

FOCUS

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

THE WORD AND LIFE

Seventh-day Adventists have always claimed to be people of the book. By this we mean that we uphold the Bible as the Word of God and use it as our only rule of faith and practice. Everything we believe is based on Scripture, and Jesus reminds us that all of Scripture “testifies” about Him, the central person of our faith (John 5:39). Our faith, our church, and our Bible are Christ-centred!

The challenge for us in the 21st Century is to practise what we preach. Many so called “people of the book” never read the Book. We rated outside the top 5 in one survey of daily Bible reading practices among various denominations. Basing faith on a book you never read, and perhaps have never read through, is a shaky basis for belief and makes for tired and jaded Christians who just go through the motions of faith.

A basic belief we have is that the Bible is “inspired” by God, or, as the NIV translates it, it is “God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16). That means God breathes into His Word the Bible. This is the same breath that God breathed into Adam’s lifeless form in the creation story. God’s breath brings life! Adam came to life, and God’s Word comes to life. Hebrews tell us that the Word of God is “living and active.” Alive because God inspired it.

How is your spiritual life at the moment? How is the spiritual life of your church? Need some more life? Let God breathe life into you and into your church. Get into that living Word! Read it, pray about it, find the Jesus it speaks of:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:31).

Here’s a prayer for you:

Psalm 119:37, 162

Turn our eyes from worthless things,
and give us life through your word. . .

We rejoice in your word
like one who discovers a great treasure.

PASTOR BRETT TOWNEND
PRESIDENT





33 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

After 33 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I have retired.

Since I was first introduced to Seventh-day Adventist Christianity as a teenager, I have had a strong conviction that God wanted me to take the Gospel to Adventist children. After I was discharged from military service in 1971 I began to study Theology at Avondale but could not see my calling in being a pastor. I made a successful career in the pharmaceutical industry but my wife reminded me that I was called to more important things so I left the corporate world and went to Avondale to become a secondary teacher. My years of service took me to Lismore for six years, Brisbane

Adventist College for 13 years, Northpine Christian College for seven years and another seven years at the Conference Office as Compliance Manager.

During the course of this journey I have made lots of mistakes and in the process, learned a few things that I would like to share with you.

1. People are more important than rules.
2. Family are the most important people.
3. God is a lot more tolerant and understanding than we are.

Photo by Charmaine Patel



4. Having a strong faith requires you to think for yourself rather than following the crowd, even if the crowd is a church crowd.
5. Before I knew about the Gospel, my salvation was secure because God was reconciled to me by the death of His Son. My faith, or the lack of it, my successes or failures, my achievements, my obedience or otherwise are not factors in the salvation equation. It's all about God's grace. The only thing that can keep me out of heaven is if I choose not to be there. It is no different for you.

Working with children has resulted in me having had lots of invitations to weddings, graduations and birthday parties. Some children and their parents respect me and others don't because sometimes I did my job well and at other times I could have done it much better. By God's grace, however, I believe my imperfect efforts have made a difference that, on the balance of things is positive and the church, as an organisation, is a little better as a result.

I have discovered that retiring simply means that the nature of my service changes. After only four months of re-

tirement, I have been asked to take up part-time service in the Victorian Conference and I am excited about sharing my ideas and using the skills God has given me to help the church improve its safety management processes in a wider context than South Queensland.

I am grateful for the prayers, good wishes and support of South Queensland Conference administration and all my friends and colleagues who serve in the Conference. I am very pleased that Conference administration has seen fit to employ a young person in the role I initiated and developed. I believe my work is in good hands into the future. I hope this is the beginning of a trend to give responsibility to those who have many years to serve. It can only work to the benefit of the organisation and so to God's work.

I would like to issue a challenge to other young people to be open to God's call to serve, whether that service be within the church or outside of it. True happiness and fulfilment come from being a blessing to others. Those who seek to be happy by pleasing themselves are doomed to disappointment. Make others happy and happiness will seek you out.

