

Tasda

*Transforming Tasmania
with Jesus for Eternity*

Adventist Schools in Australia United

Since the 1960s Australian Adventist schools have changed significantly. Many, back in those days, were attached to a local church and ran their program, sometimes in Sabbath School rooms and sometimes having to be set up and reset-up for multi-purpose activities. The number of schools operating back then amounted to well over 80 in spite of the fact that the total student number was around 6000.

During the following five decades school numbers diminished to the current 48 schools but student numbers increased to over 14,000. The increase can be put down to a massive influx in the number of students from non-Adventist families. Decisions to lift the decades old cap of 15% of students from families other than Adventist were finally taken in the 90s when the collective church took action to recognise the Adventist School as an evangelistic tool of the church.

Currently, approximately 70% of students come from the broader community. These families have accepted that an Adventist education based on Biblical values provides a safe place for learning in our increasingly complex society.

Further corporate church consultation, which occurred in 2009 stated as one of its aims, a desire to create a single school system by 2020. This objective was motivated by the ever increasing complexity of school accountability in the areas of student learning, curriculum, financial management, human resource management and government relations.

Driving this quest for a redefined education structure for Adventist schools in Australia is the idea of survival. Remaining small creates an isolation that can leave us vulnerable in the important areas listed above.

During 2017 and the current year the Australian Union Conference has been conducting research to determine interest levels in the

broader Australian Adventist church in developing better synergies within various aspects of the church program. The two key areas where there seems to be significant interest are in the areas of Education and in Aged Care. The research has been conducted by Pastor Ken Vogel and his team and these men have conducted data collection visits to conference leadership teams and executive committees across the country. They have also conducted focus group discussions which have endorsed the direction of the current thrust.

During the years of researching this concept a great deal of in-depth information and data has been gleaned to assist with crafting a future for the Adventist School system. In reality there has been a great deal of work done over the years.

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Adventist schools in Australia to be
more responsive and agile than we
have ever been.”***

Consistent in all of this research is the idea that to run a viable system total student enrolments need to be greater than 15,000 to allow proper resourcing and quality of service to teachers, schools and governance groups.

As of recent months the steering committee established by the Australian Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has formed five working groups to explore the feasibility of a national/branch office model. This model includes three proposed branch offices that would serve Queensland, NSW and an amalgam of Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia. These working groups focus on:

- Mission
- Governance and Management Structures
- Finance
- Property and Debt
- Government Registration

These working groups have begun their work of identifying the issues to be resolved in each area and the hope is to prepare an interim report to be prepared for consideration by the AUC executive committee by the end of July.

Be assured that there will be ongoing communication and consultation, and the Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Tasmania) Ltd Board of Directors is happy to hear from anyone with an interest in these processes.

The benefits that are expected to flow to schools in the system include human resource management run consistently across the country; common curriculum and professional development support for teachers and leaders available to all schools to a similar standard; the development of specialist educational leaders to act in any region as the need arises; support for schools and governance bodies to assist in providing best practice programming; and consistent financial management processes ensuring ongoing sustainable schools for years into the future.

Adventist schools have been undergoing change for many decades, but the need for change is rolling around much more frequently than we have seen in the past. The new processes will allow Adventist schools in Australia to be more responsive and agile than we have ever been.

There are many who believe that the best years of Adventist Education lie ahead of us in Australia, and the action being taken to more firmly unite our schools into a genuine system is seen as an opportunity that cannot be passed by.

Lyndon Chapman
Education Director
of Adventist Schools
Tasmania



Education for what?

Imagine you are student in a classroom where you have to sit on backless benches made from two kerosene boxes tipped up on end with a plank nailed between them. There are no desks but a ramshackle table nailed to the floor to stop it wobbling, and a small blackboard on a rickety easel. Such was the state of the classroom Anne Walker taught at in Wallsend, NSW, when the school opened in 1900. Her modest income of \$2 per week had to be supplemented by selling books door to door during the school holidays. What sacrifice, and commitment. Why would she go to all this trouble?



The challenges didn't stop there. On the first day of school Anne Walker had only one student, who was a non-Adventist, and the poor student cried for there were no other classmates. Walker borrowed a neighbour's girl to provide her company, but she too cried when the mother left her at school. Undeterred, Walker searched for more students and persuaded two boys to come. The parents of the boys were so impressed with the teaching and the Bible lessons that they became Seventh-day Adventists and through their testimony, this family introduced 5 more members into the church. Remarkable indeed, from such humble beginnings. The question still begs, why such a sacrifice and what was the driving force to establish elementary schools in Australia?

It may come as a surprise, but it was not until 1889 came the first inkling to establish an SDA elementary School in Australia. At this time, school was compulsory, but with growing friction between Adventist parents and the government, E. A. Sutherland and Percy T. Magan, with Ellen White's counsel, pushed for the rapid establishment for an elementary school system with the lofty aim to provide an Adventist based education for every church child by 1910. Consequently, from 1900 there was a rapid increase in schools. In 1900 alone, schools sprang up in Cooranbong, Wallsend, Sydney, Melbourne, and Hobart quickly following suit in 1901 with Launceston in 1904. The exigent demands with establishing schools meant many schools did not survive and many teachers suffered privation from poor wages.

It was from such sacrifice and humble beginnings that our school system has grown to what it is today. As at the end of 2016, there were over 108,000 teachers instructing over 1.9 million students in 8514 schools spread across over 100 countries, thereby earning the Seventh-day Adventist Church the coveted title of the largest protestant educational system in the world. This miraculous achievement was no accident, nor without overcoming formidable challenges. Fascinating as these statistics are, the key question still remains as to why operate such an extensive School system when so many of our church members, in our part of the world, utilize the secular educational system?

