

JUNE 2022

GLENORCHY CHURCH CELEBRATES

By Pr Peter Watts

n Sabbath March 12, Glenorchy m JChurch witnessed the baptism of Vittorio Ferri. Vittorio first came into the Glenorchy church in October 2021, telling one of the Elders that he wanted to be baptised. Soon after Pr Peter Watts began visiting with him in his home and studying the bible with him. Vittorio is Italian and was raised Roman Catholic. His first wife was from Tasmania. She travelled to Italy on a working holiday, where they met, and within 6 months they were married and had moved to Tasmania. Tragically, after 25 years of marriage Vittorio lost his first wife to cancer. This was very discouraging for him, and he stopped going to church. Ten years later he met his second wife, Josie, and gradually returned to church.

Vittorio had been unhappy with some of the teachings of the church for a while and began reading the Bible. He also began reading literature from other churches and



began watching religious programming on television and online. From the Bible he discovered the 10 commandments and the Sabbath. He was shocked to find out that the church had attempted to change the Sabbath.

Further study revealed to him the importance of repentance and baptism. Vittorio says, "it took me 79 years, but here I am! And I wish, by the Grace of God, to be finally baptised in the Holy Spirit!" It was a joyous experience to witness Vittorio's baptism on Sabbath 12th March and to hear him share his testimony from the baptismal font. We praise God for the way in which the Holy Spirit has been working and leading in his life and welcome him into our church family at Glenorchy.



CHANGE



By Pr Rick Hergenhan

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus is credited with coining the phrase, "the only constant in life is change." You may have heard it before but perhaps never given it much thought. Although Heraclitus lived about 2500 years ago this saying seems to be as true as ever.

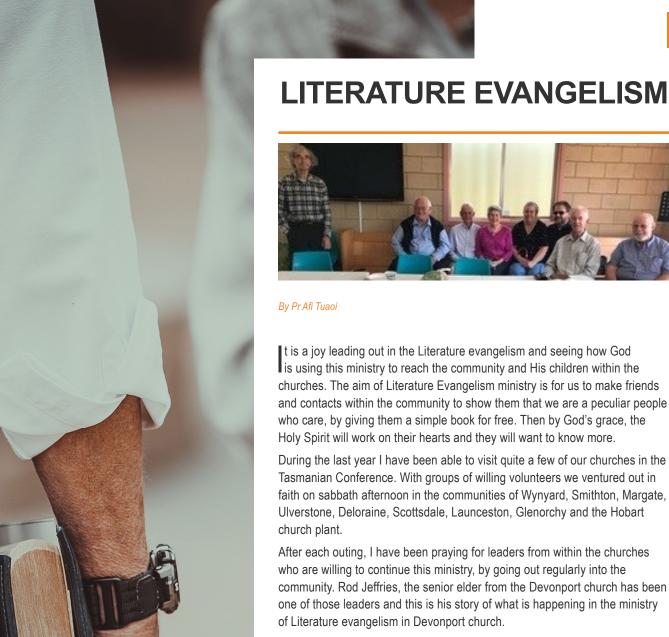
Take for example someone who has lived their three score and 10 and maybe a few more years and all the changes they have seen in their lifetime. Think about the changes to the way we live in Australia over that time and the things we simply take for granted today that were very uncommon 70 years ago. Electricity and lights in every home, hot and cold running water, a flushing toilet inside the house, carpet on the floor, automatic washing machines, cars (with heaters) and affordable clothes and shoes. I don't think anyone would like to go back to a time without these conveniences and most people are quite happy with these changes.

However there are a whole lot of changes that we are less excited about over the same 70 years. For those who are trying to buy a home the cost has skyrocketed. So too has the divorce rate and the incidence of relationship breakdown and all the challenges this brings to families. Mental health issues have risen to the point that in the last 12 months, 1 in 5 Australians had a diagnosed mental or behavioural condition. The number of people in Australian society attending church on a regular basis has dropped from somewhere around 50% down to 8% over this time and we have a situation in our church today that around 60-70% of the young people who have been brought up in a Seventh-day Adventist home are simply walking away from church. These changes I do not like.