DAVID RODGERS



Pam Wood's Retirement

Hanging Up The Mantle – A Reflection on the Service of Pam Wood

It is now less than a week out from when a servant of God will be hanging up her proverbial coat or, perhaps, ADRA shirt for the last time on 7 November 2016. Pamela Wood, or Pam as she is known to many will be retiring after twelve years of dedicated, passionate service to the community of Logan as the manager of the Logan ADRA Centre. It was a journey that started out as six months, when she was asked to step in to manage the Centre out of bankruptcy. This turned into an eventful and God-led calling of managing the growth of the Centre into what it has become today – a thriving hub, bursting at the seams with service-orientated staff and volunteers that seek to serve.

When you walk into the reception area, past the well-stacked op shop furniture and the trays of donated Coles bread, it would not be uncommon to hear a burst of laughter echoing from the corridors beyond. Pam's laugh is almost legendary, as is her ability to take on any problem she is confronted with and, in her common phrase, "make it happen". "The thing I will

miss most about Pam," says Yvonne Stalling who is the Centre's accountant, "is her almost constant laughter which reverberates through the Centre. She has the most wonderful sense of humour, finding many mundane things hilariously funny. This laughter and joy are contagious, and I think is one of the reasons this Centre is such a happy place in which to work."

Yet laughter and happy times have not always been the lot of Pam's life. She suffered the loss of a son and husband before taking the Centre under her wing back in 2004, the same place where she also volunteered, and yet still gave it her all. "Despite deep personal tragedy within her own life," says Pastor Colin Renfrew, General Secretary for the South Queensland Conference, "Pam Wood has risen above the pain and suffering of her own situation by the power of a resurrected saviour Jesus Christ to give her life in service to him by constantly ministering to the needs of others who similarly at times carry a sense of loss and hopelessness. Pam's effervescent love of life is infectious and has influenced countless persons toward the hope there is in a living Saviour. Her compassion is shown in the personal care provided to her staff and the many, many volunteers that have served alongside her as together they

Charmaine Patel & Irene Larking

have offered assistance to all who attended the centre.” Pam is quick to sing the praises of her staff and volunteers, as well as share stories of the people who have been helped by the Centre, and took the time to say thank you.

Pam has never hid her faith in Christ and proudly plays the Hope Channel on a wide-screen television in the reception area. She has told me on a number of occasions that some people come into the reception area just so they can watch the Hope Channel. The op shop also has Christian music playing and provides a peaceful environment to the shopping experience. Ross Cuthbert, chairperson for the ADRA Logan Centre management committee, reflects, “She was always cheerful to the staff and workers around her and they knew exactly where they stood with her. She set standards for the Centre and followed through on making them work. This was not always easy as most of the helpers were not Seventh-day Adventist or even Christian. But they came to respect the standards and made sure that new people were held accountable to them. Pam is loved and respected by those who work with her, she has a high sense of justice and fair play, but was able to make tough decisions that others respected even if they did not always agree.”

The compassion Pam shows is equally matched by her ability to run a business and to grow the Logan Centre, including its shift from Slacks Creek to its current location opposite Woodridge train station, into a bustling and successful ADRA project staffed by both volunteers and Work for the Dole participants (which Pam also started). In the words of Michelle O’Sullivan, Assistant Manager for the Centre, “Pam was the force behind finding a new home.” God has blessed the Centre with a successful op shop (with good bargains), an extensive Emergency Relief program that puts out over 500 food parcels a week and helps many with bill assistance, and, more recently, the reintroduction of a Training Program

in Individual Care and Child Care. It’s hard to not be overwhelmed every time I’m there with just how busy this Centre truly is—you have to see it to believe it. “Another thing I will miss,” says Yvonne, “is her sharp awareness of finance. She seems to always know EXACTLY what we have in the bank at any one time! I find this amusing, and is quite unusual for a manager (I have worked for many in my life)! I will miss her sharp brain. She also has a great relationship with those who give us funding. They like and trust her. I think these relationships have been built up over many years. She has given ADRA Logan an excellent reputation for a centre who truly helps the many, many needy people in the community.” Beyond the food parcels, the training and the clothes, the Logan Centre is about people and building positive relationships that will impact not only the here and now but, through God’s grace and his power, the life to come.

