



Nurturing Disciples

In a Healthy Growing Church

Reaching Out and Connecting

# FOCUS

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

## ADVENTURER RALLY: Learning and Loving God's Creation

Approximately 420 Adventurers, Adventurer leaders and parents came together for worship, fellowship and activities on June 14 at the Brisbane Adventist College Sports Centre. Clubs from Stanthorpe, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Kingaroy and around the Greater Brisbane area were present for the rally. The theme "Creation" was chosen by the Adventurer Advisory Committee to ensure our Adventurers are taught to appreciate what God has created.

The opening parade was unique this year as the children marched into the hall to a drum-line made up of young people from Springwood, Logan City Samoan and Riverview. The parade was led by District Director, Sila Tusa and Elei Faraimo. The melodic song service was led by the family group "Stay Connected", who sang songs about Jesus making the animals and creating us as well. Story time was taken by Charlie Auora, who shared how God saved him from the menacing jaws of a shark.

After worship, the Adventurers were challenged to complete five activity stations,

each designed to teach the children about active participation. The five stations included two crafts: a bug made out of jaffa, banana, and raspberry lollies (some bugs made it home, others were eaten along the way!) and an animal hand puppet. Another activity station included a Bible drama of the story of Elijah who was fed by ravens. In this drama, the children were encouraged to trust that God can use whatever He wants to provide for our needs, even birds to bring food to His prophet. One of the favourite stations was the animal zoo. Here the children were able to pat live ducks, chickens, lambs and even goats. This station was also a highlight with many parents, grandparents and caregivers who were taking photos to keep as memories from the event.

Following the activity stations, the Adventurers went on a "treasure" hunt to find words from Proverbs 6:6-11, a lesson on the importance of diligence and planning as observed by tiny ants. The Adventurers were taught how ants work hard to prepare themselves and the importance of learning to work hard in their lives as well.

The Adventurer Rally service project this year involved each Adventurer Clubs bringing to the rally some preloved or new soft toy animals to add to the jungle backdrop on stage. The idea was to create an opportunity for the Adventurers in our conference to donate the soft toys to children in Vanuatu, our sister conference. Approximately 60 "animals" were collected and there will be some very happy children in Vanuatu who will be the recipients of this kind gesture.

The Youth Department would like to thank the Adventurer Advisory team for the creative planning that goes into catering and teaching our 6 to 9 year olds about creation and Jesus. Thanks go to the District Directors, station leaders, guest speaker, music team, technical team and the administration at Brisbane Adventist College. Many youth gave of their time to help on the stations and in the main program, which was much appreciated. Thank you, Jesus, for creating animals that we can love, learn about and enjoy—except for snakes!



# Keys for Keeping Our Kids



by Pastor Neil Marks, Director of Children's Ministries

**W**hat does it take to raise a child and what is needed to make a disciple of Jesus Christ? It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child and a faith community to make disciples. The nurturing, loving environment of the home and the mission-driven discipling nature of the faith community/church need to partner together in understanding, valuing and using five critical keys in their ministry to children. These five keys can help us be more effective in raising our children, making them into followers of Jesus, and also retaining them as part of the church once they transition into their youth and adult years.

## Key #1. We need to CONNECT with children:

In the context of the faith community, this means connecting with them through worship, Sabbath school, social activities and outreach in the context of

appropriate and loving relationships.

To connect our children to the faith, we may need to learn the **lesson of the brick**, where each child needs to be surrounded by five or six people in close contact and relationship with them just as a brick is in the midst of a wall. This would mean a couple of adults above them to whom they can look upon as guides and mentors, a couple of their own peers beside them with whom they are friends, and a couple of younger children under them to whom they might minister.

It has been said we need five or six significant relationships around each person to cement them into the fabric of the faith, and is especially so as they reach the teen years.

What can also be overlooked is the quality of the relationships and the processes of connection whereby children are cemented into the faith group. The **number** and **quality of relationships**

**across the generations** is especially critical during the transition years as children go from being a pre-teen to a teen, when they begin to question their faith and values.

To connect with children, we need to get to know them and this includes their skills, interests, hobbies, friends, and the sort of things that communicate to them that we really care about them (ie, the five love languages—words of affirmation, receiving gifts, acts of service etc). This may take added effort with the one or two children in your group that need stronger attention to tie them to the group and to God.