What seemed clear in the late 1800's and early 1900's does not now seem quite so clear. If education is merely for academic excellence, to hone mental, physical and vocational skills – in order to reach one's full potential in this life – then secular schools can do the same.

In the first pages of Education, Ellen White captures the essence of what 'true' Adventist education entails. In the context of the Great Controversy, Mrs White boldly proclaimed:

"There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the perusal of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service

in the world to come. { Ed 13.1}

'True education', as Ellen White describes, transcends secular education with the focus on the whole being – 'physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers'. While Mrs White was very practical, advocating in Fundamentals of Education that students should aim for the "highest rounds on the intellectual ladder", and that "knowledge of the sciences are essential," she was shown that all of this is of no value if there is no eternal purpose (p192). Unless the knowledge of the sciences is a steppingstone to the attainment of the highest purposes that are as enduring as eternity itself – Adventist education is worthless.

From these formative principles, the purpose of Schools becomes crystal clear. However, how are these principles to be applied, and how would this transact in the local school? As the early educators grappled with this question, an essential turning point came at the 1893 GC Session that can help us. W. W. Prescott, Education Director from the GC, proclaimed to the session that up until the Harbor Spring's convention, Adventist Educators saw the purpose of the Schools in the US had been to have "a religious element in our schools", but since this convention the focus had shifted to place Christ and His teachings at the very centre of the academic curriculum. This pivotal insight had a profound change as to how the pioneers understood the purpose of education and dramatically impacted teaching and curricular. It was with this insight and backdrop that Ellen White further honed her counsels that directly impacted the direction of Education when she came to Australia.

"...the lofty aim to provide an Adventist based education for every church child by 1910."

So why should we operate Adventist schools? For our pioneers, the ultimate aim was to prepare people for service and to prepare a people to trim their lamps. It was Ellen White who linked the aims of early education - character development and academic studies - into a biblical worldview. She further sharpened the focus of education by linking it directly with redemption. When the themes of redemption become central and imbued from above, this allows them to be infused into the classroom and into the culture of the school.

Education, in every age, is valued by all societies and so in whatever form, education has endeavoured to pass down to their children the culture it esteems. Today, in the maelstrom of the culture wars that play out in the battle over school curricular, postmodern education places less emphasis on cognitive skills, replacing this with the goal to create a social identity in children that is sensitive to racial, sexual and class identity. Within this maelstrom and the grind of daily toil for teachers, Adventist schools must rise above universally held norms and values, to recast a new vision for Adventist education. It is easy to identify and define what is Christian within an Adventist School, but this can easily become fuzzy when merged with universal values of respect, trust, tolerance

etc. To ask what is Adventist within our schools is a different question that can drill down to the 'how to' of applying holistic education and to place it at the centre. Ellen White's statements are incisive principals that are as relevant as when they were first penned. The goals and the message for Adventist Education have not changed, but how it is applied in the local context is the constant undulating challenge. So, why the drive and sacrifice? Simply, preparation for service – for this life and for eternity.

Dr Mark Falconer
General Secretary

Adventist Education Pays

I thank God for parents who believed in Christian education and were prepared to pay the price so I could have it. Dad was a clerk working for Telecom, so did not get a large wage, and because mum had more than enough on her plate just running the home, there was only one income for our family of eight. Yet at any one time there were three to five of their children attending our Adventist schools. I don't know how they did it on Dad's wage, but I sure believe it is a very good reason five out six of their children are deeply committed to Jesus today.

I am almost certain I would not be a Christian today, let alone a gospel minister, had it not been for attending our schools. I say this because on a daily basis I was exposed to the Bible and Christian principles by godly teachers, who genuinely cared for me. I can still remember teachers in primary and early high school, who: believed in me and encouraged me to be a leader and to seek to be the best student I could possibly be; and who came to my home when I was quarantined with chicken pox to explain maths one on one so I would not fall behind. Those sorts of things make a lasting impression on a kid.

At the end of year ten, because it would take me about three hours each day to get to and from our Carmel Adventist College in Western Australia, mum and dad planned to send me to a nearby government high school for my last two years of school prior to University. At the time I excelled in cricket and Aussie rules and was literally obsessed with those sports, even wishing I wasn't an Adventist so that I could play on Saturdays. I was almost ecstatic at the thought of going to this government school, because one of the teachers was playing Test cricket for Australia at the time. I thought, "This is it. What an opportunity!"

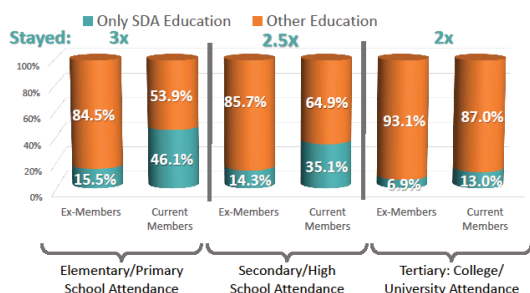
However about a week before school started, my parents changed their mind and decided to send me to Carmel College. I was shattered, but had no choice but to go. I firmly believe their decision saved me from going down a path that would almost certainly have taken me away from Christ, as unfortunately happened with a number of my friends who attended government schools. Now

without the strong pull of sport, thanks to Pastor Rod Ellison, the Chemistry, Maths and Physics teacher at Carmel, my youthful energies were steered toward preparing for service for God.

