

FOCUS

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

DreamTrack Builds Trust

Excited describes the DreamTrack children as the bus pulled up for some teambuilding games to start another great day together. Our theme for the day was “Trust”, and the Team Orange leader had organised some very challenging yet fun games. Negotiating activities like making your way through random obstacles while blindfolded, meant having to rely only on your team members’ voices to guide you through. As each game increased with its challenges, these awesome DreamTrack children became more trusting of team mates.

After Costco Pizza and birthday cake, it was time to head over to Exodus Adventures for an afternoon session of Indoor Rock Climbing. Following a safety talk and demonstration, our fearless DreamTrack children were climbing walls like pros.



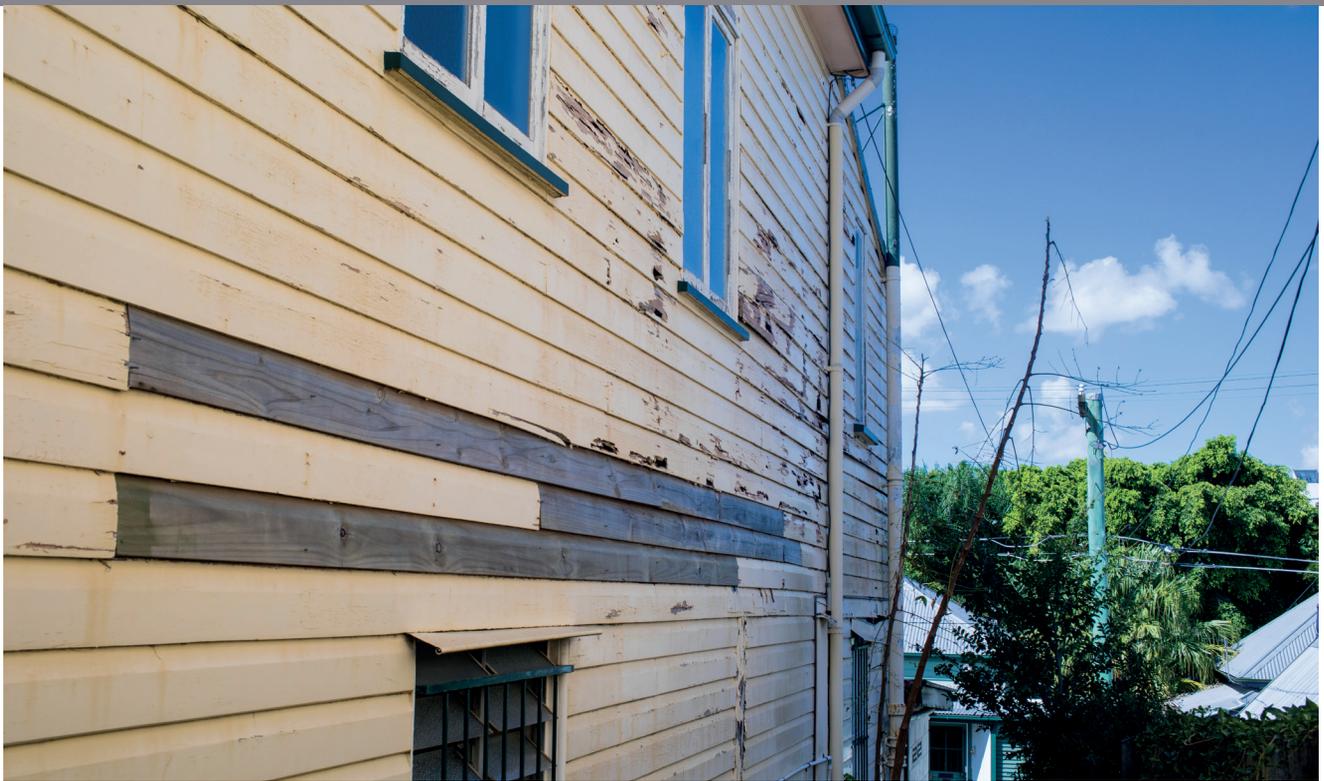
To see DreamTrack children face their fears and push on through as they conquered new climbs and greater heights was really heartwarming. And with each new challenge, they were learning to trust both belayer and climbing rope, both contributing to their safety.

At the end of the session Exodus Adventure staff debriefed with DreamTrack children, highlighting lessons learnt through Rock Climbing that could help them when facing challenges and fears in life.

Staff at both DreamTrack and Exodus Adventures received strong affirmation for all they did to ensure our DreamTrack children had a positive time learning how to push ahead through fear and challenge.

ARTICLE BY LUKE STUART, PHOTOS BY CHARMAINE PATEL





Red Hill Church Needs You!

For more than a century, Red Hill Church has been an integral part of many Adventist families. Relocated to its current location from Lower Cairns Terrace in 1926, this historic building is currently in need of some TLC. Initial restoration has started to deal with termite damage, deteriorated paint and rusty iron-work, but there is much to be done to bring new life to this important spiritual home. On 4 August, the Conference-Wide Offering is your opportunity to be part of the solution for a sister-church.

Over the years, many Adventists have had their faith nurtured through fellowship and worship at Red Hill. Percy Donaldson attended Red Hill Church as a young boy when the congregation numbered around 100—you had to arrive early to find a seat! Percy trained as a minister, going on to hold significant positions within the Church organisation. In retirement, Pastor Donaldson returned to Red Hill, shepherding the flock for more than a decade.

