

FOCUS

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

GO—

SURVIVING THE RIDE

I like to visit a rodeo when I get the chance, and recently I reflected on the rough stock events and compared them to the life of the church. The cowboy has to stay with the bucking bull or horse for the duration of 8 seconds. Members are expected to stay with the church until Jesus comes. Sometimes the ride gets rough, but to stay on top you've got to "keep a leg either side and your mind in the middle," as they say in the horse world.

"Is church life really that difficult?" you ask. "Doesn't Paul say we should live in harmony with one another? (See, for example, Romans 12:16.) Isn't that happening?" Well praise God, in so many places God's people, His church, are working together in the harmonious way that He desires for His body. But there is still work to do. Horses can be ridden and trained to develop a beautiful harmony with the rider, but it takes time and effort, and the ride can get rough at times.

The recent Secretary's report from the General Conference revealed that nearly 50 per cent of people eventually leave the church. They don't last the ride. That's a staggering amount

when you think about it. Others are just hanging on like this cowboy at Mount Isa—although his problem was having his hand stuck in the rigging.

So here are just a few tips to plan to stay on for the ride:

- **Remember that we are all sinners saved by grace.**—Don't put people on pedestals because they don't belong there, only Jesus does. This means other people will make mistakes just like you will. The horse might buck sometimes, but be forgiving toward one another.
- **Keep your mind in the middle.**—The horseman's saying is true for church. Stay in the middle of the road. There are always those heading off to either the right or the left—there always will be. Call them liberals and conservatives, left wing or right wing, but they each have a tendency to lean too far one direction. Do that and you'll eventually lose your balance and fall off.
- **Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2).**—This focus will help keep our minds in the middle. He endured the cross, and hostility from sinful people, but did not give up. He is now seated at a place of honour at God's right hand. He can help you. Call on Him!
- **Get a strong grip.**—Hebrews 12:12 says we should take a new grip with our tired hands and strengthen our weak knees. Hold on tightly to your faith, and don't let go when the ride is rough.

I hope your church life is harmonious and fun, but if that isn't the case at the moment I pray God gives you strength to weather the rough ride. It's worth making it to the pay office!

Let's keep shaping for mission and praying for 400!

PASTOR BRETT TOWNEND
PRESIDENT



SQ Offering Schedule for June 2017

03 JUN Local Church Budget



17 JUN Education



10 JUN Pacific Adventist University



24 JUN Local Church Budget



HIGH Q'SAM WEEKEND AT LOG CABIN

Perfect weather and great fellowship made the Camp a great choice for a group of Q'SAM enthusiasts over Easter. The Log Cabin Camp, just a stone's throw from Natural Bridge and its glow worms and unique waterfall cave, proved to be a welcoming haven nestled in lush rainforests at the back of the Gold Coast.

The Camp theme was "Tapping into the Power of One", and we explored how to grow our personal spirituality as disciples. Once we understand who we are in Jesus, how to live in a faith community and why to engage in compassionate service, we are empowered for the kingdom.

Special guest, Pastor David Riley (Reedy Creek) shared insights into the final Preparation Day, Sabbath Rest and Resurrection of Jesus that set the sails for the weekend. Pastor Chris and the Q'SAM team then facilitated a great round of good times together. Apart from sessions of worship and learning together, we explored Natural Bridge both by day

and by night, played fun games, enjoyed awesome food—including an amazing Italian Dress-up Dinner—sang favourites around a campfire, and much more.

Q'SAM—Queensland Single Adult Ministries—provides safe and enjoyable opportunities to support and empower single adults throughout the year. On July 29, Dr Bryan Craig is coming as guest speaker for the annual Q'SAM Rally—an other highlight for 2017.

As with any Q'SAM get-together, we come from many different backgrounds and histories, yet there is something powerful and unique that draws us together, the capacity to understand what it means to be single, yet fulfilled and walking with the Lord. He certainly blessed our weekend together at Log Cabin!

PASTOR CHRIS FOOTE
DIRECTOR OF RELATIONSHIP MINISTRIES



“LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY...”

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

Martin Luther



God is looking for people who will desire to know Him so intimately that He can call them His friends and trust them with His heart and invite them to pray for things He desires to see accomplished.