My experience is not an isolated one. Studies show, as seen in the following diagram, that members who had Adventist Education were more likely to remain in the church compared to those who did not have Adventist Education.

ASTR "Leaving the Church" Study

A 2014 study of 9 Divisions of the World Church



Pr Gary Webster
Conference President

Music Making an Impact at NWCS

Not quite 12 months ago, Sarah Scheermeijer from Burnie Church, walked into school and asked if we would be willing for her to offer violin lessons to students at school. I was excited! For a long time now, I have wanted a music program at the small schools I've been at. It's just not that easy to do. So, when Sarah walked in I became excited.



Sarah with Zannah during a music lesson

Lessons began every Friday; you could hear the dulcet tones of students learning to play their violins. Students from other schools and home schoolers began having their lessons at NWCS.

After a term or so, Sarah again came to visit me with another thought. This time she wanted to start a string's ensemble. Wow! What a great idea! So it was that all the students met together at 10 am to make beautiful music. They learnt a couple of pieces that they eventually played at speech night last year. The North West Strings have continued this year and have played at Ulverstone Church and have two more appointments this year – one at the Burnie Eisteddfod (June), and one at Burnie church (August).

Because of an article in the local paper that mentioned our strings

program, we were approached to see if we would be interested in hosting several string's workshops. This involved a tutor from the Hobart Conservatorium coming to North West Coast to work with Sarah and our string's students, as well as inviting other students learning violin and cello. Our first workshop with David Sansone saw over 20 students come together for a full day of playing, learning and fun. There will be another five of these workshops this year.



David Sansone leading out at the workshop

Outdoor Education at NWCS

Outdoor Education (Outdoor Ed) has become a point of differentiation for NWCS. Recently, at a youth leadership meeting one of our lead girls shared with those present the things that have been happening at our school. As she talked about our Outdoor Ed program she noticed a number of the boys' eyes lit up. When she left the meeting, she asked if we were the only ones that had such a program. It seems we are!

This year has seen big steps forward in the Outdoor Ed program. We have finally been able to purchase our own equipment. This frees us from being reliant on others. It has also allowed us to continue the kayaking component for a longer period of time. Also, Outdoor Ed has filtered down into the middle school program. In the past Outdoor Ed was only available to the senior classes of Year 9 and 10. This year the decision was made to introduce it to the Middle School (Year 6 through to year 8). This decision allows for the basic skills to be taught and developed earlier.

These skills go beyond just knowing how to paddle, what to look for as you approach a rapid, or a day out of class. It explores life skills such as self-esteem, personal safety, team-work, watching out for your partner and following instructions. Outdoor Ed is not just another past-time (though it certainly suggests another great option). It teaches life skills that are transferable into all aspects of life, now and into the future.



God at Work in Hilliard School

Enrolments/School Community

Hilliard Christian School has around 120 enrolments, an increase of approximately 20% on last year. As always when that degree of change occurs, there will be challenges fitting new people into the culture. When one of the changes is also the principal, the challenges are multiplied.

Many of our parents see the importance of the school, some having strongly lobbied various state and federal MPs for the school to continue past 2016. The fact that our enrolments have increased so much is a tribute to the teachers of the school, the belief of the parents, the work of Mr Reid in 2017, but mostly to God, who clearly has a purpose for the school.

Opportunities for Impact

Former Australian Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, made this statement talking about democracy:

“Democracy is more than a machine, it is a spirit. It is based upon the Christian conception that there is in every human soul a spark of the divine. That with all their inequalities of mind and body, the souls of men stand equal in the sight of God.”

There are two parts of this quote that I would like to reflect on. The last phrase is a reflection of Acts 10:34, which implies the same sentiment. I have been reminded of this time and again as parents sit in front of me and share their stories, and reflect on how their child has benefited from being in this school: From a new mother this year, who described her children as being new people after having been in the school for only a couple of weeks; and from the parent who rang to thank us for dealing openly with a social media issue, and saying how much she appreciated both our dealing with it and the way we spoke about empowering parents.

The other part of the quote that I wish to refer to was the idea that in every human soul there is a spark of the divine. I am proud of the way that the teachers at Hilliard Christian School, along with our school Chaplain, Pr David Leo, are looking to prepare Bible classes that teach both the Bible stories, and the values that join them.

Just this week I had a discussion with one of our teachers about how they could make the Encounter curriculum have more relevance

to the class that they were teaching. I walked past Pr David teaching the sanctuary to his Year 9 & 10 Bible Study class. I watched the young people singing Christian songs enthusiastically in chapel, and I saw students interacting with the four core values of Hilliard Christian School (Belonging, Respect, Integrity and Perseverance). Praise God for the opportunity to work with impressionable young people.

When we recognise that the vast majority of our students come from a non-Seventh-day Adventist background, it makes it even more special when they come together to lead out in a church service, as they did at Collinsvale on 2 June. Then when parents come up to you over lunch, and talk about the impact that Hilliard Christian School has had on their child, we can only praise God.

The Teachers

Going through a failed review could have been damaging to school morale, and I'm sure it led to some unsettled times, yet the teachers have demonstrated resilience, patience, professionalism and a genuine, Christian love for their students. Coming from a secondary school background, I am in awe of Mr Damien Rabe, and his team, for what they have been able to achieve through some challenging circumstances. (That is not saying the secondary teachers don't do a great job as well, just that I understand their job better).

