

FOCUS

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

A TIME TO SAY THANKS

2018 has been a great year for our schools in South Queensland! There has been a flurry of learning, service to others, decisions for Jesus, and baptisms. School camps, Weeks of Prayer, STORMCo trips, Cambodia and Solomon Islands mission trips, sporting events, hospitality training, the showcasing of skills developed in music and the arts, Open Days, chapels, debates, public speaking and leadership development initiatives and events, STEM projects, Awards nights—all merge as one as another school year comes to an end. We have an outstanding team of Principals, Teachers, Chaplains, Administrators, and Support staff across our seven schools. Recently we got to say thank you to our chaplains and counsellors. They are front and centre in leading children and families to a knowledge of and love for Jesus.



They work way beyond the call of duty in their schools, in their local churches, and in their communities—being a bridge between unchurched families and the Kingdom of Heaven. Always giving, always putting others first. We got to give back, to fill them up; to give them a time-out, a chance to catch their breath; to let them know they are loved, valued and appreciated. It was only a moment, but it was a golden moment, enough to put a smile in their hearts and a song on their lips as they stepped into the last few weeks of school for the year. If you get the chance, please let your Education staff know how much you appreciate them; and that you are praying for them. These little acts of kindness make a BIG difference.



ARTICLE BY MEL LEMKE

PHOTOS BY MEL LEMKE & CHRIS FOOTE



New Choices at Somerset

This year’s theme at Big Camp was “behold I am doing a new thing” and at Camp Somerset during 2018 we have certainly been doing something new. If you have followed Camp Somerset on social media you will already know about our brand new facility—*The Lodge*.



The Lodge with four separate four bedroom units and a sleeping capacity of 56, welcomed its first group in August. As well as these separate sleeping spaces, *The Lodge* also offers two outdoor kitchens, a large café style deck space, a fire pit and swimming pool! Perfect for smaller church or club camps, *The Lodge* is also located close enough to the current Cabins and Central Complex to provide extended capacity for larger groups who regularly frequent Camp Somerset.

Did you know that the majority of our business comes from schools and other denominations, and that Adventists visitors are in the minority? When was the last time your church visited? It has been hard to get a booking in the recent past, but *The Lodge* provides increased booking opportunities for your next Church Camp or family get-together!

Camp Somerset staff wish you all the best and God’s blessings for the year ahead. Maranatha.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY TIM HUTTON

Call Him Immanuel

My favourite theme of Christmas comes from the Gospel of Matthew where the writer reflects Isaiah's prophecy, "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14, NIV). So we find that in the Christmas story, the angel of the Lord appears to Joseph and tells him not to be fearful about Mary's pregnancy. For she would give birth to a son conceived of the Holy Spirit. He would save His people from their sins made possible only by His presence among us as Immanuel, meaning 'God is with us' (Matt 1:21-23).

That God would be with us is our heart's desire. In His presence we experience peace and joy, and the assurance that He is on our side, working out His plans for us. We can have confidence facing an otherwise uncertain future. The very name given to Jesus, Immanuel, assures us that He is with us, and the incarnation brings Him to us in a very real and tangible way. The last sentence of Matthew reminds us of that He will be with us until the very end (Matt 28:20), and He is coming back to be with us in this literal sense again (John 14:1-3).

May you feel the presence of the 'with us' God this Christmas. May you have the peace He brings. And may you remember, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If God is for (with) us, who can be against us!"

May God bless for a wonderful year's end and New Year to follow.



PASTOR BRETT TOWNEND, PRESIDENT

Thanks, and I mean it!

For the past eight issues of FOCUS, I have experienced the pleasures and challenges as Editor. I believe that this magazine plays an important part in helping to build our sense of family as a 'conference' of churches, schools, aged care, community projects, camps and more. As I received and compiled the stories sent in, my awareness of just how active we are in the lives of everyday people has grown. I hope you have enjoyed the stories and creative ministry, and deepened your connection with the diversity of the Body of Christ in action. As our recently-appointed Church Support and Development Team forge new ways of mentoring and resourcing your local Church, the role of FOCUS, our website and Facebook page will continue to be a way of sharing the "new thing" the Lord is doing in your community and an encouragement to other Churches to move forward, learning through your journey.

This is my last issue as Editor. This role has many parts to it—chasing up stories, checking photos, creating advertisements, fighting deadlines—but the core part is working with words, helping them to convey clear messages to you, the reader. As Emma Hill wrote, "The first draft is black and white. Editing gives the story colour." I would like to say a sincere

"Thank you" to those who have supplied articles and photos to provide a broad range of input. That has made my task much easier. As my ministry role shifts in 2019 to focus more on Spiritual Care, both in hospitals and aged care, can I encourage you to keep reading FOCUS and for those who are contributors, to keep writing articles about your corner of the vineyard. Tell how the Lord is raising up disciples who go on to raise up more disciples. Thank you for your support and engagement with FOCUS during 2018.