Red Hill currently attracts a younger demographic. Through God’s grace Children’s Sabbath School has been rekindled



after many years and regular attendance at both adult Sabbath School and Family Worship is steadily growing. Other youth-led activities include fortnightly Friday night Vespers, the Red Hill Choir, regular Saturday evening social events and an annual Christmas Carolling evening, well attended by the local community for the past two years.

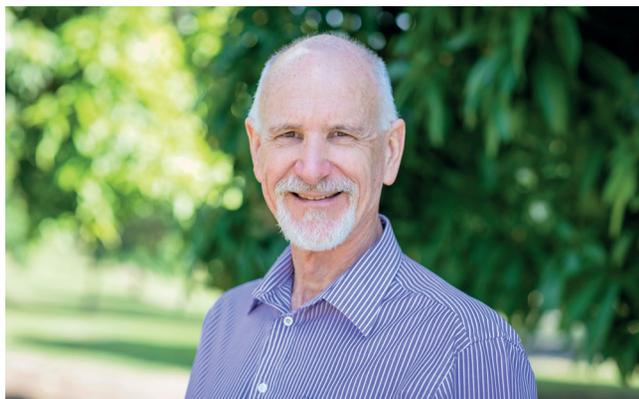
Red Hill members know that the Lord will bless both through your generosity on Sabbath, 4 August and their passionate teamwork, so that this facility can be restored as a presentable and welcoming spiritual home. ‘Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass’. Psalm 37:5

ARTICLE BY CUSHLA KAPITZE, PHOTOS BY RED HILL ATTENDEES



CONFERENCE-WIDE OFFERING FOR RED HILL CHURCH ON SABBATH 4 AUGUST

Editorial



This FOCUS marks my fifth month since becoming Editor. Having been a FOCUS proof-reader for some years it wasn't a total “bolt out of the blue”, but has made me think a lot—in between publishing deadlines.

Some people are glad to share stories of how the Lord has blessed in their corner of the vineyard. Our schools are keen to open windows into their campus life. But there are lots of stories worth sharing that seem to stay “local” and don't get to pay their blessing forward.

I believe it is a key factor to build and nurture our conference-wide faith-community. Like sitting around a campfire sharing stories while cooking some damper and billy-boiling a cuppa, FOCUS provides examples of our extended family doing Church, growing the

kingdom, shaping for mission. At the Administration and Resourcing Centre, we talk a lot about collaboration, of working as a team. When individuals isolate into their own arena of ministry, it creates silos—standing separate in a field, all pointing up in the same direction, but lacking in community. Local Churches can be silos too. Yet, we are a diverse organic Body of Christ. We have Churches, Schools, Aged Care, Camps, ADRA projects and lots of other ministries. We are multi-cultural, multi-generational, both urban and rural. We have creatives, visionaries, reflectives, behind-the-scenes angels and lots of simply faithful fellow-travellers.

FOCUS, along with other visual media such as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram help us build a healthy spiritual network of diversity and kingdom-nurturing as we share His blessings beyond our local patch. So don't keep that blessing to yourself—let's share it around!

The August issue of FOCUS will be dedicated to share programming for our Annual Convention. Some innovative things are planned to make this year's “Big Camp” even better so ‘watch this space’. Before then the Constituency Meeting will have our representatives seeking the face of God for wisdom, reflecting on the past four years and casting a vision for the next. Please make both events a daily matter of prayer that Holy Spirit may be poured out in rich measure.

BY CHRIS FOOTE, PHOTO BY CHARMAINE PATEL

Volunteers Help Kids Try

Volunteers from Landsborough, Deception Bay Samoan and Springwood Samoan Churches assisted at Sanitarium’s Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlons in Brisbane and Sunshine Coast. Close to 2,300 kids swam, biked and ran across the finish line, cheered on by family and friends. Volunteering helped groups fundraise while bonding together through a service activity.

“Highlights for me were watching competitors try their best and encouraging them to finish,” said Salisa Tuigamala who headed up one volunteer team.

The events aim to encourage children to give things a try and live active healthy lives, both part of Sanitarium’s larger focus on addressing lifestyle diseases including childhood obesity. The events can also have an impact on family members. Juliana Harmeling is a mother of two who wanted her kids Aaron, 13 and Jullian, 12, to be active and to help break the obesity cycle in her family, but they found netball and cricket to be too competitive.

“I thought I’d sign them up for the 2016 TRYathlon after a friend recommended it,” says Juliana. “They had such fun that they want to do it every year for as long as they can.” The event has inspired a more active lifestyle for the whole family with Juliana setting her sights on her own athletic challenge. “I’m about to turn 50 and now have a goal to participate in an adult’s triathlon,” she says. “That’s something I never thought I would do!”



Each volunteer group at this year’s event received \$27 per volunteer for their respective fundraisers while playing a valuable role in the event’s success.

For information on the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon, visit www.tryathlon.com.au or www.facebook.com/AussieKidsTRY.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY DARREN HAGEN

‘Because of Her, We Can!’

NAIDOC week celebrations are held around the country each July—this year 8-15 July—to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year’s theme, ‘Because of Her, We can!’, celebrates the role that women have played—and continue to play—as active and significant role models at community, local, state and national levels.

