



Nurturing Disciples

In a Healthy Growing Church

Reaching Out and Connecting

FOCUS

Newsletter of the South Queensland Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

SUMMER OF SON

by Pastor Willie Strickland

Over the summer holidays, the Youth Department organised camps for our Juniors and Teens. These camps enable young people to make new friends, try various activities and learn more about Jesus in a fun environment. Some of the activities offered included tubing, wakeboarding, waterskiing, archery, canoeing, high ropes and splash planet. This year, the organising team decided to allow the young people, during the morning activity session, a chance to develop a skill they could say was learnt at summer camp.

A key part of summer-camp ministry involves older youth building strong relationships with the Junior and Teens. This is made possible in a variety of ways: cabin leadership, activity coordinating and being part of the auxillary team. The South Queensland Youth Department wishes to thank all the leaders who made summer camp such a memorable experience.

The theme for summer camp was “Survivor—Courage, Strength, Endurance.” The young people were challenged to make Jesus a key part of their lives and to daily apply the key Bible text: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

Friday night was a highlight for the campers as various decisions were

called for and made, ensuring that this event supported the vision of the Youth Department—“Making Disciples for Jesus.”

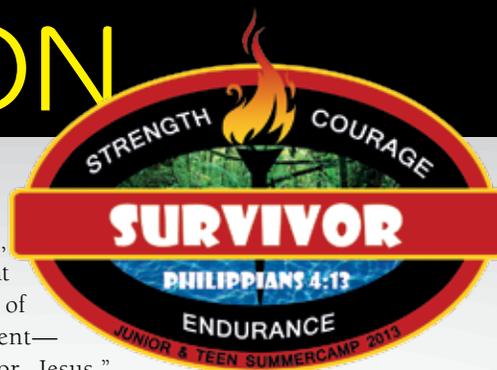
The decisions were collated for both camps and resulted in the following:

- 55 Campers have decided to accept Jesus into their heart.
- 47 Campers would like to be prayed for.
- 24 Campers would like to have Bible studies.
- 30 Campers would like to be baptised.
- 16 Campers recommit life to Jesus (Teens).
- 21 Campers like to be involved in church or school (Teens).

The Summer Camp leaders were truly humbled by the results and recognise that the power of the Holy Spirit has been working on the hearts of our young people—Praise the Lord!!

The Youth Department organise summer camps every year and would like to encourage parents, caregivers, and church families to send your child/ren along—it’s totally worth it!

The dates for next year’s camps will be Junior Camp—January 13–18, 2015 and Teen Camp—January 20–25, 2015.





SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
South Queensland Conference

Prayer in Our Community

6th Annual Prayer Conference **April 4-6, 2014**

Watson Park Convention Centre, Dakabin

REGISTER ONLINE at <http://sq.adventist.org.au/personal-ministries>

Full Weekend Seminar includes accommodation and meals—ust \$100. Bookings are essential.

For full program details, please visit the website. **APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY, MARCH 21 2014**

GUEST PRESENTERS -



Esther R Knott

Esther is an Associate Director in the NAD Ministerial Department, as well as an associate pastor at Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, USA.



Andrew Skeggs

Pastor and Director for Personal Ministries in the Western Australian Conference.

PLUS...

We are currently negotiating with Julie Praestiin, Corporate Communications with Sanitarium to be an additional presenter.

WORKSHOP TITLES & PRESENTERS:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTENSIVE CARE—INTENSIVE PRAYER 	Esther R Knott, Associate Ministerial Director NAD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GUIDING YOUR FRIENDS ON A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY • BUILDING THE PRESENCE OF JESUS INTO YOUR CHURCH 	Pastor Andrew Skeggs Director for Personal Ministries Western Australian Conference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YOUTH EVANGELISM MISSIONS: HOW TO RUN THE LAST EMPIRE EVANGELISM PROGRAM • YOUTH EVANGELISM MISSIONS:HOW TO RUN BEYOND THE SEARCH AND THE RADICAL TEACHINGS OF JESUS EVANGELISM PROGRAMS 	Pastor Stephen Kane, SQC Youth Director, Pastor Willie Strickland, SQC Associate Youth Director Pastor Joseph Khabbaz, SQC Associate Youth Director
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXPERIENCING GOD'S LOVE 	Dr Joseph Webb SQC Ministerial Association Secretary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIS WIFE • HIS WORK • HIS FINANCES • HIS SEXUALITY 	Helen Threlfo SQC Director of Women's Ministries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISCOVERING FREEDOM IN CHRIST 	Pastor David Garrard, SQC Director of ATSIM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIBLICAL FASTING—THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL REJUVENATION 	Pastor Neil Marks, SQC Director of Children's Ministriess

YOUTH COACHES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Pastor Stephen Kane

The Outer Southern Metro youth coach, Jubilee Siulai called together all the youth leaders from that region on January 22 to meet in the conference room at Woodridge McDonalds to offer support and update the leaders on all things youth ministry. Pastor William Strickland led out in a devotional and outlined the role of a youth coach and key things coming up in youth ministry. Pastor Steve Kane assisted with answering questions on youth ministry in the conference and local church. The youth leaders expressed how much they appreciated having the back up support of a Youth Coach.

The Northern Metro Youth Coaches Hayden Wall, Everlyn Ashin and Royce Turia, also called together all the youth leaders from their region on February 2. They met at the Sandgate Church hall for a breakfast that was prepared by the young people from the Sandgate church. Pastor Joseph Khabbaz led out in a devotional and question and answer time and Pastor Steve Kane outlined the role of the youth coaches and spoke about the joy of working in

a functioning team in unity of purpose.

The key role of youth coaches is to support local church teen, youth and young adult leaders; to encourage them and facilitate them toward having healthy growing youth ministries at each of the churches in their region. It is important that each of the youth groups grow and develop and also that the youth groups in each region work together in supporting each other in ministry to young people. Youth coaches are mentored by the South Queensland Youth Directors and in turn the youth coaches act as mentors to local church leaders, who act as mentors to the young people they serve. It is the Jethro principle in action found in Exodus 18.

South Queensland Youth would like to see the



young people in South Queensland be life-long students of the Master—disciples of Jesus Christ, loving people, sharing Christ, preparing for His kingdom!