Melody Mason (Prayer Conference speaker for 2018)

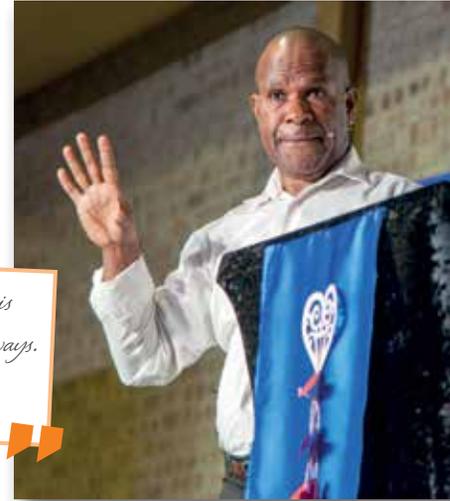


We can't dream too big if we are living and working according to His will. It's not about our talents or capabilities anyway. It's about His! It is for the accomplishment of His purposes that we pray!

Melody Mason (Prayer Conference speaker for 2018)

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

1 Chronicles 16:11



The fewer the words, the better the prayer

Martin Luther

We need a bigger vision in prayer. We need God's vision! Let's keep praying and daring to ask for more—for God's glory, that the gospel may go into all the world, into all nations, that Jesus may come!

Melody Mason (Prayer Conference speaker for 2018)

Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?

Corrie Ten Boom

Unceasing Prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God, so that life from God flows into our life; and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God.

Ellen G White (Steps to Christ, page 98)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

The church may be composed of those who are poor and uneducated; but if they have learned of Christ the science of prayer, the church will have power to move the arm of Omnipotence. The true people of God will have an influence that will tell upon hearts.

Ellen G White (Signs of the Times, Sept 11, 1893)



CEREAL KILLER

Sanitarium Ceases Production of its Loose-flake Cereals Range and Boosts Focus on Flake Biscuit and Convenience Breakfast Foods

The Sanitarium Cooranbong Factory is on track for closure in August, 2018, and the first reminders of this significant change are becoming evident. Staff at the factory are working through the transfer of Weet-Bix Bites technology to the Sanitarium Brisbane site and the setup of new Weet-Bix factory lines at Berkeley Vale. An important step in the closure program is the process of completing production on Sanitarium's loose-cereal products as the company commences exiting its small range in this section of the breakfast cereal category.

This means that Sanitarium staff have made the last batch of Honey Weets and an Adventist family favourite, Granola. There is more to come with production coming to an end on Granola Clusters, Cornflakes, Light 'n' Tasty and Puffed Wheat.

Australian consumers will commence seeing in-store notification of product range deletions in coming weeks as product lines become unavailable. Estimated stock run-out dates range from the end of June to the end of September, 2017. Some products will continue to be available in independent stores longer than in the larger supermarket chains.

Adventist Book Centres that stock Sanitarium products have been advised of the limited availability of stock to enable them to order the last of available stock—particularly Granola!



On the announcement of the Cooranbong Factory closure, Sanitarium management indicated that changing consumer breakfast-eating trends was resulting in a worldwide steady decline in the loose-flake cereals market. In Australia, consumer spend in the loose-flake cereals category has decreased significantly year upon year and as a company we have experienced a 65 per cent reduction in loose-cereal production volumes over the past 5-6 years. Therefore, to continue investing in this range was not a financially viable option for us.

“These changes in product range relate only to the Australian market and it will lead us to continued development of new food innovation for our Weet-Bix and liquid breakfast range and new, relevant, healthy, portable and tasty breakfast foods for the future,” says Todd Saunders, Executive General Manager for Sanitarium Australia and New Zealand.

“I am sure you can appreciate the significance of this change; not just to some of our heritage brands loved by loyal consumers. This change is also impacting our people who have faithfully produced these quality products for many years,” he continues. “Please remember our staff in your thoughts and prayers as they begin to make the difficult transition in their work and personal life.”

For more information contact:

02 4348 7777 or <darren.hagen@sanitarium.com.au>.

DARREN HAGEN
INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Sanitarium Stock

On The Beach Track With Dreamtrack

“Is it still going to be on?”

“Yes,” came the reply.

