was scheduled for the morning, I expected the usual—trust challenges, human pyramids and the likes. You can imagine my surprise when we were set with the MasterChef challenge—such a fantastic day!”

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY CARLY MOORE



NOOSA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

CARING AND CARING FOR KINGDOM KIDS

January 25, was the first day of the new Kindy at Noosa Christian College. Under the leadership of Kindy teacher Mrs Celeste Wareham, together with the Kindy teacher-aide Mrs Deb Clare, the children had a wonderful time playing together in the facility’s new playground area that boasts a lovely sandpit and swings. The youngsters also enjoyed riding bikes, kitchen play, looking at bugs through a magnifying glass, water play plus a myriad of other fun activities!

The Kindy operates on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and the official opening of the new facility (which houses both Prep and Kindy) will take place on March 9, with the Honourable Mr Peter Wellington MP.

Noosa Christian College would like to thank all those who played a part in helping to establish its new Kindy program.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY DALE BERGMAN

SWEET POTATO TACOS WITH COCONUT YOGHURT, MUSTARD AND DILL DRESSING

INGREDIENTS

1 Tbsp Olive Oil
3 Cups Sweet Potato - diced
250g Tofu - sliced thinly
¼ Cup Sunflower Seeds
¼ Cup Pepitas
2 Tsp "Live Chef" Moroccan Seasoning
1 Tsp Celtic Salt
Rocket
1 Packet Soft Taco Shells

SAUCE

1 ½ Cups Coconut Yoghurt
2 Tbsp Honey
3 Tsp Seeded Mustard
3 Tsp Dijon Mustard
3 Tbsp Fresh Dill - chopped

METHOD

Heat: olive oil in frypan

Saute: sweet potato, tofu, seeds and seasonings, and cook gently for 10 minutes.

Add: water and cover pan and cook for another 10 minutes
or until sweet potato is cooked.

Remove: from heat and set aside.

Heat: taco shells in low oven until soft and warm (5-10 minutes).

To serve: put rocket on bottom of taco, put sweet potato mix on
next and sauce over the top.

To make sauce: Mix all ingredients together in a bowl until well combined. You can
adjust honey, mustard and dill to suit your taste.

Note: Soft taco shells are available in wholemeal and gluten-free. They can be found
in the international aisle of most supermarkets.





Caloundra Adventist Retirement Village: Learning, Living And Loving More

Caloundra Adventist Retirement Village brings more into the lives of residents suffering with Dementia.

The Caloundra Adventist Retirement Village has recently completed construction of an extension to their residential accommodation area for residents with Dementia. This new addition offers more space in the outdoors for residents and their families to enjoy, equipped with new tables and seating areas, a water therapy feature, new raised garden beds, and a shed that houses a second-hand car for the menfolk who have a love of cars and all things mechanical.

The concept was the brain child of Sharon Dunn, Care Manager of the site, in recognition of the need to bring added interest and opportunities into the everyday experience of residents with dementia. A significant amount of landscaping has been carried out by the local maintenance team as part of the effort in bringing this together.

The number of people diagnosed and living with Dementia in Australia continues to grow and so Dementia-specific care is of the utmost importance. This project seeks to address and reduce a number of key behaviours often demonstrated by people with Dementia. This new space provides them with a range of activities to engage in, that helps to keep them active and involved in areas of their interest.

Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care South Queensland's vision statement is "Inspiring to Learn More, Live More, Love More" and it is clear that this project lives up to that vision. With many of the residents already using the new and improved space and so many positive comments from staff, residents and families, it's already proving to be a real success.

KEN DOVE
CALOUNDRA SDA COMMUNICATIONS





Lifestyle Designed To Help Normalise Blood Sugar Levels

www.DiabeticHealthClinic.org

The Mount Gravatt Lifestyle Program



A word from Peter Pratt, the DHC Founder.

