



FOCUS

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

God With Us

EDITORIAL BY BRETT TOWNEND

As Adventists we love to celebrate Christmas. The coming of Christ Jesus into the world is a foundation truth of Christian faith. Whether the dates match the event is really of little consequence to us—He came from Heaven to earth as Saviour to all people, and that is enough for us. We call it the Incarnation.

What we seldom do is connect the Christmas event to our unique Sanctuary doctrine.

God's desire in having the Sanctuary was so that He could dwell with His people. "Build me a sanctuary so that I can dwell among them," was his injunction to Moses (Exodus 25:8). When the tabernacle was built in the wilderness He filled it with His glorious presence and the whole encampment knew that God was with them. Exodus 40:34 records the event: "Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." God's presence gave them guidance during their wilderness wanderings (Ex 40:36-38). His presence was important to them.

When Jesus came to earth that Christmas day, John records it as God coming to earth to dwell with us: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). His presence with us in His Son Jesus Christ, and now by His indwelling Spirit. His glory with us too. The two go hand in hand. He is a glorious God who wants to be with us. When we behold the face of Jesus, we see the glory of God (2 Corinthians 4:6). What a privilege!

This Christmas, wherever you find yourself, or whoever you find yourself with, whether it be family or friends, or just quietly on your own, may you sense the presence of Jesus in your life, and celebrate the fact that He came to earth so that He could dwell with us. Oh yes, and He's coming back soon, so that what we experience now spiritually, will become a reality when we see Him face to face (Rev 22:4) In Heaven we will dwell with Him eternally.

God bless and keep you this Christmas season, and fill it with His presence and His glory.



The Harman-Y Cup

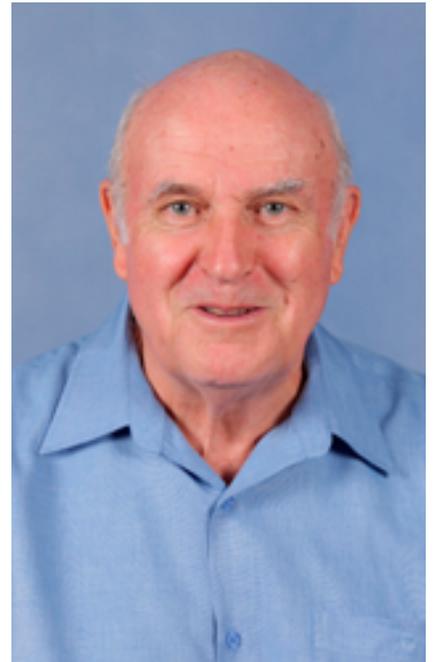
BY DEBBIE COSIER

The annual HARMAN CUP is always a highlight for students in Years 5, 6 and 7 at BAC. The annual soccer match between Primary and Secondary students is played in loving memory of Mr Eric Harman, who passed away in 2014 after a long career at BAC, teaching students predominantly in Years 6 and 7. Mrs Sandra Harman, also a retired BAC teacher, attends each year, mingling with students and teachers and enjoying the friendly spirit of competition.

Mr Harman was committed to giving students opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills, and character. Through sports, including impromptu games of soccer and cricket as a reward for productivity in class, he

challenged them to bring their best to every game. Whether students could demonstrate great skills and strategy, or simply great enthusiasm, integrity and kindness were a permanent part of the game plan.

The 2022 Harman Cup was played on Wednesday 2 November in front of a crowd of cheering onlookers. Primary V Secondary girls played the first half of the game. The score carried over and the Primary and Secondary boys competed in a vigorous second half, resulting in a final score of 3-2 with Year 7 emerging as the 2022 winners. We remember great teachers like Mr Harman for teaching generations of children how to live a life of integrity.



How Many Does it Take to Baptise One Person?