Pam’s influence and passion extends far and wide, beyond the community of Logan that has been her mission field for so long. Mark Webster, CEO of ADRA Australia, remarks, “Pam Wood has been an outstanding force for good in the Logan community and ADRA Australia as a whole. Her energy and dedication to serving others has inspired countless volunteers and staff over her many years of service.” Pastor Colin also shared, “On behalf of the administration of the SQC we wish to extend a sincere thank you to Pam for her leadership and personal sacrifices given in service to the Logan Community and beyond. We will wish her every blessing in her retirement.” Thank you Pam—enjoy those early morning beach walks at Kingscliff.

I would like to thank all those that took the time to share their thoughts and reflections on Pam Wood for this article. It is much appreciated.

IRENA LARKING
ADRA DIRECTOR





We The Church

SQ YOUTH DEPARTMENT HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

2016 has been an incredible year and we have been amazed at how God has moved in the lives of our young people in our local churches in SQ. We just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you so much for the privilege of serving alongside each of you. Thank you for your prayers, support and patience with us as we have adjusted to our new roles! It has been an exciting new challenge and we can't wait to see what God has in store for our local High School and Young Adult ministries next year.

“We the Church” is a theme that has emerged from our local Young Adult ministries and it really captures our entire Church community. WE—young, old, child, student, employee, retiree, male, female, pastor, church member—are called to BE a relevant, inclusive, Grace-filled, Christ-centred, Spirit-led Church that brings hope and freedom to our communities. This is our vision for High School and Young Adult ministry in 2017.

As a “Youth Department,” it is our privilege and mission to inspire, equip and empower a movement of High School students and Young Adults who;

- Belong, serve and engage in their local churches
- Live out their faith in their spheres of influence
- Are here to stay in our church.

This means our primary focus is to liaise with, support and resource local leaders and their ministry initiatives. We are committed to “keeping it local and focused on specific high school/young adult ministry,” which is why you may notice a few new initiatives this year and in the future. Our Young Adult Conference and High School Rally will replace our traditional Brisbane-based “Youth Rallies” (you may have noticed there is no longer a November Youth Rally). This will be a great opportunity for our local young people to lead and serve in these specific ministries, and to impact their local churches and communities.



We are also excited to see our Envision Leadership Training take a new direction this year. Rather than hosting the Envision weekend at Somerset in November, we want to bring the training to our leaders through a series of “Vision Nights”—to empower and equip our leadership teams at the local church. We want to make this practical and relevant to the specific ministry needs in the local churches across our Conference.

We believe that our local churches are foundational to flourishing high school and young adult communities. A truly effective “Youth Department” in South Queensland will be reflected in our local churches, where our young people are engaged, active, and supported in the life of the local church. We are excited to continue this journey with you in 2017, and ask that you would keep praying for our young people. We are living in exciting days and believe that God is calling our young people to “finish His work.”

Ellen White and Ted Wilson capture the vision for our Local Church High School and Young Adult ministries in these quotes:

“Never, never feel the slightest disturbance because the Lord is raising up youth to lift and carry the heavier burdens and proclaim the message of truth” (Ellen White, Letter 14, Dec. 11, 1891)

“The work before us is large, and it can’t be completed by church leadership alone. All must be involved: Leaders, laity, old, and young . . . especially our young people . . . they dream big, pray big, and plan big! We need this energy, enthusiasm, and passion of our young people to help in sharing the everlasting gospel.” (Ted Wilson, GC President)

**SEAN BERKELEY, YOUTH/HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY DIRECTOR
AND ALINA VAN RENSBURG, YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY DIRECTOR**



DreamTrack—Straddie Adventure

Cloudless blue skies, crisp early morning air and smooth glass-like seas—just what God provided the DreamTrack crew for their big adventure to North Stradbroke Island on October 16. Three packed busloads of kids and volunteers had the time of our lives as Brian Coghill an Elder of the Dandruha clan chaperoned us on a cultural educational trip around the island. From his wealth of local knowledge we learnt so much about the biology of the picturesque island: bush medicines and fruits, plants that indicate what fish are in season and Yuri's (sacred totem system for protection of specific animals) were all part of our great learning experience of respecting and caring for 'country'. This was coupled with stacks of fun swimming at the beach and fresh water

lakes and mucking around on sand dunes.