As a diagnosed type 2 diabetic, I understand how difficult it can be to consistently make healthy choices. After living for over ten years with the disease, because of the choices that I make every day I am now a healthy middle aged person. You can learn to make consistent healthy choices which can only improve your short-and long-term health outcomes. The Diabetic Health Clinic Lifestyle Program will enable you to make these lifestyle changes easily. You too can change your lifestyle and I look forward to helping you achieve better health.

The Mount Gravatt DHC Community Program

- There is one two hour session every **Saturday at 6 pm starting on March 4.**
- The D.H.C. Lifestyle Program is an intense, life-changing, three-month program.
- Each session is packed with interesting and relevant information.
- During the program, you will experience professional coaching.
- You will understand why food can be your worst enemy or your best friend.
- You will be coached on how to create your own lifestyle change.
- The online lifestyle change workbook will be made available for you to use.
- Your doctor will monitor you through your lifestyle-change period.
- We will provide your doctor with your lifestyle-change data.
- You will receive solid professional support through the program and beyond.

For people who complete this program, the outcomes are often a pleasant surprise. For most people who lead the appropriate lifestyle, blood sugars normalise as do many other markers. For most people struggling with weight, the additional benefit is often significant weight loss.

Cost

- FREE - This a Community Program that is run in your area by a DHC presenter who is donating their time. The venue for this program has also been donated.

An Adventist-published cookbook has been announced as the national winner of the "Best Health & Nutrition Book" in the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards.

by Sue Radd
FOOD AS MEDICINE

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OPEN HOME

On June 5-9, 2017, thousands of Adventists across Australia will open their homes and reach out to the community.



Join the Open Home movement by opening your home for a meal, prayer and gift to friends, neighbours or colleagues—simple, easy and effective evangelism anyone can do here and now.

Register online at
www.openhome.org.au
for more **information, training and resources.**

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Australia*

YOU ARE INVITED
Official Opening

Early Learning Centre
9:00 am | Thursday 9th March, 2017
By the Honourable Mr Peter Wellington, MP
Followed by Morning Tea Everyone Welcome


NOOSA
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
COORBY

Trip of a Lifetime

Plan now to come on the trip of a lifetime through Spain and Portugal in May and June, 2017.

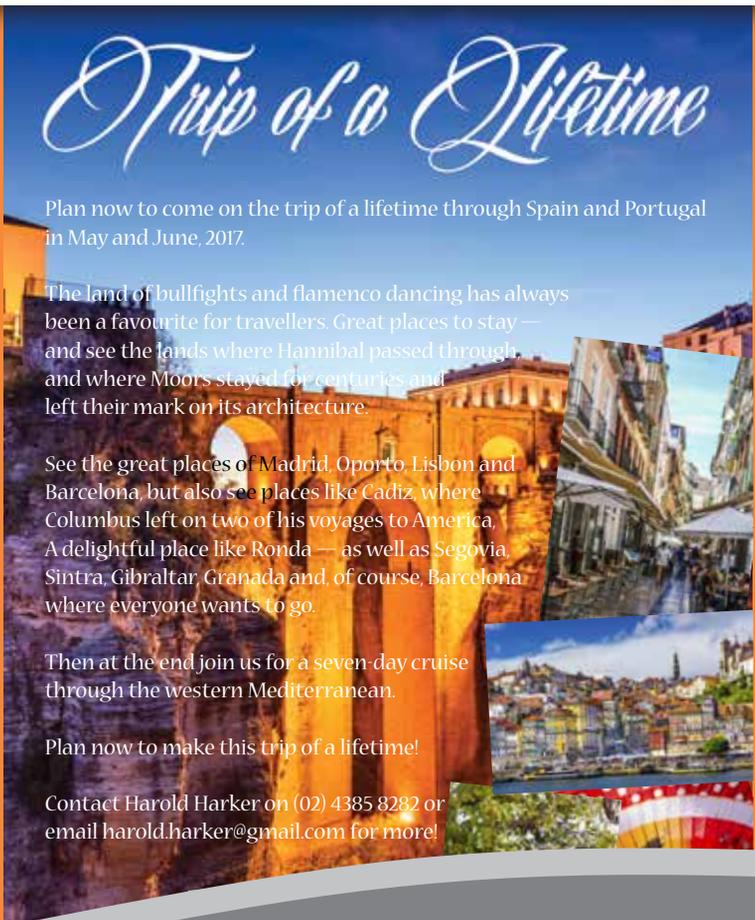
The land of bullfights and flamenco dancing has always been a favourite for travellers. Great places to stay — and see the lands where Hannibal passed through, and where Moors stayed for centuries and left their mark on its architecture.