We need to think of activities we might use to model and teach appropriate and loving relationships across the generations. We need to make sure that these connections are always **safe** and ever remember that **ministry to children** is not about programs, it's about **creating opportunities for relationships!**

*“The more layers of community we surround a young person with, the better they do. Family is an important foundation for a sense of belonging, but there is also the need to have significant other adults in a young person’s life. They need to feel connected and accepted within their school environment. They need to have a faith community that surrounds and supports them. The more layers of connection that a young person has, the better they do.”* (Hopkins, <www.positivechoices.com>, viewed 24/06/14).

Q: What is your church doing to make sure the children are being connected to the faith and the fellowship?

## Key #2. Children need to PARTICIPATE:

The activities and relationships of the faith community need to involve the whole community, from the children to the senior members, in enterprises that call forth a team effort.

Intergenerational participation needs to become the norm and the pastoral team or group leaders need to help everyone find ways to make valuable contributions and then express appreciation to the children for their input.

We may need to take into account the children’s individual learning styles, such as whether they are relational, intellectual, personal or practical, as well as the multiple intelligences of the children as to whether they are linguistic, mathematical, musical, spatial, kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal or into nature. These are all avenues with which to connect with and involve children.

Participating side by side helps kids to become part of the group and the children should always be coached to perform the task, then supported and encouraged once they have participated.

*“Adolescents need oases—places where they can go and make mistakes and be imperfect—places where they can test themselves in the presence of safe, caring, and accepting adults and peers”* (Dean, Clark & Rahn, 2001, *Starting Right: thinking theologically about youth ministry*, page 308).

Q: Does your church offer children opportunities to participate in the worship, fellowship and outreach of the church?

## Key #3. We need to ENGAGE children:

Another key to raising and discipling children is to engage them. This could occur through an appropriate balance of creative, colourful, multi-sensory, multi-learning, multi-age approaches that engage both the head and the heart in response to God’s Word.

The activities could be curriculum-based for individual learning or peer-group learning through small-group interaction. Bible exploration could involve either individual searching or the children asking questions of others to explore a theme or question.

Engaging the children is where the parents, pastors and group leaders can tap into their own creative skill set to have fun and engage the kids with such things as, drama, music, storytelling, sketch and tell, puppets, electronic presentations, ballooning, etc. But don’t put all the fun up front. Continue the fun and the learning through the program with games, explorative activities and making mess.

Q: What are you doing at home or church to engage the children in your care?

## Key #4. Children need to experience that they BELONG:

If we want our children to stay and be part of the church through their teen and youth years, they need to feel that they belong. Factors that foster belonging are:

- Safety and trust.
- Connectedness and communication.
- Accepting attitudes.
- Participation that is varied and valued.
- Having boundaries and familiarity.
- Celebrating milestones and transition.
- Ownership of vision and future directions.
- Member rights and responsibilities.
- Opportunities for challenge and growth.
- Identity in Christ and the church/faith community.
- Simply asking a child what he or she thinks.

*“Every young person needs at least one adult who is irrationally committed to their well-being. Millions of children grow up virtually alone—disconnected from adults. No love. No supervision. No positive role models...Children can endure the most mis-*

*erable conditions—even thrive in the midst of them . . . if they have at least one loving adult committed to their success”* (Hopkins, <www.positivechoices.com>, viewed 24/06/14).

Q: What are you doing to foster the experience of belonging among the children in your care?

## Key #5. We need to invite children to RESPOND:

Environments need to be created where every response of a child toward God is affirmed and celebrated appropriately. Children need to be exposed to a wide range of faith responses to God and even be trained to help other children follow Jesus. A lot of this will need to occur through one-to-one mentoring and coaching.

We need to pay attention to this key as we do the other four, as we may have great programs and friendships but offer no invitation to the children to be followers and friends of Jesus!

*“The best building in the world; the most fun; the deepest connections and friendships; a fantastic small group leader . . . all are good and necessary but may miss the mark in making disciples if we are unable to find appropriate ways to invite children to be a friend and follower of Jesus”* (Phillip Day, *Five Keys for Ministering with Children & Families*, <midst.com.au>).

Q: How are we asking children to respond? It may determine if they are becoming Christians or not!

## Our time to care?

An ageing grandfather was once asked, *“What is the purpose of life? After a long time in thought, the old man looked up and said, “. . . children are the purpose of life. We were once children and someone cared for us, and now it is our time to care”* (Brendto, Brokenleg & Van Bockern, 1990, *Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our hope for the future*, page 45).

