

A young girl with curly hair is shown in profile, looking upwards with a hopeful expression. The background is a warm, golden-brown bokeh, suggesting sunlight filtering through trees. In the top left corner, a large, white, serif letter 'R' is prominently displayed.

# R

## A Church for our Children

The future is bright  
... if we are willing  
to listen <sup>16</sup>

10,000 Toes Campaign  
marks five years of saving  
lives and limbs <sup>7</sup>





WAHROONGA  
ADVENTIST SCHOOL

# School Alumni Return



It was with joy and excitement that Wahroonga Adventist School celebrated their first Alumni Homecoming event in a special church service at Wahroonga Church on September 17. Hundreds of school community members from over the decades were able to catch up with each other and reconnect as they shared memories of their school experience and God's leading in their lives over the intervening years.

Roseanna Fairfax, a past student from the 2000s, spoke of the impact her teacher had on her own faith journey. Mr Greg Hinze, Principal from 1988 to 2003, spoke of God's leading in the school and how His vision for our lives and school community is often bigger than our own. Current parent, Dr Andrew Pennington, highlighted the value of parents and school working in partnership in the wholistic development of children.

The music provided by the school orchestra was exceptional and a lovely highlight as this was their inaugural performance, led by Mrs Kristina Vuceski, Head of Performing Arts, using many instruments donated by retired Adventist businessman, Mr Paul Stewart.

Past principal Mrs Michelle Streatfeild (2004 – 2020) spoke of the opportunity students have to shine, grow and reach out as they journey through the school and 2021 School Captains, Grace Colville and William Jameson represented the inaugural Year 12 graduating cohort.

"As students, staff, families and volunteers shared memories of their school experience the school honoured God's leading over the past 117 years," said current principal Julia Heise. "With God at the heart of our school, we know that we have a shared mission in the lives of young people with the church and broader community."





EDITOR'S NOTE:

## Always be prepared

Jesse Herford

Associate editor, *Signs of the Times*

“

As a young person, I felt that same pressure: to be able to have the right apologetic for the right time.

When I first entered the workforce after high school, I was suddenly plunged into a world with a wide variety of beliefs and worldviews—a far cry from my sheltered Christian upbringing. I soon learned to be careful what I shared about my faith and with whom. Some co-workers were happy to have conversations about religion where for others, the mere mention of the name “Jesus” may as well have been a curse word.

On one occasion, a co-worker was venting to me about a frustrating situation she was going through. I didn’t know what to do but I tentatively offered to pray for her. To my great surprise she accepted, so on the sidewalk next to a busy road I uttered a nervous, stuttering prayer.

I was brought up with the exhortation that we should “always be prepared to give an answer” for our faith (1 Peter 3:15). From an early age, Bible memorisation was drilled into me. From Sabbath school to Pathfinders, I was constantly learning verses and repeating them back to my church leaders.

As I reflect on that time, I now realise that I didn’t really “learn” any of those passages of Scripture. They were never “written on my heart” as the Psalmist so poetically waxed. I merely learned them to regurgitate later. I wasn’t trying to allow the deep wisdom of God’s Word to transform me; I was doing it to please my superiors and impress my peers.

How often do we fall into that same trap? As a pastor, I’ve met well-meaning Adventists who’ve convinced themselves that to be a good witness, they needed to have as much knowledge as possible. These are the people who mire themselves in biblical material not for their own pleasure or to get to know Jesus better, but to have the best pithy one-liner when the time is right.

As a young person, I felt that same pressure: to be able to have the right apologetic for the right time, to be a faithful “defender of the faith”. I watched videos and read books from CS Lewis, William Lane Craig and more.

As I’ve grown older (and hopefully wiser) I’ve come to realise that when Peter encourages the multicultural group of churches in his letter to “always be prepared to give an answer”, he doesn’t mean what I originally thought. If we read the rest of the passage (always a good idea) we’ll see that he continues by saying: “to give the reason for the hope you have.”