When Jesus left the earth he left his followers with a clear task. In Mark chapter 16:15 the bible says "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Ellen White under inspiration commented "Nothing is to be permitted to hinder this work. It is the all-important work for this time; it is to be far-reaching as eternity." (5T 455.2)

As members of Christs body the church, we all have a part to play when it comes to this commission. But with a rapidly changing world we cannot simply ignore the world around us and carry on as we always have. What new things do we need to try? What things do we need to give up? What old things do we need to revive? What new methods is Jesus trying to show us? As we consider these questions I want to suggest a starting point. *"Through much prayer you must labour for souls, for this is the only method by which you can reach hearts." (CCh 58.5)*

As you read through this edition of the TASDA and see our members' efforts to fulfil the gospel commission here in Tasmania, I want you to prayerfully ask God these questions. What is it that you want me to do? And how do you want me to use my gifts? Because now as much as ever we need to take the neverchanging gospel to the ever-changing world.



"In a sermon that I preached at the start of this year, I spoke about the next step for Devonport Church. We had spent the last 1.5 years praying for each other and the towns in our area. We had many answers to prayer and the Lord had blessed Devonport Church with quite good growth. But what is the next step?

I began working with the personal ministries team from our church and we made a list of ideas for personal ministries for the year. I asked the congregation to fill out a form if they were interested and times available for training. At first we had twelve positive responses and since then others have joined. Our first meeting was with Pastor Afi Tuaoi who talked to us about Literature Evangelism ministry and this generated quite a bit of interest amongst the group.

The second meeting, we discussed our next steps which was to work out a strategy of how to knock on doors and visit with people in our community. We decided that we would take a low key approach and do a community needs analysis and at the end of the visit, for those who were interested, we would give them a copy of the book "Step Beyond" from Ellen G White.

Since meeting a third time we have been going through the responses prayerfully, working out the best programs we can offer the community bearing in mind always that we want to make friends with the people in our community. Friends, as I visit your church this year, my prayer is that there will be others like Rod Jeffries who are passionate and moved by God to see His power work within your church and community, by simply giving away a free book.



AIR FLORIDA FLIGHT 90

By Dr Mark Falconer

n a bitterly cold winter afternoon, Jan 13, 1982, an Air Florida flight 90 from Washington DC to Tampa, Florida was delayed due to a Blizzard that had closed the airport. Once the Airport re-opened the backlog further delayed the flight which allowed ice to accumulate on the wings. When taking off, the ice on the wings caused the plane to pitch sharply up and stalled, and after only 30 seconds of flight, the car drivers and passengers on the Potamic Bridge were stunned when the Boeing 737 nosedived, hitting the bridge and 5 cars as it plunged into the icy waters of the Potomac River. Only six passengers initially survived in the frigid waters. Rescue by boat was impossible due to the ice and so the rescue was left to a local police helicopter with a makeshift rope to haul survivors to safety. The harrowing scenes of the rescue were captured on camera as they clung onto life. Five survived the plane crash with 74 others killed, including 5 on the bridge.

Joe Stiley suffered 67 broken bones and reflected on the accident 14 years later. He gave up his plumb vocation that allowed him to fly weekly around the world, and to take a step back to reflect on life, and simply wanted to enjoy the time he had left. Joe Stiley received a gift - An inexplicable miracle of survival – but surely this makes eternity even more precious.

Eternity has come at an enormous cost. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life – great news? I hope so, we have heard it many times, and perhaps it is losing some of its impact. But do we really appreciate the problem of sin that God had to deal with? Let's think about that point as we look a Genesis 1 for a moment.

Genesis 1 was written as a polemic against the creation accounts of surrounding religions of the time. As you read it, notice the repetitive phrases on each day of creation - And God said, Let there be..."; "God saw that it was good," "And there was evening and morning". When God created - it was so - and it was so effortless - that is the point here. Now look at the fourth day, God creates "the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night - and the stars" (v.16). This verse was scandalous to Israel's neighbors as the sun and moon, according to the text, only gives light and doesn't rule the lives as gods (astrology). Then the author stuns the hearers when he adds nonchalantly "- and the stars". Now don't miss this, it was like saying "Oh, Ok, the stars also, - wow not bad, not bad at all". The point here is the effortlessness of the creation account – God said... and it was so. That is the omnipotence or the all-powerfulness of God on full display.