As we look to the future, let us determine to care for the kids in our church like never before! Let’s make sure they are connected and given opportunities to participate. Let’s ensure that we are engaging them, making them feel like they belong and, finally, providing opportunities for them to respond to Jesus.

# Three Means of Literature Evangelism

by Sone Mariner

As Ellen G White neared the end of her life, Literature Ministry became an intensive topic for her, encouraging the church to take it up. Thus most of her powerful statements in relation to the church and literature ministry were written in the last 20 years of her life. In *Testimonies*, Volume 9 (1909), on page 62, she stated, “Our publications should go everywhere. Let them be issued in many languages. The third angel’s message is to be given through this medium and through the living teacher. **You, who believe the truth for this time, wake up. It**

**is your duty now to bring in all the means possible to help** those who understand the truth to proclaim it.”

It is for this reason that through God’s help that we have developed two other (means) marketing methods for the spreading of our truth-filled literature. Thus we have three-prong marketing: the Career Big Books, the Book Party, and Jump Start.



## Jump Start

Have you ever heard of Jump Start?

Well, it fulfills what Ellen White saw in vision—the spreading of the gospel through literature, sold door to door that would become “streams of light” that would go clear around the world.

The Jump Start Program is a **new** and **exciting** Literature Evangelism approach which still enables one to effectively visit people in their homes with our special end-time message.

It is lead by Jared French under the support of the South Pacific Division Publishing Department. After graduating from Canterbury University (New Zealand), Jared felt God’s call to Literature Ministry in which he has been involved for more than 14 years.

Jump Start is especially suited for part-timers, retirees and students. We mainly sell small books at the door for cash with only limited amount of administration work required. It is therefore a scaled-down version of the full-time Literature Ministry program. However, it is extremely effective in reaching all classes of people and just recently we ran a week-long “Outreach” in Toowoomba with excellent results!

More than 100 books were sold with many of them being *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy*, as well as a number of *Beyond* DVD contacts being established.

**Come** and find out more, how it works, what’s happening and who is involved! **And** come, be inspired, encouraged and empowered by the work going ahead in Australia.

If you are interested in any of the three Literature Ministries, please contact:

sonemariner@gmail.com.  
jared.french@bigpond.com (Leader of Jump Start)

wendy.rae@bigpond.com (Leader of the Book party)



## Book Parties

Since 2006 through the leading of the Holy Spirit, Book Party Evangelism has developed into a unique way of marketing our truth-filled literature and reaching people for Christ. God has called people from all walks of life, with the latest being mothers who wish to contribute to the family’s finances and involve their young children and spouses in evangelism. During our four party themes, we laugh and cry with our host and guests. Families make changes in their lifestyles, as they taste test and buy new recipe books. Host and guests alike, share their weaknesses as parents and spouses, and find the support and the information they need. They also find relief and understanding for their emotional and psychological health. They also buy books for their children’s character development and knowledge of Jesus. In all four party themes, guests have an opportunity to find Jesus, not only through our literature but also through the party environment.

On a recent trip to Melbourne, Angela May and myself visited the Werribee Church. The sermon I preached that morning was titled “Are you Ready for Jesus to Come?” After the sermon, a young man named Jason approached me, and said he had found the sermon very interesting. He was a recent contact and had been invited that day by one of the Werribee church members. This church member had hosted a Book Party, for Loida Moreno, a new Book Party Evan-

gelist. She invited Jason and his mother to attend. Loida is a gourmet cook and these lovely people thoroughly enjoyed her healthy cooking and fellowship with the other guests. After a while, Jason questioned me about the sermon saying what I was speaking about was a bit like the movie, *2012: When the World Ends*. I told him it was in fact Bible prophecy, and I showed him *Today, Tomorrow and You* and where he could find all we had discussed in the Bible. He told me that he really wanted to study Bible prophecy. Jason and his mum attended the “Last Empire” series. The faithful church member, who had originally invited him to church, purchased *Today, Tomorrow and You* to give Jason as a gift. Recently I heard the most wonderful news that Jason has accepted God and has been baptised!

It makes us happy to share what we know with others and this is easy to do in a non-threatening party atmosphere, and through the books that we sell by the prompting of the Holy Spirit. I believe that Book Parties serve to strengthen relationships between people and relationships with God, and that God uses Book Parties to guide those who are searching for Him.

Maybe you would like to be a Book Party Evangelist and run Book Parties as a ministry? Or maybe you would like to host a Book Party and invite your neighbours and your friends?

