



FOCUS

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

From The President

'As a tribute to the heritage of FOCUS, here is an editorial from one of our earlier editions. See if you can guess who wrote it and when it was published.'

Let me share with you a few things that have happened recently or are happening in our Conference that we liked.

1. Reports to hand reveal that baptisms for 1988 will be up by more than 20% on the 1987 results. Thank you pastors and members for much hard work and faithful witness
2. Our Literature Evangelists led the Division in percentage of aim achieved during 1988. They reached 140%. Congratulations to Tony Wall and his team.
3. While final figures are not to hand for December, tithe will show increase in excess of 6% for 1988. We thank the Lord for the faithfulness of Church members.
4. We like the move to erect a new Kitchen/Dining Room facility at Watson Park, Kallangur. If all goes according to plan it should be ready for use at our September Convention. Hopefully the new ABC building (planned for 3 years ago) should also be ready for use by then.
5. We liked the helpful attitude of the Esk Shire Staff over the dilemma the Somerset Dam Committee faced with a pending court case against our Youth Camp Development. The case was being brought by surrounding residents.

With Council encouragement the Committee decided to withdraw our original development submission and begin preparing a new one. Council has promised to act on a new submission as soon as it is ready.

The Somerset Committee plan to keep total development costs down to \$1,500,000 (including the value of voluntary labour but not including money already spent on land and facilities on site).

6. Membership figures at the end of 1988 are just to hand. They stand at 7133. The Executive Committee's goal of 7000 members by the end of 1989 has been achieved with an excess of 133 and a year to spare.



A Place to Belong

BY PETER CHARLESON, BAC PRINCIPAL

When we speak of learning at Brisbane Adventist College, we allude to two factors: influence and growth. We not only address a child's ability to process cognitively, and problem-solve, but also devote our efforts to character development; particularly around our values of integrity and respect, the basis of strong relationships for which God created us. When relationships are strong, students feel safe, they operate in joy, and where there is joy, there is belonging.

"A child's future trajectory, along with their desire to be curious in their exploration of the world, can be completely modified if they find a place to belong," says Australian author Bernii Godwin in *Loving Our Students on Purpose: Building a Culture of Joy, Responsibility & Connection* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image, 2022, 26). With 20 years' worth of experience in social work and post-graduate study in child development and neuropsychology, Godwin discusses why 'connection' is the strongest neurological factor fuelling a child's wellbeing and academic success at school.

This year, our theme has been 'Living in the Overflow.' It forms the basis of our spiritual and wellbeing programs and was inspired by taking a candid look at the culture of school and society after two years of Covid. With many students (and staff!) feeling stretched thin and depleted, it was hard to feel like we were living in the overflow of "living water" offered by Jesus. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

We understand that there will always be things in life that fill and drain us. It is our goal to cultivate a sense of wellbeing and belonging within every student—helping them experience the joy of 'overflow' and become the whole person God intends them to be, even to the point where others around them will feel their 'splash'. We start by making this school a place to belong.

Find a place to belong, at Brisbane Adventist College.

Invest in a future for your child at a school that values them as an individual and has their academic, emotional, and spiritual growth at heart.

Our Christian school welcomes students of all faiths and backgrounds, from 6 weeks to Year 12.

Everything with God



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2022/2023
ADVENTIST
YOUTH
SOUTH QUEENSLAND
SUMMER
CAMPS



SUMMERFEST

DEC 12-18, 2022

AGES 16-18

REGO OPENS:

OCT 10 @ 7:00PM

TEENS

JAN 10-16, 2023

AGES 13-15

REGO OPENS:

OCT 12 @ 7:00PM

JETS

JAN 16-22, 2023

AGES 10-12

REGO OPENS:

OCT 17 @ 7:00PM

REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://SQYOUTH.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU/EVENTS](https://sqyouth.adventist.org.au/events)

Get Up, Stand Up, Show Up!—NAIDOC Celebrations

BY PR LUKE STUART, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NADIA GOLTZ & YOLA LIEDER