BY EDWARD CRAIG

Sabbath morning 12th November Pr David asked the congregation “How many people are involved for one person to be baptized?” For Teddy Ahadi, his parents, friends, class mates the church pastor church family and others; were all important in helping Teddy decide to make the commitment of Baptism.



Teddy enjoys Pathfinder activities and went on the distance trek on Frazer Island earlier this year. He is very popular with his classmates of the Darling Downs Christian school and

so it was not surprising that a good representation from his school as well as pathfinders, family and friends rejoiced when Teddy chose to be baptized after having had Bible Studies with Pastor David.

Quoting from Colossians chapter 2, Ps David, reminded Teddy and the congregation that salvation is assured as ALL sins have been paid for on the cross. Therefore, God sees Teddy and us as being “buried with Him in baptism”, and “Raised” to a new Life in Christ. Ps David answered the question, not asked but implied. “How many people are needed to be a Spiritual Support for Teddy”? His parents, friends, church members, class mates and many more. Teddy will be tempted at times to believe he is not good enough for heaven, tempted to be discouraged or to follow the traditions or philosophies of this world. Therefore, every member of the congregation was told they are to be a Spiritual support for Teddy.

With a contagious smile and a look of delightful joy, the Baptismal Vows were answered in the affirmative. Immediately after Teddy rose from the waters, A few of

the youth sang “Come as you are” at the request of Teddy.

School Chaplain Jeanine Sandy presented Teddy with a tee shirt, while the Central Church presented Teddy with a special gift to remember this special occasion.

I am sure that at the Fellowship Lunch after the Baptism, many happy church members and friends would have

welcomed Teddy as a fellow member and expressed their rejoicing, no need to wait a week for the church to officially welcome him.

We all give Teddy our congratulations and pray that Teddy will continue with a rich Spiritual growth that will be a blessing to all.

Young People Baptised at Landsborough

BY CHARLES RUSSELL

We were very happy to recently witness the baptism of four of our young people and welcome them into church fellowship. Emily Wiggle, Sarah Granter, Liz and David Drinnan were baptised into Christ at Wurtulla on the Sunshine Coast. Emily Drinnan was also welcomed into church fellowship through profession of faith.

After a special church service at Landsborough based on the theme of “The Wining Way” led by Dr Dwane Jackson and Jordan Burke; church members, relatives, friends and guests enjoyed a picnic lunch together by the water. Pastor David Kelsey assisted by church elders Ken and Jordan Burke performed the baptisms. Following a call, five more young adults came forward and indicated they too would like to be baptised in the near future.

We welcome the newest members of our church family and wish them each the richest of God’s blessings and the abiding presence of His Holy Spirit as they continue their walk with Jesus, their Saviour and Friend.



Pictured: David and Liz Drinnan, Sarah Granter, Amy Wiggle and Emily Drinnan

Supporting our Pears

BY DE-ANNE TASKER

Saturday night, 29th October, 2022, Rockhampton Seventh-day Adventist church came alive. The women were thinking pink. Organised by De-anne Tasker, a “Girl’s Night In” was held in their church hall to raise money for breast cancer. ‘Supporting Our Pears’ was the fundraising title. Women from the church and outside the church came. De-anne asked friends for old undergarments so they could decorate the hall with them that afternoon. Her plans were to upcycle (reuse them) after it was finished.

Ladies brought something to auction off as a way of fundraising for the cause. De-anne’s

friend Alison made cupcakes as a fundraiser. They shared finger food. Some history on undergarments and the invention of the mammogram machine was read out too. They played pass the parcel as an ice breaker. It was a great night with great laughs. It was the first time De-anne had ever hosted one. “If we have one next year, we will do things differently again,” De-anne said. Thank you to all the ladies who came and supported, donated and helped. Thank you especially to Daphne for the help in the kitchen.

Rosewood Church Family Camp

BY MARJORIE ENTERMANN



The Log Cabin at Numinbah was the venue, October 28-30 was the date, Rosewood church members and friends were the campers and “LIGHT” was the theme chosen to strengthen the bonds of fellowship and make new friends.