Yet even with all this unlimited power, God had a problem, and that problem was when sin arose. In Mark 2, when the paralytic was lowered through the roof, there were surprises all around. Jesus remarked on their faith and immediately went up to him and said "Son, your sins are forgiven". I imagine the crowd, at this point, was surprised by this - he is paralyzed - I thought he needed healing? Then the Pharisees were shocked and appalled by Jesus' blasphemous claim. Although Priests could pronounce forgiveness through the sacrifices, Jesus pronounced the remittance of sins the cancelling of debt - blasphemous to the Jews as this was rightly God's domain. Then Jesus tantalizingly, poses a conundrum - "which is easier - to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? Mark 2:9. To the casual observer, healing would be more difficult. Then Jesus confounds all present when He effortlessly says, "rise pick up your bed and walk".

What is remarkable, is that when Jesus pronounces effortlessly forgiveness – and it is so – but when Jesus says this, His love was so great for the paralytic and humanity, that He knows that for this promise to come into effect, He has to suffer the ignominy of the cross. No simple pronouncement from the throne could wipe sin away – the Cross was the only way. (Ex 34:6-7). Ponder that for a moment. God is Love indeed.

Five survived Flight 90 - but what of the sixth survivor? Arland D. Williams clung perilously to the wreckage of the crash. When the rope came to Williams, he passed it onto another, when it came again - he did the same. Three times he did this, and when the Chopper came back for a fourth time the wreckage he clung too, rolled and he tragically drowned. His bravery was honored by the renaming of the Bridge after him. His bravery gave others life – but it came at a huge cost. Joe Stiley has a second chance at this life - that is this life. Yet God spoke creation into existence – and it was so - Jesus pronounces forgiveness of sins to all who accept - and it is so - but this pronouncement could only be ratified through the cross. How deep God's love is for humanity and so the value of this gift surely diminishes the petty things of life that so easily ensures us.

NEWS

4WD CAMP

By Pr Daniel Matteo

A group of young adults from around Tassie teamed up for a 4WD camp from 6-8 May. They explored Brushy Lagoon Track, Baker's Beach and Asbestos ranges. Worships focussed on the life of King David. It's always refreshing to be outdoors and enjoying the handiwork of our creator. Tons of fun and adventure had by all!

STORMCo IN SCOTTSDALE

By Pr Daniel Matteo

What an amazing trip to Scottsdale the 2022 STORMCo group had in the last week of April! Travelling from Hobart, Wynyard, Penguin and Launceston a team of 16 teens and staff spent the week in the Scottsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church where they truly learned that Service To Others Really Matters! 2022 is the 30th anniversary of STORMCo around Australia and the teens (after a little prompting) discovered that they loved being involved in serving others. They ran a kids club for the Scottsdale community from Monday to Friday including puppets, songs, craft, story and games. There were between 4 and 12 kids from the community attending each day.

In the afternoon the STORMCo Team worked in the homes of older community members who couldn't believe that young people were so willing to serve. On Sabbath of 30th of April, the team ran the church service at Scottsdale and were thrilled to see some of the kids and one of the elderly ladies they had served through the week attend the service and express interest in learning more! At the service the teens were able to share what the week meant to them which was deeply touching as they expressed how it felt fulfilling to help others.

Our new Conference President Pr. Rick Herghenan even visited to share the importance of the gospel to STORMCo's mission! STORMCo is committed to returning to the community next year, so if





you or your teen would like to be involved, contact Pr. Daniel Matteo.

A big thank you to Vicki and Ken Knight for supporting the project, Natalie Moore for travelling from Launceston almost every day to keep the team fed well, Doug McKay for his wisdom and mentoring, Alex Bobongie for supporting straight off the back of staffing NNSW Big Camp, and Pr Billy and Natasha Martinez for committing to assist with leadership and staffing (along with their boys and Sparky).