At Ipswich Adventist School students listened to Pastor Francis speak during Prime Time Chapel about the courage of Barangaroo, an influential woman from the Eora Nation at the time of European colonisation who lived in and around the north harbour and Manly. Independent and strong, she had her own way of dealing with the early settlers. Barangaroo was courageous to stand up for what she believed in and students were challenged to do the same. It reminded us of Queen Esther, being courageous to stand up for what she believed in at such a time.

Students learnt the word Tarmunggie meaning woman and each class participated in a combined school mural focusing on the theme ‘Because of Her, We Can!’

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY NADIA GOLTZ



We The Church—High School Rally

No doubt about it—I am VERY blessed in my role as Teen and High School Ministries Director! Take for example the Teen Rally at Northpine Christian College on Sabbath, 16 June—an inspiring day as teens stepped up to serve the Lord and live out “We the Church”.



Designed to engage and challenge teens, the rally was by teens for teens in so many ways. From the get-go, everything was driven by young Adventists passionate for their Lord, with lots of mentoring happening by supportive adults and even more so by teens, nurturing their peers.

Take for example the worship band, all teens in Year 10 or lower, creating polished and engaging songs as they focused on something and Someone bigger than themselves. Their goal was to lead other teens to God through their music, and you could see their commitment before they played a note, gathered around the Word in deep, intentional study. Then, as they led worship through music, it was clear that this was their way of connecting with God and serving for Him. Wow, that is powerful!

The Welcome crew was inspiring as well, making sure everyone feel warmly welcomed, and knowing they belonged there as part of a family. Once again it was a team ministry with lots of mentoring happening on many layers. The Catering team did amazing things, collaborating to prepare and serve food for heaps of people. It too was a spiritual ministry, bathed in prayer and peppered with lots of laughter and fun. Wow, that too is powerful!



In fact, the whole day was an inspiring “We the Church” feast of praise, service, engagement, emotion and fun. Teens caught up with friends from summer camps, Big Camp and STORMCo, reconnecting and celebrating Christian fellowship, and looking forward to the next get-together.

I have heard some say that events like this are just entertainment, or a waste of resources. After witnessing this rich tapestry of praying, engaging, ministering teens, passionate to serve and make a stand for God, I know very different. The teens in your Church can be a power for the kingdom with your permission and encouragement. I invite you to join with me—and with your teens—to declare and live “We the Church”.

ARTICLE BY RICK MEALE, PHOTOS BY CHARMAINE PATEL

Lifeswich—Connecting Lives

Church plants can be exciting places, and Lifeswich is a vibrant young project doing a great job of connecting with the Goodna community. I spent a Sabbath with this friendly, engaging group of around sixty attendees, and from the moment I stepped inside the building I felt at home. We gathered around tables to study the Word in the first sixty minute EQUIP session, exploring the concept of discipleship. Our table, like others, was a mixture of cultures and ages. A stack of Bibles meant we could read from the same translation and the questions were simple—yet probed deep to make us think about the verses we read, then we prayed for each other.

This very intentional approach reflected the passion and burden of Pastor Francis Pule for this flock, mostly drawn from the local area. We shared in an early lunch, a great chance to connect over the same tables, building more community, the key to Lifeswich and every successful Church plant.

After lunch, it was time to worship. This Sabbath, the young women led out, sharing a very personal message that God holds the answer to broken and damaged relationships. It was real; it connected.



On alternating Sabbaths, rather than meeting altogether, the group splits into targeted ministry teams that engage directly with the local community in a variety of creative ways, touching more lives, building new friendships, bridges to Lifeswich and its generous hospitality. At Lifeswich I tasted and saw that the Lord, He is good.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY CHRIS FOOTE

Road to Bethlehem Flourishing!

Brisbane *Road to Bethlehem* grew by 50% last year, hosting over 3,300 visitors. The Committee has laid plans for the event to continue growing this year and is preparing to process more than 5,000 visitors over the three nights 17-19 December. *Road to Bethlehem* is a free, dramatised walk-through of the Real Christmas story, brought to life by over 300 volunteers.

The event engages our churches from Gold Coast to Sunshine Coast, plus many community organisations together under one banner to share the news of God's love for people, and the need to pass this abundant generosity on to others.

This year will again feature food vans, kid's activities and camel rides, but will also see the reintroduction of live music performances on stage, and special Gift Markets where guests can buy gifts for those in need. There will also be a large evergreen in the Big Tent where visitors can place gifts for those in need for distribution to partnered community organisations after the event.

If you live locally in Brisbane, please sign up to help out at the *Road to Bethlehem* stall in the Expo Hall at Big Camp for an opportunity to engage in mission right in your own backyard—just watch out for Roman soldiers!

ARTICLE BY RUSS WILLCOCKS, PHOTO BY CHARMAINE PATEL



LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.™



Seventy/Sixty Years On

On 23 June Landsborough Church celebrated two milestones. Seventy years ago, in January, 1948, Sabbath School was held at Glass House Mountains, with four families in attendance and a membership of thirteen. In 1950 this group officially became Landsborough Seventh-day Adventist Church with meetings held in Brother Grosse’s home.



Then sixty years ago on 22 June 1958, a new church was opened on the current block by the then Premier of Queensland Hon G F Nicklin—a second milestone.

The church was packed to capacity on 23 June with around 180 people seated, and about sixty others watching remotely in the adjoining hall. Two original members were present for the day, Sister Joyce Dustow (Oliver), member No. 22, and Rowland Reid, member No. 14. They were presented with copies of their original membership transfers which are still on file.