But the grey skies, and the wet roads were determined to make a liar out of us. Negotiating a small lake into the carpark made us feel uneasy, and passing showers of rain didn't help that feeling pass; but in spite of this we were determined to have a great time, and that is exactly what happened!

A busload of excited Murri kids pulled up, full of energy and ready to go! Earlier this year, DreamTrack held one of our favourite events, a beach and snorkelling day. The morning was spent at the beach and though the surf was rough, the kids had a great time, tackling each other into the waves. Those who were less adventurous played on the beach, testing the limits of their sand castles on the incoming tide. Our afternoon was especially memorable thanks to the guys at Devocean Dive who volunteered their time by taking us snorkelling. It was a deadly time, and our kids were

fascinated by everything they saw, even daring each other to touch the slimy sea cucumbers.

“Did you see the clown fish?” they shouted as they caught their breath.

All in all, the weather didn't change things one bit, both the kids and our staff having an awesome time. We would love it if you too could join us on the team as we continue living with purpose.

JARED POLAND
DREAMTRACK COODINATOR





#wethechurch

WE THE [CHURCH] // YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE 2017 // March 17-19

On this incredible weekend, hundreds of young adults from across South Queensland gathered in Mt Gravatt, Brisbane, to worship, enjoy community and be inspired by several special guest speakers. Two of our own local pastors, Francis Pule and Lachlan Campbell, shared on Friday night—“LIGHT // brought out of darkness” and a passionate and gifted young adult from Victoria, Lorraine Ngwenya, blessed us on Sabbath morning—“LIVE // He is alive in us.”

One of the highlights of the weekend was our community service project initiative during our afternoon session—“LOVE // the living, breathing expression.” Local church young adult groups had the opportunity to take part in Global Youth Day, a global Adventist initiative to encourage young people to serve. Young Adults were able to engage in various local church community projects that were running throughout Brisbane on Sabbath afternoon. There were eight different projects including visitations to retirement villages, meeting neighbours in the streets surrounding the local church, handing out care packages, hosting a community BBQ and serving at our local ADRA Soup kitchen.

This weekend was more than just a conference. It was about seeing and celebrating our church for what it truly is . . . More

than a place. More than an event. More than a religious organisation. More than the cause of our past hurt or frustration. Our Church is the “living, breathing expression of Jesus.”

As chosen people, as royal priests, as God’s very own possession . . . we are called to manifest the goodness of God. He brought us out of darkness into His glorious light (1 Peter 2:9). Now we have the privilege of shining this light into the lives of others.

We finished our weekend with a Leadership Breakfast at a Turkish restaurant in Southbank where more than 70 young adult leaders came together to enjoy fellowship, delicious food and be inspired by our president, Brett Townend. Pastor Brett shared his vision for mission in our church and encouraged, empowered, and challenged young adults in their leadership roles in our local churches.

It was an awesome, Spirit-filled weekend, but the best part is “we the church” didn’t start and won’t finish with a two-day conference. This is an ongoing journey for young adults as we continue to allow God’s Spirit to breathe life into His church. We can’t wait to see how God is going to build His Kingdom through His church.

PASTOR ALINA VAN RENSBURG

Charmaine Patel





It's The Same In Any Language

On March 4, Brisbane Asian Company was very blessed to have guest speaker Pastor Simon Siew speak in our regular Sabbath afternoon service. Pastor Siew is known internationally for his structured Discipleship program, developed for the Southeast Asia Union Mission.

Pastor Siew delivered his sermon with a heartfelt passion, inviting us to open our minds and hearts so Jesus can be lived out in our lives. He called to mind the “Fruits of the Spirit” and encouraged us to use them daily in humbleness and repentance. He spoke about the extraordinary true story of Desmond Doss, a WWII Adventist American soldier who, stood boldly for his faith, putting his life on the line for his beliefs. When people witnessed the conviction of Desmond, they realised he had something special. His words, his life, his character represented his religion. His story changed peoples’ lives and brought them to Jesus. It’s a true story of a man’s selfless love, his passion for serving his fellow men and his ongoing communication with Jesus, which strengthened him through daily prayer.

Pastor Siew’s talent to deliver a story and connect with people of different cultures is truly a God-given gift. At Brisbane Asian Company, we were genuinely inspired by his kind, visionary cross-cultural ministry and his dedication to being a faithful servant. We are all called to be faithful servants and, when we stand before our Lord someday, He will say to us, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:21).