CHRIS FOOTE, FOCUS EDITOR

Balance In Healing



We are a complete package, designed to work in balance; and in her “Healing Body, Soul & Spirit” seminar on Sabbath 3 November, Adventist health psychologist Jenifer Skues helped an enthusiastic group of people-helpers understand how good principles of relationship, health and God-connection work together to achieve a balanced outcome. The Association of Adventist Counsellors (AAC) that operated the event exists to help you navigate the challenges of relationships. Anyone interested can attend these Sabbath seminars and become a member at full, associate or student level. The feedback from those who attend—many of them other than Adventist—is very positive, and AAC have more seminars planned for 2019.

ARTICLE BY GAYLE RUSTERHOLZ, PHOTO BY MARLENE FOOTE

All I want for Christmas!

People often treat charities like ADRA as a dumping ground for unwanted furniture and household items. Don't get me wrong—quality donations are always welcome, but many are not of good enough quality to pass on. Although an ongoing cycle throughout the year, donations increase around Christmas as people spring clean and imagine their discarded items will be useful for others. But what ADRA really needs at Christmas is food, non-perishable food that can be distributed to those in need.

ADRA Logan hosts a Community Christmas Day breakfast again this year. Last year our inaugural Community Christmas Breakfast welcomed over two hundred who enjoyed food, activities, Christmas gifts, hampers and musical entertainment. This year our regular food suppliers are very low in stock yet we are experiencing a higher demand than ever for Christmas Day hampers and food parcels. So many people are in need.

One Friday afternoon with our 2:00pm closing time looming, Alva (not her real name) turned up at ADRA with her baby in a pram and an infant on her hip. A victim of domestic violence, Alva had been hastily relocated across the city to an unfurnished apartment in an unfamiliar area. Her needs were immediate and urgent. Though it was Friday closing time, ADRA staff managed to find her a single bed, bedding, and some clothing for her and the children plus a food parcel. With no vehicle Alva was dependent on public transport, so staff arranged to drop off her food, clothing and furniture before they headed home. Due to ADRA policy they couldn't transport Alva and her two children so she caught a bus to the empty apartment she had only visited once before.

The ADRA team waited half an hour at the address until finally they saw Alva pushing her pram up the path with infant still resting on her hip. She noticed an abandoned

couch across the road and wanted to salvage it for her ‘new place’. The staff secured it before anyone else could and safely relocated it upstairs into her unit along with the single bed, bedding, clothing and food they had brought. With a smile and a grateful heart Alva thanked the staff for all the emergency relief assistance she had received and the bonus of the ‘new’ couch as well. Thanks to ADRA and others who cared enough to help, she would have a better weekend now that basic needs had been met.



This is one of many experiences where people in need are assisted through ADRA's ministry at Logan. There are increasing numbers of victims of domestic violence, usually women, but sometimes also men who are escaping from such danger. Christmas is a time when social problems escalate—domestic violence, unemployment, homelessness, and a host of other issues. Throughout the year the call for food is constant, peaking at Christmas with children home from school. Your food donations make a real difference.

ARTICLE BY SAM LUTERU, PHOTO BY HENK LA DRU

“It Doesn’t Rain Grass”



It is a windy Monday afternoon at a cotton farm in Chinchilla, and you can clearly see the effects of the drought—dusty fields, farm machinery sitting idle and Matthew, the farmer, wondering if the fertiliser he sprayed on his crops that morning is going to get washed away in a hail storm. He didn’t have long to wait. Twenty minutes into our interview, a very intense hail storm that also showered shards of ice ripped through his property, washing away the fertilizer, wiping out sprouting crops and severely damaging his auger. Instead of “raining grass” the storm created about \$30,000 worth of damage. You didn’t have to ask him what he thought—his face said it all.

Over the last few months much attention in the media has been drawn to the desperate drought situation in our country. New South Wales has been declared a drought zone, along with large portions of Queensland, especially out West. Numerous charities are doing their best to raise both awareness of the need and much needed funds to help those struggling. Among those charities, ADRA Australia is also doing its part to share the stories of those who are hurting and who need our support and prayers.

Over a period of two weeks my husband, Neil Pule, and I had the privilege of linking up with some of our regional churches to provide support and resources, but most importantly to hear their stories. There is much power and healing that can take place in sharing a story of suffering and heartache, and many who did, said they felt better after doing so. This is a significant point of reflection, as suicide, fed by an overwhelming sense of hopelessness, is a very real issue in the farming community. One farmer expressed that he had thought about it, others knew of those who had followed through. Ryan, a melon farm worker in Emerald, was given the task of shutting down a hundred-acre melon farm due to a 96% reduction in access to local water supplies. Following shut down he was effectively out of work. Janette, a

Warwick dairy farmer faced losing much of her property and family home due to a forced sale by the bank. She had already seen over 50% reduction in the price she got for the sale of her milk, as well as witnessing the poor health of some of her calves. Alpha, a small country town two hours west of Emerald, consists of about six shops and a small tourist building. Brian, the local baker, knows all too well the impact of drought on his business. Farmers are taking longer to pay off their credit bills and it’s getting harder to buy flour supplies. The ripple effect of the drought is potent. It is not just farmers and their families that are suffering; local businesses, small country schools, social engagement amongst the community—all bear the sting of the drought.