This begs the question: what hope do I have? How has Jesus impacted my life personally? I’ve sat with many people who’ve had deep existential struggles with their faith, and I can attest to the fact that there are few intellectual answers that bring real satisfaction. I can also attest to the fact that what most people who struggle with faith need is empathy, patience and unconditional love.

The hope I have in Jesus can’t be substantiated by intellectual argument, apologetic discourse or clever reasoning. It is deeply personal, powerful and transformational. This should come as little surprise, as this is what Jesus does. This hope we have is a superpower that can break down the hardest barriers if we use it.

No-one can argue with your lived experience; nor can they rebut the way Jesus has transformed your life. So, if you could put it into words, what is the hope you have?

*If you’d like to join the conversation, email <editor@record.net.au> to have your say.*





INSIGHT:

## Making banana cake

Mavani Kaufononga  
Trans Pacific Union Mission president

I have just returned from the General Conference Annual Council held at Silver Springs, Maryland, US. It was good to be meeting in person rather than on Zoom. The takeaway thought from the meetings for me was the emphasis on mission refocusing.

The question I am asking myself is, have we lost focus of our core mission as a Church? Have we made ourselves comfortable in doing something that is not fulfilling our core mission?

Our Trans Pacific Union Mission Statement says: "Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the three angels' messages in preparation for His soon return (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Revelation 14:6-12)." This is what we are supposed to be doing—to make disciples . . . are we actually doing it?

This illustration highlights some of the things I see happening in our work.

Suppose I ask my wife to bake me a banana cake. After a while, my wife shows me her collection of banana cake recipes—they all sound so delicious but there is no banana cake. A few more days go by and she shows me that she has discovered the right type of trays and the right temperature the oven needs to be set at, but there is still no banana cake. She even shows me a poem she composed about banana cake but still there is no banana cake.

I'm sure you have picked up the point I am trying to illustrate. The task was to make a banana cake and she is doing everything right except baking the banana cake.

We as a Church have done so much training, produced so many resources about how to make disciples, but often we fail to actually make disciples.

It is time for us to refocus and ensure that we are actually making disciples.







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Pastor Steven Magaitis (Photo: Avondale University).

## Avondale ministry course for career changers who've been called

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Brenton Stacey

A new postgraduate degree at Avondale University will better prepare career changers who feel called to ministry.

The Master of Ministry replaces the Graduate Diploma of Ministry and Theology. While the amount of learning is the same—16 units of study over two years—the master's improves the student's academic experience by: providing a higher level of academic development and professional proficiency; enhancing the profile of graduates, and; strengthening the pathway into a higher degree by research, such as the Master of Philosophy at Avondale.

"Students with a bachelor's degree who feel called to Seventh-day Adventist ministry no longer have to go to our sister institutions," said course convenor Pastor Hensley Gungadoo. "They can now get their master's here at Avondale."

One of the key points of difference: the master's brings a focus on research to theoretical training in systematic theology and biblical studies and practical training in church ministry. Students learn about research methodology early in the course and complete an action research project associated with their placements. Some of the theology and biblical studies units also include brief

research assessment tasks.

The practical component remains a vital part of the new course, with students completing five, 10-week placements in a church or school and one, 10-day externship in an evangelistic context. "Serving as a trainee under a mentoring pastor or chaplain helps you integrate theological content with practical ministry," said Pastor Gungadoo. It also builds credibility, "because the question is always, 'What experience have you had in a local church or school?'"

So, what now for current students? The graduate diploma moves into a teach out for those who have completed more than half of the units. Those who have completed half or less can transfer to the master's.

New students are eligible for a special ministry and theology offer. They get a 50 per cent fee discount on all units in which they enrol in 2023.

"If you feel God is calling you to minister, respond. You'll find a lot of joy in following the divine promptings of your heart," said Pastor Gungadoo.

Download your Master of Ministry course guide at <[study.avondale.edu.au/ministrytheology2023](http://study.avondale.edu.au/ministrytheology2023)>.