National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC). NAIDOC week was held from Sunday, July 3 to Sunday, July 10, 2022. It is interesting to learn that Major Aboriginal Organizations, the state and federal governments, and several church groups supported the formation of NAIDOC back in 1957. What made NADOC unique to Indigenous Australians and an important date on the Indigenous calendar. Many years before 1957, Aboriginal people would protest about equal rights for Indigenous peoples on January 22 before Australia day every year. In 1955 the date was moved from January 22 to the first whole week in July. Moving the date to July was done to show that NADOC was more than just a protest. It was a celebration, a time to acknowledge the achievements of the world's most resilient group of people. 1991 brought a change to the Name. Before 1991 NADOC did not include the Torre Strait Islander people. However, from 1991 onwards, NADOC now includes our Torre Strait Islander Brothers and Sisters (NAIDOC).

NAIDOC week is an excellent opportunity to celebrate those who have already driven and led transformation in Aboriginal and Torres Islander communities over generations. Each year NAIDOC week is provided with a theme that communicates to the broader community the importance of celebrating what NAIDOC stands for. In 2022, the theme was "Get Up Stand Up Show Up." NAIDOC week is becoming an essential platform that provides awareness to the non-Indigenous landscapes of our nation, where acknowledging our Indigenous people's achievements and outstanding contributions will always be the central focus. NAIDOC also significantly focuses on non-Indigenous people who are actively involved in closing the gap regarding Education, Health, Housing, and employment among first-nation communities. ATSIM hopes to encourage all of us to champion institutional, structural, collaborative, and corporate change creating a shared future for all Australians.

Indigenous awareness and recognition are slowly gaining momentum around the South Queensland Conference. Be encouraged with testimonials from some of our SQ Schools who were involved with NAIDOC celebrations this

year. ATSIM SQ would like to acknowledge our schools and their leadership and commend their commitment to get up, stand up, and show up in supporting NAIDOC, an essential celebration on the Indigenous calendar.

Hope Adventist school

Hope Adventist School held a unique chapel program to celebrate NAIDOC Week. Our chaplains, Pr Tim Ah Sam and Mrs Tanya Wong organised for the Taribelang Cultural Aboriginal Corporation to present our local Indigenous history and culture to our students. Students, staff and parents thoroughly enjoyed learning various animal dances and were fascinated by the traditional dances performed and didgeridoo playing.

Noosa Christian College

On Monday, July 18, at 9:00 am, Noosa Christian College held a NAIDOC Ceremony under the flagpoles. Student leaders and staff spoke to parents and students from Prep to Year 12. Indigenous artwork was displayed around the school, and Indigenous books were displayed in the library. Primary classes each read local Gubbi Gubbi books by Christine Stuart, a local Aboriginal Elder. There were classroom activities during the week, such as making Indigenous flags. At Outside School Hours Care (OSHC), the students participated in NAIDOC activities where each child painted an Aboriginal flag and a kangaroo in Aboriginal colours and did other drawings.





Cultural Awareness staff workshops were booked for later in Term 3, and an Ochre Mural painting (full) day workshop was booked for October for First Nations students and school leaders to attend.

Ipswich Adventist College

Last year, our school participated in Cultural Awareness Training, we learnt that Aboriginal ways are interconnected rather than concepts of isolation, within the context of holistic thinking. We learnt it would be very disrespectful to the Indigenous community to copy or create Indigenous art, especially if you are not Indigenous. Also, it is not permitted for Indigenous artists to create outside of their own nations unless granted permission by the Elders.

PHEW!!! Imagine if we had gone ahead with the artwork we wanted in such a hurry and the disrespect and disaster it would have brought. We thank God for his promise in Psalm 27:14 “Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord. “Yes, God’s got me. He’s got it sorted. He knows my heart’s desire, and all I have to do is wait for Him. So, we left it—and promptly forgot all about it with the blank canvases sitting in the corner of the library storage room collecting dust.

But God is good—Amen!