No group of people is as essential to the running of a school as the teachers. While there are many jokes about teaching being a 9 am to 3 pm job with 12 weeks of holidays, the reality is much different. Please keep our teachers in your prayers, and when you see them at church or around the place, let them know how much you appreciate what they are doing. Ellen White describes people who are “imparting to the youth a knowledge of God, and moulding the character into harmony with His,” as doing “a high and noble work.”



Spring Beach Youth Camp

Life is always busy at the Youth Camp. We have had almost two thousand children, young people and young at heart come and stay at camp so far this year, who have gone home refreshed, with new life skills, wonderful memories and a touch of God's presence in their lives.

Already this year we have had two working bees cleaning up around the grounds and preparing the way for our new Commando Course. A big thank you to all who attended and the Pathfinder clubs that came each time. Pat Hyland was very appreciative of the load of



Tassie Youth

wood that you took down to her. What a huge difference you make to our Youth Camp.

With the Commando Course, we are developing, we are hoping our church families will support us by each church choosing a particular element of the course and helping to fund it. These will range from simple, less costly elements to more challenging expensive elements like "the Wall". We are also looking for more challenges to include so please let us know what you would like to see in the course. More information will be coming your way soon.



Pat Hyland with the group delivering wood



Part of the area cleared for the Commando Course



Abseil Wall and new Rockwood Chapel area

Our dam wall is now repaired thanks to Fehre's Excavations, and in finding the clay to do that, we now have a much larger dam, and an amazing abseiling wall and new area for our Rockwood Chapel. We look forward to the completion of the new Rockwood Chapel and appreciate Trevor Wyatt developing the new stage area and our women's ministries for raising money for the seating.

It never ceases to amaze us how God has provided for, and enabled the camp



A new place to rest by the dam



The dam wall repaired and dam to capacity

improvements, that our clients are thoroughly enjoying. The new beach volleyball court is very popular and we praise God for providing us with sand at only the cost of transport. The new abseil wall created some safety issues and we were fortunate enough to have two volunteers, John and Rosalie Steen, come and help us for three weeks to clear the area and build a fence. We were also fortunate to have Peter Bellingham produce a promotional video for us at a very reasonable cost. Check it out on our website www.springbeachyouthcamp.com.au or on YouTube. The rain that caused havoc in Hobart filled our dam to capacity so that it can again be used for Kayaking and other activities.



The new beach volleyball court

Our Youth Camp continues to grow through the support and hard work of our Tasmanian Church Family. We thank you and know that God will continue to bless our efforts as we develop our Youth Camp to be a witness to Him, and a blessing to the many children, young people and young at heart, who come here to learn and grow as individuals, or just to reflect on God's goodness and His natural wonders. All praise to God our Creator and Saviour.

Youth Camp

What an awesome time was had over the Easter weekend from the 30th March to the 2nd April when the Tassie Youth came together at the Ringarooma River in Derby to camp, fellowship, get closer to Jesus, and have fun 4-wheel driving! In all about 9 vehicles went out in convoy on a number of routes. The driving action paused over the Sabbath hours as our young people enjoyed walks. Pr Brad Cooke (Launceston Church) led out in music and Pr Daniel (Conference Youth Director) shared messages from the Psalms of Asaph. Make sure you're there next year!



Relaxing at the Youth Camp

Pathfinder Expedition

From the 9th-12th of March the Pathfinders from across Tasmania came together for their first expedition of the year, and was it a winner! Camping at night and hiking through the day, the Lord granted superb weather and much fun was had by all. At morning and evening worship, Pr Daniel Matteo spoke on the themes of the Great Controversy and the Gospel. The walking was tough, but it was a weekend that will be remembered for a very long time.



Pathfinder Expedition

Southern Youth Rally

On the Sabbath of March 24, young people came from around Tasmania to the hall at Glenorchy church to worship, pray, study God's Word and discuss how they could get closer Jesus.

Friday night after opening Sabbath the group studied the gospel through the eyes of Joseph. Sabbath School was a discussion on what we can all do to make our church more like the church in Acts 2. During the worship service, new Conference Youth Director Pr. Daniel Matteo shared the story of how he met Jesus.

After a wonderful lunch provided by Glenorchy Church, the youth watched the film *Pilgrim's Progress* (based on John Bunyan's book) and discussed the meaning of the allegory for our Christian life. In the evening Sabbath was closed with a study of the life of David, after which there was a dinner of pizza and sandwiches. But the evening wasn't over! About 38 young people, including quite a number who don't normally attend our churches, then headed to AMF for some bowling fun.



Singing at the Southern Youth Rally with Pr. David Leo

North West Youth Rally

The 11-12th of May was the North-West Tasmania Youth Rally at our camp ground in Devonport. Young people from Burnie, Launceston and Hobart came together to pray, sing praise to God and hear the word of God preached by Pastor Jeff Parker, Director of Youth Ministry for the Australian Union Conference. The weekend focussed on the Great Controversy theme as seen in the grace and victory of Jesus. Friday night around the camp fire was a particularly special time of sharing. Indoor sports on Saturday night was a lot of fun too!



Around the campfire at the North West Youth Rally

Tasmanians Attend AUC Youth Engagement Summit

From the 24th to the 27th of May, representatives from Tasmania attended the AUC Youth Engagement Summit in Melbourne where they met with other leaders from all over Australia and New Zealand to pray, think and plan on how our Church can best connect our young people with Jesus, and engage them in service and sharing Him with others as we move forward. Statistics presented painted a very bleak picture of youth retention in the Church in Australia. Essentially we lose nearly half of all of our young people to the world. Aside from cutting deeply into our hearts, it is not good for the future of our Church here in Tasmania.