There were a lot of worn out kids heading back home on the barge that afternoon—just what volunteers love to see! Can't wait for our next trip to Straddie—there's so much more fun and learning waiting for us.

If you are interested in learning more about DreamTrack or becoming a volunteer please contact: Jared Poland 0447 698 352 or email jaredpoland@hotmail.com or Margaret Earnest 07 3218 7777 (business hours) or email margaretearnest@adventist.org.au

PASTOR DAVID GARRARD
SQC ATSIM DIRECTOR



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

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 June meetings.

The Executive Committee:

- Received a report on the AUC structural review process led by Lindsay Borgas a lay member of the Australian Union Conference Board of Directors. Lindsay had presented the report at AUC Administrators Council at which all Administrators of the AUC and local Conferences were present. The salient points included: Our current structure is 100 years old; it contains lots of Administration duplication; many constituents recognise the need for a review of the current structures; an awareness of our Stewardship responsibilities and accountability. All administrators agreed the mission imperative of the gospel to the world must be the guide for discussions involving alignment of new structure. A wide range of working models created for further discussion.
- Recorded 11 February 2017 as the date for the next AUC membership survey to be conducted in our churches.
- Approved 18-19 August 2018 as the date for the next SQC Constituency meeting to be held at Watson Park.
- Approved the Renovations and Extensions to be undertaken at Noosa Christian College for a projected contract amount of \$153,577.00 to establish facilities for a Kindergarten program.
- To support the proposed Youth Meeting Room development by the Caboolture Church, and endorse the projected expenditure budget of \$36,710.44 excluding GST from Church Building Funds to hand and to be raised - \$36,710.44.

The Board of Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited

- Appointed the following as the officers of AAA for next year:
President: Pastor David Edgar
Vice President: Gary Clifford
Vice President: Dr Don Pitchford
Treasurer: Jonathon Hunt-Mason
Associate Treasurer: Paul Mitchell
Secretary/Membership Officer: Kelly Sitoman
- Received a report from Pastor Sean Berkeley on Youth Department activities. Some highlights included: focus on empowerment and training and resourcing young people to serve God in their local churches;

getting to know the youth by attendance at each school's WOSE; STORMCO's historically run out of our churches (15-18/year)...currently we run 9 and mostly out of schools (5)...challenge to re-engage our churches in this ministry; Summerfest is a new camp introduced for 16-18 yr olds to transition to continued engagement with church life as youth prepare to leave school; working together with Tertiary and Young Adult Department; Discipleship/Equipping geared to be in the local church and reducing corporate events to achieve this; Northern Camp, 65 in attendance at Moduram Dam; Youth Coaches continue to invest in them; Chosen—an event hosted by the AUC for 14-16 yr olds and conducted by AUC Youth Director in training equipping young leaders (only 15 were chosen from SQC).

- Received a report from Alina van Rensburg, Tertiary and Young Adult Ministries Director. Included in the report were: Camp program was designed to mentor and disciple young adults, used local speakers and attendees were encouraged to sign up for local church ministry; A review of Young Adult ministry in the local church was provided including supporting each leader in their local capacity, meeting with groups across the Conference to understand their challenges and to connect with each; "We The Church" is an initiative to assist young adults to belong, serve and engage in local church living out their faith in spheres of influence; ASA strategies include establishing student communities in each Tertiary institution that aid in equipping and building the faith and community of the attending students; Focus on upper high school chapels as they move toward leaving school and beginning further study or employment; A new app produced for "We The Church"
- Recorded the following calls: Annalise Lindsay, Avondale graduate to associate chaplain, Brisbane Adventist College (0.5 FTE) and ministerial intern (0.5 FTE); Jacob Ugljesa, Avondale graduate to ministerial intern; Sharyn Harrington, Field minister (0.5FTE), GSC to Field minister (0.6 FTE) Refresh Northpine Company.