You can help those who are in need. Christ calls us to minister to all those who are suffering, regardless of their background or their beliefs. Thanks to generous donors ADRA Australia has provided interim financial support to many individuals and families in both NSW and QLD. But we want to do more and we want to hear from you—our local churches. If you have an idea of how your local church can reach out to our drought-affected communities, please contact me at IrenaPule@adventist.org.au.



This is great opportunity for your church to build a strong connection with your community at this time of great need. This drought is not going away any time soon and as that farmer said, “It doesn’t rain grass.” There is a desperate need for follow up rain, to support the fledgling crops and grass that are starting to grow, and the continuing need to support our farming community. Please keep them in your prayers and Lord willing we will soon see the showers of blessing that they need.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY IRENA PULE

Goodbyes at Q'SAM

The fastest growing demographic in our Church as well as the general community continues to be single people, especially mid-life onwards, and for various reasons. For the past several years, Haydee Meunier has led a hard-working team to provide a ministry in support of singles, Q'SAM—Queensland Single Adventist Ministry. Each year there have been events including camps, rallies and visits around Churches in support of single people who often feel isolated.



At an end of year function on Bribie, the current Q'SAM team including Haydee, were affirmed and thanked for their contribution throughout their term. It is hoped that this important ministry will be able to continue if the Lord places a burden on the hearts of other potential leaders to step into this space.

ARTICLE BY JENNY BELFORD
PHOTO BY STEPHEN WOODWARD



Spiritual Carers

Hospital and Aged Care Spiritual Carers met recently to support one another in this important ministry. Our team regularly visit hundreds of patients, including many Adventists who may or may not attend Church. The visits are confidential, often at times when patients are facing times of crisis or loss.

More volunteers are needed to join the team. It does involve commitment plus specific training as both hospitals and aged care require competent people, however, the rewards are amazing and life-changing.

Are you feeling a call on your heart to join the team? If so, please contact the coordinator, Pr Chris Foote on 0416 146 468 or ChrisFoote@adventist.org.au

ARTICLE BY RAEWYN DIGGERMAN
PHOTO BY CHRIS FOOTE





The Spirit of Adventure

February 2019 will mark 10 years of Outdoor Education led by Camp Somerset's Outdoor Programs team. Since 2009, over 25,000 participants have been challenged to live life "with the Spirit of Adventure". Participants ranging from school age to adults are given the opportunity to build character and acquire skills to benefit all areas of their lives through the use of God's book of nature.



Adventures on offer include hiking, mountain biking, canoe expeditions and team building initiatives. Conquering fears on the high ropes courses and abseiling cliffs, the exhilaration of the Giant Swing and Flying Fox, plus learning bush skills and archery gives confidence and a sense of achievement.

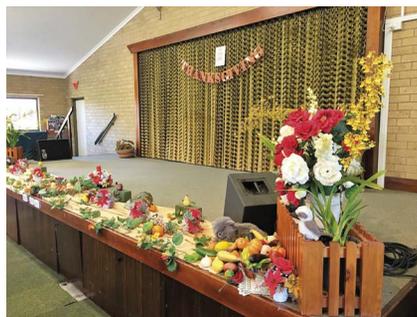


The Outdoor Programs team now has over 25 committed outdoor facilitators working in conjunction with the Camp Somerset team. 2018 also marks the exciting start of outdoor programs at Watson Park. Please uphold our Outdoor Education ministry in prayer that the Lord will bless in every way as we share the true Spirit of Adventure.

ARTICLE BY PETER GOLTZ
PHOTOS BY PETER GOLTZ AND CHARMAINE PATEL

RETIREMENT PLUS

VICTORIA PT THANKSGIVING



Sabbath 24 November was a very special day. The Church was beautifully decorated by Merilyn Peatey and her team, and Barbara and Ray O'Hara together with their team organised an interesting program for the Sabbath morning.



Members and Christian friends residing in our Village joined together to celebrate "Thanksgiving." Our Pastor Gary Roberts shared on the origins of Thanksgiving. Several others presented messages on giving to God, thanking God for His abounding grace. Familiar Bible verses on the theme of thankfulness were interspersed with songs; poems and instrumental music contributed to the atmosphere of praise and thanksgiving. Time was also set aside for individuals to share a testimony of praise to God for specific individual blessings. Later in the day, 66 guests gathered at the Church Hall to enjoy a thanksgiving dinner and a concert of praise.