NOT JUST A JOB—IT'S A CALLING

by Pastor Joseph Khabbaz

At the end of 2013, Toowoomba Central church held a special dedicatory prayer for their tertiary student graduate Heidi Oehlmann. Pastor Clive Butcher led the service asking the congregation to support Heidi through prayer as she commences her teaching career with Toowoomba Christian College. Heidi will be teaching Years 8, 9 and 10 English and providing pastoral care to the Year 8 girls. The prayer service also included Braden Oliver and John Oehlmann, Heidi's proud father and Toowoomba church elder. Please remember to keep your tertiary student graduates in your prayers, whether they will be working in a secular environment or for our own institutions. Each individual has been called to be part of the important work of sharing Christ's love and message of hope.

If your church would like to hold a dedicatory prayer service for its graduates, please do not hesitate to contact Joseph Khabbaz on josephkhabbaz@adventist.org.au.





THE LONG-REACH OF OUTREACH GETS A TRIPLE AAA RATING

by Pastor David Edgar

For a couple of years AAA has spoken of extending our mission to Longreach in the far northwest of our conference. Coincidentally (read—providentially), the South Queensland Conference President, Pastor Jorge Munoz, had the same idea.

Upon hearing of the conference initiative, AAA decided that rather than re-invent any wheels, our task would be to work with the conference to help provide a good outcome to their venture. We all know that Longreach isn't that big, but it is an iconic town in Queensland. To have a presence in Longreach will open up tremendous opportunities in the region, hence the Directorate's decision to support the South Queensland Conference initiative.

Pastor Munoz sent in the literature evangelists and then, accompanied by others, did an extensive outback tour during 2013, finishing up at Longreach. The literature evangelists uncovered 16 Sabbath keepers in Longreach!

The result of the tour was a dual effort with supply by the

conference, and installation by AAA, of eight satellite systems from Charleville to Longreach plus the gifting of six sets of the new *Beyond* DVDs to our outback contacts.

During 2014, your AAA Directorate has scheduled nine flights to Longreach to support the local minister who will travel from Emerald. The task for AAA is to doorknock the town offering satellite dishes and *Beyond* DVDs, plus Bible courses and literature distribution, not to mention gaining contacts for the local minister to follow up. The South Queensland Conference also has its plans for the town.

In addition, AAA will fly its regular routes to Dirranbandi, Charleville, St George, Chinchilla, Roma and Tambo to continue developing the work in these areas. Please pray for success of the Three Angels Message in the remote areas of our conference.

If you want to get involved in outback evangelism, please go to <http://aviationsq.adventist.org.au> or call Pr David Edgar on 0432 211 692, to find out how.

BRISBANE'S ROAD to BETHLEHEM A HUGE SUCCESS

by Tatiana Green, Rowena and John Gambourg

There was a *real* baby! And all the children were singing so much that my heart was dancing!” exclaimed three-year-old Seahna, after walking along the Road to Bethlehem. Others commented on the quality of the production, with the convincing props and enthusiastic volunteers, expressing their appreciation for something non-commercial at Christmas time for their children and friends to witness.

During December 16–18, 2013 more than 250 volunteers participated in Brisbane’s second annual Road to Bethlehem at Watson Park in Dakabin. The thought-provoking program ran over three consecutive nights, attracting more than 2080 visitors (increasing from 1600 last year) who walk through the various real-life scenes



Photos by Stephen Wong, Michael Petrie, Sam Isitt

leading to the birth of Jesus in the stable.

Visitors were led by authentically-costumed Roman soldiers past horses and goats, through lively market-places and inns, via King Herod’s palace to shepherds who pointed them on to the final manger scene where a children’s choir of angels welcomed the new baby King. A prayer tent sparkling with stars ended the journey where visitors were invited to write prayers to God. Young and old alike were involved first-hand in learning about the real meaning of Christmas.

Many thanks were given by visitors for the uplifting, fresh reminder of the wonderful story of salvation. Keep Road to Bethlehem 2014 in your prayers. The production team would love to hear from you if you are interested in participating in December this year.



BECOME A FRIEND

by Deanna Pichford

**ASSOCIATION OF
ADVENTIST COUNSELLORS**
Networking Allied Professions Qld

The Association of Adventist Counsellors (AAC) has as its objective the support and training of Adventist people-helping professionals. They do, however, also have a broad base of support among church members who are not in the helping professions but who appreciate the work of the Association. If you are interested in topics that touch on the emotional and mental welfare of our people, you may wish to become a *Friend of AAC*. In doing so, you will receive a discounted fee for all seminars offered, as well as a discount

at Koorong bookstores. Contact AAC secretary, Ruth Friend at aac.qld@gmail.com to register your interest.

AAC's program for 2014 includes a seminar on Forgiveness in March (see the advert in this FOCUS), a workshop on Christian Mindfulness in August, and a final seminar in October on Managing the Emotional Roller-Coaster.

If you would like to be a *Friend of AAC* and receive first-hand information about these seminars, as well as the other benefits outlined, do not delay—register your interest today.

WHAT'S ON @ WATSON – GOING, GOING . . . GONE.

by Tim Hutton

January has come and gone and a lot has happened around Watson Park Convention Centre and the campground. Most noticeable are the changes surrounding our old “Taj Mahal” amenities block. Recently a text came to mind as we watched the end of an era: “All come from dust, and to dust all return” (Ecclesiastes 3:20, NIV). It took just three days to bring the Taj to ground level, the end of more than three decades of faithful service to programs such as Big Camp, larger groups hiring the facility, and to the school. This Big Camp icon will be missed but, it is making way for a newer and more functional facility that will boast increased numbers of showers and a few other modern conveniences to make life a little more comfortable. Construction on the new facility will commence very soon. Keep an eye out for construction updates on Watson Park's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WatsonParkConventionCentre>

Watson Park is also developing a website over the coming months and if you have any photos of the property, Watson Park Convention Centre

management would love to receive a copy for their records and potentially for the website. Photos can be e-mailed to; timhutton@adventist.org.au



Digital Evangelism; Social Media

<Social Media> (Part 3)



by Luke Farrugia

Well, here we are at part three of our series on social media. This month we are going to start exploring how we can use Facebook for digital evangelism.

REACHING OUT

With more than 1 billion active users you can reach out to, Facebook is a massive community you can share your faith with.

The challenge with any social media is using it to share your faith without allowing it to turn into a time waster (taking time from more important things) or a gossip platform. Those who follow you will be first to notice inconsistency in your posts. We must live out our faith both in person and online.¹

If you are ready to go, here's how you can get started right now.

