



Nurturing Disciples

In a Healthy Growing Church

Reaching Out and Connecting

# FOCUS

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

## PATHFINDERS SALUTE A SILVER CELEBRATION

by Elei Faramo

**I**t was way back in 1989 on a humble acreage belonging to Alan and Nerilye Aldridge where 40 brave Pathfinders and their leaders began what is now known as “Munungjali South East Pathfinders District Mini Camporee.”

Celebrating 25 years this year, Pathfinder District Directors Alan, Sharyl, Elei and Sila, with the endless support of their partners, planned another wonderful camp that saw approximately 400 attend.

While there were a number of obstacles, including the prediction of inclement weather and the unavailability of speakers, the coordinating team soldiered on in faith, trusting that God would again lead.

Throughout the weekend, the Lord’s greatness was on display with the campers enjoying dry conditions (it poured with rain the day after the camp finished!).

Highlights for the weekend included local pastors inspiring our young people to stay connected to Christ, and a special offering collected on Sabbath to purchase Bibles that will be eventually presented at the South Pacific Division Camporee at the beginning of 2015. Enough money was collected on Sabbath to purchase 200 Bibles!

This year the Munungjali Camporee boasted 18 different

nationalities representing all points of the globe: Middle East to Malaysia, Niue to Samoa, New Zealand to Germany, to name a few. Those present enjoyed celebrating cultural differences, learning new languages using songs and memory texts. The celebrations continued as an international progressive tea was staged. After tea, everyone had the opportunity to be entertained by an array of colourful costumes in a concert that successfully portrayed a greater awareness of how wonderfully and uniquely each of us have been created.

All the participants completed the “Cultural Diversity” Pathfinder Honour and made new friends from other clubs throughout the weekend as they worked together on various tasks and activities.

Sunday was filled with fun and fellowship as Pathfinder groups showed their skill at cooking damper and pancakes.

The Munungjali Camporee steering committee wishes to acknowledge the generous support of Brendan Linnwebber for supplying all our sound and technical needs for the weekend and Pastors Willie Strickland and Joseph Khabazz from the South Queensland Conference Youth Department for their ongoing leadership, care and provision of our conference’s Pathfinder ministry that continues to connect precious young lives to Christ.



**2014 Camp Application inside**



## THE CHURCH ON THE HILL

by Sone Mariner

Prayer and fasting equates to POWER. It was a powerful week for three Literature Evangelists (LEs) in Kingaroy in early April—they had been busy finding contacts who would be interested in watching the *Beyond The Search* DVDs. It was all part of the preparations for Pastor Gideon Okesene’s, delivery of “The Last Empire” evangelistic program starting in May. The whole local church fasted and prayed for the week leading up to the arrival of the LEs.

The LEs commented that they certainly felt God’s power at work as they canvassed during the week. They were able to find many people who were in need of practical help in their homes, with church members responding to these needs and volunteering their services.

The members of the local church and the visiting Literature Evangelists met together Wednesday and Friday evenings during the week, not only to pray but to share how the Lord had been blessing their efforts each day.

On Sabbath, some from the community came to worship with the local church members and they indicated that they would certainly visit again. After the Sabbath service, a scrumptious fellowship lunch was enjoyed by all. In the afternoon, the Literature Evangelists led out in a training program for those who would comprise a follow-up team.

During the week, in answer to fervent prayer, our visiting Literature Evangelists were pleased to give the following report;

- 35 homes to be followed up with *Beyond* DVDs
- 700 pieces of literature distributed
- 200 books ordered
- 27 prayers in homes

The Kingaroy church is situated on a hill just out of the main town area on a lovely open property. The church remains committed to “letting her light shine” to the surrounding community and is dedicated to bringing the good news of the gospel to those within its reach.

Sone Mariner, the South Queensland Conference’s Literature Evangelist and Home Health Education Service team leader shares the following story as an indication of what the Lord is doing in the Kingaroy area:

“The Lord continues to work little miracles for us each day here in the Kingaroy area. Brian, one of our church members, challenged me before we set off one morning to distribute five DVDs that day—it was certainly a challenge since the norm is usually

around three DVDs per day.

“By lunchtime, I had only been able to share one DVD. At the mid-afternoon point I had not been able to distribute any more DVDs—so I again fervently prayed and asked the Lord to open the hearts and minds of the people I would contact before the day was over.

“Soon after, I walked through the front gate and up the path to knock on another front door. Jason came to the door and invited me inside. The first thing I noticed was all the guitars around the lounge room. I joked to Jason and commented to him that the only people I know who play so many instruments are those who play for church or play in a rock band! Jason laughed and shared that he plays in many different venues for many different kinds of functions and that he wasn’t against playing in a church. I asked him if he was a member of a church and he replied, ‘No.’

“I didn’t pursue the matter further at that stage but began to show him the books I was carrying and began to explain their significance. Jason was into health and fitness and the resources I shared with him on that subject began to interest him greatly.

“Eventually Jason decided to purchase *Today, Tomorrow and You*. I was explaining to Jason about the book, the way it explained what the Bible had to say on many different subjects and how it included Bible references and explanations of the various texts. I assured him that *Today Tomorrow and You* was a great book for those who wished to find out more about what the Bible says.