ARTICLE BY DAVID LAWSON
PHOTO BY RAY O'HARA

KINGAROY

DOING LIFE = DOING MISSION



Boden Clark was baptised on 25 August, 2018 at Pine Rivers church. Here is a snippet of he came to commit completely to Jesus Christ.

Christened as a child, Boden was blessed by the positive influence of his mother, a believer. As he grew into young adulthood, he made friends with some people who helped him think about Jesus and His Word.

Boden and I became friends in 2014 through playing on a basketball team in Kingaroy (Boden is #7), which happened to do very well that season. During this time, Boden attended The Last Empire series, then joined a small group in Kingaroy to further study the Bible. He then relocated to Brisbane, continuing his study of the Bible with Darren Rowe.

Through being warmly embraced by members of Pine Rivers Church and his ongoing study of the Word, Boden decided to commit His life to Jesus Christ, and I was honoured to baptise him.

It was through doing life, playing basketball and forming meaningful relationships in the community that connection was possible with Boden. When you are surrendered to Christ, doing life is doing mission. Be on the lookout for those God may influence through you for His kingdom!

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY GIDEON OKESENE

COASTLIFE

A SYMBOL OF WHAT MATTERS

The large glass jar on the right is filled with fertile soil. "And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest,

good-hearted people who hear God's Word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest." Luke 8:15

Coastlife attenders write the names of people they would like to see accept Christ as their Saviour and to allow God to do "a new thing" in their lives.



Each Sabbath this fertile soil jar sits in prime view of everyone to remind all of what is important. We pray over the names in the jar. Our desire is to be good soil individually and as a church, so that those God brings to us can hear His Word, cling to it and patiently produce a huge harvest. Within a week of launching the jar, God began answering our prayers with people coming to church; one has just started Bible Studies. The fertile soil jar with names in it is a symbol of what matters at Coastlife Church.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY STEVE KANE

SPRINGWOOD

NIGHT OF THANKS



Springwood Church held their year-end Gala Night on November 24—a gastronomic and musical delight. It is a time when the achievements of members are celebrated alongside appreciation of all who commit of their time and talent in volunteering to the various ministry areas of church life.



Our Pathfinders welcomed guests as well as serving the amazing cuisine that was in store. The band of talented musicians serenaded while we dined and enjoyed each other's company. An amazing evening was shared by all with a goodbye and appreciation of the ministry of Pastor Annalise along with a FaceTime interview of our incoming intern Caitlin Nelson-Kross. We thank God for His ongoing leading in our church community.

ARTICLE BY KENDELL COBBIN
PHOTOS BY MARLENE FOOTE & JASON HAY

GLENVALE FIRE, FUNDRAISING AND FOOD

Lots happening at Glenvale! Reverend Linda Hamill, formerly of South Dakota, USA, (pictured with Pastor Casey Wolverton), is a Uniting Church pastor in Toowoomba. As a guest at Glenvale Church, she shared stories and facts about the recent wildfire in Paradise, California which has affected her Seventh-day Adventist relatives, destroyed the Paradise Seventh-day Adventist church, and damaged the Adventist school and hospital. \$2,000 was collected on the day in a special offering to assist the numerous Seventh-day Adventist pastors and teachers who lost their homes in the fire.

The Glenvale ADRA Appeal Auction raised \$8310. Combined with donations collected by a few faithful volunteers and church member contributions, ADRA Appeal leader Athol Bazley could report a grand total of \$11,000 for ADRA.



One hundred people attended a delicious and healthy plant-based Christmas feast to celebrate the healthy eating outreach programs led by our health team, totalling 50 events over ten years, more than 300 healthy recipes, and almost 16,000 servings!

ARTICLE BY GEOFF FRAUENFELDER
PHOTO BY DAVID ARTHUR

JESSIE'S JOY IN JESUS



A large gathering including young people, students, pathfinders, family and church members filled much of Glenvale Church on Sabbath afternoon 17 November, to witness Jessie Longshaw declare her love for Jesus in baptism. Darling Downs teacher, Anna Beaden enjoyed the privilege of mentoring Jessie in her spiritual discipleship journey as she had explored God's Word, falling in love with her Saviour more and more each day. Pastor

Chris, who had first met Jessie at Synergy outreach fellowships held in the Darling Downs Christian College Chapel (when Jessie was just a toddler) said how blessed he was to be invited to baptise Jessie, knowing how passionately she loves her Lord.

ARTICLE BY ANNA BEADEN
PHOTO BY ADELE ARTHUR

KILCOY SMALL CHURCH, BIG YEAR



2018—a big year for the small community of Kilcoy. In February we commenced a Diabetic Health Clinic, a twelve-week lifestyle change program. Around 300 people signed up, of which half went through to complete the full course. Our Recipe Club, originally started in a church member's living room and running for over 10 years, now has over 50 people attending, including some from the Diabetic Health Clinic. Right now, a Depression and Anxiety program is underway. When advertising, we capped the number at 30 participants, but had an overflow of twenty who will be offered places in the next round in early 2019. Kilcoy members might well tell you it has been a tiring year, but with the way God has been leading and blessing our community it has been worth every bit.