Members Meeting Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd

- Appointed Mr Jared Benard to serve as volunteer director on the board of Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd.

**PASTOR COLIN RENFREW,
GENERAL SECRETARY**



BAY ISLANDS

BAY ISLAND BAPTISM

People may say that “Bigger is Better,” but The Bay Islands SDA Church is the opposite. It is “*Smaller* in size, but *Better* and *Bigger* at heart.”

The Bay Islands Seventh-day Adventist Church is located on Russell Island, the largest of the four islands; Karragarra, Macleay, and Lamb, in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands region.

The church started as a small house-church five years ago with about 15 to 20 people that met twice a month. Now, the church meets and fellowship every weekend with 50 to 70 people attending weekly meetings.

The church consists of people from all walks of life, and different cultural backgrounds, such as Sri Lankans, Kenyans, South Africans, Romanians, Italians, Germans, Cook Islanders, Samoans, New Zealanders, and Australians. Despite the differences with culture and ages, the church is considered to be one BIG happy family.

On October 22, the Church has its first ever baptism, with seven people committing their lives to Christ. Pastor



Brett Townend and his family visited the church and officiated the baptism with Pat Tuialii.

We don’t have to be Bigger. We can be Smaller, but believe that God has Bigger and Better plans for us. The Church now sets its focus on becoming organised in 2017, which I believe to be God’s Bigger and Better plan for the group.

The Bay Islands church has a great influence in its local community. Their missions are (1) to build relationships with Christ through caring and loving ministry, and (2) creating a healthy and warm family church.

Their vision is (1) to encourage the church members to use their God-given gifts and potential, (2) to empower the church’s walk with God, and (3) to expand God’s kingdom in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY: PAT TUIALII

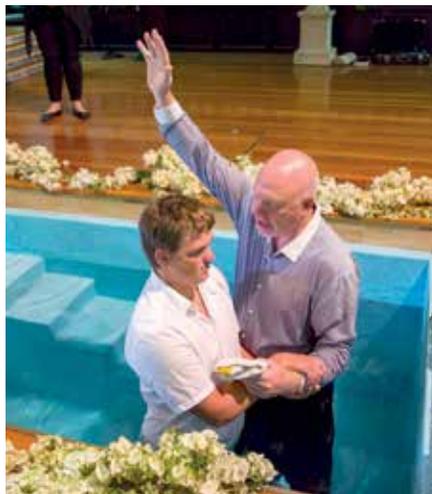
ST ANDREWS

TWO PRECIOUS PEOPLE BAPTISED

Sabbath morning, October 29, 2016, saw members of St Andrews Seventh Day Adventist Church in Bundaberg very happy and excited. We had looked forward to this day for some time. Two precious people were to be baptised, Marie Ward, and Jimmy “the tiler” (his nom de mour)—otherwise known as James Hines.

Not only was the baptism special, but we also had our previous minister and his wife, Pastor Andy and Terry Litchfield, visiting with us to perform the baptism.

What a glorious day! The baptismal font was trimmed with a thick fringe



of white Bougainvillea, and the Youth group sang from the stage.

Those instrumental in supporting and leading these precious souls to Christ stood beside the Baptismal Font during the baptisms; Rita and Ray Milner, Betty Puie, Terry Litchfield, and Pastor Robert and his wife.

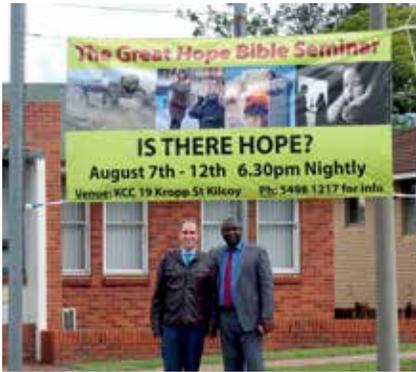
Marie was introduced to our church through the “Be-friending” program, organised by Terry Litchfield and associated with our church-run Excelsior Club.