Greetings were received from some previous pastors. These included a letter from the first minister, Dr Rex Edwards, (now residing in the US), a video greeting from “The Aussie Pastor” Lloyd Grolimund and Pastor Mike Brownhill, the longest serving minister, spoke of his time at Landsborough,

interviewing some of those baptised as a result of his outreach programmes.

Dr Percy Harrold who coordinated the day’s program, organised four History Lessons in 15 year segments and Charles Russell reported on the various ways Landsborough Church engages with the community, including Morris House neighbourhood group, Landsborough school chaplains, school breakfasts, and visits to retirement homes. Special guest, Landsborough Councillor Rick Baberowski commended the congregation on its community engagement.

“The existing building is to be modernised and expanded, increasing seating to 200, taking us into the future”, reported Landsborough member, Pastor Laurie Evans. Two other guests also shared—Pastor Kevin Robinson, grandson of one of the early members, led the congregation in prayer, and Pastor Harold Harker, son of one of the foundation members followed with a short devotional.

The excellent high Sabbath was topped off with local music talent and the culinary wonders of the catering team who excelled, providing a feast that was shared in a large marquee erected in the carpark where all enjoyed a warm fellowship.

ARTICLE BY GLEN WOOSLEY, PHOTOS BY BEN BEADEN



Immediate Impact



On Tuesday, 26 June, Chinchilla Church opened the doors of its first ever ADRA Op Shop. Chinchilla members had been looking for an opportunity to connect in a meaningful way with their community and God opened a door. The Op Shop culminates much hard work and planning by the church coupled with support from ADRA Australia.

Gordon Coutts, National Retail Manager for ADRA Australia said, “this local Adventist Church, membership just 10, wanted to make an impact on the community and this is the route they took. Immediate impact! Under the leadership of Pastor David Kelsey and with Dom Chiappolone as manager, the Chinchilla team have worked around the clock to get this project off the ground. By faith they have moved forward. God bless, team!” If you want to help the Chinchilla Op Shop make a difference by volunteering your time or good quality used goods, please contact Dom or Pastor Kelsey.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY IRENA PULE

R U OK?

We live in an era of growing pressures in both work and personal life. Negative thinking, feeling emotionally down and even depression can come all too easy. Outcomes such as clinical depression and suicide continue to impact wellbeing across Australia. Six significant factors among several that can lead an individual into a downward spiral of emotion are relationship breakdowns, work-related stress, bullying and harassment, financial pressures, major life changes and various traumas.

Becoming aware of these factors and providing support to each other during difficult times is of key importance. Australia runs a national initiative called “R U OK Day” each September with Thursday, 13 September the gazetted day for this year. Unfortunately, the run-up to our Annual Convention (AKA “Big Camp”) is well under way on that date so instead the Conference Compliance and HR departments decided to bring the day of awareness forward for our staff at the Administration and Resourcing Centre.

On June 28, all viewed a presentation on ways to identify people who may not be feeling themselves and how to ask in a genuine and meaningful way, “R U OK?” The presentation was followed by a morning tea and time to fellowship. We encourage your Church, School, Aged Care or other workplace to hold an R U OK Day this September and bring awareness to personal wellbeing.



For more information, please visit www.ruok.org.au

Staying connected and having meaningful conversations is something we can all do. You don't need to be an expert—just a good friend and a great listener. So, if you notice someone who might be struggling—start a conversation. “Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2 NLT

ARTICLE BY ASHLEY BAKAY, PHOTO BY CHARMAINE PATEL

Adventist Health—Claim Some Dates

The Adventist Health Association (AHA) is holding a presentation, dinner & Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 11 August. For more information, please call 3218 7777

Dr Dexter Shurney, MD, MBA, MPH and incoming President of The American College of Lifestyle Medicine will be speaking at Springwood Adventist Church at 7:00pm on Monday, 20 August. Dr. Shurney is co-author of the book “Integrating Wellness into Your Disease Management Programs” which is a “how- to” strategic guide for employers that wish to innovate their approach to chronic condition management. All welcome.

Lifestyle Medicine Summit—7–9 September at Sydney Adventist Hospital. “Are you being urged to participate in God’s end-time plan to bring health, healing and hope to our community?” Then this event is for you. Book at www.adventisthealth.org.au/summit

Dr Hans Diehl, founder of the CHIP program, will be visiting Brisbane/Sunshine Coast from Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 August. While here he would like to speak, meet and greet as many CHIP facilitators, past graduates and all those who may benefit from his vast knowledge on health.



Hans is a very entertaining and informative speaker so you won't be disappointed.

For further details regarding where you can hear him, please contact Margaret Owens by phone, [07] 5429 6789, mobile 0403 388 378 or email margaret.owens@bigpond.com

COMPILED BY HAYLEY LAMBE
PHOTO BY CHARMAINE PATEL

Hospital Gets New Chaplain

Following 400 hours of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) training at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Michelle Eakins of Ipswich Church (pictured at her graduation) becomes the newest member of our Adventist Spiritual Care team that serves in various hospitals as well as our own Adventist Retirement Plus communities.

Michelle is joining Ipswich Hospital’s Chaplaincy team as a volunteer ward chaplain, committing two half days each week to visit patients, providing spiritual care. This will be the first time we have a Spiritual Care team member appointed to Ipswich Hospital, a major acute teaching hospital with 351 beds.