How has this been possible for a small church community like Kilcoy? Firstly, community members have willingly added their help to our members for every one of the programs. Secondly,

years of engaging with the community has developed a great rapport. Thirdly and most importantly, God is doing amazing things and the Kilcoy Church community were ready and willing to hop on board for the exciting journey, and look forward to His continuing blessings in 2019. (Want to know more about the Diabetic Health Clinic or one in your church, contact Peter Pratt 0419 777 440)

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY
SCOTT WAREHAM

LANDSBOROUGH
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
WELLBEING EVENT



During November our Health Team held a community lifestyle event in the Church's community centre. This included vegetarian cooking demonstrations and featured Dr John Clark (Northern Lights Health Education) speaking on the topic "Cancer— Is there Hope?" This was followed by a question and answer time with prizes. Members of the community attended the event and stayed for a vegetarian taste-testing lunch. "It was good to interact with the community and share some practical advice about managing lifestyle-related diseases and conditions," said Health Team Leader, Joanne Oaklands. This will be followed up with several other health related activities in the New Year.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY
CHARLES RUSSELL

LAIDLEY
GROWTH IN LOCKYER VALLEY



Laidley Church embraced six new members who joined their fellowship on Sabbath, 24 November. Local minister Darryl Groves and a local elder formally welcomed David, Rosa, Priscilla, Riendah, Daiana and Fildah. Laidley has grown significantly over the years and various church outreach projects are scheduled in future months.

To keep up to date with events and to know more about Laidley Church visit laidleyadventistchurch.org.au.

ARTICLE BY DAVID REID
PHOTO BY DIANNE MATTHEWS

SOUTH BRISBANE
NOT LOST BUT FOUND



On Sabbath morning 17 November, South Brisbane Church welcomed Brisbane Asian Church to witness the baptism of Zhilan Deng. Pastor Simon Siew pointed out that the lost sheep, coin and son of Luke 15 should better be spoken of as the "found sheep, coin and son" and the Lord is passionate for all people, seeking them tirelessly. Originating in Dalian, China, both

Zhilan and her husband suffered during the turbulent period known as the Cultural Revolution. Under communist rule in China, she had no chance to hear of the gospel as religious freedom was strictly curtailed.

Through God's wonderful providence, she came to Australia a few years ago at the invitation of her three daughters to help care for her grandchildren. Her husband joined her much later, finding Australians much friendlier than his home country. Their daughter, Lucy Quan, had actually become an Adventist back in China and had come to Sydney, becoming active in the Chinese Adventist Church there. So when her mother moved here, she witnessed to her and led her in a study of the Bible, resulting in her recent baptism. Lucy Quan sang 'There is a Fountain' as a beautiful tribute to God's leading, accompanied by Clayton and Delce on violin and piano. A seminar followed in the afternoon in which Pr Siew taught how to share the Gospel with people in a systematic way.

ARTICLE BY SHIRLEY GLOVER
PHOTO BY ELLEN AHN

FAREWELLED WITH LOVE



For the past six years, Pastor Mark Pearce and his wife Paulene have been our pastoral family at South Brisbane. Pastor Mark's humour has been enjoyed, but even more his insight into the Word of God and presentation of the many truths he has shared. We have also been blessed

by Paulene's happy personality and beautiful gift of singing.

Pastor Mark and Paulene have recently accepted a call to Pacific Adventist University in Papua New Guinea, where Mark will be Director of the Centre for Adventist Research of the South Pacific and a lecturer in the School of Theology. We all said "good-bye" at a sumptuous farewell luncheon, joined by our Korean brothers and sisters who worship in South Brisbane Church's Hall. It had been a busy Sabbath morning for Pastor Mark, with a double baby dedication, an ordination of seven deacons, plus the sermon!

ARTICLE BY SHIRLEY GLOVER
PHOTO BY FAY CHURCH

MAROOCHYDORE BUTTERFLY CLUB



Sarah Laws and Lucy Grant are two of the group who set up Butterfly Ministries, volunteers who get involved in helping community people in need. In the lead up to Christmas they are taking gifts collected through the church door to door with an invitation to come to the church's Carols Concert. This concert has been organised by Personal Ministries leader Mark Grant and his team. In the New Year Butterfly Ministries will go back and revisit those contacted to offer further help.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY NGAIRE DARE

WOMEN'S MINISTRY PAMPER DAY



Maroochydore Church ladies and their friends enjoyed a special time of relaxation during a Pamper Day on Sunday, 18 November. After soaking their feet in a foot spa, a trained foot technician applied exfoliating creams, checked toenails and finally applied a Peppermint Cream Lotion. Some also had a mud mask applied to their faces, leaving many fresh and pink after the mask was removed.