The Excelsior Club was established to cater for people in our community experiencing loneliness and feelings of isolation.

Jimmy-the-tiler on the other hand, actually did the tiling in our recently renovated kitchen, and he had the opportunity to see for himself on Sabbath (as he peeked through the kitchen window), that the tiles are all still in place and are looking really great! Thank you to all who made it a wonderful day.

ARTICLE BY FAY & TREVOR GREIVE,
PHOTOS BY LINDON JOSEFSKI





KILCOY

FORGIVE TO LIVE

There are people in Kilcoy who have learnt the skills of becoming the most forgiving people in Queensland. Starting in June and running for eight weeks and being presented by Pastor Scott Wareham, people from the community learnt about what it means to “Forgive to Live”.

As Christians we preach and tell each other that we must forgive but rarely are we set up with the skills of how to forgive. This course taught people how to forgive on a personal level. With 10 people from the community completing the course, the Kilcoy Church group ran a special graduation program to acknowledge those that had graduated with a special presentation from Pastor Tapiwa Mutseriwa and concluding with a banquet of food to celebrate. Pastor Tapiwa Mutseriwa stayed to preach at an outreach program in their community running for seven consecutive days to follow on from their Forgive to Live program.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY: PASTOR SCOTT WAREHAM



ESK

BAPTISM IN ESK

The Esk church was tastefully decorated with flowers and ferns for the baptism of Rodney Hauser by Andy Krause. Rod had been studied with by his fiancée, Judy Davis, and her warm encouraging smile shone through across the church to him as he approached the font. Many of his family and friends were there to make the day very special and Rod was warmly welcomed into the Esk church where he and Judy are loved and appreciated.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY BERYL DORRINGTON

GATTON

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY HELPING KIDS IN CRISIS

Tim Ormiston is a member of the Gatton Seventh-day Adventist Church. During the week, Tim is a chaplain at

two State Schools in the Lockyer Valley; Gatton State School, and Patrick Estate State School. Recently the local newspaper featured him and the great work he is doing at these two schools.

Chaplain Tim Ormiston knows first hand the significant impact Gatton's school chaplaincy program can have on young lives. “Chappy Tim” to the children, Mr Ormiston said the program helps students deal with real life problems, by providing them with support and a listening ear when they needed it most.

“Many people think the help we should provide is just surface level but it's much deeper than that,” he said. Some of these students have hard home lives with serious problems and feel like they have no one to talk to. I remember working with one student through some serious anger issues who later told another chaplain, “Chappy Tim saved my life.” A lot of the time they're willing to share what's going on if they know there's someone to talk to that they can trust.”

In addition to offering support to students, staff and parents, school chaplains are also involved in programs teaching students life skills.

ARTICLE BY TARA CASSIDY, GATTON STAR NEWSPAPER



NOOSA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

2016 BILLY CART GRAND PRIX

On Sunday, October 16, Noosa Christian College held its Billy Cart Grand Prix, Monster Garage Sale and Fete. This is an annual fundraiser and hosts the inaugural “Wellington vs Wellington” Celebrity Race.

Our Noosa Mayor, Mr Tony Wellington raced the Honourable Mr Peter Wellington, Member of Parliament, while being pushed by our very fit teachers, Mr Dayn McKay, Miss Cassie Feldman, Mrs Jacqueline Taylor and Mr Andy Beaden.

While our Noosa Mayor, Mr Wellington shot out early, pushed by Dayn and Cassie, it was the Member of Parliament, Mr Wellington with his pushers Andy and Jacqueline that won the race . . . and wasn't he chuffed about it! His office staff tell us that he is still beaming!

Medals were awarded with promises to return next year to race each other again. The Channel 7 News covered the event.

Our College and local community enjoyed a wonderful day with billy cart races from Prep to Open, food, rides, market stalls, giant Lego display, farmyard animals, camel rides, competitions, displays, auctions and entertainment.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY DALE BERGMAN

DARLING DOWNS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

STUDENT CRACKS 10-HANDED CLOCK

A Toowoomba student is believed to be the first person in Australia to tell the time on a 10-handed clock.