Morning and evening worships were a special feature, with

‘Ye are the Light of the World’ as theme song backed by keyboard and guitar.

‘The Light of the Sanctuary’ was the topic chosen by Barry for Sabbath morning worship.

Sabbath School time was spent in adult and children’s separate groups followed by small groups discussing Bible characters who ‘let their light shine’ for God, illustrated by the children.

Memorable events included the Friday evening visit to the amazing Glow Worm Cave, the Sabbath afternoon scramble to the creek, and the Bonfire!

Attendees were divided into 3 groups, Glow, Shine and Reflect, and assigned different kitchen duties for each delicious and nutritious meal.

One happy camper commented “Wonderful weekend, not long enough!”

Plans are already being made to do it again next year. Many thanks to Joe, Adrian and Desley who made it all happen, and to the wonderful Caretakers Dave and Margaret for their maintenance of this beautiful, peaceful place.

Creative Conference 2022

BY CHARMAINE PATEL

On October 21 and 22, 2022 the Creative Conference took place at Springwood Church for its third running year, organised by Charmaine Patel, Visual Communication officer, from the South Queensland Conference (SQC).

The Creative Conference aims to empower and encourage people to be more creative and innovative in their worship and outreach back in their own local churches.

This year Patrice Patel came over as the keynote speaker from New Zealand and shared with us what God is doing through the charitable arm of her performing arts company Gobsmacked Productions—Gobsmacked Ministries. Every year she runs a performing arts holiday programme that sees over 200 children from the community. For her weekly and yearly programmes, the children come from all the schools

she teaches her original Gobsmacked musicals to in New Zealand schools.

Among the other speakers that engaged the audience were: Tyler Colquhoun—Drama, Tyrone Adamson—Song Writer, Darelle Hunt—Children’s Ministry, Annalise Cherry—Bible Journaling, Leighton Hedges—Stage Atmosphere, Music Room—Song Writer, Steve Kane—Mentorship and Bethany Pefu—Community

Thank you to these individuals who use their gifts to glorify God. We were blessed by the workshops and I pray everyone can take their pearls of wisdom and implement it back into your local churches and communities.

Catch up from the weekend:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCsdX_WjIByUri13feTBvelg



First for Toowoomba Church in International Street Fiesta

BY EDDIE CRAIG

The First ever International Street Fiesta took place on Saturday 15th October at Queens Park, in Toowoomba. This “festival” is described in www.tlcfestival.com.au/page/about-festival as:

“... a new format for the traditional TLC Festival (Toowoomba culture and arts Culture.)”

The festival consisted of many different cultures showing their diversity by demonstration such as dance song food and displays including handouts which explained a particular cultural beliefs and customs.

Church Involvement

At 3 Pm a sunny Spring Day about 20 volunteers from the Central SDA church, set out to:

- Conduct the Community Needs Survey using forms and clipboards.
- Offer people books or literature if interest was shown.

Two tables had several displays with many free books and literature which promoted Healthful Living, a. meaningful Spiritual Life, and books to introduce people to Jesus Christ.

The Volunteers Mingled with the crowds.

- Some went among the people to complete surveys to ascertain ways the church may be able to meet needs
- Others offered books especially on healthful living.
- Still others were on hand at the 2 tables of displays answering questions of onlookers and observing which free literature people chose to take.

Feedback, Books and Literature given away.

There was a keen interested in Health and how to deal with anxiety reported Dinah Galley and Annabelle Beahan, when they were giving out books resulting in health books being received with enthusiasm

All the Bibles on display (about 15) were “snapped up” showing that people are still interested in reading the Bible stated Toni Coad. Toni also explained when she sat behind the display, and talked with people, there was a keen interested in books on health especially how to cope with stress and anxiety.