Angela May and Jenny Belford of the Women's Ministry team followed up with a nutritious finger food lunch. A memorable day was had by all.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY LYNN HOWELL

NORTHPINE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

INVICTUS GAMES ATHLETE VISITS



On Monday 12 November, Northpine Christian College had the honour of being visited by Carrie-Anne Bishop. A former Australian Defence Force member, she competed for Australia in the Invictus Games in 2018, an international sports event in which injured Armed Force members compete in various events.

Carrie-Anne shared how she had joined the Army in 2002, serving in the Corps of Transport. In 2015, during deployment in East Timor she sustained injuries to her hips, back and shoulder and was discharged as a result. Sport has played a major role in her rehabilitation, enabling her to get out of the house, exercise and socialise again.

In the 2018 Invictus Games Sally-Anne participated in Athletics and Sitting Volleyball.

Each Invictus Games athlete was given an ANZAC bear to give to a school of their choice as a way to raise awareness for armed services personnel who have been injured or are struggling in their time after service. Bishop chose Northpine Christian College because her niece and nephew are students there. She presented a nurse bear, honouring the countless medical personnel who saved lives during the First World War, a century ago.

ARTICLE BY ANDREW SCHNELL
PHOTO BY COLIN WILSON

STORMFORCE GENEROSITY



Throughout the school year, the Primary School has served the community through Stormforce Challenges. Recently, the Stormforce leadership team challenged students with something hands-on that provide tangible results. John Taylor, coordinator of Pine Rivers Church's ADRA Pantry said he was always looking for more non-perishable food for the pantry, so Primary School students began bringing non-perishable food donations to their classes.

On Tuesday, 20 November, John and his team visited the Infant and Junior School

chapels to tell where their donations were going, and all donated items were stacked on the stage. We are proud of the students' willingness to give, as the sheer combined number of donations was impressive. Lessons in service inspire our students to serve others less fortunate.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY
ANDREW SCHNELL

YEAR 12'S LIGHT SHARERS

On Wednesday 14 November, the Year 12 Class of 2018 gathered in Northpine's Performing Arts Centre for their Dedication to be challenged to apply the academic, spiritual and life skills they have learned at Northpine, and to dedicate them to a life of service for others, and for God.

School Captains Benjamin Holmlund and Natalia Perez thanked families and teachers for their support throughout the years. Chris Starrett, former Northpine teacher who had taught the Class of 2018 when they were in Year 8, spoke on the importance of setting life goals.

At the end of the service, each class member brought a lantern to the front, lighting them from the same candle, symbolising the gifts and knowledge each of the students acquired while at Northpine. They stood and received a challenge to take their lanterns and share them with the world, then their Year 12 teachers—Aimee Page, Colin Wilson and Christia Willcocks—read the final roll call.



The following day for their Year 12 Formal, they walked a red carpet at Sandstone Point Hotel, cheered

on by friends and family. The next morning, Northpine Staff hosted them for breakfast, the whole school then sending them off with a Guard of Honour ceremony.



It was bittersweet for many as they said farewell to their time as students at Northpine. We all look forward to seeing where their light spreads and wish them all the best in this new phase of their lives!

ARTICLE & PHOTO BY ANDREW SCHNELL

NOOSA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

On Wednesday 21st November, the Year 12 Formal was held at the RACV Noosa Resort.



Students looked spectacular and enjoyed a lovely evening of presentations and food with families, teachers and staff. Awards Night on Wednesday 5 December, saw students officially graduate from school. Zara Roberts received a medal for being a student at Noosa Christian College from Prep to

Year 12. Secondary College Dux was awarded to Joshua Taylor.

Congratulations were extended to all students as they step into their future endeavours.

ARTICLE BY DALE BERGMAN
PHOTO BY CATHY CAMPBELL

MATHS MAGIC



Our budding mathematicians and academics have recently excelled themselves, representing the school in various competitions and tournaments. On Monday 12 November, they were congratulated for their effort and presented with certificates at school assembly.

Students participated initially in both the Australian Mathematics Competition and the Computational and Algorithmic Thinking competition, both offered by the Australian Mathematics Trust. More recently, they tackled the Sunshine Coast Mathematics Tournament in which teams of five from each of Years 9-11 competed against other schools in both individual and team-based problem-solving exercises.

These competitions are open to any student willing to give it a go, and some results received by our students achieved High Distinction. Well done and thank you to all students who participated, representing the school so well in each of these disciplines.

ARTICLE BY MITCHELL LINDBECK
PHOTO BY MEL ZANNINI

IPSWICH ADVENTIST SCHOOL

CSI

No it is not a Crime Scene Investigation—but a Community Service Initiative.

This Semester, Ipswich Adventist School participated in a CSI project as part of our 2018 SHINE theme. Each class chose their own service project to SHINE the love of Jesus into our local Ipswich community.