—Wendy Kent



## BUILDING UNDERWAY AT WATSON PARK

by Tim Hutton, Assistant Manager

**A** lot has happened at Watson Park since the last FOCUS newsletter. As always, we have played host to many groups, the largest being the State Youth Games in June, with close to 800 campers! But the real focus—and what everyone is asking about—is the new “Taj Mahal.”

Work on the Taj is going well and is slowly creeping just ahead of schedule. A quietly achieving bustle of noise and activity can be witnessed by those dropping off little learners to Northpine Christian College and, since our last update (if your not following us on Facebook), we have progressed from a bare patch of dirt to having the frame almost complete. By the time you are reading this, the roof will be on and the walls well underway. With no significant weather issues on the horizon, it will be smooth sailing leading into Big Camp.

June 1 marks the date when everything we are working on revolves around camp. A lot of infrastructure projects are well and truly in the pipeline for this year's camp. We are replacing all of the wall poles for both the Junior and Encounter tents, and developments surrounding the Kindy and Primary's will take up all of August. One thing is for sure, the leaders, kids and parents will be happy with what is happening, It has something to do with the heat (or soon to be lack of), which has traditionally plagued these

divisions. None of these improvements come cheap, and it is only through the grace of God and your prayers and support that we are blessed to be able to slowly upgrade the facilities here at the Park.

Hope your camp applications are in and we are looking forward to seeing you this Big Camp!



### Incident Alert!

**A** serious incident has occurred in one of our churches here in the South Queensland Conference involving a pole-mounted display sign (Church message board) falling as it was being raised into position due to the cable snapping. As a result, one of our members was struck and hurt. An incident like this could easily result in death. Could this happen anywhere your members and volunteers are working?

This alert is a reminder for you and your church to consider the effectiveness of your safety management in preventing an incident like this from occurring at your church.

It is suggested that your message boards be checked and serviced by the manufacturer, and that a risk assessment be created for the task of changing church board messages.

For information on workplace health and safety visit the South Queensland Conference website at <<https://sqsdasafety.org.au>> Or contact the Compliance Department on 07 3218 7777.



## A Letter From Caloundra

Recently Care Manager, Sharon Dunn, and staff, improved the dining experience for Residents. Her efforts were appreciated and did not go unnoticed.

Dear Sharon,  
The dining room was set up today. The ambience makes a huge difference to the enjoyment of

whatever activity is going on. We, the Residents, wish to assure you that the beautiful set-up was noticed and appreciated. We wish to sincerely thank you and all who were involved in this lovely charming arrangement—the thought that went behind it and the actual work done in realising.

Thank you most sincerely,  
**Signed by the Residents of Caloundra Aged Care**

## Position Vacant

- Leisure Interests and Lifestyle Officer
- Victoria Point Adventist Aged Care Facility
- Cert IV (Lifestyle) or Equivalent Experience
- Permanent Position

Join the care team in our supportive Christian environment.

**07 3451 5900**

## Melody Park Goes Global!

Melody Park Retirement Resort, Nerang, is proud to announce we now have Skype. Skype allows our residents to chat with and see their loved ones across the globe. This provides additional comfort to all involved, as many are not able to visit regularly. Residents are able to spend time chatting over a cuppa with family as if they were all in the room together. WOW.



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## HAMILTON ISLAND

### LAWSON DISCOVERY TOURS



Some 121 retired church workers and friends joined the Lawson Discovery tour to Hamilton Island in the Whitsundays in late June. They enjoyed their stay in the luxurious Reef Hotel. Tours included a catamaran cruise to Reef World on a rough open sea, which led to half the group being seasick. However, it was a journey long to be remembered! A great day was had on Day Dream Island with an outstanding vegetarian buffet lunch. A third tour was a cruise to World Heritage-listed Whitehaven Beach on Whitsunday Island.

Sabbath was special with opening and closing Sabbath worship held on the sand at Catseye Beach. On Sabbath morning, we were privileged to use the beautiful White Wedding Chapel (All Saints Church) on the hillside. Ray O'Hara led out in the discussion of the Sabbath school lesson and Doctor Allan Lindsay cared for the sermon. The chapel normally costs a few hundred dollars to rent, but due to the kind gesture of the management of the Hamilton Island complex, and a little urging from tour organiser Pastor David Lawson, it was given free of charge. While the capacity of the church was for 80 worshippers, Pastor Lawson used his public evangelistic skills to fit the whole group into the building.

"I enjoyed the experience very much," shared one member of the group.