Preparation: Sign up for your Facebook account at www.facebook.com

Stage 1: The easiest way to start is by sharing the posts that are already appearing in your feed (consistency is important, one to four posts per day is recommended). Add a comment to the post and start conversations. It is in building relationships that the true gospel is most effectively shared.

Stage 2: As you get more comfortable with it, you can even start making your own posts, but make sure you are regularly including an invitation to interact. Thought-provoking questions or general questions about people's experiences are the most effective.

Stage 3: Depending on how much time you can afford, the final and most effective level of engagement is befriending the commenters, leading them to study resources or into direct studies with you. This level of interaction is only effective if you have built a relationship in stages one and two, but it is the one that can be the most rewarding.

DOs AND DON'Ts

DOs

- Be a loving and lovable Christian (this is not just a saying, it wins souls).
- Know your Bible always and be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you. If you are asked a question that you don't know the answer to, find out, it is not only good for the asker, but it is good for you.
- Recognise that when someone is rude to you, they are rejecting the message, not the messenger.



DON'Ts

- Don't argue. Some people just try to bait Christians to get an argument.
- Don't be an "Obnoxious Christian." You are more likely to harden hearts than reach them.
- Don't pepper your friends with posts day and night, that is a fast way to annoy them.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

If you do get involved with social media evangelism, you will not be alone. There are many out there who have formed their own support groups for like-minded believers. Through these groups you will hear true stories of encouragement and baptisms as a result of social media ministry. Are you willing to get involved? If you have any questions, email us at focus@farbox.com.au.

1. If you can see either issue could be a problem for you personally, we recommend avoiding social media altogether. Some of our team here at Farbox avoid it for that very reason (myself included), while others use it for active ministry (these team members made up my research committee for this article).

TRAINING AN ARMY OF NUTRITION PRESENTERS



by Pastor Neil Marks—Director of Health, South Queensland Conference

Never has the evidence been more clear that a whole-food, plant-based diet is the best for optimal health and long life, yet the results of the latest Adventist Health and Lifestyle Survey suggest that Adventists in the South Pacific Division (SPD) are falling away from this traditional stance.

In light of these trends, the training of vegetarian nutrition and cooking presenters assumes a very important place in the ongoing life and mission of the church. It is significant that with the Class of 2013, the South Queensland Conference Health Department will have trained more than 80 church members to lead out in vegetarian cooking and nutrition programs over the past decade.

A key person over this period has been Sibilla Johnson, who has not only spent a large part of her life leading out in health ministry throughout the South Pacific and around the world. Other Vegetarian Nutrition trainers over the past 10 years in South Queensland have been Millie Bukojemsky, Mary Federah, Michelle Aldridge, Karen Gzszik, Pastor Neil Marks and, of more recent times, Melinda Archer and Rodney Flint.

To train a group of this size has been a significant achievement as Kevin Price, the Director of Health for the SPD once

commented that one of the things he would love to see in this Division in the area of health ministry, would be 100 vegetarian nutrition presenters like Sibilla Johnson!

Sibilla will leave a real health legacy whenever she finally decides to lay down her apron and laptop and step aside from her busy speaking and teaching schedule. She steered through the transition from the old Vegetarian Nutrition Presenters (VNP) program to the new nationally accredited, Certificate IV Community Health Education Presenters (CHEP) course. The core of the new training program is still vegetarian nutrition and cooking demonstrating, with the addition of other health-and food-related units.

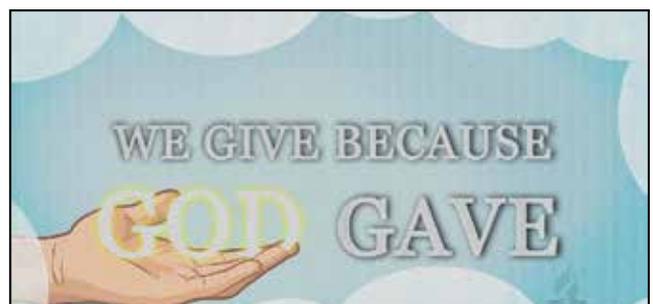
Around the 2003-2005 period, Sibilla spent more time in face-to-face training in South Queensland but a number of years ago she was happy to hand this over to the conference Health Department team. She still makes the journey from Melbourne to Brisbane for an annual CHEP Nutrition Update program and it was for this reason the opportunity was taken this year to honour and thank her for her significant contribution to health ministry in South Queensland over the 2003-2013 period.

The Lord Loves A Cheerful Giver

Did you know the church has set up ways you can pay tithes and offerings electronically. The following link is a promotional video about E-Giving: <http://vimeo.com/adamamn/egivingaus>

If you would like to take advantage of our E-Giving facility here in South Queensland Conference try the following link: <http://sq.adventist.org.au/e-giving>

And remember, the Bible reminds us to, “Honour the Lord with your wealth” (Proverbs 3:9).



THE 'GOOD' OLD DAYS

by Pastor Ronald Taylor

The two oldies sat in the shade at the back of the church. Their animated conversation was interspersed with, “Do you remember that?” and “Remember when . . . ?” Both of these men had worked for the Adventist church mission for more than 50 year’s “serving the Lord.” That’s the way they put it. Both had endless stories to tell of God’s care and guidance. “What would you say was the most memorable day in your experience?” asked one.

“There were many,” replied the other, “but the day we went to the heathen village on Malekula in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) would rate very high.”

He went on, “I remember we sailed in the mission ship from Santo and joined a medical team at Aore mission hospital, which was planning to visit an inland heathen village on the island of Malekula where the Big Nambus tribe lived. These people had rejected all efforts by Christian missionaries to assist them and they continued to live in abject heathenism. We left the ship in a small sandy cove and for the next couple of hours climbed up volcanic rocky rises and forded several creeks until our guide stopped and said, ‘The female nurses cannot go any further as this territory is for men only.’ Reluctantly the nurses were left behind and we soon came to the village ground. In the centre was a large native house. We were told, ‘This is where the men live.’ Other smaller houses were scattered around outside of the larger house. It was in these that the pigs, the chickens, the dogs, and the women, who were treated like animals, stayed. Doctor Joeli treated some obviously sick people, gave injections, bound up some badly infected wounds and our interpreter man unrolled his Bible picture roll and told the story of Jesus, who healed the sick and gave His life to save people. Then there were a few words of ‘Goodbye’ and we started our trek back to the coast.