Year 5 & 6 offered a free car wash for members of Joy Club, a senior's group meeting monthly in the church hall. With the help of local car detailer, AG Auto Care they made the cars sparkle and shine. Students then placed a bible verse under each windscreen wiper for each car owner to read.



Year 3 & 4 visited a local nursing home to perform a musical and vocal concert. Following the concert, students met with residents, presenting them with a

small gift they had prepared.

Care packs, with the help of the local Woolworths were carefully put together by Year 2 to donate to the Ipswich Women's Shelter in time for Christmas. These contained basic necessities plus some luxury items for the women and their children.

Year 1 got their gardening gloves on with bins and brooms to clean the local park by sweeping and picking up litter. They then enjoyed a play in the nice clean park before handing out magnets for families to take home.

Prep class worked hard with a bake stall to raise funds to buy much needed items, along with donations for the Samaritan's Operation Shoe Box.

Students and staff enjoyed the opportunity to put serving others into practice. These Community Service Initiatives were made possible with support from the Conference Evangelism Fund.

ARTICLE BY NADIA GOLTZ
PHOTOS BY REUBEN PUNI

Turning The Sod For Yooroonga

The recently appointed Management Committee for the new Yooroonga Residential Care project met for the first time on 6 December, 2018 onsite at Victoria Point. Members are Rob Ellison, Colin Renfrew, Helena Andersen, Val Rence, Kelly Williams, Liana Palade and Chris Foote. The first sods were turned as the symbolic commencement of the project and in the New Year building will proceed. This new and significant initiative, growing out of the need to provide suitable accommodation for those living with disability has been under development for several years thanks to the inspiration and dedication of people like pastors Laurie Evans and Bob Possingham. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. If you would like to make any donation in support of this project, it already has DGR status and donations are tax deductible.

Just contact Rob Ellison at 07 3218 7777, RobEllison@adventist.org.au, or through eGiving.

ARTICLE BY ROB ELLISON
PHOTO BY CHARMAINE PATEL



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

The following are some of the highlights and decisions made by the Executive Committee and the Board of Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited during the closing months of 2018.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Ltd Board:

Approved a service agreement between Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Limited and Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Northern Australia) Limited, to deliver educational services to the Northern Australia Conference according to the terms of the agreement.

Inducted new Directors to their roles and responsibilities.

Recommended to the AUC Executive the following names

Ordination to Pastoral Ministry:

Rick Meale and Ricardo Scheffer.

Intern progression:

Stage 1 Completion (Progress to Stage 2 of Internship):

Tim Ah Sam and Jared Martin

Stage 2 Completion (Progress to Ministerial Licence):

Annalise Lindsay and Jacob Ugljesa

The Executive Committee:

Endorsed an in-principle approval to opt into the National Redress Scheme administered by AdSAFE Limited.

Provided induction and orientation to the new Executive members

Approved a departmental restructure to enhance local church-based ministries, to be more responsive to the needs of the local church, and to have more resources available to the frontline:

- Church Support and Development Director (1.0 FTE)
- Church Support and Development Associate Directors (3.0 FTE)
- Church Support and Development Associate Director (Teen/High School Ministry) (1.0 FTE)
- Church Support and Development Associate Director (Health) (0.5 FTE)

Members of the Executive Committee / Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited Board:

Ex Officio: Pr Brett Townend, Pr Colin Renfrew, Mr Scott Hopkins

Employees: Mrs Leanne Entermann, Mrs Susan Hensley, Mr Tim Hutton, Pr Greg Pratt, Mr Jacob Ugljesa

Lay Persons: Mrs Gail Davey, Ms Susanna Je, Ms Sharee Patrick, Mr Hennie du Preez, Mr Michael Petrie, Mr Joseph Ryan, Mrs Lyndel Smith

PASTOR COLIN RENFREW, GENERAL SECRETARY



Earlybird registrations now open for the 2019 Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon

TWO locations in our conference:

- Sunday, 5 May 2019 at Broadwater Parklands, Marine Parade, Southport
- Sunday, 19 May 2019 at Pine Rivers Showground & Lawnton Aquatic Centre, Lawnton



Register now at <https://tryathlon.com.au/>

NEW CHAPTER FOR ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRES

Due to changing economic times, our two book centres have revised opening times and days. To ensure good customer service, Gloria Paun will supervise both stores and can respond to your queries. On Wednesdays & Thursdays Dafne Jones will assist at the Watson Park ABC.

www.SQBooks.com.au, our on-line service continues to provide the excellent 24/7 service you have come to enjoy.