Rosie Gwynne experienced when she was going around asking for surveys to be done, meeting and making contacts with people of different walks of life e.g., leaders of community organizations

Nadine Mc Hugh, when doing the surveys discovered an interest by some people who had recently moved to Toowoomba for joining community groups such as a sewing or walking group.

In all, 30 surveys were completed. When the results of these are collated, the Personal Ministry Team will have guidance on future programmes of the church, e.g., what types of health programmes, perhaps what ways the local church may help refugees with their challenges of starting a new life in Toowoomba to Rex Finedon, who helped to prepare a flyer on introducing people to our local SDA church, explained that the flyers were given out with the literature. Any flyers returned to the church will indicate any community interest in our church.

Lazlo Honti, Pathfinder leader, organized the pathfinders to take part as well, so there was indeed a very good cross section of church volunteers who all worked together for spreading “seeds of the gospel” at that” First International Street Fiesta”.





Adventist Aviation Association (South Queensland Conference)



BY PR DAVID EDGAR, PRESIDENT FOR AAA

As 2022 starts to wind down and the festive season looms, 2022 year has been a very busy year for your “A Double A”, here in South Queensland Conference.

Despite the drama of inclement weather and the usual logistical issues, the visitation program to the remote areas of this vast conference, due to the Grace of God, has been fulfilled. Dalby, Chinchilla, Roma, St. George, Dirranbandi, Charleville, and Longreach have all had at least one visit this year. Longreach has been a pivotal focus with the South Queensland Conference, Literature Evangelists and “A Double A” teaming up to establish a permanent presence in that iconic town.

It was back in 2016, when “A Double A” commenced visitation in the Longreach area and continued to work the town for some three years before COVID came along. After a two year COVID “hiatus,” March 2022 saw a team of literature evangelists revisit the town for three solid weeks to re-visit folk who were contacted prior to the COVID pandemic. Some of these, along with some new contacts, are now meeting regularly in Longreach. Two literature evangelists return to Longreach each month to nurture and establish the new contacts in the faith. In 2023 the plan is to find a more permanent place of worship and grow

the Group. We solicit your prayers for this new Church Plant in our Conference.

“A Double A” utilize several forms of transport to get our teams to their destination: light plane, road transport, and commercial airlines. We try to find the cheapest (and safest) way to transport our members to their allocated mission task, this ensures that funds you donate for mission work in our conference are expended in the most efficient manner. It is important to remember that it is the mission that is important, and wise use of meagre funds allow us to do more for our Lord Jesus.

“A Double A” is constantly in need of physically fit volunteers to carry out the Great Commission before Jesus Returns. If you feel the Call of God to Mission work here in the South Queensland Conference, why not call Pr Greg Pratt at the Conference Office and he will connect you with a Ministry to suit your particular Spiritual Gifts. Whether it be the Gift of Evangelism, Benevolence, Intercession, or any of the other 26 Spiritual Gifts revealed in the Bible, God can and will use you for His Glory. All you have to do is make yourself available to Him. Maranatha.

Important Statement

BY ADSAFE

Trigger warning: The Seventh-day Adventist Church and the South Queensland Conference is serious about the safety of its members, children, and vulnerable people, and as such make the following statement. This statement may be distressing for some readers as it references abuse, including child sexual abuse. Please take care of yourself and refer to the numbers provided if needed.

Tony Urrea (Gonsalo Urrea-Serna) was employed by the Seventh-day Adventist church as an intern minister at Landsborough (1997-98), an associate minister at Caboolture (1999), minister at Roma (2000-03), Harrisville and Rosewood (2004), Kingaroy and Murgon (2005-10), Brisbane Central and Redhill (2013-15), Capalaba (2016-19), and Sandgate (2018). He also had chaplaincy roles at Northpine Christian College (1999) and at Victoria Point Retirement Village (2016-17).

It is believed that Mr Urrea, through his role as a minister, and despite being married, was able to engage in sexual misconduct with a vulnerable female parishioner for many years. The relationship, which produced children, was kept secretive for some time.