“I remember that soon afterwards we met a Big Nambus couple walking along the track. This was unusual because male and female couples did not go out together, but these were easily identified by their Big Nambus clothing—or lack of it! They said to us, ‘Would you help our chief? He is very sick.’ They led us to an old native hut and said, ‘The sick man is in there.’ We looked in and could see nothing in the darkness, only hearing the sick man gasping for breath. ‘Can you bring him outside?’ we asked. They agreed The poor emaciated

old man was breathing with great difficulty. He was hot with fever and we thought he had pneumonia complicated with malaria. ‘We don’t have any medicine to cure this man’s sickness but Jesus can heal him. If you accept that Jesus can heal him, we could ask.’ We waited for a few minutes while they discussed the situation among themselves. They finally agreed, at which stage we offered a simple prayer asking God to heal this poor man. They carried him back into the smelly darkness and we went on our way to the coast.

When we got to the spot where we expected to find the boat, it was not there. They left a message to say that it was too rough and they had taken the boat to a quieter bay about 3 miles (5 kilometres) along the coast, so we set out for the boat. When we finally saw the boat, the sea was still too rough to launch the dingy and we had to swim through the surf to get on board.”

The oldies chuckled at the memory. Then, the other finished the story!

“About three months later, I went back to the village and asked what had happened to the old man. The villagers excitedly replied, ‘Before you got to the end of the village he came out of the house. His fever was gone and he was better!’

“Where is he now?” I asked. ‘A while ago he got sick again, and this time there was no-one to pray for him and he died. But before he died, he sent his whole family down to the mission on the beach. Now his children are attending the Adventist mission school.’”

“That was the happy ending to the story” said one oldie to the other.

“No,” said the other, “that’s not the end of the story—the end of the story will be told when Jesus gathers His people for the kingdom at His second coming—now that will be a happy ending!”

Incidentally, the two oldies? Gordon Gilbert and Ron Taylor!





by Tony Kent, South Queensland Education Director

Almost 200 teachers and chaplains from across our seven schools in South Queensland met on Thursday, January 23 at Brisbane Adventist College for their Annual Professional Development Day prior to the commencement of the school year. This year it was a different series of events. Rather than focusing on curriculum or teacher practice, as important as that is to teachers, the focus for the day was on spiritual wellbeing, a vital ingredient for Adventist teachers who are considered frontline ministry practitioners of our conference.

Teaching ministry is all about sharing Jesus with our students, their families and the broader community through the framework of quality Adventist education. To ensure our teachers and chaplains are equipped to do this effectively, we need to support their personal spiritual journey. The day included a keynote address from Pastor David McKibben, who challenged

all to seek a balance in their spiritual journey, allowing time for God, personal reflection and refreshment. Pastor McKibben's address was followed by a dedication ceremony conducted by Pastor Jorge Munos and Pastor Murray Hunter.

The balance of the day was taken up by two further interesting and pertinent presentations.

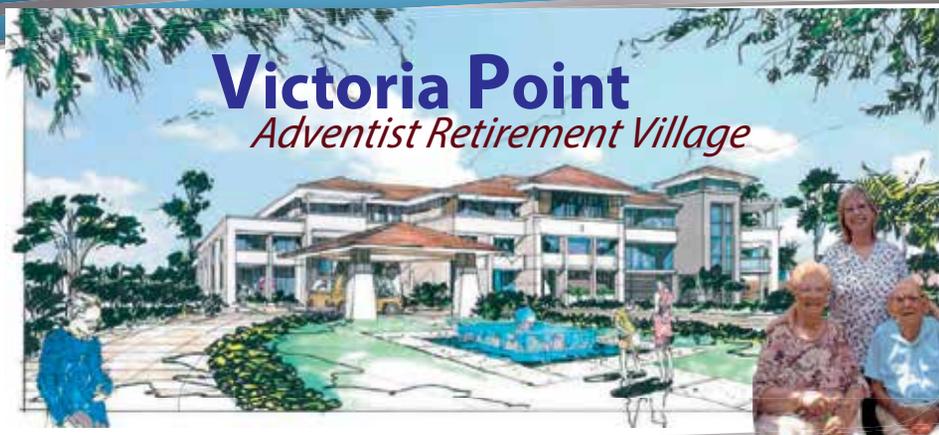
Dr Barry Gane from Avondale College shared insights on the Valuegenesis 2 study into *Faith Development and Values Formation in Seventh-day Adventist Adolescents and Youth*, and its implications for our teaching ministry.

Mrs Bev Christian, also from Avondale College, followed up Dr Gane's presentation with one that centred around the *Community of Faith and Learning Model* that underpins the new Adventist Bible curriculum (and Adventist education in general) and how this might best be applied to the classroom.



Photos by South Queensland Conference Department of Education

NEW



Victoria Point *Adventist Retirement Village*



**Victoria Point
Redevelopment Project**
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Loganholme, Qld 4129
Phone: 07 3451 5900
headoffice@sdaac.com.au

Stage 1 Construction Complete

Why Victoria Point?

It's that extra-special effort that someone takes to make you feel at home, the security of knowing that your loved ones will be taken care of. Combined with the quality of care that makes the Village special, our new Hostel unit will add:

- comfortable modern living,
- latest technology and equipment
- the highest standard of care

...ensuring that each Resident will have the best possible attention and assistance when needed. Adventist Aged Care has operated at Victoria Point for more than 30 years, and its current 124 suite facility caters for all levels of care needs.



Comfortable...



24 Hour Care...



Features Include...

- 89 premium-range rooms with ensuites.
- Extensive Dining, Lounge & Activities areas.
- Upgraded Reception/ Administration areas
- Beautiful onsite chapel facility.
- Training facilities and personalised services.
- Commercial kitchen and laundry

Now with a Cafe!

Our "All Things Nice" Cafe is a great place to meet over lunch or a cuppa. With inexpensive, high-quality food in a modern setting, you'll love the convenience of a cafe right at your doorstep!