This year, our principal received a phone call from Pr Luke (ATSIM Director, SQC) inviting us to meet and share a meal with him and some of the local Elders from the Yagara nation within the Ipswich community. Over dinner, we connected, listened, learned (and we learnt so much), understood and built relationships. These connections and relationships paved the way for us to connect with a local artist who was challenged and inspired by our vision to use the blank Library wall space creatively. This meeting was the next step in our Cultural Competency Roadmap journey moving forward in becoming a Culturally Responsive School. As an answer to prayer, Aunty Sheree blessed our school with seven pieces of Indigenous artworks depicting the “Days of Creation” now proudly displayed in our school Library—in time for NAIDOC week! Insert—a big sigh (of relief), a humble eyeroll (facing up to heaven in thanks) and a joyful groan (of praise).



We’re so happy that the foundation has been set the right way rather than the quick way, so that we can confidently and respectfully continue the journey of connection and relationship with our Indigenous community. Our Cultural Competency Roadmap is still developing, and we have much more to learn and understand. We look forward to faithfully engaging in, collaborating with, and consulting with our local Elders to enrich and shape our cultures that lead to equality and unity.

We want to thank Pr Luke and his ATSIM team for their partnership and collaboration on this journey and for the blessing that has come from engaging in quality learning and cultural integrity.

We recognise the continuing contribution that the Yagara nation makes to the life of this region and commit to building a brighter future together. We pray that we can work together to leave a legacy of reconciliation, justice and hope for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and communities in Ipswich.

Words to Winners— Speech Competition

BY NORTHPIKE CHRISTINE COLLEGE

On Friday 9 September our Primary School held their annual Speech Competition. Our talented Primary students wowed our audience of family members and staff as well as a panel of judges with their speeches about “What I Love About Australia” and “A Famous Invention.” Congratulations to our winners and the runner-ups!



Honouring Shirley Bryer

BY PETER BREWIN

Shirley Bryer completed 17 years of service to the Cooroy Adventist Church as church Treasurer on June 30 this year. She carried her responsibility as Church Treasurer with expertise, accuracy, integrity and with such careful attention to detail that the standard she set would be a challenge to

those who come after her. Shirley was honoured at our worship service on August 6, 2022 with a Special Service Award signed by the Conference Officers acknowledging her faithful service to our church. Shirley continues to serve in other capacities and is a real blessing to us.

High Day for Highfields

BY HIGHFIELDS CHURCH

Sabbath, 16 April, was the first Sabbath that the Highfields church worshipped at their new, attractive venue in the heart of Highfields, renting it from the Church of Christ. To reach out and bless our community, our very talented Master Florist Debby, supported by church members, ran the “Be Inspired” three-part floral workshop during August. The aim was to inspire hope, trust and resilience in a caring, creative God, as they created beautiful floral pieces from His flora. These included a table arrangement with candle, a floral tea-cup, a line arrangement using bird of paradise, and a hand-tied Strauss tiger-lily bouquet. More than 30 attended from the community on most nights. Participants soaked up the spiritual thought, that paralleled with each night’s flower theme. The response was overwhelming, so we are continuing with once-a-month workshops. In these challenging times, the floral art group are using their newly acquired skills to make arrangements, which they give to

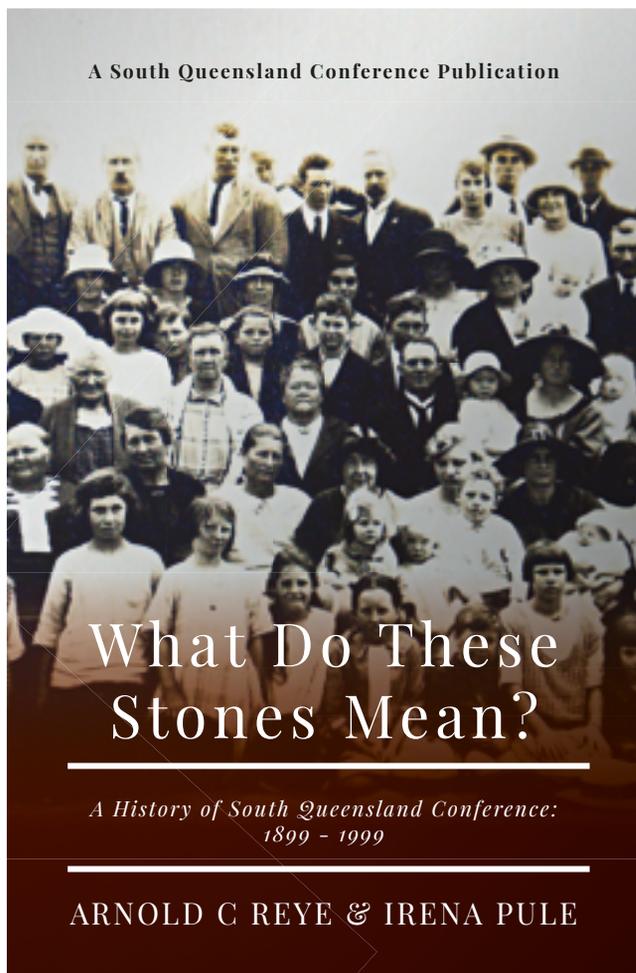
others in the community, in order to cheer, console and inspire them.