An opportunity exists on Brisbane’s north side for a suitable person to join the team. Professional training in CPE is arranged, plus ongoing support and professional development provided by both the hospitals and our South Queensland Conference Spiritual Care team. There is also a huge and urgent need of several volunteers to be trained as Spiritual Carers for our four Adventist Retirement Plus communities.



If you are interested, please contact Pastor Chris Foote our Coordinator of Spiritual Care (Mob 0416 146 468) to arrange an interview or for more information.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY CHRIS FOOTE

REEDY CREEK
SUNDAY PREACHERS



For over ten years Reedy Creek Church has provided a weekly chapel service for their local government hospital on the Gold Coast.

“I was fairly new to hospital chaplaincy at the time,” reminisces Shirley Chapman “and asked why there weren’t weekend services. The Robina Hospital staff told me that all of the ministers on the Gold Coast were occupied every Sunday and couldn’t provide anything—so I volunteered.”

Every Sunday for the past decade up to fifteen patients attend a thirty-minute program of singing, prayer, Bible reading, and a Christ-centred sermonette. The Adventist-led program is broadcast on the hospital’s internal television network to allow patients to watch from their bed if they choose.

“On several occasions we have had nurses wheel very ill patients still in their beds into the chapel for the program, and the Christmas-themed service by Reedy Creek Church’s children is an annual favourite,” says Shirley. “I remember one service we had a nurse rush in and interrupt our program to tell us the broadcast on the internal network wasn’t working. We had forgotten to turn it on, and the nurse reminded us how important the weekly program was for some of the hospital’s patients. We remind ourselves about some of these stories on the occasional week we have no-one turn up.”

Reedy Creek pastor, David Riley reflects that “it is a significant privilege

to have Seventh-day Adventists lead a spiritual program in a government hospital every Sunday morning—and for over ten years! Those who have given their time each week have provided a wonderful blessing to many unwell people. Our hospital chaplains have mirrored the Lord in bringing healing to the sick.”

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY DAVID RILEY

CABOOLTURE
WATOTO CAN SING



On May 31 Caboolture Church was thrilled to host Watoto Children’s choir, a ministry of Watoto Church in Kampala, Uganda made up of children who are orphans.

The choir led out in vibrant worship, sharing their stories of God’s hand in their lives. Many people commented how inspirational the choir was and its blessing to the community. Over \$2,200 was raised in a love offering to support the work of Watoto.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY LEATHAN FITZPATRICK

MT GRAVATT
HOPE FOR TODAY



Throughout June, Mt Gravatt Adventist Church ran an evangelism series, “Hope for Today” with Pastor Gary Kent,

Speaker/Director of The Incredible Journey. The series was well attended by church and community members, with nightly attendance ranging from 150-300 over the 13 programs. Topics included “Who Will Control the World?,” “Signs That Jesus Is Coming,” “The Mystery Man Of Prophecy,” and “The Symbol Of The Sun”.

Seventeen people made a decision for baptism, with many more asking for prayer and Bible studies. All the presentations can be viewed on the Mt Gravatt SDA Church YouTube channel. A follow-up series run by Pastor Zeny and Pastor Jared commenced on 4 July, working through each chapter of Revelation.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY JARED MARTIN

YANDINA
A WAKE UP CALL



Yandina Church members who attended the recent North NSW Conference annual camp were impressed with the Church Planting Boot Camp, and also the “wake up call” extended to local churches by American keynote speaker Pastor Richie Halversen. A premiere of “Kingdom Come”, a documentary on Daniel 2 (www.kingdomcome.com.au) added to the inspiration and members returned to Yandina with some Kingdom Come kits to empower the Church to engage with the local community through evangelism. Yandina pastor, Steve Hebbard is helping to introduce the kit owing to its relevance in these urgent times of rapidly increasing global insecurity and uncertainty.

As we read in the book Evangelism pg 43, “Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them... I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God’s word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed throughout the world.” In preparation for the challenging times ahead, with the Holy Spirit as our guide and teacher, we can make good use of all the tools God has providentially provided to reach out to others while the door remains open.

ARTICLE BY BRIAN SODEMAN
PHOTO BY ZAC HEBBARD

INALA THREE INTERWOVEN STRANDS



On Sabbath, 12 May, three beautiful Christian women, Robyn, Su and Jenny were baptized in the Inala Church. Previously ministers and leaders in another denomination, and close friends through the years, each one had their own inspiring journey to embrace biblical truth as they had discovered it through Adventist videos, literature and deep Bible study. The Lord, wove their strands together in His own creative way.

Inala pastor, Ricardo Scheffer, had the privilege of helping them in their pilgrimage to discover present truth firstly when he was at Mt Gravatt Church, then with his transfer to Inala, the

Lord opened another window in the spiritual pathways of Robyn, Su and Jenny, and they are now rejoicing in the warm fellowship of their new Inala family. Their inspiring testimonies, shared at Inala on their baptism day were overflowing with recognition of God’s hand in each step of the process that ultimately brought them to make such a major decision in their lives. Welcome Robyn, Su and Jenny. May the Lord abundantly bless your lives and ministry.