LEs FOR LE

Led by God's Spirit

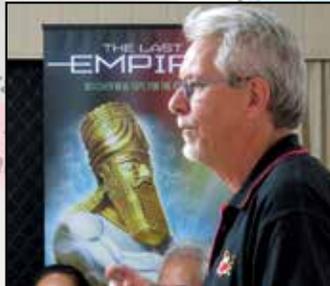
SECTION IV
IN LEAGUE WITH THE DIVINE

Under the Control of the Holy Spirit.—The carrying out of this work should never languish. The agencies set up for the control of the Holy Spirit of God.—Letter 82, 1899.

Man needs a power outside of and beyond himself, more him to the likeness of God, and enable him to work of God; but this does not make the human essential. Humanity lays hold upon the divine and dwells in the heart by faith upon the Spirit of God.

Led by God's Spirit of men. Without the Spirit and in vain that we labor to present vol. 5, p. 158. (1882)

When under test young men genuine burden for souls, and their fellow men, they will see their work a harvest.



Late January saw around 30 Literature Evangelists from around Australia and New Zealand spend a week on the Gold Coast treading the pavement and knocking on doors to secure interests for the upcoming “Last Empire” evangelistic campaign scheduled to start May 2 on the Coast. The team was led by John Brereton—a sea-

soned veteran of LE work here in Australia and internationally. Pator Colin Renfrew, the “Last Empire” on the Gold Coast coordinator, reported that each evening the LEs meet back for evening worship after their day’s work and are armed with truly amazing stories of people contacted and ministered to.



DEACONESSES ORDAINED AT GATTON

Article and pictures by Pastor Andy Krause

In 1895, Ellen White recommended the ordination of women who would give themselves to a deaconess-type work: “Women who are willing to consecrate some of their time to the service of the Lord, should be appointed to visit the sick, look after the young and minister to the necessities of the poor. They should be set apart to this work by prayer and laying on of hands . . . This is another means of strengthening and building up the church” (Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, July 9, 1895, emphases supplied).

Three recorded ordination services of deaconesses took place right here in Australia. The first on August 10, 1895 by Pastors Corliss and McCullagh, the second on January 7, 1900 by Elder W C White and the third in either February or March of 1916 by E E Andross, the then-president of the Pacific Union Conference.

What Ellen White wrote about and recommended in 1895 and what took place in those ordination services with the deaconesses, was just that, “ordination”—the very same ordination service that is bestowed or performed upon our elders and

deacons. The Church Manual, under the heading “Ordination Service For Deaconesses” states, “the ordination service should be characterised by simplicity and performed in the presence of the church” (page 78) and with that in mind, on Saturday January 4 in the presence of the Gatton congregation, Pastor Andy Krause officiated over the simple yet spiritually powerful ordination of the Gatton deaconesses.

This certainly is another way of “strengthening and building up the church” to God’s glory.



Front row L-R:-Mariana Dabali, Jocelyn Trow, Lorna Petit, Coral Harvey
Centre row L-R:-Val Arthur, Grace Uljarevic
Back row L-R:- Elder Rob Randal, Pastor Andy Krause, Elder Rejoice Dabali

AROUND THE CHURCHES

ALBION

THE MOST DEDICATED OF ALL



Sabbath, January 25, was a special day at Albion Church, particularly for the Faafoi family. Elekana and Marawai Faafoi, along with their seven children, have been members of Albion church for many years. The family had been blessed over the past four years with seven grandchildren being born into the family and on this day four of these grandchildren were dedicated to God in a special service. The children were: Annabeth Aileen Viola Faafoi, daughter of Ezekiel Roy and Lindell Faafoi; Hanisi Grace Satui, daughter of Sam and Kijiana Satui; Elekana Ezra Faafoi, son of David and Rebecca Faafoi, and Olivia Giordana Terles, daughter of William Terles and Shirley Faafoi. Along with the Faafoi family, Pastor and Mrs Gordan Oaklands (parents of Lindell) were also able to join in the dedication of their granddaughter. As a show of support, all family members came up the front to take part in the dedication service. In addition to the dedication, the eldest of the Faafoi children, Ezekiel (Roy) Faafoi, was also ordained as an elder. It truly was a happy and blessed day shared by all.

—Article and pictures by Lindell Faafoi

BILOELA

LIFTS THE LID ON COMMUNITY PROBLEM



Biloela church is desperately in need of two things at the moment—money and a toilet! They are praising the Lord that

they have been allocated the Conference wide offering for March. Please give generously!

The church was built in October 1963, and the church's toilet block was built at the same time. Fifty years on, the toilet block has come to the end of its life. Its clay pipes, walls & roof have deteriorated to the point where they are beyond repair.

Biloela has to build a new toilet block in order for the church to remain open. Local church members have been sacrificing in many ways to raise money for the rebuild but they are in desperate need of further support from others.

The church would greatly appreciate any help—builders, plumbers, electricians—who would be interested in participating in a "Drive and Build" in due course, so that a new toilet facility for the church can be made a reality.

All those who may be interested in assisting, please contact Bill on: biloelasda@bigpond.com

—Article by Bill Limpus

CALOUNDRRA

HISTORY-MAKING MOMENT

History was made at Caloundra on Sabbath December 21 when, for the very first time, a baptism was conducted in the church. Bob Johnstone, a one-time Radio Church of God member who had come to a fuller understanding of the truths of God's Word, was guided by Wes Hughes, a local elder and friend over a number of years to baptism into Jesus, as well as membership into God's end-time movement. Bob had been attending church at Caloundra for a number of years and finally was moved by the Holy Spirit to take his stand. There was much rejoicing that Sabbath at Caloundra—and in Heaven.

—Article and picture by Beryl Rabbast



Bob Johnstone and John Rabbast

COOROY

HOPE BRINGS HOPE TO COOROY



Howard and Sandy Garland have been Pentecostal Christians for 26 years—but not any longer! Their friends Bruno and

Jacqui encouraged them to become connected to Christian television but because they procrastinated, Jacqui finally took the initiative and had a satellite dish installed for them.

Of all the Christian channels available, it was Hope Channel and Amazing Discoveries that captured their attention—and held their interest.

They began attending Sabbath services at their local Cooroy Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastor David Reilly had regular studies with Howard and Sandy and these studies have now finally led them to request rebaptism into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Now Howard and Sandy have a new ministry sharing this message with around 25 friends!

—Article and pictures by David Reilly

ESK

CHURCH HAMPERED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITY



Just before Christmas last year, the members and friends of our Esk Seventh-Day Adventist Church were pleased to be able to help support *Brisbane Valley Care and Concern* by donating food hampers and gifts of toys to give their clients a happier Christmas and share some Christian love.