Fiji Mission president Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

## New church building dedicated in Fiji

📍 Viti Levu, Fiji | Joni Vatuvalu

Saivou Central Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ra Province, Fiji, was officially opened and dedicated on September 29 by Fiji Mission president Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa. Located alongside the Kings Highway, the new church—which can hold more than 200 people—is a landmark for those passing by. The opening was attended by hundreds of church members and donors who contributed towards the project.

"Such vision and commitment by church members is commendable and we can only praise God for blessing His church," said Pastor Lutunaliwa.

Among those in attendance were

Epeli Nagase Nawaite and his wife Lucy, who were accompanied by Rachel Peugh, Donna and Bob Lombard from Sebastopol Adventist Church in California, United States. They were instrumental in the planning and construction of the building, which started in 2010.

"The completion of the church building is also a testament of the sacrifice and unity of local church members, ministers and the donors who gave so much for the project," said Pastor Lutunaliwa.

"The work of God will and can be accomplished in greater heights when men and women unite their efforts with God in these last days," he added.



From left: NNSW president Pastor Adrian Raethel, The Bay church pastor Sau Finau and NNSW church planting director Joseph Skaf.

## From church plant to church company

📍 **Bonnells Bay, NSW** | Megantha Kiruwi

The Bay Seventh-day Adventist church plant (Bonnells Bay, NSW) became a church company on Sabbath, September 24.

An afternoon service was hosted by Pastor Sau Finau and attended by North New South Wales Conference (NNSW) president Pastor Adrian Raethel and church planting director Joseph Skaf.

The church plant stems from humble beginnings and has grown considerably during the past eight years. Church member Genevieve Latu reflected on the origin of the company as it grew from a group of Tongan students and families who wanted to meet for prayer meetings and vespers. The small group then developed into a congregation that worshipped in the Bonnells Bay Community Centre on a Sabbath.

The food pantry is the heart of the church plant and has been serving the community for six years. According to

Ms Latu, the food pantry “is a model of service which works so [they] can be within the community, serving and living with people”.

Pastor Finau explained that established churches should aim to benefit the community around them. “Wherever Jesus went, that community benefitted. That’s what we want to do,” he added.

Despite the comfort of operating as a church plant under the guidance of the Conference, Ms Latu said that “now we’re maturing [and] we’re growing too big for our pot, we need to be planted so we can produce more seedlings and more churches”.

The process of church plants becoming church companies is a recognition of the growth of their ministries and numbers. Pastor Raethel explained that The Bay church company are “formally becoming a part of the sisterhood of churches not only within our Conference but right around the world”.



Launching *Retirement’s Gift*: (left to right) author Dr Bruce Manners, with CEO of Adventist Media, Dr Brad Kemp and Dr Lyell Heise.

## Church needs “oldies”, says retirement author

📍 **Cooranbong, NSW** | Nathan Brown

While *Retirement’s Gift* offers a wholistic survey of the opportunities and challenges of this stage of life, author Dr Bruce Manners said the spark for the book was a question he—as a previously published author on retirement—did not have an answer for. “I was asked: Why are there Adventists who ‘retire’ from church involvement when they retire from work?” he recalls. “There’s anecdotal evidence this is happening. In the US, the past three decades have seen more Baby Boomers leaving churches than any other group.”

The resulting book was launched on September 28 at the Veterans of the Cross conference for retired pastors and their spouses, hosted at Avondale University. Speaking at the launch, Dr Lyell Heise reflected on how reading the book’s manuscript was a “gift” to him as he transitioned into retirement. “The book was soothing, reassuring and challenging all at once,” he said. “I was encouraged to fine tune my ongoing sense of purpose.”

The gift of retirement is primarily

time, Dr Manners explained. “Retirees get to choose how to use their time.

“Of course, there will be responsibilities they will have or will take on, but most retirees have much more freedom.”