ARTICLE BY RICARDO SCHEFFER
PHOTO BY SANDRA SCHEFFER

BRISBANE AFRICANS BECOMING CHURCH



12 May, 2018 was a high day for members of the Brisbane African Company as Conference officers came to officially organise them into a Church. Fifty-five precious people were voted as foundation members and numbers continue to grow.

The group traces its origins back to 2008 when several families arrived as refugees from Uganda. Many originate from South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi or other Central African countries but had been displaced. They began to meet on a Sabbath afternoon fortnightly in homes. This progressed to full Sabbath worship services in 2011, worshipping first at Inala, then Algester and for more than five years now at 53 Defiance Road.

Following the main service and official organisation of the Church, a lunch featuring excellent African cuisine was provided by the church ladies! In the afternoon, there was a time of giving thanks to God for His goodness and blessings in leading this growing church.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY BAPTIST OYET

IPSWICH JOY CLUB ENJOYS THE PAST



What a great day out! Ipswich Church’s Joy Club combined with other seniors from Ipswich community on 9 July to take a tour into the past. Sponsored by Ipswich City Council, thirty-eight seniors took a coach to Scotty’s Barn at Flagstone Creek situated at the foot of the Toowoomba Range.

Morning Tea and Lunch were supplied at the Barn where all enjoyed a tour of the “Garage” that housed old cars and memorabilia from the past. A Disco and Rock’n’Roll tribute to the good old times of the 50’s and 60’s topped off a great day for everyone.

ARTICLE BY VI RICHTER
PHOTO BY HERB RICHTER

SPIRITUAL CARERS UPSKILL

Following their introduction at Big Camp last year, Lyn Goltz of Ipswich Church contacted Pastor Chris Foote to conduct a full eight-session Spiritual Care training series for those involved—or interested in—ministry to older people. Ipswich has a Joy Club that engages with older members in the



Church and community, and Lyn knew that this training would give them many skills for working appropriately with seniors.

On Sabbath, 7 July, the final session resulted in nine completing the excellent training course. This material, developed by experts in the field incorporates skills and knowledge in ministering to older people. It can upskill any Church that accepts responsibility to support and nurture these precious seniors. Would your Church like to access this training?

ARTICLE BY CHRIS FOOTE
PHOTO BY ADELE CAMPLING

GLENVALE

A DAY TO SAY THANKS



Australia's National Day of Thanks is held on the last Sabbath of May each year, and Glenvale Adventist church hosts this event for the city of Toowoomba each year. Community leaders, including the Mayor of Toowoomba and other Christian leaders were involved in this special church service. This year, we thankfully acknowledged "People who contribute in a positive way to the vibrant cultural tapestry of Australia" and "People who work in Schools across our Nation".

With many local Adventists involved in schools as teachers, administrators and support staff, it was good to have the new Conference Ministerial Association Secretary for Education, Dr Mel Lemke, as our guest speaker.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY
GEOF FRAUENFELDER

LANDSBOROUGH

SENIORS HELP NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE



Landsborough Church's Over 50's Group recently raised \$120 at their fellowship lunch to support Glasshouse Mountains Neighbourhood Centre. Charles Russell, on behalf of the church, presented a cheque to the Centre's Treasurer, Doug Pullen. The Adventist Church acknowledges the important work that volunteers do in meeting the needs of the local community.

ARTICLE BY CHARLES RUSSELL
PHOTO BY CHRIS RUSSELL

NOOSA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

YEAR 4'S DROP EGGS

During Science, Year 4 students have been learning about forces, testing the different types, such as push and pull, buoyancy and gravity.

In one assessment, students had to design and create a parachute and capsule to protect an egg dropped from the Secondary balcony. Students had a test run, but were permitted to then adapt their design if needed. After the final Egg Drop test, ALL eggs survived!

When student Sean Wareham discussed the protection he designed for his Egg Drop, he also observed it was like God protecting us throughout our lives, and the loving care Jesus has for us.



"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand". Isaiah 41:10

ARTICLE BY JACQUELINE TAYLOR
PHOTO BY QLD SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

NORTHPINE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

RATION CHALLENGE



As you sit down to dinner tonight, spare a thought for some hungry students.

Thirty students, parents and teachers are took part in a Ration Challenge during Refugee Week, 17-24 June. Participants ate the same rations as a Syrian person in a UN refugee camp for one week, raising money in the process to help

displaced people around the world. The event is run by Act for Peace, a registered Christian charity.

At any given lunch-time, students could be found protecting their small portions of beans and rice and swapping ration recipes. The meals are just enough to feed one person for a week, but do not meet the energy or nutrient recommendations of Nutrition Australia.

Year 12 student Shayleigh Melville took her challenge to the next level. Not content with eating rations, she slept outside in the cold winter winds for the week. When asked why she decided to sleep rough, Shayleigh said, "My life is so privileged, I want to experience more of what it is really like for the people we are fundraising for, and appreciate our lives a little bit more."

When the week was over, Northpine students had raised over \$5100, far above the original \$1000 target, all going to help displaced people with food, shelter, medical care and other essential services. \$32 feeds a family in a refugee camp for one week, while \$64 feeds one person in a camp for three months!

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY
CLAUDIA HOUSTOUN

CODING TO SERVE OTHERS



Students in Year 8 Digital Technologies have been learning how to code with a difference.

Each group of students was challenged with the task of researching a need of an elderly person in Australian

society and considering how they could create a digital solution to meet this need.