The Esk church also has a second project and attempts to bring some Christmas cheer to the residents of the Esk Caravan Park with food hampers and vouchers to spend in the town's local shops.

—Article and pictures by Jaith Dorrington

AROUND THE CHURCHES

GOLD COAST CENTRAL

I BEFORE E EXCEPT AFTER C... MOSTLY...



The Gold Coast Central Church hosts free English conversation classes to benefit people who cannot speak English or whose English needs improvement. These classes are run by qualified church members and all are invited to attend. The classes run from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm every Wednesday at the church.

It's a service run by a great church to a great community!

PLEASE BE SEATED



It was a real day of joy and thankfulness at the Gold Coast Central Church on a Sabbath, late last year because nine precious people were baptised into the church: Jess Martin, Katie Tsujikawa, Jeanette and Bill Bartlett, Jackie McCracken, Jacob Fogarty, Gary Willis, Anita Holowczak, and Michelle Parmenter.

The weekly prayer-meeting group have been praying that the Lord would bring more members into the church. Prayer-meeting members have been standing behind empty chairs while praying that God would fill those chairs.

The church members praise God their prayers are being answered. What joy the Lord brings!

—Article and pictures by Faye Garrick



KILCOY

A KILCOY VEGETARIAN MEET WORKS!



Early December, the Kilcoy Recipe Club held their end-of-year banquet. Vegetarian dishes made from recipes that had been presented during the course of the year were served up to all in attendance—it was a banquet fit for a king. The Recipe Club meets the first Monday night of each month and it is usual to have around 30 people attending. The Club is pleased to report that more than \$500 was raised to benefit disadvantaged young women and girls caught up in the human trafficking trade in Asia. The Club hopes these monies will bring some cheer to our Asian sisters.

—Article and pictures by Audrey Donaldson

KINGAROY PINE RIVERS

KEEPING UP WITH THE SMITHS



A Sabbath school small group at Pine Rivers Church collected a number of items for the Smith Family *Book and Toy Appeal* over Christmas. The Smith Family supports disadvantaged young people in the community. The organisation was pleased to accept the books and toys that were collected. The Sabbath school group embarks on regular projects to support the community as part of our outreach ministry.

—Article and pictures by Charles Russell

SALISBURY HAS VISITORS FOR LUNCH



Late last year, Salisbury church held its annual Visitors Day program. The program attracted more than 30 non-Adventists, including a number of people from various non-Christian backgrounds. Pastor Miljan Popovic presented the topic "Peter's Tears," which was encouraging for all. The singing group "Evidence" joined us for the morning program, led out in the song service and performed two special items. A combined lunch was held in the church hall and, despite the rainy weather, almost all stayed for lunch. The day was well-received by the members, regular visitors, first-time visitors and friends. As a result of the visitor's day, a number of people have begun to attend regularly and it is planned to hold the next visitor's day program in March. We thank God for leading our church throughout 2013 and are looking forward to an even better 2014.

— Article by Ben Uljarevic

YEPPON CAPRICORN COAST CONVERSIONS



Mid-December saw five precious people commit their lives to Jesus Christ through baptism at the Yeppoon Seventh-day Adventist Church. A full church of members, family and friends of the candidates were there to share the joy.

Toni Alldridge, Jean Hinton, Jylan Wynne, Tyler Colless and Joshua Grimshaw studied diligently with Pastor Ernest Wojnar throughout the year, and all were eagerly awaiting the day of their baptism. The church thanks God and praises His name for a wonderful end of the year. The church continues to pray that its new members' faith will grow and mature providing the strength to follow God until that day when we will all meet Him face to face.

—Article and picture by Ernie Wojnar

DROUGHT BROKEN IN KINGARROY . . . AGAIN

Article and pictures by Gideon Okesene

Toward the end of last year, two special women made a new start, one which involved them publically making a statement that they were fully devoted to Jesus and the church. Colleen and Diane were baptised into the Kingarroy church. The statement was and still is: “I am making a complete commitment to Christ, through His Body here on earth.”

Colleen Novak felt joy, relief and peace after being baptised. “I don’t think I have seen her this happy for a very long time,” was a comment one member of the church made. Colleen shared wonderful experiences and miracles from her very interesting faith journey. It has been a journey that has seen many difficulties, disappointments and pain, but one that would ultimately lead to this victorious milestone. Since being baptized Colleen has had an unquenchable desire to do something for God and is already planning to do mission work in Papua New Guinea later this year.

Diane Usher was overwhelmed by her baptism experi-

ence. She has diligently searched the Scriptures over the years and has now made the decision to walk in the light of Bible truth. Once Diane’s mind was set, there would be absolutely nothing or no-one that would stand in her way! Both Diane and her husband have a new-found passion to bring their children to the Lord and to support mission financially.

Colleen and Diane recognise the special message of our Seventh-day Adventist Church and both are excited being members of the family of God and the church and the opportunities it will bring.



DARLING DOWNS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE SCORE A BULLSEYE WITH ARROWSMITH PROGRAM

Article and pictures by Elissa Dowling

Darling Downs Christian School (DDCS) will be one of the first schools in Australia to provide a groundbreaking program for students with learning disabilities!

The Arrowsmith Program, which will begin operating at the Toowoomba school in term two this year, has helped thousands of children diagnosed with ADD or ADHD, dyslexia or dysgraphia—dismissed as impossible to teach—to achieve academic and professional success.

Founder, Canadian psychologist Barbara Arrowsmith-Young, visited the school and announced the launch of the program late last year.

Mrs Arrowsmith-Young is an internationally recognised pioneer of neuroplasticity—the idea that the brain is mouldable rather than fixed—who featured in the New York Times bestseller *The Brain That Changes Itself* by Norman Doidge.

Suffering from a learning disability herself, years of research led her to develop the Arrowsmith Program, which demonstrated that it was possible for students to strengthen the weak cognitive capacities that affect learning.

The program has quickly grown in popularity as both parents and teachers see amazing results in students with previously debilitating learning difficulties.

“We have been working hard to bring this program to our school, so we are really looking forward to seeing it become a reality this year,” DDCS principal Adrian Fitzpatrick said.

“Many Australian families have previously had to travel to Canada to access this program—so it’s very exciting to offer it at DDCS.”