“Jason was very pleased about that. I revisited the topic of church with him and it soon became apparent that he was a true seeker of truth.

“The Holy Spirit impressed Jason that afternoon and it wasn’t long until he had asked for a full set of the *Beyond The Search* DVDs.

Jason accepted an invitation to come to church the following Sabbath and after a time of prayer together, I left. The Lord had heard my prayer that day. I was able to distribute more than just five DVDs—Jason had been an answer to prayer.

Did Jason honour his commitment to attend church on the Sabbath?

“Most certainly! And he loved it immensely—praise the Lord!”



# VIRTUAL PRAYER MEETINGS



by Luke Farrugia

One of the best indicators of spiritual health is the willingness to take part in prayer meetings. After all, who would not want to take the opportunity to join with fellow believers and communicate with the Almighty God.

The problem that is often faced (especially in regional areas) is that attending a meeting is sometimes impractical as we have to travel great distances to attend. However, with the advent of technology, we may not even need to travel further than our closest computer. This means there is no reason for you not to get involved. Read on to be equipped!

## THE TOOLS

There are lots of ways to communicate across the internet and you are free to use whatever option you are most comfortable with, but for this purpose we use Skype. So aside from a computer or smartphone, you will need:

- ▶ The Skype application which you can download freely from <www.skype.com>;
- ▶ A broadband internet connection;
- ▶ A microphone;
- ▶ Speaker/headphones, (both of which are likely to be built in to most modern computers).

## YOUR ACTION LIST

### STEP 1: GATHER INTEREST

Talk to the people you plan to invite. Ask if they would be interested in a prayer meeting over Skype. Give them an idea of how you see it working.

### STEP 2: SCHEDULE THE MEETING

Work with your interests to find a time that is most suitable for everyone. This can be difficult for busy people, but the fact it is a Skype call should make it easier for everyone to find the time.

### STEP 3: WRITE A PROGRAM

Don't make it a rigid structure, but a general plan will keep the flow going and avoid going overtime. If your meeting runs too long, you will find people drop away as they will feel it is too great a time commitment. I would recommend:

- ▶ 5 minutes general conversation; greet everyone and give time for the late arrivals.
- ▶ 10 minutes of sharing prayers and praises (see more information in Step 4).
- ▶ 10 minutes of prayer, involving as many people as possible.
- ▶ 1 minute farewell—Close the meeting as soon as possible after the last prayer to leave the attendees in a prayerful state of mind as they go into the rest of their day.

### STEP 4: START A PRAYER AND PRAISE LIST

A prayer list everyone can access is a great way to track prayers and how God answers them. I would recommend using Google Docs so each member can access the document.

Asking people to share praises for the list is a good way to break the ice and also balance the sorrow sometimes uncovered by the prayer requests.

### STEP 5: HAVE YOUR FIRST MEETING

It may feel a little awkward at first but don't worry, you will all fall into the routine and before long, your biggest problem will be trying to finish on time because no-one will want to stop!

### IDEA:

If you have a lot of people or if you are just interested in being more engaging, try conversational prayers. Have one person lead the prayer by topic (moving from health to soul winning, church life, latter rain, etc) but each person chimes in with a single thought or request.

## WILL YOU TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?

Is this an area of digital ministry you are interested in? Would you like more information? Have you tried it yourself? We would really like to hear from you—<focus@farbox.com.au>.



# ADVENTIST YOUTH



## CHARGED AGAIN



by Pastor Joseph Khabbaz, Associate Directory of Youth Ministries

**T**he Young Adult ReCharge Retreat came to Noosa on the weekend of April 11-13. Organised by the South Queensland Conference Adventist Youth Department, 60 young adults took time out to rest from the important and necessary work of life and focus on that which is of eternal significance, Jesus Christ. The speaker for the weekend was Sven Ostring, Director of Discipleship Movements for the Greater Sydney Conference, who focused on what it means to have authentic faith in the 21st century. Sven highlighted that church is more than just a destination point and includes God's people becoming more effective in fulfilling

the mission that Jesus has given. The important relationship between faith and reason was also addressed where atheism's confidence in human reason could only be justified if there was a God who created the mind that was capable of reason. Practical methods of Bible study and prayer were shared followed by young adults giving personal stories of transformation through prayerful Bible reading at the retreat. This is the second ReCharge Retreat, which continues to grow each year by God's grace. The 2015 Young Adult ReCharge Retreat will be held at Camp Somerset. Watch talks by Sven Ostring from the weekend at the SQ Youth channel on Youtube.

## Lifestyle Medicine Boom in South Queensland:



The South Queensland Conference office CHIP program participants.

by Neil Marks, Director of Health

From the Conference Office in Brisbane, to the Gold Coast and Stanthorpe in the south, to Toowoomba and Emerald in the west, and from the Sunshine Coast and Hervey Bay to the north, lifestyle medicine through the **Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP)** is booming in South Queensland Conference. This year, 25 CHIP chapters in South Queensland have been registered with the Lifestyle Medicine Institute (LMI) to reach out and connect with local communities via health evangelism. And, of the 42 CHIP programs that have already begun or finished throughout Australia so far this year, more than 30 per cent of them have been in this conference.