Through the use of EV3 Lego and Programming Software students designed and created their own robot prototype to meet their researched need. Students were challenged to consider utilising their coding skills in a future career that involves serving others.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY JUSTIN FRASER

EDEN PROJECT FLOURISHES



Inspired by a key Bible story, Year 7-8 Challenge students built their own successful veggie garden.

After spending a few months working hard, preparing, building and tending the garden, they harvested lettuce, two varieties of spinach and tat soi. Northpine's maintenance team had constructed the garden bed frames, and Year 7 teacher Gary Greenland designed and installed the automated watering system. The project has been aided by the Federal Government's \$5,000 Agriculture in Schools grant.

"We're running the garden on permaculture principles," explained Miss Claudia Houstoun, teacher and Eden Project leader. "This means no chemicals, composting our plant waste to make our own fertiliser, harvesting our own seeds, encouraging friendly insects and paying proper attention to natural cycles to grow the most nutritious, eco-friendly food possible."

"Study after study shows us that the more time we spend in nature, the higher our wellbeing. So, not only are students developing a valuable life skill, they are de-stressing!"

Northpine is tapping into a long tradition of holistic Seventh-day Adventist education with The Eden Project. Starting with Ellen White's seminal book, Education, Seventh-day Adventist educational theorists have long taught and studied the benefits of agricultural education. Horticulture programmes are a common feature of many Adventist schools throughout the world, from Dakabin to North America, Europe, Africa and beyond.

Tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes and herbs are all on the way, too! The Eden Project plans to eventually have vegetables for sale once a week.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY
CLAUDIA HOUSTOUN

BRISBANE ADVENTIST COLLEGE

STEM CLASS ARE HEAVYWEIGHTS!



Some 'sunny' news to make your day! Our Year 10 STEM class won the University of Queensland sunflower competition in May!

Out of 103 competing schools, our students' sunflowers won 1st and 3rd in the 'Yield' category, where the flower is weighed separately to the rest of the plant. Great work students, incorporating science, technology, engineering and maths to "STEM up your project".

ARTICLE BY DEBBIE COSIER
PHOTO BY LUKE MARTIN

THESE GIRLS SHINE!



Our group of girls in Year 5 & 6 have been enjoying a hot cuppa each Tuesday morning at Shine! This weekly mentoring program equips girls to identify themselves as valuable with much to contribute to society; build confidence and gain understanding of intrinsic value; develop decision-making and problem-solving skills; understand they are able to have a positive influence in their world; identify personal desires and strengths to motivate them to set and achieve personal goals.

The three foundational concepts are Worth, Strength and Purpose. This program helps them know they have limitless potential, purpose in this world and the ability for God's love to shine through.

WHAT A CLASSROOM!



Our BAC Marine Science students have an amazing classroom experience. Their Marine Science field trip started off with a bang, with students doing their first transect lines, along with meeting Lance the local turtle, canoeing, swimming and having a blast in paradise!

CHALKING UP PRAYERS



Student leaders from Brisbane Adventist College have set up a special outdoor Prayer Chalk Board as an initiative to creatively bring about a stronger focus on prayer.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY LYN BENNETT AND JP MARTINEZ

STUDENTS TAKE A STAND

Brisbane Adventist College recently celebrated three students who have committed their lives to Jesus through baptism. Each student has been equipped with a discipleship pack that includes a copy of Steps To Christ to give away. Congratulations to Brianna Stojkovic, Corey Robinson and Christopher Diamond.

ARTICLE BY JP MARTINEZ AND ANNALISE LINDSAY

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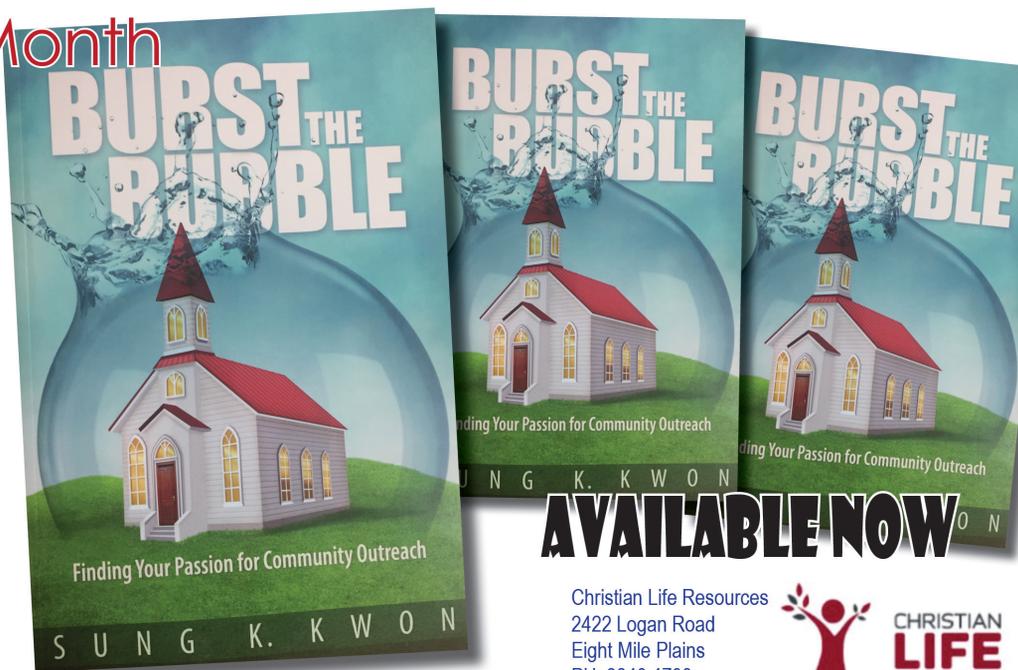
Wayne S. Dysinger
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- 4:00pm

GARDEN CITY
ADVENTIST HALL

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* combined lunch, so please bring food to contribute

Adventist Relationship Ministries

A CHANCE TO LIVE MORE!