"Many, many thanks for such a momentous, adventurous and well organised tour. It really was most enjoyable and relaxing," shared another tour member. These were just two of the many expressions of thanks offered at the end of our journey.

Next year Pastor Lawson, with the assistance of Pastor John Chan, will conduct two tours to China. Many have already shown interest.

If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Lawson by phone: 07 32733203, email <davidfernlawson@hotmail.com> or post 139 Kingman Street, Sunnybank Hills Q4109.

—Article and picture by David Lawson

## MARYBOROUGH

### GOD'S FAITHFULNESS ON DISPLAY DURING "LAST EMPIRE" SERIES



Maryborough Church is pleased to share that God has been at work during the "Last Empire" series!

Our church started the series at the Brolga Theatre with only three non-Adventist's attending, which eventually diminished to none. After some consideration, we decided to move the series to our church, placing two poster banners on each side of the church's front double doors. We posted the title of each upcoming meeting, date and time on the church's high-reaching roadside message board, which faces the main arterial road that goes through Maryborough, to and from Hervey Bay. Hoping that our new venue would make a difference in attendance, we eagerly waited to see who the Lord would bring to our church.

To our dismay, the attendees eventually dwindled down to the faithful "Last Empire" team. Disappointed, the team considered bringing a close to the series due to the unfortunate drop in attendance. At that time, I was reminded of God's faithfulness to Noah. Noah committed his work to the Lord and trusted that the Lord knew what the future held. I encouraged the team to keep the series going as a witness to the community. After all, if Noah pushed forward for 120 years, we could push forward for just a few weeks. Thanks to God's faithfulness and the dedicated team, we did!

We soon had more church members attending, along with four non-Adventist's who were invited by church members. We are thrilled to share that the attendees have continued to come regularly for a few weeks now. An older gentleman recently came as a result of reading the church's roadside message board—the title took his interest!

Most recently we had an attendance of 17, seven of whom were non-Adventist's, two were youth, and five were adults. One of the attendees was a journalist from the regional newspaper, *The Chronicle*. She shared with me that she came along because the message title on the church's roadside board grabbed her interest. God is faithful and was at work behind the scenes during it all!

—Article and pictures by Gary Roberts

## TOOWOOMBA

### TOUCHING LIVES: WOMEN'S MINISTRY TEAM IS ON A ROLL



The Women's Ministry team at Toowoomba Central Church have been blessed by a variety of Women's Ministry events. Most recently we were blessed to have Helen Threlfo as our guest speaker during "Women's Ministry Day" for the morning service, and Deanna Pitchford for the afternoon meeting. Both ladies were very inspiring and a rich blessing to us all. It was a timely impartation through their individual messages throughout Sabbath. The afternoon meeting had an encouraging turnout for Deanna's message entitled, "How To Have A Happy Mind." A very important subject for this time in which we live!

Earlier this year, our Women's Ministry team and other ladies had a lovely gathering at one of our Toowoomba Thai restaurants. This was a great time to fellowship over a delicious meal! We intend to have various gathering times throughout 2014. This year will not be quite as busy as our previous year due to two big events in September and October, quite a lot of organisation is going into these two events.

On September 13, we invite all to be part of our "Nation's Arise" Sacred Concert, Fundraiser. This event will be held at Toowoomba Central Church, Cnr Laurel and Hume Streets. This will be a combination of guest worship artists from different nationalities, bringing a variety of styles from different churches as well as our own. A small entry cost will be received, but well worth it for such an evening. All coming are encouraged to wear their national dress!

This event will begin at 7pm and will finalise around 9.30 pm, which will be a fundraiser to bless those attending our "Blossoming In Him" Women's Retreat, our next project. Hope to see you at the event.

Ladies and all younger ladies, I want to encourage you to be involved where you can with others, if at school, university, home or the workplace. I encourage you to be that bright shining light that our wonderful Abba Father has called us to be. Keep on shining!

—Article and picture by Julie McBryde

## DECEPTION BAY CHURCH FAMILY GROWS



**Pastor Humberto Rivera and Chi Senior**

Chi learned about our church while tuning-in to Christian radio, and eventually began attending church with us. After taking Bible and baptismal studies with Pastor Humberto Rivera, Chi made a decision to be baptised into the worldwide family of Seventh-day Adventists. Chi was baptised on Sabbath, June 7. Welcome to the family, Chi!