Please note revised opening times:

Christian Life Resources—Phone 3340 4700

Located at 2422 Logan Road, Eight Mile Plains

Open Monday to Wednesday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Thursday 9.00am to 7.00pm

Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm

Adventist Book Centre—Phone 3886 1316

Located at Watson Park, 337 Old Gympie Rd, Dakabin

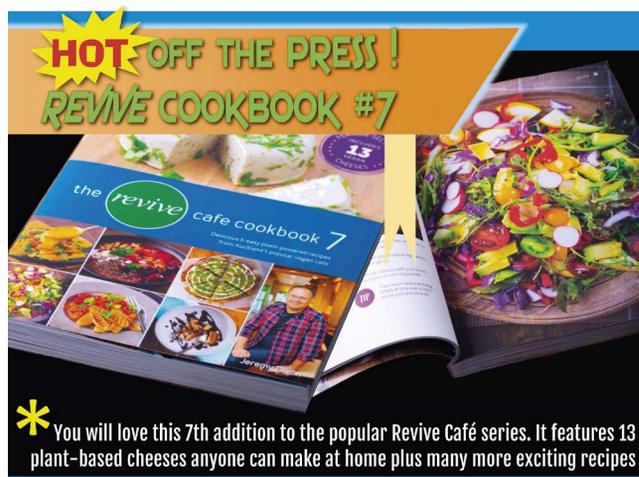
Open on Wednesday and Thursday only

8.45am to 5.00pm

(not open on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays except during major ministry events such as Big Camp)

On days the Dakabin ABC is closed you can still:

- Email at abcsqc@adventist.org.au (regularly checked)
- Phone Christian Life Resources on 3340 4700 or on 1800 203 610
- Leave voice message on 3886 1316 (respond on Wed)
- Postal orders can be processed from either outlet



POSITIONS VACANT

Accounts Support Positions (Full-time/Part-time)

Full-time and Part-time positions have become available in our South Queensland Administration and Resourcing Centre (Spring Hill), Finance Department.

These positions offer variety and challenge as part of the team in the Conference and will be responsible for data capture/entry in accounts receivable/payables and providing general accounts support to our Accountants covering a wide range of the Conference operations, including assisting in the Tithes and Offerings System.

Relevant current experience including data entry to accounting ledgers, competence in use of Excel spreadsheets/other similar accounting software and general accounts support is essential for this position.

The successful applicant should be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and be able to demonstrate good communication and relational skills to effectively relate to staff, church members and the general community.

A detailed Position Profile is available on request.

Written applications, including detailed resume, references and details of full-time or part-time availability, should be forwarded to:

Mrs Susan Hensley

HR Manager

Seventh-day Adventist Church
(South Queensland Conference) Limited

PO Box 577

SPRING HILL, QLD 4004

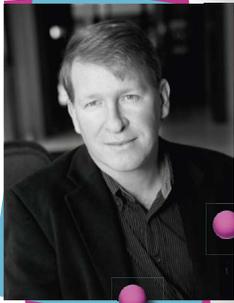
Applications Close Friday January 25, 2019

The Administration of Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Ltd reserves the right to make an appointment to this position.



the Association of
Adventist Counsellors
presents...

Saturday,
30 March 2019
9:20am–3:30pm



Joe Coyne has over 20 years experience in child and family psychology, and a keen interest in developmental processes involved in healthy life outcomes & the impact of parenting & life events on personal trajectories.

Joe is an accredited therapist, trainer and supervisor for the Circle of Security Intervention, and Coordinates QUT's Masters of Psychology (Educational & Developmental)



learning
to
keep
the
ME
in
US

**SUPER EARLYBIRD
RATE AVAILABLE
NOW!**

...what attachment theory can
tell us about growing into a
person & relating well

Joe will explore how early parenting & the attachments formed in these relationships shape how we learn to relate across time, not just to others but also to ourselves.

Session 1: Normal developmental processes

Session 2: Complications, impacts on child development & attachment to others & self.

Session 3: What this tells us about adult life, as parent or child-carer, & how to respond

Like to come? Your payment includes the full day's presentations, plus morning refreshments & a vegetarian lunch. Please book promptly to assist in confirmation of event.

*** SUPER EARLYBIRD (closes 31 Dec)**

\$55 non-member \$40 AAC member

• Earlybird (closes 31 Jan)

\$60 non-member \$45 AAC member

• Regular (closes 28 Feb)

\$65 non-member \$50 AAC member

▪ **Accompanying spouse** \$30 regardless of SuperEB/EB/Regular rate

▪ **\$5 per person late surcharge** for all bookings after Feb 28 (including accompanying spouse)

**ADVENTIST ADMINISTRATION
& RESOURCING CENTRE
55 FORTESCUE STREET, SPRING HILL**

an Adventist Relationship Ministries event

**BOOK ON-LINE (PLUS MORE INFO) NOW AT:
www.justrelationships.org**

Visit us on Facebook at **Adventists South Queensland** and Instagram at **adventist_sqc**

Attention FOCUS Contributors

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NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 2019.

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Subject to sufficient copy received, the next general issue of FOCUS will be published in February, 2019

President Pastor Brett Townend
Editor Pastor Chris Foote
Print Signs Publishing

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in South Queensland*
LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.™