Mr Urrea’s employment with the South Queensland Conference was terminated in November 2019.

In 2021 Mr Urrea was charged with multiple child related sexual offences and was convicted on one of these charges in 2022 for which he is serving a custodial sentence. He is currently in prison.

We recognise that it is possible that there may be other victims of Mr Urrea.

Please know that if you, or someone you know, has experienced sexual abuse support is available through Adsafe.

Support Numbers:

1800 RESPECT (24/7 counselling service)	1800 737 732
Lifeline (24/7 counselling service)	13 11 14
Beyond Blue 24/7 (24/7 counselling service)	1300 224 636
Men’s Line Australia (24/7 counselling service)	1300 789 978

Adsafe (Monday—Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm & Friday 8:30 to 12:30pm)
02 9847 3488 or 1800 220 648





Children's Corner!

Here are the winners of our last colour competition—9 year old iSon and 6 year old Rebekah Gerken.

They love going to on adventures and spending time in nature, even though it is just their back yard.
Well done you two!



A gift voucher is coming your way.

Stained Glass Nativity

Go here for full instructions:
<http://www.housingaforest.com/stained-glass-nativity/>



You will need the following:

1. Clear contact paper
2. Nativity Silhouette
3. Colourful tissue paper cut into squares
4. Scissors

Print and cut out your nativity. Lay out your contact paper sticky side up. Centre your nativity silhouette on top of the contact paper. Begin placing squares of tissue paper inside the nativity silhouette to create the look of stained glass.

Once the nativity is filled with tissue paper, lay a second sheet of contact paper on top of the entire project. Be careful not to trap air bubbles. Trim the excess contact paper with scissors. You can either tape your stained glass nativity to your window or use a hole punch and hang it from a string. Either way, it will look great.



At The Kitchen Table... 4X4 Banana Roll

BY BRIGITA DJAKOVICH, HOSPITALITY SUPERVISOR,
ADRA LOGAN COMMUNITY CENTRE



Makes 8–10 serves

Preparation: 10 minutes

Cooking and Baking
10–15 minutes

Sponge Cake

- 4 large eggs (whites and yolks separated)
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 4 plain flour
- 4 tablespoons vegetable or canola oil
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

Vanilla Filling

- 1 tablespoon vanilla sugar or 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 4 tablespoon plain flour
- 250 ml milk
- 251g cream cheese and 4 bananas

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 C and line a wide baking sheet pan 30 x 25cm with baking paper.
2. In a medium mixing bowl whip the egg whites until stiff peaks are reached.
3. In another bowl mix together egg yolks and sugar. Ensure the egg yolks and sugar are fully mixed in, then add oil and baking powder. When all mixed well and the mixture is fluffy, turn off the mixer.
4. Using a spatula, gently fold in the egg whites and flour.
5. Pour the mixture onto the baking sheet and spread in an even layer.

Bake for 15 minutes or until it springs back when you gently touch the surface. Remove from the pan and put it onto a flat surface. Allow to cool for 2 minutes and then roll towards the end with baking paper still on. Let it cool down completely.

Vanilla Filling

In a saucepan, mix sugar, flour and vanilla. Gradually stir in milk. Cook over a medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens and boils. Boil and stir for 1 minute; remove from heat. Let it cool completely. Mix in cheese cream.

Unroll sponge cake removing the baking paper and spread the vanilla filling in an even layer across the surface. Put aside 4 tablespoons of the filling to spread it on the top. Peel the bananas and place 2 bananas along each long edge of the sponge. Roll each edge towards the middle. Squeeze the roll gently, turn in over and place it on the serving plate. Spread the remaining 4 tablespoons of vanilla filling on the top and decorate with some thinly sliced bananas.

Place it in the fridge for a couple of hours to set. Serve and enjoy!

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

Attention FOCUS Contributors!

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