—Article and picture by Deception Bay Church

## BAC Sonship Team

### *Visits Adventist Retirement Village*

The residents at Victoria Point Adventist Retirement Village (ARV) were given the opportunity to re-visit their childhood on Friday morning, June 20. The BAC Sonship Team, a group of 28 students and staff who will be travelling to the Solomon Islands on a mission trip June 27, made a special visit to the ARV to present their Kids' Club program to the delighted residents. They sang a variety of children's songs with actions, presented several skits in Pidjin English and performed a special item with puppets.



One particularly significant moment occurred when members of the team were able to meet Pastor "Billy" Baines. Pastor Baines, who proudly tells people that he is 102, managed the sawmill at Batuna Adventist Vocational School where the team will be travelling to. He expressed delight at being able to hear Pidjin again, but noted that it has changed a lot since he learned it in 1935!

The morning concluded with one of the residents thanking the Sonship team in Pidjin English. It was a wonderful opportunity for Brisbane Adventist College students to use their gifts and talents to bless the ARV community. We wish the Sonship team the very best as they embark upon their exciting adventure!

## Primary Kids are Cooking Up a Storm!

Primary kids at Darling Down Christian School have been cooking up a flavourful storm during their kitchen classes! Enjoy this succulent recipe that the students recently made. Bon appetit!

### **SWEET POTATO AND CHICKPEA CURRY (Serves 4-6)**

#### **Ingredients:**

- 2 Tbs extra virgin olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely grated
- 1 Tbs minced ginger
- 1 tsp Thai red chili paste
- 1 Tbs cumin powder
- 1 tsp salt (or to taste)
- 1 Tbs curry powder
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into 2cm cubes
- 1 can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 can coconut milk, well shaken

- 1 cup water
- ½ cup frozen peas
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- extra water if the curry looks too dry
- steamed basmati rice or brown rice

#### **How to make it:**

1. Warm the oil in a heavy-bottomed saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the onion, garlic, ginger, chili paste, cumin and salt. Allow to cook until the onion is clear and lightly browned.



2. Stir in the curry powder and cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 30 seconds.
3. Add the sweet potato, chickpeas, coconut milk and water to the saucepan. Raise the heat to medium-high, bring just to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, until the sweet potato is tender, about 10 minutes.
4. Add the peas and tomatoes and cook until heated through. Serve in bowls over steamed rice.

## WOW

## Noosa Christian College Really Changes Lives!

Article by and pictures by Brianna Garrick, Year 9

**B**oth Primary and Secondary students participated in the annual Week of Worship at Noosa Christian College—and in the process, lives were changed!

From June 2–6, Noosa Christian College students and teachers attended Week of Worship (WOW), held in the Cooroy Seventh-day Adventist Church, located on the school campus. For an hour each day, both the Primary and Secondary school devoted time to explore the theme of the week, listening to the guest speaker's message, worshipping in song and participating in other activities that took place during the week.

This year's theme was "Follow." The students of Noosa Christian College heard both personal and biblical stories from the guest speaker, Pastor Marty Benard, one of the chaplains at Tweed Valley Adventist College.

In the Primary program, teachers and students, with Clacy Fatnowna, led out in praise and worship before the theme was explored with Pastor Marty. A similar format was followed in the Secondary with the Student Band leading out. Students also performed special items and hosted the program.

When asked for feedback on 2014's Week of Worship, a Year 9 student responded, "WOW im-

pacted me in my spiritual life. I thought that the speaker was fantastic and I thought the music was great as well."

Amelia Dunn, also a Year 9 student responded, "My favorite thing from WOW was the music and the messages that Pastor Marty gave to us about how to FOLLOW in God's footsteps. Pastor Marty was a very good speaker and the music was amazing. WOW is a great idea and I can't wait for next year."

Throughout the week, each student was challenged with the decision of whether or not to follow God. On the final morning, Pastor Marty asked if anyone had given their hearts to God during that week—and almost half of the secondary students made a stand openly in front of their peers. The rest of the students were then asked if they were already following God, and if they still wanted to, and support those who had made the decision to follow God. After this question was asked, nearly all of the students in the Secondary school of Noosa Christian College, stood strong with their peers and fellow students.

2014's Week of Worship has definitely changed the lives of the students of Noosa Christian College, as they stand together in their decisions to follow God.



## D OF E BRONZE PRACTICE WALK

Article by and pictures by Darryl Hobson and Colin Wilson

**E**arly Sunday morning on June 15, a group of 13 Northpine Christian College students braved the cold weather and hiked from Jolly's Lookout down to the camp at Blue Gum Flats. The wind-chill factor at Jolly's Lookout made us feel like we were in the snow, but once we dropped down into the valley it was more pleasant. For one member of the group, however, it was more painful as they twisted their ankle, but this did not stop them from completing the walk!