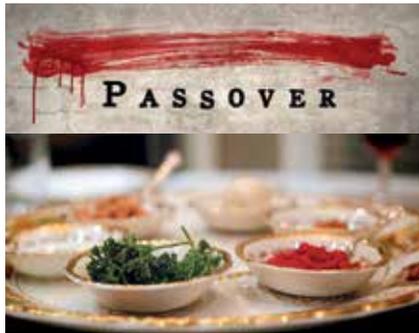
Family time is an important part of church life. Pastor Siew often spoke about his family and his Mother whom he holds very dear to his heart. On March 5, in a wonderful time of fellowship and fun, we enjoyed a vegetarian barbecue at Daisy Hill Koala Park, a jubilant get-together with family and friends. We are blessed with members who help organise these events and create lifetime memories.

We all come from different parts of the world. Each one of us has a different story to tell about how we came to know Jesus. Diversity creates healthy and unified growth and we all share the common ground of connection to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” (Ephesians 3:14-21).

ARTICLE BY MERI HOHUA AND PICTURE BY CECILIA SEETO

GATTON, ESK AND LAIDLLEY

THE PAST IN LIGHT OF THE FUTURE



Around 40 members and their families from Gatton, Esk and Laidley churches came together on Sunday evening, April 9, to experience the rich meaning and symbolism of the Jewish Passover feast. It was a wonderful evening looking back to what the Passover meant to the Israelite people in freeing them from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. Jesus confirmed by his death on the cross at the exact same hour that not only had the Passover lamb been sacrificed for the previous 1400 years, but He Himself was indeed the Passover lamb, "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Those attending discovered the relevance for us today in being redeemed by the blood of the Lamb from the bondage to sin. As we look forward to the future as Jesus promised to His disciples past and present, we will be able to share in this beautiful meal once again when all is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God (Luke 22:15, 16). To conclude the evening a beautiful Seder meal (Jewish feast) was shared with each other.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY PR DARRYL GROVES

WARWICK

IT'S IN THE WATER

Once again the Warwick church embraced the beautiful surrounds of the Goomburra Valley campgrounds, pitching tents for the brave and connecting the power for those who



prefer to tow their homes about (insert pastoral laugh here).

While a little later in the year and cooler than normal, it was a great chance to sit around the campfire and bask in the glory of a star-filled sky.

Keeping with camp tradition, baptism was the focal point of Sabbath worship, not one but two. Dale and Alex Gentil stepped into the "fresh" waters of Dalrymple Creek to publicly show their heart decision to follow Jesus. Surrounded by family and friends, the two young men overcame the initial shock of cold water to be reborn into the warm embrace of the family of Christ.

A special thanks is extended to family and friends who travelled many kilometres to witness Dale's and Alex's stand.

God bless you young men in the continuation of your journeys and may the Lord lead you to great heights for His sake.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY TREVOR MAWER

HERVEY BAY

KYM PRAISES HIM FOR DEBRA

Debra Emmett was baptised into the Adventist church at Hervey Bay Church on Sabbath afternoon, April 8. Debra was a contact made through Kym Tempest's 2014 Depression Recovery Program. She then attended prophecy programs and received Bible studies from Kym, regularly participating in Bay City Company worship and fellowship meetings.



Debra's parents and sons were present to enjoy her baptism, along with those gathered for the Hervey Bay regional.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY GARY ROBERTS

LIVE CHEF VISITS HERVEY BAY



Claudia Ludwig, Antonia Ludwig, Jennifer Powrie (LIVE CHEF), Jessica Phillips, Vicki Badovinac.

On Sunday, March 26, Hervey Bay ran a "Live Chef" cooking presentation in their church hall. Twenty people attended the session with at least 10 of the guests not church members.

The program ran for more than 2½ hours and 11 recipes were demonstrated. At the end of the program, participants were able to sample a generous portion of all recipes demonstrated. Each attendee was given recipe sheets in a presentation folder and a living herb pot to take home.

The overall response was very positive. Participants enjoyed the recipes presented and were enthusiastic to go home and start cooking. We are hoping to run another program later on this year.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY GARY ROBERTS



BRISBANE ADVENTIST COLLEGE

ARE WE THERE YET?