SOUTHERN YOUTH RALLY

By Pr Daniel Matteo

On Sabbath the 26th of March, teens and youth from around the Conference met up at Hilliard Christian school in Hobart for a southern Teen and Youth Rally. Pastor Jeff Parker, the AUC Youth Director came to share inspiring messages on the subject of true spiritual freedom. Young people from Rosny provided awesome music and games and ice-breakers were facilitated by youth from Glenorchy. After a delicious haystack lunch, the assembled crew had a competition to see who could decorate the best cake that told the story of Pr Jeff's messages. There were some awesome efforts! After closing Sabbath worship and some pizza and chips, everyone participated in a car rally scavenger hunt. It was a high day of revival and fellowship! "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36 NIV)



SMITHTON CHURCH HALL RENOVATION

After discovering substantial dry rot in the wooden floor of our Church hall/kitchen area, with the carpet covering the holes in the floorboards to prevent us falling through!, we stepped out in faith that God would provide what we needed to fix this big problem. The first half of 2021 saw the Smithton Church hall/kitchen area completely renovated with the help of many hands.

Wynyard church lent a hand one Sunday, removing the old kitchen, pulling up the wooden floor and filling the dirt base with countless wheel barrows of road base gravel (three 10-yarder truck loads). They are hard workers and helped us complete just under a week's worth of work in 1 day. We are so grateful for their help.

After the new concrete floor was poured and new vinyl was laid by professionals, the new kitchen was assembled and put in place by 2 church members. We now have a comfortable, safe, warm and welcoming space to continue to run our weekly food distribution service to the community as well as our weekly church lunches.

We are very grateful to the Tasmanian Conference for their very generous support towards the renovation and to the Circular Head Council for providing us with a grant for the new kitchen. The project couldn't have gone ahead without these financial contributions.

We would also like to sincerely thank everyone who donated their money and time towards this project. We didn't know how it would happen but God did, providing everything we needed and more! We now have a wonderful space that we can use to share Jesus' love with others.

Thank you!

MARGATE BABIES DEDICATED TO GOD

By Pr Eugene Estil

Mothers and Fathers at Margate church have chosen to dedicate their children to God, publicly seeking the churches' commitment in the raising of their children, in front of their friends, family and heavenly Father.

Tony and Rosanna Dimitriou Brown dedicated their beautiful baby girl named Eleni Judith officiated by Pastor Mark Falconer. Rosanna's brother, Theodore and Lara Dimitriou dedicated their beautiful baby boy named Ezra, officiated by Lara's father, Pastor Tim Zestic, who is also a minister, and the certificate was presented by Pastor Eugene Estil.



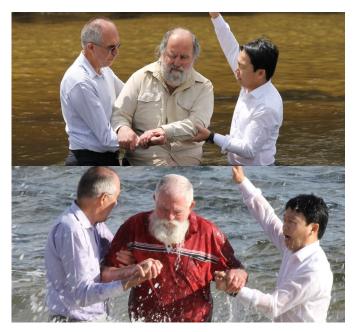


BAPTISM

By Pr Eugene Estil

We praise God that on the 4th of December there was not one, but two baptisms. Margate Seventh-day Adventist Church were happy to see John McGovern baptised by Pastor Eugene Estil and Pastor Gary Webster in the still waters of Snug Beach. A few hours later, the Hobart Church Plant were rejoicing as Barry Meurant was baptised in the raging waters of Bellerive Beach again by Pastor Gary Webster and Pastor Eugene Estil. Pr Estil remarked, "How encouraging it was when Barry shared his testimony with the church recounting the ways the Lord led him to accept Him as His Lord and Saviour."

I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. Luke 15:7



THE HUON HARVEST

By Pr Eugene Estil

Brothers and sisters in Christ, came from Vanuatu and Solomon Islands to Tasmania for seasonal fruit picking in Huon Valley. They experienced a difficult time during the gaps between seasonal work so churches and individuals from southern Tasmania extended much needed help to them. Groceries, warm clothing and fellowship was provided. A need was identified and the church stepped in to provide help. Matt 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Some of these people have started to gather every Wednesday for the prayer meeting and Sabbath Morning for worship in Huonville Library, others are interested in starting Bible Studies.







HEALTH IN SCOTTSDALE

By Vicki Knight

A Wellness Expo was held on Sunday March 20th in Scottsdale. The day featured a 27kilometre walk, run or bike ride with the walking group marshalling at 6:00am. Liz Pinner, who attends the Scottsdale Church, joined the walk and also was part of the 'Welcome to Country' presentation. Bobby Young was the inspiration behind the walk. Bobby has lost 60 kilograms on his health journey. Our Tassie conference President Pr Rick Hergenhan donned his helmet along with his son Giles and completed the 27kilometre bike ride. Health information, massage, food stalls and health service providers were featured at the Expo. Libby Hergenhan gave a cooking demonstration which was enjoyed by attendees. Scottsdale church members sold jacket potatoes and bliss balls as a healthy food option. The day was a great success and their is an expectation that the event will be held again next year.