Back to the Past— Big Camp is Back!

Oh. . . how different Big Camp was back in the early days! To commemorate the return of Big Camp after COVID we have a little book competition. If you can guess what year this Big Camp photo was taken and where, you will receive a free copy of Dr Arnold Reye's book on the history of South QLD Conference, *What do these stones mean?*

Send your answers to: sqfocus@adventist.org.au by 20 November and the answer will be published in the next edition of FOCUS.





Big thanks to Charmaine Patel for her amazing photos in capturing the spirit of Big Camp 2022. Here is just a small selection—enjoy!





Community Appreciation Day

BY LYN ASHBY, PHOTOGRAPH BY PR CASEY WOLVERTON

A number of amazing organisations and kind-hearted volunteers work tirelessly to assist the homeless and vulnerable in Caboolture district, QLD. On Sabbath, 28 May, the Caboolture Adventist Church held a Community Appreciation Day service honouring three groups for their selfless service to the community.

- City Heart Breakfast running out of the Caboolture City Heart Presbyterian Church provides breakfast every Tuesday and Thursday. They aim to create a family atmosphere, where homeless and lonely people can sit around the breakfast table and chat.
- The Sonshine Sanctuary provides support and crisis accommodation in their five townhouses for women and children escaping domestic violence.
- Caboolture Community Action group (CCA) helps the homeless to secure sustainable housing. They also provide a daily hot meal for over 80 needy people as well as a weekly food hamper.

Pr Casey Wolverton, pastor of Caboolture Adventist Church, interviewed leaders and volunteers from each organisation

affirming them for their service. The offering of the day was donated in equal parts to each of the organisations.

The manager of CCA summed up the mission of all the groups, “Whatever comes through the door,” she said, “we find a solution to many diverse needs, whether it is securing and furnishing a home, providing food, accessing services or arranging appointments.”

Receiving no government assistance, these organisations rely totally on sponsorship, donations, and funds from op shops. “The annual cost of running the Sonshine Sanctuary for example,” according to Ian Baskin, one of the volunteers, “is about \$200,000.”

The Honourable Terry Young MP gave an inspirational address commending the three organisations and encouraging the entire congregation to serve others as if they were serving Jesus himself.

“Affirming and honouring these hard working, compassionate volunteers of our Caboolture community,” said Pr Casey, “is such a positive way to build bridges with the local neighbourhood and we plan to make it a regular part of our annual church calendar.”



Pictured: Pr Mijan Popovic Royal Australian Air Force Reserve Chaplain, Pr Colin Renfrew Caretaker Secretary SQC, Major General Douglas Laidlaw Head of Joint Support Services Division.

ADF Employee Support Awards

BY PR COLIN RENFREW

It's a sense of calling to serve as a pastor! Equally, it is a sense of calling to serve as a chaplain in the Australian Defence Forces. Pastor Miljan Popovic experienced such a 'call' and commenced the recruitment process in mid-2019. Not long after, in January 2020, Pr Popovic was appointed to serve as a Royal Australian Air Force Reserve Chaplain. Throughout this process Pr Popovic's employer, the South Queensland Conference has actively supported and encouraged Pr Popovic in his journey as an Air Force Chaplain.