Pastor Paul Rankin, Director of “CHIP in Churches” for the South Pacific Division, has no hesitation in stating that more CHIP programs have been registered in this conference than any other. This is pleasing for us in the Health Department. Lifestyle Medicine is one of five major strategies we plan to concentrate on in this next quadrennium (2014–2017) and CHIP will be at the centre of these efforts.

It is exciting to see the South Queensland Conference office help lead the way by conducting its very own CHIP chapter. Nineteen office personnel responded to calls for an initial expression of interest and a final total of 11, including the conference president, Pr Jorge Munoz, commenced the program on April 1. The conference CHIP program is being conducted using the Corporate model and is being facilitated by the Conference Health Director over Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes and will continue throughout the months of April, May and June.

The Conference Office program has only been going for a couple of weeks and yet benefits such as weight loss, freedom from certain food allergies or intolerances, the sharing of healthy recipes, and a growing interest in the program throughout the conference office, are occurring.

The listing of chapters/churches that have registered for CHIP in South Queensland is impressive, with 22 churches

registering, plus the conference office.

In 2014, CHIP will be conducted in the following areas:

**Brisbane metropolitan area:** South Queensland Conference Office, Park Ridge, Eden’s Landing, Mitchelton, Pine Rivers, Springwood, Capalaba.

**South of the city:** Nerang, Mt Tamborine, Gold Coast Central

**South West:** Warwick, Stanthorpe.

**West:** Laidley, Toowoomba, Glenvale.

**North:** Redcliffe, Landsborough, Caboolture, Yandina, Sunshine Coast, Gympie, Hervey Bay.

**North West:** Emerald.

The 2013 *Live More* CHIP textbook, suggests that “**Lifestyle is the Best Medicine**” (page 19) and the research supports this when it comes to preventing or reversing the epidemic of lifestyle diseases that plague both the developed and developing world of the 21st century. And **CHIP is all about lifestyle medicine!**

Lifestyle medicine is an exciting concept and although this term is a relatively recent one, this approach to healing and wellness has been around a long time. Some 2500 years ago, the great Greek healer Hippocrates, who has also been called the “Father of Modern Medicine,” said: “Walking is mans best medicine,” and “Your food shall be your medicine, and your medicine your food.”

It is instructive that physical activity and nutrition are also the central pillars of the modern lifestyle medicine movement, which affirms the relationship between diet and disease, and the ability of physical activity to positively impact body, mind, and spirit.

They are also, of course, part of the Creator’s original blueprint for the human race: “Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food” (Genesis 1:29, NLT).

And in terms of being physically active; “The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it” (Genesis 2:15, NLT).

# “GIVE ME JESUS

by Pastor Andy Krause

In 1975, Manhattan Transfer had a worldwide hit with their song “Operator” containing the lyrics “... operator, information, give me Jesus on the line . . . .” Though a musical sensation, few people—if any—would have taken such words seriously; that is, that someone could actually give you *Jesus on line!*

Fast forward to 2014 and not only do people now believe that you can find Jesus online, but there are individuals globally who are daily, giving *Jesus online* to people in their local communities, country and to almost every other corner of the world.

# ON THE LINE . . . ”

Take King Tshuma for instance. By day, a mild mannered electrician working for an underground coal mine at Blackwater, Central Queensland, while doubling up as an elder with the Rockhampton Church and a full time “*online Jesus giver*” 24/7.

Embracing the ever increasing field of social media via his mobile phone and computer, King utilises “WhatsApp”, “Facebook” and “Skype” to conduct Sabbath School classes and Bible studies with a number of individuals and groups, both locally and globally.

“At the mines, my day starts at 5am and finishes at 5pm” says King. “Each Wednesday, after completing my 12-hour shift, I am back at the work camp site and in my room by 5.25pm where I clean up and get ready to conduct my weekly Bible-study group, starting at 8.30pm using “Skype” on my smart phone. There are 17 non-Adventist African men aged between 26 and 48 years in this group. Like myself, they are also miners living in the Rockhampton region.

“Since the group started, I have received some incredible feedback from them,” says King. “A few of them told me that they have been delivered from ‘bad behaviour’ that was threatening their marriages. Even the wife of one of the men contacted me to tell me that after 15 years of marriage she finally has the husband of her dreams and she thanks God for my weekly Bible-study group.” King continued, “Two other group members told me that for the first time in their lives they now sense the presence of God, while a number of others in the group have now come to understand the second coming of Christ. Before they started in the group, the second coming of Christ was just a myth to them—now it’s a reality and something good to look forward to. Praise God!”

Further to his weekly Bible-study group, King is also utilising “Friendship Evangelism” to network with 12 other non-Adventist African men, aged between 26 and 50 years, who are miners in the Bowen Basin area. To engage with this particular group, King uses the “WhatsApp” on his smartphone.

Never to miss an opportunity, King, via Facebook, runs

a daily Sabbath school class. “There are 57 former Adventist Church members in the class,” states King. “The group is made up of males and females aged between 20 and 48 years, living in places like Asia, Europe, USA and Africa.”