FAMILY MINISTRIES - MEN'S CAMP

By Pr David Maxwell

The Tasmania Conference's Family Ministries department ran a Men's Camp over the weekend of the 29th of April, to the 1st of May. It was held at Four Mile Creek, near Scamander, at a lovely property owned by a church member from Launceston. The title of the weekend was "In His Image" and the theme of the camp was what it means as a man, to be made in God's Image. Topics included the nature of the "Potter", how Man reflected that at creation and how we can still do so today, continuing to reflect God's image in a broken and conflicted world.

The weekend was a relaxing reprieve for those who attended and there was plenty of time for all to connect, chat and be refreshed. All who attended were blessed by the weekend and one even commented upon seeing the location in the light of day on Sabbath morning; "Where did you find this place!".On Friday evening, Pr David Maxwell shared, "The Potter – His Image", looking at the observable attributes of God, as seen through the person of Christ and experienced through the other attributes of the Father and Spirit. On the Sabbath the topics "Man Awakens – In His Image" & "Man Up – Reflecting His Image" were covered. At first we broke into discussion



groups and explored what it meant to both look and be like the Father, Son and Spirit from a number of Bible texts and the discoveries were enlightening. Secondly, we looked at what it means to reflect that image today in a fallen and broken world as men, sons, husbands, and fathers and how we are called to be examples of Christ in our families and in our world.

The weekend proved to be a successful time of fellowship, relaxation and spiritual growth for all who attended and we are looking forward to the next camp.



HILLIARD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

Hilliard Christian School's inaugural Leaders Commissioning Service was held at Glenorchy SDA Church on Tuesday 31st May. This was a highlight event for our school, where we were able to invite parents and guests to join us to celebrate our student leaders for 2022.

The Student Leaders were presented with their badges and certificates at the service. Leaders are selected by their teachers and peers for leadership roles for the manner in which they demonstrate the school values of Integrity, Respect, Belonging and Perseverance, the way in which they lead by their example and their courage to do the right thing; because it is the right thing to do.

Our student leaders are a reflection of our school community and we acknowledge the continued guidance and support from the parents, staff and the wider church community.



WEEK OF WORSHIP HILLIARD

From the 4th to the 8th of April, Hilliard Christian School ran their annual Week of Worship with the theme: 4EVA4REAL. In order to avoid covid space restrictions on the school grounds, the upper primary and high schools bussed down to Glenorchy church each day, while the K-2 group remained in the library. Three guest speakers were invited for the week: Mr Trent and Mrs Erin Keegan. and Mr Trevor Brown. The kids loved the stories, songs, games and activities and the whole school grew stronger as a community in their spiritual walk. A particular high point was Thursday morning when the Secondary students and teachers of North West Christian School joined us for worship. It was a tremendous spiritual platform for the rest of the year. Incidentally it was also the last week for Pr. Daniel Matteo as chaplain, as he was officially succeeded by Pr. Billy Martinez. We want to thank Pr Daniel for his efforts at the school as the chaplain and we pray for the continuing spiritual growth of our school system here in Tassie.



NORTH WEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Spiritual Emphasis Week was held March 7-11 at

North West Christian School. Our Chaplain (Pastor David Leo) led on the theme of Daniel and encouraged students to be a citizen of the New Jerusalem while living in Babylon. The week was finished with decision cards for students. Many students requested prayer, and wanted to accept Jesus as their King. About 40 students chose to do weekly Bible studies. The chaplain says that the Bible study time has been a great joy and that students are asking great questions and are quickly learning how to read the Bible.

The UTAS Mobile Interactive Learning Engagement Truck (MILE Truck) has been on

NWCS campus for three days providing an opportunity for students to explore options for their future pathway. Kindy to Year 12 students have been onboard engaging in a range of educational experiences using Digital Technologies, allowing them to see and experience technologies being used in a wide range of fields and spaces. Senior students have been encouraged to pursue their future goals through the tutors and the interactive learning tools that are available onboard the truck.