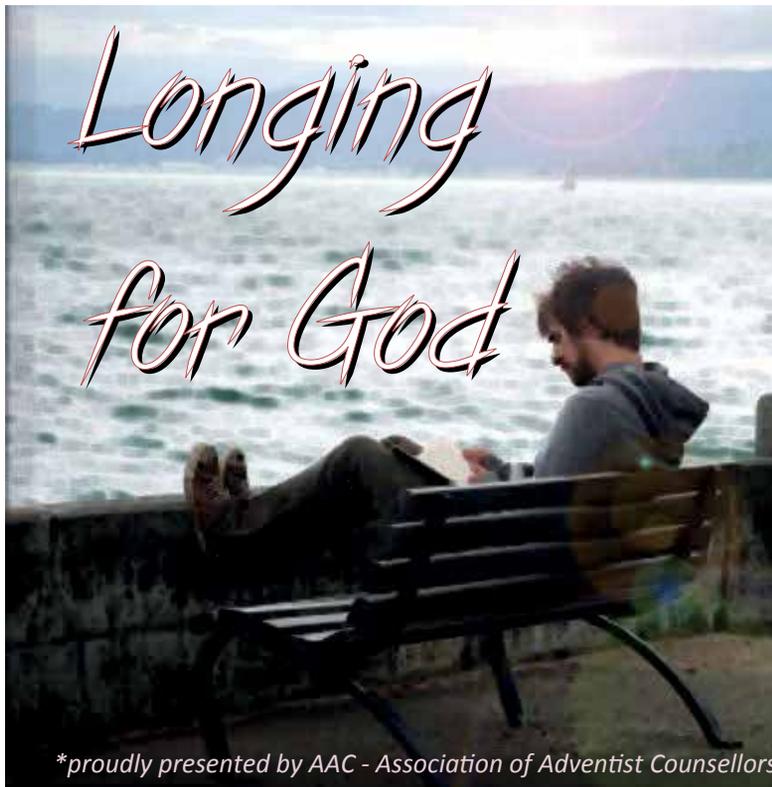
Blue Gum Flats is a nice, grassy area under some gum trees by the creek. A peaceful, idealistic Aussie campsite. In the evening, however, the weather was cool. The temperature that night dropped to 7°C inside the tent! In spite of the chill, everyone still had a wonderful time. The

moon came out so brightly that one member of the group woke up before 5 am and, thinking it was morning, packed up everything before looking outside to see it was still night.

The walk out via a different route the next day (Monday) was enjoyable, and the two teams each learnt a great deal about time management and working together during the walk. One team made it out first and enjoyed extra time at a lovely coffee shop at Mount Nebo!

Thank you to two volunteers, Rob Petrie and Luisa Coleman, who came on the walk with us, carrying their own packs as there is no driving into this campsite. We look forward to the final Qualifying Camp, when both groups have the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have learnt in the fine art of bushwalking.





*\*proudly presented by AAC - Association of Adventist Counsellors*

You may have a deep, spiritual longing for God . . . but did you know that He has an even deeper longing for relationship, connection & intimacy with you?

**Saturday, August 2, 2014**  
 9.15 (for 9.30 am)—3.30 pm

Saturday Seminar Series

**Attendance Fee**

- **AAC members: \$50** or "Friends of AAC"
- **Non-AAC Members: \$60**
- **Accompanying spouse \$35**
- **Includes morning tea and light lunch.**
- **\$5 \*Early-bird discount** (\*if paid by 4 pm, July 22, 2014)
- PD Participation Certificates provided.
- Entry to carpark off Laurel Street.



for Bookings or Information contact:  
**Susan** (at the South Qld Conference)  
 Email: [AAC.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:AAC.bookings@gmail.com)  
 Phone: [07] 3218 7777

**EMMANUEL UNITING CHURCH, 249 SOUTH PINE ROAD, ENOGGERA**

**The Christian faith** has a rich heritage of deeply committed men and women who have learned to recognise the invitation of God to plumb the depths of a closer, more intimate fellowship with Him.

The benefits are life-changing and profound in both personal and interrelational arenas of life. At a time when non-Christian pathways—religious or secular—promote meditation through mind-diverting practices, we are in danger of missing the Lord’s invitation to contemplate His compassionate grace and experience deep transformation.