King adds, “Like myself, they are all Africans. Most of them were just little kids when I used to go to their church in Africa. For one reason or another, many had stopped attending church.

“But listen to this!” says King excitedly. “Some of them who are studying outside of Zimbabwe, have now gone back to church because of their involvement in my Facebook Sabbath school class. In Indonesia, where some of them are also currently studying, there are no Seventh-day Adventist Churches nearby for them to attend, so they were extremely happy to have discovered, and become involved in, my Facebook Sabbath school class. For them it’s a ‘virtual church’ in an actual world filling their spiritual needs.”

According to King, it takes a lot of commitment and perseverance. However, King is quick to add, “How people communicate and interact with one another has and is continually changing, especially with the introduction of the internet. I believe that social media evangelism works as it allows you to connect with people, not just in your immediate community but also with those in the far reaches of the world, as more and more people globally are immersing themselves in, embracing and using these high-tech methods of communication and personal interaction.”

“You don’t have to be a renowned evangelist, pastor or lay-preacher to fulfil the great commission as found in Matthew 28:19, 20,” says King. “Anybody and everybody regardless of gender, race or age, has the opportunity and privilege to be an ‘*online Jesus giver*’ 24/7 by means of social media from the comfort of their own home or wherever they might find themselves.

“I need to tell you,” says King, “that without the use of the various forms of social media, I would have never been able to touch the lives of so many people right around the world.”

King goes on to say, “Some people may never go into an actual church building but by embracing social media as a ‘virtual church’, we can still *give them Jesus online*. Nothing is impossible with God.”

“*Operator, information, give me Jesus on the line . . .*”

Like King, you too can make these words more than just lyrics in a popular song of yesteryear by becoming a 24/7 “*online Jesus giver*” today!

To know more on how to use social media as an evangelistic tool, you can contact King by email on <king37@gmail.com>.

# Cliff And Val Morgan Retir  . . . Again . . . Sort Of!



Cliff and Val Morgan are household names in many mission-focused families and churches in the South Pacific. Their ministries, always centred on God's love, have touched the lives of tens of thousands of people around the world.

On December 5, 2013, the South Queensland Conference office staff and many friends of Volunteers in Action (VIA), shared lunch together and wished Cliff and Val abundant blessings as they officially stepped back from leadership of VIA.

Eighteen years after they partnered with God to establish the laymen-supporting ministry of VIA, the Morgans can now look back on an average of more than eight baptisms per day and the roofing of more than 1200 churches throughout the South Pacific.

VIA will continue to be led by its very active board. Cliff will continue in the role of VIA's church roofing manager and Val will, as always, provide her talents and skills to ensure its success. Thank you, Cliff and Val. You are an inspiration to us all.

Please visit <[www.via.org.au](http://www.via.org.au)> to learn more about supporting this wonderful ministry.

## HELP! I've Been Blessed! How to stop God's blessings from becoming curses.

It's official. According to the latest Global Wealth Report by Credit Suisse,<sup>1</sup> *Australian adults have the highest median wealth of any country on earth, even higher than Switzerland!* That's an achievement worth celebrating—but what impact has the road to affluence had on our spiritual lives?

Queensland author Julian Archer learned the hard way that when a person prospers, either God gains a partner or the person loses their soul.

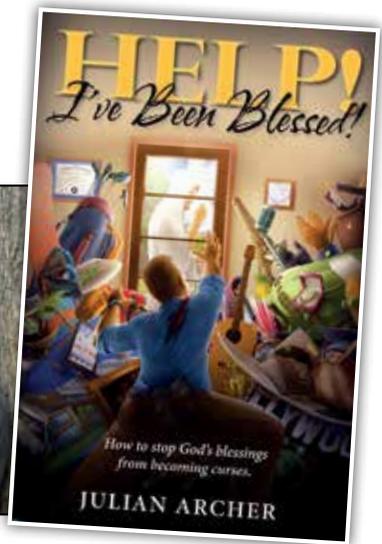
In *Help! I've Been Blessed! How to stop God's blessings from becoming curses*, Archer takes readers on a frighteningly honest, soul-baring journey into the world of a successful Christian businessman. He is an outwardly blessed man with a sinister and secret struggle—an eternal life and death battle—to try and stop God's blessings from becoming curses.

It isn't fiction.

*Help! I've Been Blessed!* will help readers to:

- ▶ Unclutter their heart so they can let Jesus in . . . again.
- ▶ Join the richest 1pre cent of people on earth . . . without losing their soul.
- ▶ Raise godly children in a materialistic society.
- ▶ Reignite their 'first love' with Jesus—even amid the pressures (and the comforts) of affluence.

*Help! I've Been Blessed!* is available in multiple formats (paperback, eBook and audio book), along with a series of PDF Group Study Guides and DVD video clips to encourage in-church seminars and small-group discussions. Most of these resources can be downloaded for free at <[www.Faith-vs-Finance.org](http://www.Faith-vs-Finance.org)>.