Just 17-years old, Ben Robinson once had trouble deciphering a standard two-handed clock.

Now, after a year studying the internationally acclaimed Arrowsmith Program at Darling Downs Christian School (DDCS), Ben takes just eight seconds to decode the 10 hands of a specially designed analogue clock.

And it seems he has done what many thought was impossible.

“The computer wasn't even set up to pass because students aren't expected to master this level,” DDCS Arrowsmith coordinator Glenda Fitzpatrick said. “But Ben passed the test three times.”

The Arrowsmith Program was developed more than 30 years ago by Barbara Arrowsmith Young in Canada, based on the emerging science of neuroplasticity to strengthen learning capacities in children and adults facing a wide range of learning disabilities.

For these students, understanding a conversation, tackling maths or even deciphering a joke could be a major challenge.

One of many unique cognitive exercises the students study, deciphering clocks which move progressively from two hands up to 10, helps to develop reasoning abilities and improve reading comprehension and maths problem solving.

The clocks are flashed up on a computer screen for students to decode, with speed and accuracy essential in progressing through each stage. Each hand represents a particular place in time—from seconds to centuries.

“It's a complex exercise and you have to read the time as well as understand the relationship between the hands,” Mrs Fitzpatrick said.

The program, now offered at schools throughout North America, Australia, New Zealand and Asia, teaches most students to read a six-handed clock confidently.

However, some students, like Ben, are pushed further, depending on their individually designed program and abilities.

The shy 198 cm teenager moved with his mother to Toowoomba last year to take part in the program.





“I heard someone talking about the program on ABC radio and what they described was Ben,” Ben’s mother Robyn Robinson said.

“We knew Ben was capable of achieving but in a classroom and stressful situations, he couldn’t get it out onto paper.”

Robyn described her son becoming increasingly withdrawn and unable to communicate.

“When you know your child does have a degree of intelligence, but seeing them not being able to fulfil their potential, it is heartbreaking,” Robyn said.

Robyn said she has witnessed a “big improvement” in Ben’s confidence since joining Arrowsmith, describing him as “becoming more socially confident and he now lets his sense of humour come out”.

Pausing mainstream schooling at Year 10, Ben has chosen to complete two years of the Arrowsmith program, before next year returning to complete Year 11 and 12. There are currently 10 adults and more than 20 children enrolled in the Arrowsmith program at DDCS.

“It’s a very intense program, but the benefits have been very worthwhile and Glenda is so supportive of all

the students,” Robyn said.

Anyone interested in finding out more information about the Arrowsmith program can ring DDCS on (07) 4659 1111 or email arrowsmith@ddcs.qld.edu.au.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY ELISSA DOWLING

NORTHPINE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

DANIEL MORCOMBE STORY

On October 13, 2016, Northpine Christian College was privileged to be a part of the launch of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation’s *Tweed to Territory* tour—an educational initiative directed at young people that is helping to spread awareness about staying safe.

Approximately 1000 Northpine students, staff and parents gathered in the College Sports Centre to welcome Bruce and Denise Morcombe, The Australian Federal Police team, and the media entourage to our college. Our students were active participants in the program and impressed the visitors with their positive response to the message and their focus and pleasing conduct.

“I was four years old when Daniel Mor-

combe was abducted. As a young child, I found it almost unfathomable to comprehend the harsh reality of child abduction. Now, I am 17 and about to finish my senior year at Northpine Christian College, I have gained a better understanding of the significance of staying safe and teaching others to do so.” Sarah Ryan—Year 12 NCC Captain

The Australian Federal Police are active supporters of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and they were a pivotal part of the *Tweed to Territory* launch and tour. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation is leading the movement to ensure national awareness of child security and internet safety, and this message could not be more timely or relevant. Their slogan “Recognise—React—Report” is a simple but powerful tool that every child can use to help them stay safe. In a society that is so centred around technology, their message about cyber safety was an extremely important one for both high school and primary school students alike.