Special Visitor

Children are a gift from God and their safety is important to us at NWCS. Recently Kindy, Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students had a special visitor, Ditto the Lion Cub from Bravehearts. Ditto and the team took the students on a 'Keep Safe Adventure'. Students were given an activity booklet to take home. 'But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Matthew 18:6.'

Extensions

Staff, students and parents have watched with excitement as each stage of NWCS new buildings are completed. Our Performing Arts Centre is due for completion by August/September with the extra Primary classrooms and new reception area to follow soon after. Praise God for the big things happening in our growing school

Music Excursion

The Year 9/10 Music students travelled by bus to see the TSO (Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra) perform at Albert Hall, Launceston. Epic evening filled with music from Beethoven, Schubert, Elgar and more, featuring lead cellist Jonathan Bekes. NWCS students were a fantastic audience in their front stall tickets. Thank-you to all our fantastic parents for supporting this event and to Mr Ackland for the bus transport. 'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Psalm 98:4.'







SPRING BEACH YOUTH CAMP



By Ian and Robyn Dunlop

ave you been to Spring Beach Youth Camp in the last six months? What about the last 12 months? If not, why not?

Our Youth Camp has been operating for almost 43 years. Since it opened back in 1979, thousands of young people have come to camp. Memories have been made. Lifelong decisions have been made. Decisions to follow Jesus and learn more about Him. Opportunities to experience a Christian environment. Young people have been challenged to move out of their comfort zone and gained confidence in the process. Our Youth Camp has and continues to impact a lot of lives.

Did you know our facility here is not just for youth and school camps but for our churches too. Why not get your church family together and have a family camp. Young people get together and organise a youth camp. Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders come and have a camp here as well. Churches that play together, grow and stay together. Our rates are very reasonable (½ price for school age children) but if cost is a problem then keep reading.

We have four working bees each year, bring your Pathfinders, Adventurers and Youth or turn it into a church camp. There is no cost to stay on the working bee weekend. We just ask that you help around the grounds for four hours on Sunday morning and then we feed you lunch to see you on your way. It's a bargain.

Can you remember a camp in the past that influenced your life? Perhaps your decision to follow Jesus! New life skills that you gained through camp programs! Maybe you found your life partner at a camp! Spring Beach is a wonderful facility that is here for our church to use. Why not use it to meet together, worship together, study together, grow together so we can return to our homes refreshed and recharged to share our hope in Jesus.

Check out our website http:// springbeachyouthcamp.com.au we look forward to hearing from you soon! Next Working Bees at Spring Beach 19 - 21 AUG 18 - 20 NOV. Check out our website www. springbeachyouthcamp. com.au we look forward to hearing from you soon!



WORKING BEES 19-21 August 18-20 November

SEE YOU THERE!

RADD HEALTH FOR TASMANIA

By Raluca Dan-Marica

May was health month across Australia and we had the privilege of Dr Sue Radd presenting in, Hobart, Launceston and Devonport. Dr Sue Radd is well-known among dietitians in Australia for the significant research she has done in her field.

The presentations were entitled "Improve your immune function through food". At the foundation of all her research and materials was the quote "Your diet is the cornerstone of health improvement." The presentations attracted a generous number of participants at all three venues and the event was well received by the general public as well as professionals.

Dr. Radd shared with us the latest scientific evidence that supports what EG White wrote years ago stating that "Grains, fruit, nuts and vegetables constitute the diet chosen by our Creator. The foods, prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing."

The presentations were accompanied by food samples which encapsulated the food principles Dr. Sue Radd addressed in her presentations. Dr. Radd's Cookbook, which was awarded No1 cookbook in the world in 2019, was also available for participants to purchase at the presentations.

Dr. Radd reminded us that "Good nutrition-and good health-starts in your kitchen!" The Hobart presentation has been recorded and is available on Vimeo www. vimeo.com/713946033/7858314f02 and will also be uploaded to our Conference website. I encourage you to share it with others as it contains new and relevant research supporting a healthy lifestyle.

"Health is a treasure. Of all temporal possessions, it is the most precious!" – EG White.

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Stay healthy!