Drawing on both personal and professional research, Dr Irene Alexander will explore theory and practice of how we as Christians can learn to connect with our God.



**Irene Alexander PhD**

Irene grew up in the Methodist tradition, then spent many years working with YWAM. A lecturer from a counselling background, Dr Irene is passionate about people knowing God intimately. Originally from New Zealand, she now lives in Brisbane. Irene has two adult sons and one granddaughter.

**Food Health & Safety Certificate Course**  
**Sunday, September 21, 2014**  
**(during camp)**  
**at Northpine Christian College**

You need this certificate if:

- You are a Deaconess for your church.
- You are responsible for catering for a church group (especially if you are using Camp Somerset, Watson Park or another official Campsite for a program requiring food preparation).

**Registration closes August 18, 2014**

**No Late Applications Accepted**

**Numbers are limited.**

Candidates will be expected to:

- Complete a previous exam paper supplied with course manual as homework and submit at lecture.
- Attend a lecture on September 21, 2014 at Northpine Christian College from 2 pm to 4.30 pm (including exam).
- Sit an exam (mainly short answers) following the lecture.

To register please contact Hayley at 3218 7777 or write to

<HayleyLambe@adventist.org.au>.

The cost is \$20 per person payable at time of registration.



# ADVERTISING

## FREE ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

The Gold Coast Central Church is hosting 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 are run 11.30 am to 12.30 pm every Wednesday at the church.

Bring your lunch and enjoy practising your English with your new friends. There is plenty of parking, the venue is wheelchair friendly and it is close to public transport (buses and trains). For further enquires e-mail: <admin@lrhartley.com>.



## THE SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Are you on Facebook? Then "Like" the South Queensland Conference's Facebook page to keep up-to-date on events, news, videos and daily encouragement!

You can find us at <<https://www.facebook.com/sqconference>>.

We are also on Instagram! Follow the South Queensland Conference's journey of ministry through pictures on Instagram! Follow us: @sqld\_conference



## CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS!

Cafe Q is a young-adult ministry of the South Queensland Conference that provides a chance

for young adults to candidly discuss some of life's BIG questions that are not often spoken about. Cafe Q starts with a worship experience through music, followed by the main discussion led by dynamic speakers from near and far. Lastly, Cafe Q is a wonderful opportunity for young adults in the Brisbane area to fellowship, worship, ask questions and get answers from a Christ-focused point of view.

What: "How Can I Figure Out This 20-Something Thing?"

Where: Fellowship Hall of the Brisbane Central Seventh-day Adventist Church

When: Friday, August 15 @ 7.15 pm

Who: Topic Presenter, Trinetta Stevenson



## WORK FOR ADRA – RELATIONSHIPS MANAGER

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is seeking a Relationships Manager to develop and implement an exceptional relationships fundraising strategy that will enable us to grow sustainable financial support and help us achieve our mission to create just and positive change for people living in poverty and distress.

If you have a personal commitment to ADRA's mission, vision and beliefs; excellent interpersonal and relationship building skills; and experience in major gifts, fundraising or business development, visit <[www.adra.org.au/act/work-for-adra](http://www.adra.org.au/act/work-for-adra)>.



## WOMEN'S RETREAT

Our Women's Retreat is to be held at Koojarewon Lutheran Camp on October 24–26. All are welcome.

Featuring guest speaker, Linda Shaw, with Sandra Entermann and worship team leading us in worship.

The camp site is situated in Borghardt Road, a lovely part of Highfields, not far from Toowoomba. All girls/ladies welcome. Please book in soon!

"Blossoming in Him"  
Women's Retreat  
24 - 26 October 2014

Ladies - "Blossoming in Him" is a time of Blessing, Growth and Rejoicing as we gather together in fellowship over God's Word and worship Him in song.

**Guest Speaker**  
Linda Shaw

**Worship Team**  
Sandra Entermann, Kristie & Kristijan Sipic and Joe Tyler

**Where:**  
Koojarewon Lutheran Camp  
Borghardt Rd Highfields Toowoomba

**Cost:** \$125.00 per person includes accommodation and delicious vegetarian meals from Friday night to Sunday lunch. Day Visitor's \$55.00 per day includes lunch and evening meal, no accommodation.

**Application Forms**  
Contact: Julie McBryde Ph:46349742 or 0409615956  
Applications close:15 October 2014  
Book Early Limited Bookings Available

### Attention FOCUS Contributors

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