It was with great excitement that 51 Year 6 students assembled to board the buses for Mapleton, which would be the site of our inaugural BAC Class Camp. For three days, students would build resilience, develop leadership and strengthen friendships. Everyone participated in a variety of exciting activities including flying fox, giant swing, abseiling, orienteering, canoeing, archery and scaling a rock wall. It was wonderful to see so many students face and conquer their fears with determination, support and encouragement from their peers.

For many students, it was the first time they had been away from home but they all met the challenge.

The teachers were privileged to watch as students played, shared and worshipped. A definite highlight of our camp experience was worship time every morning and evening as students were challenged to grow in God.

Everyone had a wonderful time together and the BAC Year 6 class of 2017 will



remember their camp experience for many years.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY LYN BENNETT

BAC STEAMS AHEAD



Students in 7K at Brisbane Adventist College are learning to understand, identify, describe and explain the elements of music through a variety of fun and practical activities. Recently, students completed a series of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) challenges in their study of musical pitch. Given a collection of materials, students were given three challenges: to create a harmonica; to manipulate their product to create different pitches; and to use their new instrument to perform a well-known melody of their choice.

Blowing through this fabricated instrument causes the rubber band to vibrate against pop sticks to generate soundwaves. Pitch can be manipulated by moving the straws closer together or further apart, by squeezing the pop sticks or by altering air pressure.

Did you know all sound is generated by a vibration? The method and materials used to create the timbre or tone colour of the sound and the frequency of the vibration determines its pitch.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY LYN BENNETT

ELISHA CELEBRATES SUCCESS



On Wednesday, February 22, Year 11 BAC student Elisha Anderson celebrated her achievement of receiving a QAT-SIF scholarship with a ceremony held at Brisbane State High School.

QATSIF was created to give Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families increased educational choices and life opportunities. The funds used by QATSIF for its programs and activities are drawn from the interest earned from stolen wages of Aboriginal workers from the late 1800s through to the 1970s. Although this is a sad part of our history, the toil of these previous generations is now able to have a direct benefit to the generations that follow. Elisha is the second BAC student to receive this scholarship.

Elisha also has another notable achievement, as she recently qualified for the Evonne Goolagong National Tennis Development Camp, held in Melbourne this January during the first week of the Australian Open. A highlight for Elisha was watching some of the games, as well as having the opportunity to play on Rod Laver Arena.

We congratulate Elisha on her success and wish her well for her senior studies.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY LYN BENNETT



When Big Camp Becomes Huge!!!

HIGH SCHOOL TENT

Speaker: Brock Goodall; pastor of Haven Campus Church in Erina NSW —“and I love it!”

Passions: Love Formula 1! Nothing better than kicking back with some friends and watching a race.

Family: I have an amazing wife, Cindy, and a legend of a son, Ezra.



JUNIOR TENT

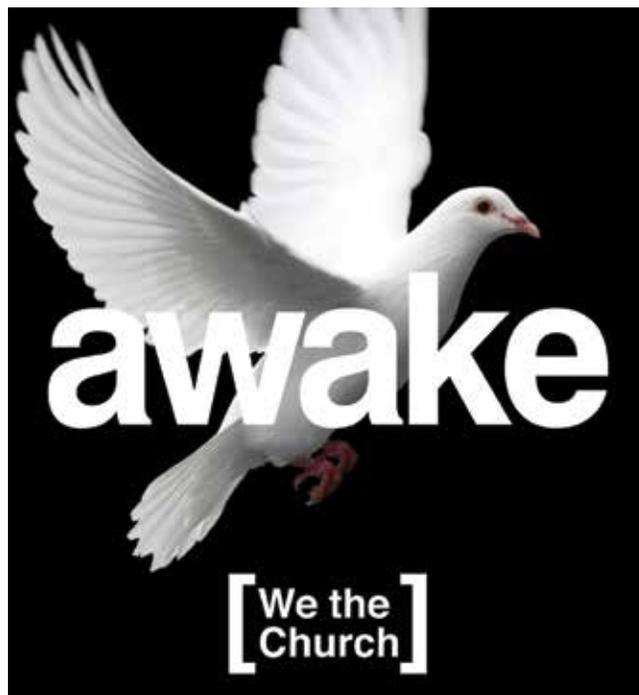
Speaker: Pastor Paul Goltz; Pastor in Perth, Western Australia.