We know this is a distinct result of Satan's attacks, because on page 66 of *A Call to Stand Apart*, Ellen White writes, "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained...how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come - the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!"

To get this army back and into fulfilling God's call, that work in Tasmania will advance in three directions: Reclamation, Retention and Reaching Out! You will very soon have an opportunity to discuss and plan some things that you, your local SDA School and your church can do, but at the very simplest level,

we are appealing to every older church member to pray daily for three young people from either their home, church or community. Likewise we appeal to every youth to pray daily for three older people from either their home, church or community. Write down your list of three people and commit to pleading with God to touch their hearts, move in their lives, and lead them closer to Himself. What a difference would be seen in our Conference within just 5 years if we could commit to do this! What might happen if we even committed to checking on the people we are praying for just once a month and asking them, "How are you doing right now? Is there something you would like me to pray for this week?" Our churches would be transformed.

Malachi 4:5-6 says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

May God lead our church in Tasmania to begin to think about, pray, and care for the precious young people in our charge!

Pr Daniel Matteo
Youth Director



Last Opportunity to Join – Closing Date Friday, July 6

Bookings
Ph 6273 6277

Mission Ottawa

Bookings
Ph 6273 6277

Join Our Tasmania Team in Sharing Christ In His Prophecies in Canada

October 7 – Nov 6, 2018

Walk in the footsteps of Adventist pioneers & visit Niagara Falls, Washington DC & New York City



Notice Board

Leader's Retreat

Our Tasmania Conference Leader's Retreat is definitely a "must not miss" event this year. Last year's retreat with Jerry and Janet Page focused on prayer and was greatly appreciated. This year our guest presenter is highly successful church planter, Johnny Wong, who has been used of God to help plant four churches in Melbourne during the last 10-12 years. Johnny will be sharing how to revitalize the local church so that it becomes a dynamic lay-lead mission movement for God.

The retreat will be held at the Spring Beach Youth Camp in Orford from Friday, August 17 to Sunday lunchtime, August 19. All church leaders are welcome. This includes Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, Youth, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Leaders. Costs are \$150 per person on the basis of Conference 1/3; Local Church 1/3; Individual 1/3.

Don't miss this vital retreat that will help us "Mobilize Disciples to Transform Tasmania with Jesus for Eternity."

LEADERS RETREAT "Revitalising the Local Church"

(August 17-19)

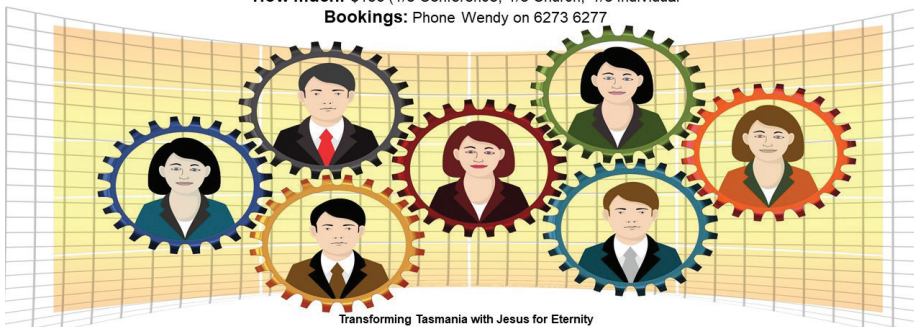
Presenter: Johnny Wong - Johnny's work at Gateway Church, Melbourne has helped to plant four churches

Who Comes: All Church Leaders (including Youth, Sabbath School, Elders, Personal Ministries & others)

Where: Spring Beach Youth Camp, Orford

How much: \$150 (1/3 Conference; 1/3 Church; 1/3 Individual)

Bookings: Phone Wendy on 6273 6277



Big Camp Results in Margate Baptisms

Stephen and Judith Layng have been on a journey. While having been long-time irregular attendees at the Margate church they always sent their four children to Tween Camp and attended Big Camps regularly. That is until Big Camp 2018 where Stephen had an encounter with God.

While at camp, Stephen's daughter, Kelly, suggested that her dad go along to the youth tent and hear Herb Larsen. This is where the transformation began. Herb had a message that God wanted Stephen to hear, and hear it Stephen did. From that moment on he was a changed man. He couldn't get enough of God, the Bible and church. His ears were burning and he soaked up everything God had to offer.

With intense Bible studies following, instituting worships at home, regular attendance at Sabbath School and church

led them both to the decision of baptism into the Margate Seventh-day Adventist Church family.

The 20th May was a high day for both the Layng and Margate church families as Stephen and Judith were buried in the waters of baptism by Pr Mark Falconer. In attendance was a dear family friend who surprised them by flying all the way from Ireland as well as family members of Judith's.

We do well to nurture and to love those who take time to make a commitment. Love finds a way.



Notice of Special Session

Special Constituency Meeting – Notice is hereby given of a special constituency meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Tasmanian Conference, to be held at the Launceston Church on **Sunday 29th July**, commencing at 10am with registration starting at 9:30 am. Please have your delegate names to the Conference by 5th July 2018.

The business of the meeting will be to consider the location, plans and costings of a new conference office, and a review of the Conference Strategic Plan.

It is in order for delegates to consult with their church members as to their opinions before a constituency meeting, but when delegates are at the constituency meeting they must vote, after considering the various viewpoints raised at the constituency meeting, according to their own conscience, rather than follow the opinions of those who are not in attendance at that meeting.