*Help! I've Been Blessed!* is an easy-reading yet powerfully challenging expos  of the spiritual challenges faced by affluent Christians. It is being hailed as, "Essential reading for every Christian who is, or ever hopes to be, financially independent."

Available in your local Adventist Book Centre and directly from <[www.Faith-vs-Finance.org](http://www.Faith-vs-Finance.org)>.

JULIAN ARCHER retired in his 30s and founded Faith vs Finance—a global ministry working with affluent Christians who seek to maintain a vibrant relationship with Jesus amid the pressures of materialism and self-centred lifestyles. He lives in a house full of family and friends beside a wildlife-rich mountain stream in southern Queensland, Australia. *Help! I've Been Blessed!* is his first book.

1. Credit Suisse, Global Wealth Report, October 2013.

# AROUND THE CHURCHES

## CHILDERS/HINKLER GONE FOR A SIX!



March 22 was a high Sabbath for the Hinkler and Childers churches as 100 people came to witness the baptism of six people. Four people from Hinkler and two people from Childers publicly declared their commitment and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Friends and family watched on as Bernard Woodland (Childers), Michael Djikowski (Hinkler), Joe Farrugia (Childers), Julia Horton (Hinkler), Lorraine Beddie (Hinkler), and Paul Horton (Hinkler) were baptised by Pastor Dusan Milosavljevic.

—Article by Michelle Tanner

## COOROY CHOICE OF A LIFETIME!



Two young people from Cooroy church were baptised on April 26 in the Noosa River. Hannah Martin and Shanice Usher, who are also students attending Noosa Christian College, were supported by family, teachers and friends who watched on from the river bank. Hannah shared how she felt a strong desire to make the commitment at a Christian music concert. Shanice shared how a recent overseas mission trip to the Philippines had cemented her desire to take the step to be baptised. Church pastor and chaplain at Noosa Christian College, Pastor David Reilly, conducted the baptism. "It's great to see young people choosing to follow Jesus Christ; it's always a great time of celebration!" he said.

Both students had been involved in Bible studies to gain an understanding of what the Christian life is all about. Shanice has attended a Bible-study group in Gympie led by Cooroy church member

Clacy Fatnowna, who has a regular Bible-study group with up to seven young people attending.  
—Article and pictures by Pastor David Reilly



## EMERALD REAPS THE BENEFITS EARLY!

The preparations for "The Last Empire" program in Emerald have involved a large proportion of the members of the local church. More than 30 of the members assisted in stapling localised leaflets to the official brochures after a combined lunch on April 12. Working in small teams, the 7000 brochures were processed and distributed within the space of a few hours, informing locals of where the church is and the nights that programs will be running.



This is just one of a few events this year where church members have spent time together outside of regular service times.

The social committee started the year with a cake auction that raised \$1000 for a new girls' dormitory at Gabensis Adventist School in Papua New Guinea.

The women of the church met for breakfast at a local restaurant one Sunday morning (followed by a visit to McDonalds) and the men met together on a Sunday afternoon for a game of golf.

There are many more opportunities planned for church members to build social bonds with each other, as well as spiritual.

It has been suggested that one of the great outcomes of "The Last Empire" (before it's even started) is the closeness and strength that it has brought to our congregation as we work together. We can't wait to see what our church will be like when the program has been completed and we pray that the Lord will speak through the presenters as they share the good news of the gospel!

—Article and picture by Karen Galea

## ESK THE FABULOUS FOUR



Esk is just a small country church going the way of so many country churches where members move to the city for work and church educational opportunities, sadly leaving some of our churches with empty pews. At Esk, the young people—just four of them—are considered the church's precious jewels. They serve as the deacons and deaconesses and are actively involved in the week-to-week running of the church; taking combined Sabbath schools, ministering during communion with the bread and wine, readying the hall for combined luncheons each week, conducting special afternoon programs, the list could go on and on!

The more "senior" Esk church members are proud of these young people. "They are such a blessing," said one of the long-standing members. "We continually pray that God continues to richly bless their young lives as they inspire the oldies of the church, and may the senior members do what seniors should do, pray for them and support them all the way."

—Article and picture submitted by Esk Church

## COME, THOU 'FOUNT' OF EVERY BLESSING. . .

There is nothing like working hard in order to be prepared, even if it means toiling in the recent unrelenting March heat! Des



Corney, Barry Ford, David Robins, Mark Gale, Peter and Coll Dorrington of the Esk church, raised a sweat when they took on the job of pulling down and shifting a wall, and making changes to entryways in order to facilitate the installation of a baptismal font into the rostrum of the church. The church is looking forward to the great day when they will be blessed to see their first candidate lowered into the waters of baptism!

—Article and picture submitted by Esk Church

## HINKLER

### ROMANS 10:11-15 IN ACTION



Pastor Dusan Milosavljevic recently led the Hinkler church congregation through an intensive two-week series of "Spiritual Life Renewal" studies for members. Revival and reformation is called for as church members prepare for a big year of evangelism and faith sharing with the Bundaberg community.

An inspiring message of unity and true godliness was communicated and members are now excited to see the Lord working among them in preparation for His soon coming. The members are keen to perform the work they have been called to do.