In case you haven't noticed, an exciting new lifestyle program was launched earlier this year. The LIVE MORE PROJECT (LMP) is innovative, life-changing and evidence-based and usually costs \$77 to become involved. Several of our pastors participated in LMP earlier this year.

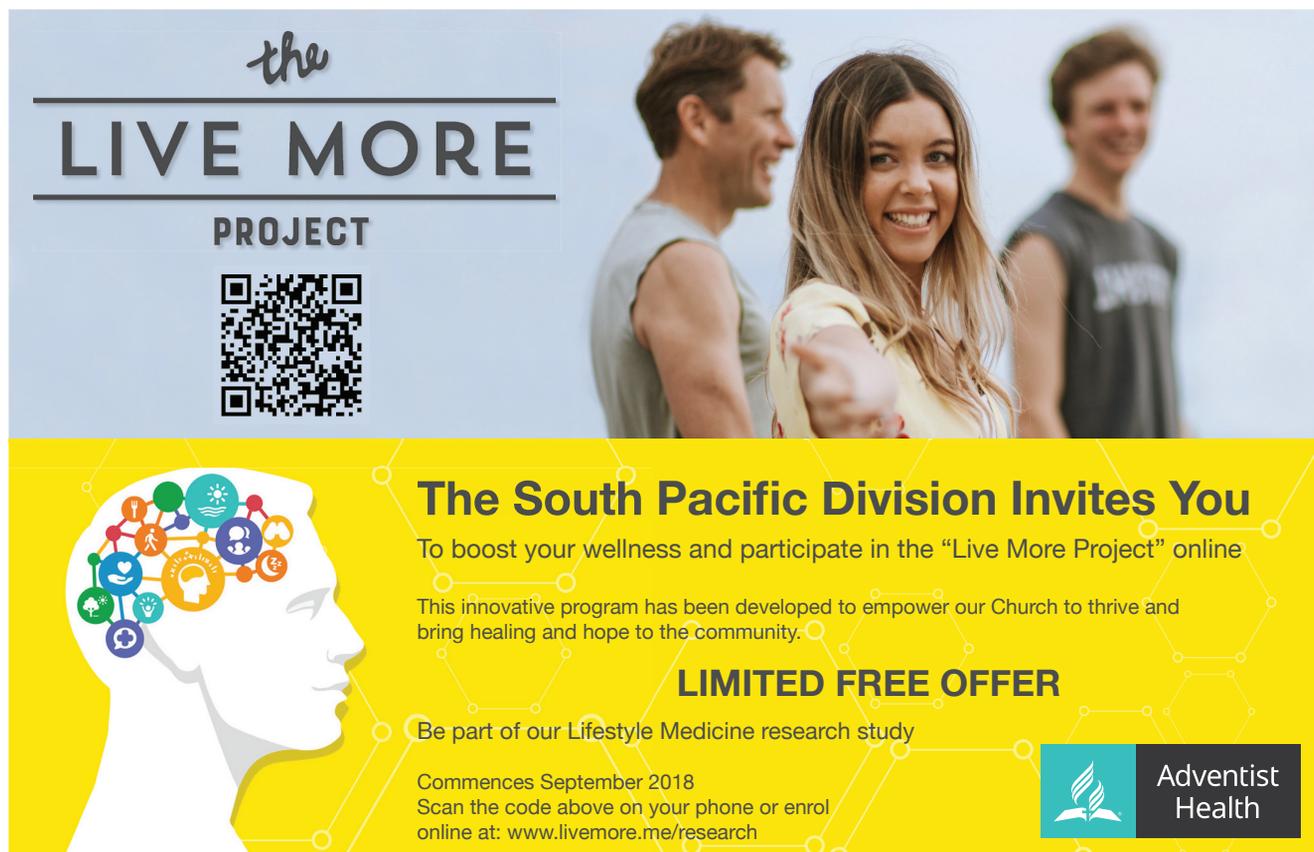
The good news is, as part of a research project incorporating LMP the South Pacific Division is providing 500 enrolments absolutely FREE as an online program.

Yes, you heard correctly! 500 willing people are needed who are prepared to become fully engaged with LMP for the benefit of research—plus you get to enjoy a free personal boost in mental wellbeing!

While many participants will be Adventists, it is open for others as well so you can also invite family or friends to join the study for free. To do this, just share the flier you'll see in this *Focus* and they can access LMP via the enrolment website address—or use the QR-code.

The 500 enrolments may go fast (and will close by 2 September if not taken before), so don't delay. Now is your chance to Live More!!

ARTICLE BY MEL RENFREW,
STUDENT RESEARCHER



the
LIVE MORE
PROJECT



The South Pacific Division Invites You

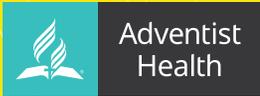
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Attention FOCUS Contributors

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