"Castles and Crowns" in Glenorchy

"Castles and Crowns" came to Glenorchy in the last week of April. The children had invited their friends to participate in the Vacation Bible School each morning where they learned about kings and queens from the Bible time. The program was very well supported by the church and we would like to thank all our volunteers who helped to make this program a success.



Castles & Crowns Vacation Bible School

Hair-raising Fundraiser

Fundraising for "Hair with Heart – Variety." About three years ago, Annabelle Dan-Marica, from Glenorchy Church, decided to grow her hair and donate it to the above organization that would help children in need. Donations of hair are made into specialised wigs for those who have lost their hair due to a medical condition such as alopecia. Alongside her hair, Annabelle wanted to fundraise money for the making of the wig as well.

The family put on a bonfire and they raised approximately \$700. Thank-you Annabelle for your 50cm hair donation, to the hairdresser. Those who donated money, you helped another child to smile again.



Annabelle with her donated hair

Pine Springs Campground Developments

The Pine Springs (Devonport/Wesley Vale) Campground Development Committee (Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica, Rodney Revell, Mick Spaulding and Dean Way) has had its first meeting on-site and plans to have the facility operational for guests shortly. Good plans have been made to spruce up the site and develop it into a higher-class facility.

It will be available for church members and groups to camp, caravan, motor home or use the on-site accommodation for very reasonable rates. We are currently seeking a volunteer caretaker to oversee the facility and hope that there is someone suitable here in Tassie to fill this need. This could be for a short time period if necessary. Qualified

construction and other trades people are also required on a voluntary basis. Please contact Pr Cosmin to indicate your interest.



Women's Ministry Director Retires

Vicki Knight's resignation as Tasmania Conference Women's Ministry Director because of her health is a blow to our conference. Vicki has served the women of our conference with spiritual, professional and contagious enthusiasm. Vicki we thank you so much for what you have done over

the years for the whole conference through your work for our women. We will continue to pray for you and Ken as you seek to regain your health.

*Gary Webster,
President, Tasmania Conference*

Deloraine Church Celebrates 50Th Anniversary



Sabbath April 7, the Deloraine church celebrated its 50 year anniversary since being officially opened in 1968. The theme for the occasion was "To the Glory of God" – in recognition of God's providential leading throughout the years. The church was thrilled to have as its guest speaker, Pr. Don Fehlberg – currently the Associate AUC ATSIM Director, but who was a much loved former minister of the Deloraine church serving from 1997- 1999. For Sabbath School, we were given a 'mission spotlight' on how the Gospel has been reaching the remote Australian Indigenous communities that Pr Don and his wife Eileen serve. Pr Don's sermon, "Hold Fast to What You Have, Till I Come" encouraged and reignited us to faithfulness to our wonderful Seventh-

day Adventist mission and message, and to be ready for our Saviour's soon return.

The day concluded with a one hour afternoon program of song and personal testimonies of God's goodness, and a season of prayer. Approximately 110 people attended the Anniversary, including visitors from the mainland and New Zealand. We also enjoyed the company of Pr. Bruce and Elaine Grosse, who served the Deloraine church from 2008-2011.

Deloraine church would like to extend a special thanks to all those who contributed to make the day special, and they give all the glory to God.

Brad Cooke, Deloraine Church Pastor

Women's Ministry Retreat

The annual Women's Bridport retreat was held on April 13-15th at the Bridport Bayview Centre. The theme for the weekend was based on Esther 4:14 'For such a time as this'. Grandmothers, mothers and daughters enjoyed a weekend of quality time and praising God together. Friday evening Felicity Knight spoke about the choices that we make when we can speak up and go before the King as Esther did, or refuse to go before the King and therefore remain silent.

Sabbath morning commenced with inspiring stories about what was happening around

the state. Vicki Knight spoke about spiritual strength and the influence we have in our church and communities. It was also the time when Vicki announced her retirement as Women's Ministries Director due to health issues.

Meals are always a delight and this year the kitchen team of Angela Wyatt, Trevor Wyatt, Robyn and Ian Dunlop, provided delicious meals with all



Notice Board

the funds going to the Spring Beach Rockwood Chapel upgrade. Offerings and trade table sales added another \$704 to the upgrade.

On a closing note it has been a privilege to serve the Tasmanian Conference as the Women's Ministries Director. It is not a role that I give up easily and will miss the organising, updates and encouragement that I receive from faithful women. I am blessed to be part of the family of God.

Vicki Knight

Director of Tasmania Conference Women's Ministry



Cleaning Out the Garage

Two and half years after Gerard and Berendina Depuit first visited our Launceston Church, they finally joined it by profession of faith on the 5th May 2018.

It all came together for them following an eight month road trip around Australia, during which time they listened to sermons by Seventh-day Adventist preachers. Pastor David Asscherick's sermon helped them to make a total clean out of their long held former beliefs and church traditions, while a sermon by Pastor Dwight Nelson encouraged them to leave the past behind and let their heart beat again with the love of God, poured into them by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

During their eight months of travel they were also drawn to visit several Seventh-day Adventist churches and upon returning home they again visited our Launceston Church. As a result of having Sabbath lunch that day with some church friends, they both realised that God was whispering in their ears to join the church.

They fully believe that Christ led them to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with all its beliefs, which they sincerely believe.



"I want to cry because God has answered my prayer"

I knocked on Mandy's (name changed) door and discovered she suffered with stress, anxiety and depression. She shared that years ago a male friend of hers physically assaulted her to the point that she ended up in hospital with brain trauma, damaged skull and broken parts of her body. She was lucky to be alive she told me. The friend ended up serving 9 years in jail for the assault.