The Hinkler church members prepared for the program with a 24-hour chain prayer, followed by 24 hours of fasting and praying. All were motivated to study the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy more closely, to be diligent in obeying the Word of God, to fast and pray for guidance, and to cry out to God for the out pouring of the Holy Spirit.

Our Hinkler members have a renewed zeal for evangelism and a strong commitment to reveal the true character of God to others.

—Article and picture by Michelle Tanner

## MARYBOROUGH

### NEWS FROM THE PEWS



The church membership continues to rise in our Maryborough church. Over the past couple of months, the church has seen seven lovely people publically give their hearts and accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Graham Taylor, Cath Jensen, Elizabeth

McDonnell, Kellie Jensen, Michell Jensen and Josh Jensen were baptised by Pastor Gary Roberts; and Adam Scard was baptised by Pastor Mark Goldsmith. Praise the Lord!

—Article and pictures by Carol Boston



## NAMBOUR

### CAITLYN COMMITS TO THE COMING KING



Caitlyn has been on a journey! As one leg of her journey finishes another begins —to the cheering and applause of her local church community.

Nambour church was elated recently to witness the baptism of Caitlyn Cooney by Pastor Joe Webb in the church on Sabbath April 12.

One of the more senior members of the church commented, "It was such a special day for Caitlyn and her family, with many relatives coming from near and far to witness the beautiful baptism—praise God."

—Article and picture by Elsie Scott

## ROCKHAMPTON

### TRUE DEDICATION FROM A KING TO THE KING



On Sabbath March 22, Rockhampton church witnessed a display of unquestionable dedication when King Tshuma had the honor and privilege to dedicate to the Lord six month old Zinzile Mabhena in the company of her parents, Vusa and Gugu.

Since the beginning of 2014, Rockhampton church has been without a pastor and it appeared that the dedication service might not go ahead as planned until the arrival of the newly appointed pastor later in the year. Thankfully, God had other ideas and with the blessing of the South Queensland Conference, King was able to lead out in the dedication service in the absence of a pastor.

Ironically, King and Vusa both come from the same town in Zimbabwe. They both speak the same local Zimbabwe language and as children, they both attended the same school!

Two years ago, and some 12,091 kilometres from Zimbabwe, King and Vusa connected again at an African community-organised event after Vusa and his wife Gugu moved from Brisbane to the small Central Queensland mining town of Dysart.

Vusa and Gugu were never going to let the absence of a Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dysart prevent them from dedicating their precious baby to the Lord. As an elder of the church, they asked King if he would lead out in the service at Rockhampton.

"It has taken more than 12,091 kilometres, 15 years as an elder with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a chance meeting with Vusa and Gugu for me to perform my first baby dedication service. I am truly humbled!" reflected King.

—Article and pictures by King Tshuma



## SCHOOL'S OUT—IN VANUATU

Article by Georgina Hobson, Jared Benard and pictures by Jared Benard and David Rogers

When Katie Waho climbed out of bed extra early on April 1, she began a journey to re-visit the small country of Vanuatu she had holidayed in several years ago. However, this would be a very different experience to her previous relaxing resort stay.



Katie Waho with students from Aore Adventist Academy.

On this occasion, Katie—with 17 of her fellow students plus six adults from Noosa Christian College (NCC)—travelled to Aore Adventist Academy (AAA) for a service trip.

Departing from Brisbane International Airport, the team proved to be quite a spectacle with their check-in luggage containing “unusual” travel items such as three lawn-mower chassis, six trailer tyres, numerous power tools and some essential food items.

Led by NCC Principal (and former AAA Principal) David Rogers, students were assigned to various teams to complete service projects over their 12-day stay on the island. These included;

1. A boat restoration team—who assisted local people to return the Academy’s boat to good working order. With the job completed, it can once again be used as the “school bus” to transport students and supplies to and from the small island. The students worked on cleaning the hull, applying anti-fouling treatment, paint-scraping, sanding, fibre-glassing, engine servicing, painting and building a roof for the rear deck area.
2. Building team—these students repaired concrete piers under a staff member’s house by reinforcing the existing piers, assembling boxing for the concrete, shovelling sand and coral from local sites, mixing and pouring the concrete.
3. Mechanics team—this group worked on mechanical maintenance jobs, serviced a tractor, carried out rust treatment work on a Toyota Hilux and also assembled a new lawn mower.



Boat restoration team.



4. Mixed service team—these students rotated through tasks in the kitchen preparing bulk quantities of vegetables for the student meals, lawn-mowing on the school campus and house-duties for their fellow-travellers, such as hand-washing clothes, meal preparation and cleaning.

Katie, who worked hard to complete days of lawn-mowing, meal preparation and several other duties, said although she often felt tired, hot and sweaty from the tropical climate, she valued her time away. “I’m really glad I went on the trip. It was a lot of work, but we knew it would be a service trip, not a holiday. Visiting Aore was a great experience and I couldn’t believe how friendly and kind the local people were to us. By the end of the trip we became friends with some of the girls and they cried when we left. Some of us exchanged numbers to keep in touch.”