Passions: Paul loves supporting the Maaroons and telling New South Wales supporters why they come second.

He loves young people and he has a passion for telling them stories. He loves sport, holidaying and spending time with his family.



YOUNG ADULT TENT VISION 2017



For many young adults who have grown up in our Adventist faith, the Holy Spirit is not a new concept. We know that Jesus sent His Spirit as a Comforter when He ascended to heaven. We know that God has promised to pour out His Spirit in the last days. We even know that the Holy Spirit is meant to live inside of us.

But do we really know what this means? Are we truly living in the reality that the Spirit of the living God, our Creator, King and Redeemer, has made His home in our hearts and wants to accomplish through us infinitely, abundantly more than we could ever dream or imagine?

“Do you not know and understand that you [the church] are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells [permanently] in you [collectively and individually]?” (1 Corinthians 3:16, AMP).

In the Young Adult Tent in 2017, in line with our overall Big Camp theme, “Shaping for Mission,” we want to be “awake” and fully alive in the glorious reality of being a chosen people, set apart and filled with the Spirit, to accomplish God’s mission on earth.

ARTICLE BY MERI HOHUA AND PICTURE BY CECILIA SEETO



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*

INGREDIENTS

6 small to medium Potatoes
 4 lbs Olive Oil
 3 cloves Garlic—chopped
 1 medium Onion—diced
 2 tsp Live Chef Curry Powder
 2 lbs Brinjal Pickle
 1 lbs Tamarind Paste
 2 lbs Fresh Coriander—chopped
 1 tsp Celtic Salt
 ½ cup Frozen Peas—thawed

METHOD

1. Wash potatoes and cut in half length ways. Place on baking tray lined with baking paper.
2. Pre-heat oven to 200 C. Brush potatoes with 2 lbs olive oil and bake potatoes until they are golden and cooked through. Remove from oven and cool.
3. Lightly brush potatoes inside of potatoes with olive oil and return to oven for 5-10 minutes.
4. Sauté garlic, onion and curry powder in remaining olive oil until soft. Add Brinjal pickle and tamarind paste. Remove from heat.
5. Scoop out centre of potatoes and place filling in bowl. Mash roughly and add onion mix with peas, fresh coriander and salt. Mix well.
6. Fill potatoes with filling and bake for another 10-15 minutes until potatoes are hot.
7. Serve immediately with yoghurt sauce.

Notes: These can be made in advance 1 or 2 days before using. If making in advance once you have filled the potatoes, cover and store in fridge. Reheat just prior to serving. Smaller potatoes are best if serving on a platter as finger food, medium if serving as an individual entrée. Brinjal Pickle and Tamarind paste available from Indian section of supermarket or Specialty Indian Shops. Variations: Use sweet potatoes as a lower carb alternative. Filling can be altered to suit your tastes. Spinach and Mushroom is nice.

BAKED POTATO SAMOSAS



Financial Projects / Business Manager

South Queensland Conference

Do you have a broad range of financial skills and experience, and are seeking a rewarding and varied position, serving the mission of the Church here in South Queensland? Then this position might be for you!

We are seeking a suitable qualified person with financial management skills and experience to join our finance team here in South Queensland on a full-time basis. The position would include caring for the Business Manager responsibilities at Gold Coast Christian College (3 days per week) and Financial Special Projects (2 days per week), with this portion of the role being based at our head office in Spring Hill, Brisbane.

In this composite role, the successful candidate will work in close consultation and co-operation with both the local school Principal and the Conference Chief Financial Officer to achieve positive financial and management aims and objectives for the school, as well as with the Chief Financial Officer on broader Conference finance projects.

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 recognised Professional Accounting organisation (CA/CPA). They should also be able to demonstrate current experience in financial management, administration and be able to work independently on assigned projects.

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 Scott Hopkins
Chief Financial Officer
Seventh-day Adventist Church
(South Queensland Conference) Limited
PO Box 577
SPRING HILL QLD 4004

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: Monday, May 29, 2017.

Attention FOCUS Contributors

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Pastor Murray Hunter
Pastor Murray Hunter
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