Also, being a new Australian, she felt very lonely, and not being accepted by her community resulted in no one that she could relate to. Furthermore, her abusive and racist neighbours (that's another story) added to the reserved and isolated person she has become.

With God's help I was able to speak to Mandy regarding the emotional pain she was going through and then I offered our Beyond DVD - "I have a lovely DVD for you to watch. I am a Christian and this DVD will help you through the hurt you have." She was very glad to accept it. I also canvassed the book, You Turn, on health with which she was delighted to give me a large donation. I also gave her a copy of Steps to Christ.

Mandy told me that she reads the Bible now and then and was praying for answers, and she believed that God sent me to her door and had answered her prayer. She went on to tell me that she was thinking about having some sessions of hypnosis and asked me what I thought. I told her that from a Christian perspective I did not agree with this and I shared my reasons why.

"Paul, I just want to cry right now." Mandy then told me that she was praying in her lounge room under candle light asking God to show her what to do about hypnosis and whether she should go forward with it. Her Dr told her that this will help her tremendously. Mandy however felt uncomfortable and did not know what to do so she asked God for direction. As she looked up from where she was praying she saw me through the window. Mandy believes that I was sent by God and said to me, "I want to cry because God has just answered my prayer".

Mandy is looking forward to a visit from someone from our church, to drop off the next DVD and to form a bond of friendship.

God is a God who answers prayer. I had a wonderful prayer with Mandy and jumped with joy as I knew God led me to her home.

Paul Borg Literature Evangelist Tasmanian Conference.

Tasmania's Literature Evangelists Attend Leaders Meeting in Queensland

May 8-13 2018, LE leaders from Australia, New Zealand, PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tahiti, Vanuatu and New Caledonia met at Watson Park, Brisbane for the South Pacific Division Publishing Ministries Leader's meetings.

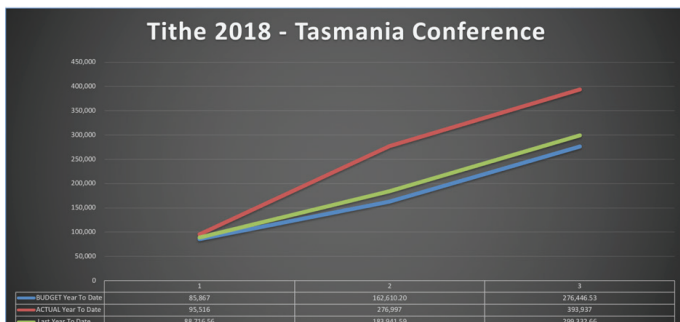
The timely meetings inspired, encouraged and better equipped us to serve in our calling as front-line workers and leaders. Working together as a united team and allowing God to further develop us into more effective Leaders, we will continue to faithfully partner with God and His church to help prepare many, through the means of our literature and media, for the coming of Jesus. ~ Joe Paola



Tasmanians Are Happy People!

"I have observed 100,000 families over my years of investment counseling. I always saw greater prosperity and happiness among those families who tithed than among those who didn't" (Sir John Templeton, Chairman of Templeton Funds).

Tithe has increased in Tasmania in the first quarter of 2019! Praise the Lord! It is wonderful to see a 31.6% increase of cumulated tithe over the same period last year. God is blessing his people.



It is always good to be reminded that when we give to God, we are just taking our hands off what already belongs to Him.

"Give to God what's right - not what's left," was the advice my dad gave me when I was a teenager. This is solid counsel that still helps me today.

Bible Workers Tasmania

We have achieved the aim of raising \$90,000 for Bible Workers, however we haven't received all the promised funds as yet. There are still people that need to bring their pledges in. You can contribute to this project by putting money into the envelope at church, marked: "Bible Worker" or ring Wendy Scott at the conference office to make a payment over the phone. Thank you to those who have made it possible to have Bible Workers in Tasmania. Two are currently employed and two more English speaking Bible Workers from Brazil will join us in January 2019.

Health Programs

Tasmania has secured \$106,000 funding from the South Pacific Division for health outreach by local churches for 2019-2020. To access this funding, churches must run at least two health outreach events per year (such as Health Expos, Cooking classes, CHIP, CHEP, Live More, Depression Recovery, or Diabetes Seminars, etc) with each followed by regular monthly health meetings to cultivate friendships. This will help each church become a "Centre of Influence" in their community. Churches, in consultation with their pastor, will need to plan ahead and make application for funding from the Conference.

This is a tremendous opportunity to further the gospel commission.