The highlights of the trip for the group of students included making friends with the local people, experiencing a new culture, the beautiful (amazing) singing in the church by the Ni-Vanuatu students, playing musical chairs with the Aore students on Saturday night, swimming in a warm sea every day, and snorkelling and swimming in the Blue Hole at Santo. Even taking cold showers turned out to be not such a hardship after a hard day’s work.

Overall, Noosa’s overseas service trip to Vanuatu was a tremendous success and the students had an awesome experience they will never forget!



Noosa Christian College service team departing Brisbane International Airport.



Group outing on the “Banana Boat.”



## Sania And Danika Deliver “Crate” Service



Article and pictures by Clinton Jackson

Sania Alamate and Danika Poland (Year 12 Prefects at Brisbane Adventist College) were awarded grants to participate in the College's Sonship Mission Trip. What follows is a reflection by Sania on the day spent packing the crate of equipment:

“I discovered on my first-term break that efficiently packing a crate is an art. Before I jumped in the crate to start packing tins of paint and other essential equipment, I was told that I'd need to ‘defy the laws of physics’ in order to get everything to fit. I thought that was a joke. It wasn't. If there was any spare space, it ended up being filled. Paintbrushes were forced to fit into the slightest resemblances of space and rags were stuffed in the rollers. Trying to find places for irregularly shaped items like chainsaws and a generator was quite a challenge!

Last year, the Returned Services League Youth Development

Program (RSLYDP) awarded grants to Danika Poland and me to participate in another Sonship trip to the Solomon Islands. Part of the grants enable our team to purchase more essential equipment; such as paint, paint-brushes, rollers, masking tape, curtain rods and hooks—all the items needed to complete our work in the girl's dormitory at Batuna Adventist Vocational School.

With our two crates packed (one crate just food!), shipped and somewhere over the Pacific Ocean, preparations for the annual June/July Sonship mission trip to the Solomon Islands are well underway and our team of 23 students and five staff are excited for another successful and memorable mission trip to Batuna. We have seen first-hand the power of prayer and God's unshakeable plans, and ask that you please continue to keep us in your prayers as we prepare to leave soon.”



## MY GUESS IT'S TIME TO REFRESH!

Article by Pastor Neil Redman and pictures by Pastor Neil Redman and Simon Hutton

**M**embers of “Refresh: Northpine Community Church” started to meet at Northpine Christian College during February 2014.

Back in 2011, Northpine began a monthly Saturday afternoon program to create a spiritual environment where Year 12 school leavers, and other students and families, felt comfortable in attending. In late 2013, a movement began at Northpine that took these once-a-month, then once-a-month gatherings to a weekly faith community.

It is estimated that only 50 per cent of students and their families connected to Northpine Christian College are regularly affiliated with any Christian church. That leaves about half the students attending Northpine coming from an unchurched community. Frequently the only connection a student has with a faith community is within the school environment. They often make decisions to follow Christ at school, but once they leave school they are in unfamiliar territory. Northpine wanted to create an environment where they feel they belong, a place they can return to week after week.

Refresh is all about “Growing followers of Jesus” and even though Refresh has only been going a few months, already we have a strong core group attending each week made up of people from both Christian backgrounds and those who have never been a part of a faith community.

Sabbath morning programs have been structured inten-

tionally for people who have not attended a church for a long time—if at all. There is a light breakfast to start each morning, with the specific purpose of building community, followed by programs catering for all ages.

The children’s programs combine activities based on a theme infused with Bible stories and applied through fun group activities. There is a strong sense of nurture of the young people and also of their active involvement in both their church and communities.

Refresh is specifically focused on the school community of Northpine, focusing on building children, teen and youth ministry areas, and incorporating the school community into the weekend events. Programs that are offered which attempt to do just that include:

- **CRAVE**—A Café-Style Church for senior high / university student-aged youth. This program is held on a Friday night throughout each term.
- **AFTER DARK**—Social activities for High Schoolers held on a Saturday night. These take place either on the Northpine campus, or it’s “everyone on a bus” and it’s out for the evening. You can find out more about AFTER DARK at: Facebook—Refresh After Dark
- **Kids4JC**—This program is geared toward the Primary-school-aged group. Held on a Friday night (with the help of members from other churches), the students enjoy a variety of fun games, activities and Bible stories.



## AHOY THERE!

**A** long-awaited dream has been fulfilled at Melody Park Aged Care facility with our residents' embracing the safe and kind customer service of "Sailability" who supported our adventure onto the water.

With further bookings planned, our "ambassadors for the

aged" can testify to the powerful effect of emotional wellbeing on their physical wellbeing and the comfort that comes with feeling loved and valued!

Special thanks to our dedicated Aged Care staff who arranged and made this experience possible.