“Not only did Daniel’s parents help me realise that these issues can affect everyone, including me, but their message proved to be extremely beneficial to the younger grades. My younger sister couldn’t stop talking about all the phrases she had been taught as a form of protection, and the various strategies that Bruce and Denise reinforced and recommended as a method to stay safe. Seeing her react so openly and so enthusiastically made me realise that we need to stop making the issue of child safety taboo and address it head on, just like the Daniel Morcombe Foundation is doing.” Zac Deans—Year 12 NCC Student

Denise and Bruce Morcombe have transformed their tragic situation into a legacy—a national child safety campaign—in memory of their son, Daniel and NCC students were privileged to be a part of their campaign launch and tour.

ARTICLE BY GRAHAM E BAIRD - COLLEGE PRINCIPAL,

Calling all Expressions of Interest for CHEP 2017 Training



Previously known as the VNP (Vegetarian Nutrition Presenter) Program, CHEP is an accredited Certificate IV Course.

The cost will be approximately \$450 which covers the course fees plus 2 nutrition text books and the course manual. The course involves four face to face teaching weekends and has 23 units that need to be completed at home. Participants are also required to do a ten minute health talk, ten minute recipe demonstration and a two and a half hour written exam. This course will run February to December (11 months).

To register your interest, please visit:

<http://sq.adventist.org.au/ministries/health/> or email sqhealth@adventist.org.au

Limited places available. Expressions of Interest close **Friday 16th December 2016**.

*Community Health
Education Presenter
Training 2017*

South Queensland Conference Health Department

REMINDER



*SUPPORT OUR
VISION!!!*

HOW?

SABBATH OFFERING

3rd DECEMBER

2016

GIVE GENEROUSLY

FOR THE LOGAN CITY

SAMOAN CHURCH

BUILDING!!!

A

PROJECT OF FAITH



The Adventist Business Network

A new initiative that is designed to support and connect Adventist business owners, professionals and entrepreneurs in Australia.

For more information about what we are doing and how that benefits you, head over to www.adventistbusinessnetwork.com.au and join us. This is just the tip of the iceberg.



Road to Bethlehem

Road to Bethlehem offers you an opportunity to witness and share your faith. Dramatic presentations bring to life the record of the birth of Jesus. Invite your family, friends and work colleagues to come and experience the true story and meaning of Christmas. The scenes are under cover and pram and wheelchair friendly. Free parking and light refreshments are available.

For further information on Road To Bethlehem Brisbane December 12–14, 2016 visit the website: <http://brisbane.roadto-bethlehem.org/>

Conference Wide Offering—Thank you!



On March 5, 2016 the Conference Wide Offering was collected from all the churches in the South Queensland Conference. ADRA Community Centre at Logan Central was very thankful to be one of the recipients of this amazing opportunity to showcase the work we do and also lift our profile throughout the Adventist Churches in Queensland.

We wish to take this time to thank you for your wonderful support even though most of our churches and their communities will not be able to access our services. We want you to know that we are much revered in the Logan Community. Logan City is unique in Australia; English is a second language for a large area of our constituency—up to as much as 40%. We face unique challenges here and are very thankful for your support. Our new truck is being well used and your financial support was uplifting for our staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly to minister to the needs of the citizens of Logan. We received just over \$29 000 towards the cost of our new refrigerated truck. Thank you, thank you.

PAM WOOD – ADRA CENTRE MANAGER/ADMINISTRATOR

Anonymous Tithes October

\$5, \$200, \$200, \$700, \$15

Thank you to those who have made an anonymous tithe donation. For anyone wanting to do this, please deposit your tithe into our South Queensland Conference bank account with the reference "Tithe", so that we are able to direct the money accordingly. Another way to pay tithe is through our e-Giving website. See below <http://sq.adventist.org.au/giving/egiving/>

Attention FOCUS Contributors

FOCUS is produced by the South Queensland Conference Communication Department, 400 Boundary Street Spring Hill, QLD 4000. Phone: (07) 3218 7777 Fax: (07) 3236 1305 Email: sqfocus@adventist.org.au

President
Communications Director
Editor
Design
Print

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

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