Mr Fitzpatrick said two teachers were currently receiving specialist training in Canada, but would return to open the program in April.

Mrs Arrowsmith-Young said she was thrilled to be in Toowoomba.

“We are really excited that the program will have such a wonderful home,” Mrs Arrowsmith-Young said.

“We take great care in choosing a school that fits our education philosophy and DDCS offers the supportive nurturing environment we want for our students.”

Anyone interested in enrolling should contact the school directly on (07) 4659 1111. You can also find more information on the Arrowsmith website. www.arrowsmithschool.org/



DDCS Principal Adrian Fitzpatrick with brain-plasticity pioneer and Arrowsmith founder, Barbara Arrowsmith-Young



by Rolf Vaessen

Adventist Radio Australia [ARA] announces the acquisition of a new radio FM network of nine stations broadcasting from Tannum Sands to Rockhampton on the frequency of 87.6 FM. Praise God for answered prayers and donors!

Visit; www.Adventist-Radio-Australia.org.



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shine girls conference

28-30 MARCH 2014

GIRLS, DON'T FORGET TO BOOK THIS DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR!

Like us on Facebook

APPLICATIONS CLOSE MARCH 20

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE ADVENTIST WOMEN

CELEBRATING 50 Years

ADVENTIST AVIATION JUBILEE

Saturday 1 March, 2014
at Avondale Memorial Church
586 Freemans Drive, Cooranbong

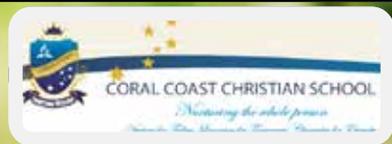
9:00am - Sabbath School, *Dr Leigh Rice*
10:45am - Church, *Dr Barry Oliver*
followed by Potluck Lunch
2:30pm - "The Best of 50 Years of Adventist Aviation."
6:30pm - Dinner "On The Runway"

“ God entrusts men with talents and inventive genius in order that His great work in our world may be accomplished. ”
EG White

For more information:
aviationnsw.adventist.org.au
facebook.com/AAAnsw

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

IT'S TIME!!!



CORAL COAST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (BUNDABERG) SAVE THE DATE—March 29-30

Opening of the school's time capsule after 30 years!

Guest Speaker; Dr John Hammond

Singles...

***this Easter come and enjoy a spiritual fellowship camp at relaxing**

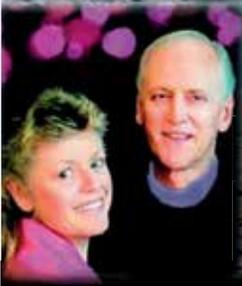
APEX Camp

mudjimba

Sunshine Coast

April 17-21

**Special guests:
Barry & Cecily Harker**



EARLYBIRD PRICE (before April 3) \$200 [Full Price \$220]

Contact Susan 07 3218 7777 or Facebook – Adventist Singles SPD

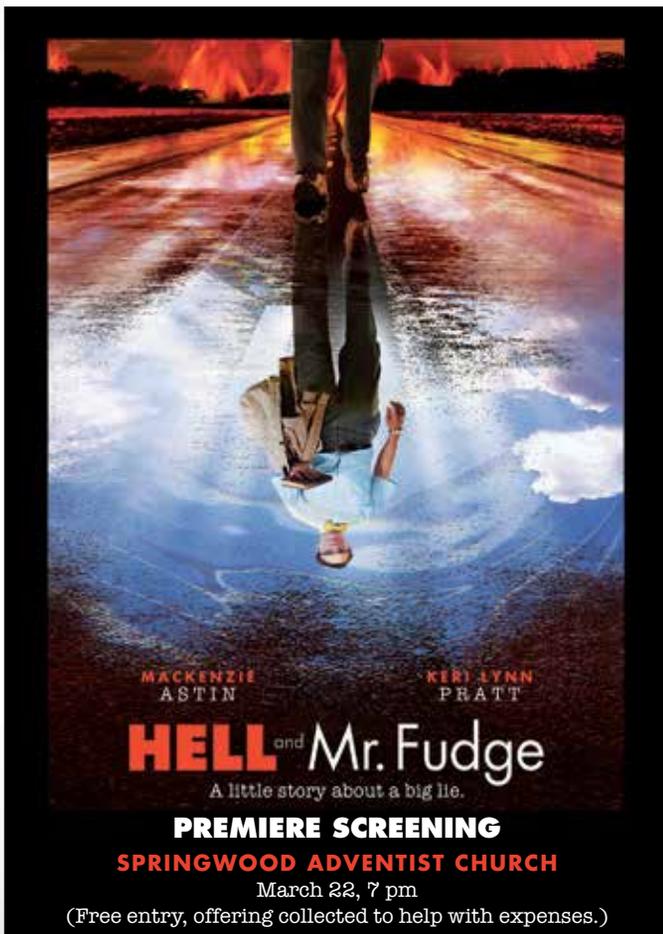
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 Thur: 9.00 am—8.00 pm
 Fri: 9.00 am—4.00 pm



HopeChannel

A GIFT THAT keeps on GIVING

At the heart of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a firm commitment to finishing the work Jesus gave us – taking the gospel of hope to the whole world.

In God's providence, HopeChannel is making it easier to do this – even to the most remote areas.

Wording your bequest correctly will guarantee your gift goes to where you choose.

Be specific. Please:

- 1** To Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited of 148 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga New South Wales (ACN 093 117 689) to be applied under the direction of the Board of Management of the Adventist Media Network for its ministry known by the said Board of Management as "HopeChannel".
- 2** To Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited of 148 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga New South Wales (ACN 093 117 689) to be applied under the direction of the Board of Management of the Adventist Media Network within its ministry known by the said Board of Management as "HopeChannel" ...
 - a) for or toward the production of audio / radio and video / television programmes.
 - b) for or toward the purchase of equipment utilised in the production of radio, television and video programmes within that area of the South Pacific known by the said Board of Management as "the mission territories".
 - c) for or toward the purchase or the leasing of broadcast assets including but not limited to transmitters and towers.
 - d) for or toward the purchase of radio broadcast equipment and radio broadcast licenses known by the said Board of Management as "community radio licences" whereby HopeChannel radio is licenced to broadcast.