Since his own retirement after working for 40 years as a pastor and editor, Dr Manners has continued to research aspects of living well in retirement. His earlier book—*Retirement Ready?*—focused on planning and preparing for retirement and was written for secular readers. “I have a greater understanding of retirement now,” he said. “I find it difficult to believe I’ve been retired for almost eight years. If you aren’t intentional about your retirement, it can simply drift away from you.”

Dr Manners is adamant older people should not be “retiring” from church—for their own wellbeing and for the good of the church.

*Retirement’s Gift: Time to Grow Your Life and Faith* is available from Adventist bookshops in Australia and New Zealand, or online.





Campaign coordinator Pamela Townend with 10,000 Toes ambassadors in Fiji.

## 10,000 Toes Campaign marks five years of saving lives and limbs

📍 Wairoa, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

The 10,000 Toes Campaign is celebrating a significant milestone—five years of helping communities in the South Pacific combat the devastating impacts of diabetes and other lifestyle diseases.

Campaign coordinator Pamela Townend said 10,000 Toes is now operating in 10 countries around the South Pacific.

"Five years ago when the 10,000 Toes Campaign was born, we dreamed that we would love to raise \$1 million that could be used as seed money to show that whole-person health could help turn the tides on diabetes and other chronic diseases in the South Pacific," she said.

"That dream is very quickly becoming a reality. Not only has over \$1 million been raised but work has commenced in 10 countries around the South Pacific with recognition coming from the World Health Organization. We are also in talks with different government bodies as part of the rollout."

Significant achievements over the past five years have included the first-ever Fiji Wellness Summit held in September at Fulton College and attended by 1000 people, the establishment of 24 wellness hubs, five mobile clinics, 2685 lifestyle intervention program participants, 1044 screening kits, upskilling of 392 health professionals and advocates, and the training and equipping of 5018 10,000 Toes ambassadors.

The latest big project commenced on October 21 with the first-ever Papua New Guinea Wellness Summit at Pacific Adventist University. The three-day summit included health checks and meetings with community representatives to discuss ways to make a positive impact on health. After the summit, training sessions for 10,000 Toes ambassadors provided them with the skills and knowledge to establish wellness hubs in their districts.

The 10,000 Toes Campaign is an initiative of Adventist Health with a mission to reduce the epidemic of diabetes in Pacific countries. Every 20 minutes an amputation occurs in the South Pacific due to diabetes or an associated lifestyle disease.

For more information and to support 10,000 Toes, visit <10000toes.com>.

## making headlines

### Walking with Jesus

Decatur Adventist Church (US) has opened a 2km walking trail which winds through 10 hectares on the hill behind the church building. Church members have been working for a year on the all-purpose trail, which features signs inscribed with Bible verses along the path. Open to the public, church members hope walkers not only get good exercise and enhance their physical health but read the texts, learn about Jesus and improve their spiritual health. —*Eagle Observer*



### Amoeba breakthrough

AdventHealth scientists have developed a new test for the three most common life-threatening amoebas found in fresh water. The new test reduces the time for a result from potentially days to as little as five hours, a significant improvement for an infection in which every second counts. —*AR*

### Stats from Annual Council

Recent statistics from the General Conference Annual Council show 42 per cent of church members have left the Church since 1965. Generally this is because of life crises, conflict in their local church, and/or not feeling missed or important to their pastors or fellow church members. Based on research, most of these past members have left without making a conscious decision to do so. —*ANN*

### Curbing emissions with diet

A survey of young Australians found that while the majority believe climate change is caused by humans, fewer than half understand the impact of live-stock and meat consumption. "A plant-based or flexitarian diet is a powerful way to curb emissions," said researcher Professor Dora Marinova. —*Sydney Uni*