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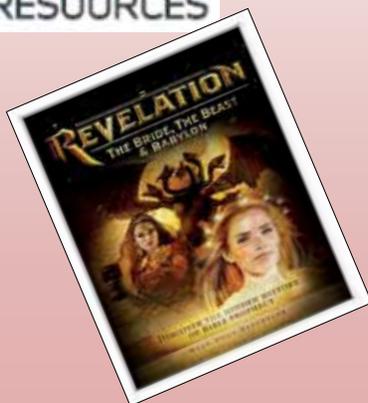
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It's on  
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## BIG CAMP OPEN

Charity Golf Tournament

Come have a blast and support this year's  
amazing causes with a round of golf at  
**North Lakes Resort Golf Club!**

When: **Sunday September 21**

What: **4 person Ambrose** just 10 minutes drive from Big Camp

Cost: **\$85 Early Bird Special** ends July 31 (\$99 after that)

Lots of prizes and fun  
for golfers of any level.

For more information and to register, go to  
**[www.bigcampopen.com](http://www.bigcampopen.com)**

Calling all golfers to a golf tournament with heart. The Big Camp Open is back for its third year running and this year it is going to be bigger and better, aiming to raise even more money for charity. Whether you are at Big Camp this year or not, this is one event you won't want to miss.

Big Camp Open tees off on the first Sunday of Camp (September 21) at the award-winning North Lakes Resort Golf Club (only 10 minutes from camp) with a BBQ lunch at 11.30 am and a shotgun start from 12.30 pm. The tournament is a 4-person Ambrose-style format.

You can either sign up as an individual player and we can put you in a team, or sign up a team of four players and you will receive a sleeve of Titleist Pro-V1 balls as a thank you for organising a team.

Either way, sign up before the early bird rate ends. The early bird special is \$85 per player (\$340 per team) if you sign up before July 31. Places are strictly limited, and with last year being so successful, places will fill up quickly.

Thank you for helping us raise thousands of dollars for The Hope Foundation and Dream Trac last year. We would love to raise even more for these two wonderful causes this year! More details about the two charities are available on the Big Camp Open website.

We will again have great prizes on the day. We will also have a range of ways to donate even more money on the day with putting competitions, the BBQ lunch, longest drive competitions and getting help from our resident Pro!

For more information about the tournament, or to register yourself as an individual or a team, please visit the website at [www.bigcampopen.com](http://www.bigcampopen.com) and get signed up!

If you run your own business or know someone who does, sponsorship opportunities are available, all going to the two great causes above. Please contact us at [admin@bigcampopen.com](mailto:admin@bigcampopen.com) for a sponsor's pack and information about how you can get involved in this great event.

Looking forward to seeing you on the course in September!

### Become a Sponsor

Help raise money for a very worthy cause,  
join in the fun and competition for prizes  
and promote your business.

### Contact us now:

0447 711 079

[sponsors@bigcampopen.com](mailto:sponsors@bigcampopen.com)

[www.bigcampopen.com](http://www.bigcampopen.com)

## PATHFINDER MINISTRY CONTINUES TO BE CENTRAL IN TOOWOOMBA

Toowoomba Central Pathfinder Club will be celebrating 50 years of continuous Pathfinding in Toowoomba on August 16. All are invited to come and celebrate this milestone, especially if you have been a Pathfinder, Counsellor, Staff Member, Cook, Deputy Director or Director over the past 50 years. A lot of records no longer exist so you may in fact have an opportunity to help the club fill in some of the historical information about the club. If you are a past member of the club, you are especially invited to come and meet old friends, share stories and great memories.



The program on the day will include Sabbath school commencing at 9.30 am and a special church service to be taken by Pastor Willie Strickland commencing at 10.50 am. A fellowship lunch will follow. Ample time will be set aside for reminiscing in the afternoon.

For more Information about the day please contact Cliff Jull on 0427 911 266 or email Cliff at <cliff@sunnyvalefresh.com.au>.

## CANOE/KAYAK INSTRUCTOR COURSE SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Do you love canoeing or kayaking? Take it to the next level and become qualified to take out groups.

Adventist Outdoors is seeking expressions of interest from those who would like to gain the Qualification Level 1 Canoe/Kayak Instructor.

The training package on offer is excellent and involves both theory and practical elements.

### PREREQUISITES

1. You must have either the Basic Canoe Skills Qualification OR Significant Recorded Log Book Experience that can be considered for Recognised Prior Learning.
2. That you be willing to invest time in helping Pathfinders/Youth Groups/Churches with Canoeing Experiences. (If you are selected, we will subsidise the cost of the course.)

Register expressions of interest with Margaret Earnest 07 3218 7777 or <margaretearnest@adventist.org.au>.



## SANITARIUM HOSPITAL HOMECOMING

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY  
AUGUST 16 AND 17, 2014



Calling all nursing graduates, former and current staff, friends and family of the San. Join us for a wonderful opportunity to share experiences and reconnect with friends.

### Saturday, August 16

- Sabbath School—Wahroonga Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Worship Service
- Engaging dinner with interviews, music and hospital developments—Fox Valley Community Centre

### Sunday, August 17

- Embark on tours of our fascinating museum, the new state-of-the-art L W Clark Tower and Clinical Education Centre.

View the full program at <www.sanfoundation.org.au> then RSVP to San Foundation on (02) 9487 9405 or <foundation@sah.org.au>.



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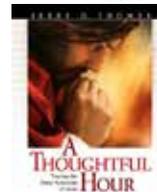
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