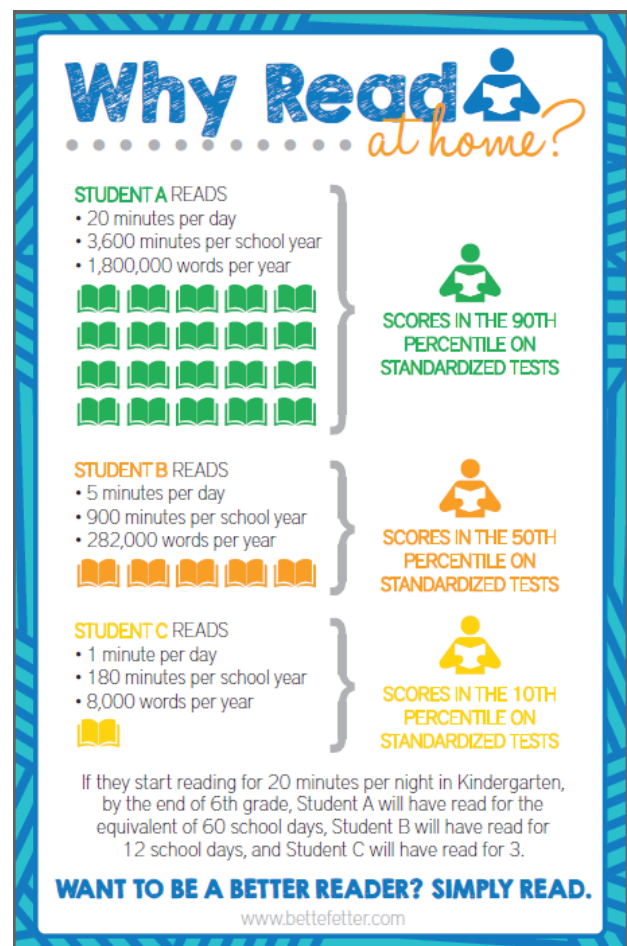
"So what is the right arm in relation to the body of Christ? Medical missionary work is the right hand of the gospel. It is necessary to the advancement of the cause of God. Every city is to be entered by workers trained to do medical missionary work. As the right hand of the third angel's message, God's methods of treating disease will open doors for the entrance of present truth."— Ellen G White, Testimonies vol 7, p59

Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica
Chief Financial Officer

Read and Prevent Alzheimers

Reading - some people find the greatest pleasure in reading, others view it as somewhat of a chore. How do you view reading?

As a young girl, I grew up with the idea that reading was one of the most enjoyable things in the world. My parents tell me that I used to 'read' my older sister's books before I went to school, and that pretence soon developed into a true love for reading. My favourite hobby is sitting down with any type of book and becoming immersed in it. It is amazing to be able to travel the world and time through history without having to leave my comfortable chair.



As a teacher, I see reading as the foundation of a person's development. Imagine how difficult life would be if you could not even read the street signs to get you to a new place; or read a new recipe you wish to try out; or read the words that God saw fit to record for all of humanity to explore!

Many educational researchers have studied the impact of reading on a person, specifically children. It is interesting to note that even just 20 minutes of reading a day (either aloud or quietly to themselves), 5 days a week, means a child will read for the equivalent of 10 school days in just 1 year. Isn't that amazing? If you have a child, grandchild, or spend time with someone else's child, perhaps you can make a point of reading with them - either jointly sharing a book, or each reading your own book. Encourage the child, and your other family members (adults included!) to explore the joys and benefits of reading.

Other researchers have also discovered that reading helps prevent Alzheimer's, reduces stress and anxiety levels, and is the best exercise for your brain.

I think I might go find myself a good book right now and begin reading!

Jacqui Scott, Primary Teacher at North West Christian School

Literature Evangelist dinner a success



Nanise sharing the word of God

Our first Literature Evangelist's dinner was held on Sunday night, 8th April. It was a great opportunity to introduce our LE contacts to our church members. And what a success it was!

After opening with prayer, grace and singing Bind Us Together Lord, Nanise and I made four dishes from the third volume of Foods and Their Healing Power as well as other recipes. Everyone thought the food was delicious and we read out the information from the book concerning the nutritional and health values of each of the dishes.

At the end of the proceedings, we closed in prayer, read the following scripture, "Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers" (3 John 1: 2), and sang My Hope is Built on Nothing Less. We praised the Lord for the contacts we had received. Everyone was blessed by this evening and it is only the beginning, as we plan to have another

dinner soon.

*Donna Van Der Jagt & Nanise Brown, Literature Evangelists
Tasmanian Conference.*



ACA Health Benefits Fund Available to Local Church Officers

Today, ACA Health Benefit Fund, a Private Health Insurance company which solely exists to benefit the health and well-being of Seventh-day Adventist Church employees and their families, announced that the fund is now available to Local Church Officers.

ACA Health has been supporting the work and workers of God for 84 years. With this announcement, Local Church Officers and their family members can join ACA Health.

"We are thrilled to now offer Local Church Officers and their families our products," said Jody Burgoyne, ACA Health's Fund Manager. "We work hard to continually provide our members with value-for-money health cover at a great price."

- ACA Health offer a range of Hospital and Extras products within the market. ACA Health are committed to its members and its values:
- Unbeatable Extras – We listen to our member when they tell us what is most important to them
- Members First – Our interactions and service will exceed expectations
- Ethics before Profits – We will be fair and do the right thing every time
- Supporting Each Other – We will support each other to get the job done and meet our goals

The company also offer the community and its member's access to comparisons within the market to find the best fit policy.

This year ACA Health's premium increase came in at 1.23% lower than the industry average of 3.95%. In the 2017 financial year ACA Health Benefits Fund paid \$22.2 million in benefits to members. ACA Health pay higher benefits per service than the industry in most ancillary areas.

NB. ACA Health is Private Health Insurance Company based in Wahroonga, NSW. Founded in 1934, ACA Health has designed competitive products which services over 5,000 members nationally. ACA Health has an impressive 99% member satisfaction from surveys performed from Discovery Australia.

the
LIVE MORE
PROJECT

The South Pacific Division Invites You
To boost your wellness and participate in the "Live More Project" online

This innovative program has been developed to empower our Church to thrive and bring healing and hope to the community.

LIMITED FREE OFFER
Be part of our Lifestyle Medicine research study
Commences September 2018
Scan the code above on your phone or enrol online at: www.livemore.me/research