HopeChannel South Pacific
 Locked bag 1115, Wahroonga, NSW 2076 ph 02 9447 2277 # #148hopechannel.com www.hopechannel.com



25000 SPINS: QUEENSTOWN RIDE FOR ADRA

Fast Facts:

- **DATES:** March 9–11, 2014
- **REGISTRATION FEE:** \$150

What is included for my registration + Fundraising?

- Accommodation (2 nights) at Alexandra and Wanaka
- Food (breakfast, snacks, lunch for 3 days)
- Bike mechanic
- Support vehicles behind each speed group
- Trip video
- Team cycle jersey worth \$110
- Plus an amazing experience to help other people

FUNDRAISING TARGET: \$2500

(Minimum to Raise \$1250)

TRIP DURATION: 3 days

ACCOMMODATION: 3-star Hostels

Further trip information:

<http://25000spins.com/adventures/queenstown-classic>

Sign Up: <http://www.everydayhero.co.nz/event/queenstownclassic2014>



TRY TIME FOR SANITARIUM

The 2014 Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon is about to kick off its 16th year in Australia and has just recently broken a world record, with 37,000 kids participating in the 2013 series in Australia and New Zealand!

Last year, Sanitarium was able to recruit approximately 500 church volunteers to assist in running the TRYathlon. They would like to increase that number in 2014!

There are some great incentives available for Pathfinder and youth groups who volunteer—and it's a great way to volunteer in the community and have a great day out!

So help us encourage as many Australian kids as possible to get off the couch, take part in a great physical activity and get a great self-confidence boost!

Volunteers can register here: <http://tryathlon.weetbix.com.au/parents/volunteer>



FORGIVENESS—A CHRISTIAN IMPERATIVE?

by Deanna Pitchford, President AAC

The issue of forgiveness is often a troubling one. In principle, forgiveness is as much part of the Christian life as love—but the practice of forgiveness is fraught with difficulties. Is there a limit to forgiveness? Does forgiveness give others the right to keep on doing harmful things to us? Does forgiveness include forgetfulness?



Dr Tamara White, a Clinical Psychologist, will attempt to answer these and other questions about forgiveness. She has worked across a broad variety of community and private practice settings. She has extensive cross-cultural training and experience, and has worked with asylum seekers and refugees and provided supervision to mental health practitioners who serve in missionary contexts. Tamara has worked internationally in Ethiopia, Nauru and Manus Island, Papua New Guinea.

According to Tamara, forgiveness is a powerful, yet often-underutilised psychological and spiritual resource. In this seminar, we will look at the research on forgiveness: what forgiveness is (and isn't) and how to put it into practice.

Tamara completed her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, specialising in forgiveness, mindfulness and post-traumatic growth. She is the Acting Convenor of the Australian Psychological Society Christianity and Psychology Interest Group (CAPIG).

Sabbath Seminar presented by AAC – Association of Adventist Counsellors

**When: Sabbath March 22, 2014,
9:30 am–3:30 pm**

For more information, contact Susan at South Queensland Conference 07 3218 7777

POSITIONS VACANT

CAMP SOMERSET POSITION—A PIECE OF PARADISE

Camp Somerset is committed to delivering Outdoor Programs “with the Spirit of Adventure.”

Camp Somerset has a new position available—**Activities Assistant/Grounds Person (Outdoor Instructor)**. This is a full-time position, initially on a fixed-term contract basis, located at Camp Somerset. Duties include assisting the Program Manager with the delivery and development of outdoor education activities, grounds maintenance, program development, sharing Jesus through outdoor adventure programs and much more. If you have a passion for and have qualifications with previous



experience in outdoor education and grounds maintenance, we would love to hear from you.

Contact us on 07 5426 0126 or email info@campsomerset.com for a position description. **Applications close March 11, 2014.**



Casual Outdoor Instructor positions are also available from time to time. If you are a committed Christian, have outdoor qualifications or would like to have information about obtaining outdoor qualifications, please contact Peter on the number above or email peterg@campsomerset.com.



CAFE Q—SEE YOU IN CHURCH

Topic: Does Church Still Matter?

Date: March 14, 7:15 pm

Location: Central SDA Church Hall
19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane

Who: Young Adults

Description: According to a recent survey, 51 per cent of people don't think it's important to attend church. Young adults are beginning to question the value of church in their everyday lives. At the next Cafe Q, we will be asking the BIG question, "Does church still matter?" As we read Acts, the early church was a powerhouse of communal love, self-giving and mission. So how can we rediscover these sacred roots and passionately pursue the purpose of the church in all its beauty? At Cafe Q, we will be looking at how we can continue to be a church that transforms people and the communities they live in.



ROMA CHURCH WAY OUT OF TUNE—CAN YOU HELP?

Over the years, Roma church has lost almost a dozen hymnals! If any churches have surplus hymnals (they don't necessarily need to have the music, just the words) they would like to donate to our Roma church, please contact the Conference Office. Your assistance would be much appreciated.



A NOTE ON FOCUS NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please remember that the deadlines for submissions to our FOCUS Newsletter are as follows:

ISSUE	COPY DEADLINE	EXPECTED COPY DELIVERY
FOCUS Newsletter - March	27-Feb-14	22-Mar-14
FOCUS Newsletter - April	04-Apr-14	26-Apr-14
FOCUS Newsletter - May	02-May-14	24-May-14
FOCUS Newsletter - June	02-Jun-14	28-Jun-14
FOCUS Newsletter - July	04-Jul-14	26-Jul-14
FOCUS Newsletter - August	04-Aug-14	23-Aug-14
FOCUS Newsletter - November	03-Oct-14	22-Nov-14
FOCUS Newsletter - December	25-Nov-14	13-Dec-14
FOCUS Newsletter - February	02-Feb-15	28-Feb-15
FOCUS Newsletter - March	02-Mar-15	28-Mar-15

Pictures are always a great idea to submit with any article. It is best to send pictures that are at a minimum 1MB (megabyte) in size. Anything smaller than 1MB tends to be too small for print media. For instance, a picture that is anywhere between 30-400KB (kilobytes) will result in a clear picture but only the size not much bigger than a postage stamp! Try to avoid sending you pictures embedded in your emailed text as they tend to be quite poor quality. It is far better to email your picture separately and, if possible, as an original.

Attention FOCUS Contributors

FOCUS is produced by the South Queensland Conference Communication Department, 19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane, QLD 4000.
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