"We are delighted to partner together with the Australian Defence Force to release Pr Popovic for chaplaincy services to the Air Force Reserves", says Pr Colin Renfrew caretaker secretary for the South Queensland Conference. "It has been an incredible privilege to support the leadership growth and development that Pr Popovic has experienced as he has undertaken training and deployment with the Royal Australian Air Force Reserves."

More recently, on the evening of 8 September at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, the South Queensland Conference received the winners Award for the best Not-For-Profit employer during the 2022 Queensland Employee Support Awards hosted by the hosted by Australian Defence Force – Defence Reserves Support.

Then nominations for Employer awards are generated by the individual reservists who have experienced high levels of support and encouragement from their employees. So, thanks to Pr Popovic's nomination the Seventh-day Adventist Church South Queensland Conference received recognition as a winner in the Not-for-Profit category and is now an automatic nomination in the national awards to be presented later in the year. "The entire experience has been a wonderful opportunity to glorify our God and Saviour and we look forward to the possibilities at the national awards", says Pr Popovic.

ADRA Appeal

The annual ADRA Appeal is well underway! It is vital to the support of local community ADRA projects, both here in Australia and overseas. ADRA seeks to 'Serve Humanity so that all may live as God intended'. Your donation will go to help people like Andrea get back on her feet again, provide a place where she can belong, and thrive to be the best version of herself.

Donate today at www.adra.org.au/donate and select ADRA Appeal in the option box. All donations \$2 and over are tax deductible. Check out Andrea's chocolate brownie slice and enjoy!



Andrea's Chocolate Brownie Slice

Ingredients:

- 200g butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup cocoa
- 1 cup standard grade flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 100g chocolate, roughly chopped
- 3/4 cup (75g) walnuts, chopped
- 1/3 cup of milk
- Icing sugar to dust

Method

1. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
2. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition.
3. Sift together cocoa, flour and baking powder.
4. Fold dry ingredients, chocolate, walnuts and milk into creamed mixture.
5. Transfer to a thoroughly greased 20cm square shallow cake tin.
6. Bake at 150°C for about 50mins – the brownies should be a little sticky.
7. Cool before cutting into squares. Dust with icing sugar.





SHINE YOUR LIGHT!

ADRA APPEAL GOSPEL
CONCERT



Saturday 10 December, 7pm
Mt Gravatt SDA Church
A collection will be taken
on the night

Children's Corner!



Big congrats to Anna Vrancic, 9yrs who won our August ATSIM Colour Competition. If you want to win a great prize—a \$50 gift voucher—then enter our next colouring competition. **Open to all kids under the age of 10 years (and confirmed by a parent or guardian).**

Email your entry to sqfocus@adventist.org.au by 20 November 2022.

27 November - 22 December



South Queensland

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GET UP!

STAND UP!

SHOW UP!



@mulgana1

Gluten Steaks

BY WATSON PARK KITCHEN

Thanks Watson Park! Folks, with this recipe you'll have enough for dinner and plenty to freeze for a rainy day!



Makes around 10 pieces

Simmer for 10 minutes

Fry until golden

Ingredients (Normal batch, makes around 10)

- 1 ½ cups milk
- Mixed herbs
- 1 tablespoon soya sauce
- 1 egg
- 1 packet of French onion soup
- 1 ½ c gluten flour

Broth

- 1 packet of French onion soup made to instructions
- 1 tablespoon Marmite

Method

1. Place all ingredients in a bowl except gluten flour and mix well.
2. Slowly add gluten flour a little at a time mixing with each addition.
3. Fry scoops of mixture until lightly browned on both sides then simmer in broth for 10 minutes.
4. When cool crumb and fry on both sides till golden.

Ingredients (Large batch, makes around 100)

- 3 ¾ litre of milk
- Mixed herbs
- 200ml soya sauce
- 10 egg
- 400g of French onion soup
- 15c gluten flour

Broth

- 400g of French onion soup made to instructions
- 4 tablespoon Marmite

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

Attention FOCUS Contributors!

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