See the great places of Madrid, Oporto, Lisbon and Barcelona, but also see places like Cadiz, where Columbus left on two of his voyages to America. A delightful place like Ronda — as well as Segovia, Sintra, Gibraltar, Granada and, of course, Barcelona where everyone wants to go.

Then at the end join us for a seven-day cruise through the western Mediterranean.

Plan now to make this trip of a lifetime!

Contact Harold Harker on (02) 4385 8282 or email harold.harker@gmail.com for more!



Operations Manager

Capricorn ARV- Adventist Retirement Plus

We are seeking an Operations Manager to manage our support services and independent living units at the Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village. Reporting to the CEO the position will be full-time and located in Yeppoon Queensland and will have a strong focus on supporting the residential aged care Care Manager and our Independent Living Unit residents.

As a key member of the senior management team, the Operations Manager will ensure that we meet our Retirement Village Act legislative requirements while also managing a number of teams as they deliver services to our current and future residents. The ability to work collaboratively with the Care Manager will be paramount and as such the person will need to have excellent communication skills, as well as prior management experience.

The successful applicant must be a practicing baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a strong commitment to its mission, particularly as such is demonstrated in the Aged Care ministry of the church. It is envisaged that the person will have completed a tertiary degree and have significant experience in managing the support services of an organisation.

For a full position description please contact Eric Anderson CEO Adventist Retirement Plus via email <ericanderson@adventist.org.au>.

Applications close February 28.

Business Manager (Part-time)

Gold Coast Christian College—Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Limited

The part-time (20 hours per week) position has become available as part of our Education finance ministry team here in the South Queensland

Conference. The position will be based at Gold Coast Christian College, but would part of the overall central finance team of the Conference.

The successful candidate will work in close consultation and co-operation with the local school Principal to achieve positive financial and management aims and objectives as determined by our Board of Directors.

The position is a senior management position, forming part of the overall finance team responsible to the Chief Financial Officer and will be responsible for various areas of financial management, reporting and administration functions at Gold Coast Christian College.

The successful applicant should be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and hold Business/Management/Accounting academic qualifications (degree level) and while not essential, preferably be a member/ eligible to be a member, of a recognized Professional Accounting organization (CA/CPA). They should also be able to demonstrate current experience in financial management and administration.

It is very important that the successful applicant also possess good communication and relational skills essential for this position.

A more detailed written Position Description is available on request.

Written applications for this position, including detailed resume and references, should be forwarded to:

Mr S Hopkins
Chief Financial Officer
Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Limited
PO Box 577
SPRING HILL QLD 4004

Applications close Monday, March 6, 2017.

Attention FOCUS Contributors

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Subject to sufficient copy received, the next general issue of FOCUS will be published in March, 2017.

Pastor Brett Townend
Pastor Murray Hunter
Pastor Murray Hunter
Dinda Productions
Signs Publishing Company

Submissions should reach the FOCUS Editor, SQC Office, PO Box 577, Spring Hill, QLD 4004, (sqfocus@adventist.org.au) NO LATER THAN March 2, 2017. All copies may be edited and late items may not be printed. Advertisements (1-10 lines) \$25. \$2.50 for each additional line.