## Growing the kingdom

Local church pastor Kinsley Peter from Tumua Seventh-day Adventist Church (PNG) baptised two people after a series of evangelistic meetings were held in Waritzan Village from October 2 to 16. Another 32 people made a commitment to baptism. Tumua church had attempted to build a church and outreach to members of the Waritzan Village for years but had been unsuccessful. Only four people from the village would walk a kilometre to attend Tumua church so in 2017, they formed a small group. Since then, the small group has grown and now its newly baptised members are planning to build a place of worship in Waritzan Village. —Gibson Yudah/Kymberley McMurray



## Called to go

After a three-year break due to COVID-19, South Queensland Conference (SQC) members gathered to fellowship and worship together at Big Camp. With the event themed “I Will Go”, speakers in each tent preached on the mission God has given His people to go and be disciples who share the good news of His soon return. Closing the event, SQC president Pastor Brett Townend encouraged church members to grow closer to God first and then go and make disciples for Him. —Zanita Fletcher



## Virtual gathering

Youth and young adults from 17 nations are being invited to worship and grow spiritually together at the South Pacific Division (SPD) Acts 29 “Write Your Story” virtual youth congress from December 13 to 17. Guest speakers from across the SPD and General Conference youth leader Pastor Busi Khumalo will share how to live under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Worship, morning devotions, plenary sessions, workshops and evening programs will feature daily, as well as a virtual night café where attendees will be able to interact. “This ministry gathering will help you live the best life God wants for you,” said SPD associate ministry and strategy director and Youth specialist Dr Nick Kross. Visit <[youth.adventistchurch.com/spd-youth-congress-2022](https://youth.adventistchurch.com/spd-youth-congress-2022)>. —Juliana Muniz



## Computer boost

Kauma Adventist High School in Kiribati has received 20 laptops and other computer technology from the Communications Commission of Kiribati (CCK). CCK officials chartered a flight especially for the hand-over ceremony. “We certainly praise the Lord for this beyond-our-means blessing,” said acting education director Morimai Tekeinang. With an increasing number of students, the school still needs more computers to cater for the demand. —Record staff





## Feeding Hurstville

Hurstville Seventh-day Adventist Church has partnered with Sydney City Lifestyle and Mission Centre, a not-for-profit charitable organisation, to launch a free pop-up food pantry for people in need.

Church pastor Kerina-Lee Joy said, “[This] is an exciting evangelistic endeavour that harnesses personal engagement ministry strategies to facilitate the sharing of the gospel of Jesus with the communities of the St George Shire of Sydney.

“[The] pop-up food pantry in Hurstville has generated significant community interest, enables a natural witnessing environment and nurtures relationships amongst the community.”

In just a few weeks after its opening, the pantry received more than 100 community registrations. Volunteer church members distribute items including bread, canned vegetables, milk, rice, pasta, muesli bars, noodles, fresh fruit and vegetables. There is an increasing number of people returning each week for food and groceries.

“This is just the beginning of a revolutionary journey for those involved in this unique mission partnership that has the potential to do wonderful things in the mission field of the kingdom of God,” Pastor Joy concluded.

The pantry is open on Thursdays from 11am–3pm. Registrations are encouraged by sending an SMS to 0405 939 558.

—Kymberley McMurray

## have news to share?

Send info and photos to <news@record.net.au>



## Blooming with hope

The colours of spring filled Livingston Seventh-day Adventist Church in Western Australia in an event that connected the church with the community. The church hosted its sixth Bible in Bloom flower festival from September 30 to October 2, with the theme of this year's event being “Messages of Hope”. A total of 19 arrangements were on display—the most ever—with each one depicting an encouraging message of hope for the viewer to reflect on. Starting in 2007, Bible in Bloom has run every three years since then. Visitors are given the opportunity to show their appreciation by donating to a charity. This year's beneficiary was the Light of Hope School in Cambodia and more than \$A2000 was raised towards their work with underprivileged children.—Linley Vogel/Record Staff



## Dental assistance to the remote

More than 200 people living in remote communities of Vanuatu have received free dental treatments through an outreach facilitated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The volunteer team, including three dentists from Australia, ran eight full-day clinics in two weeks across five islands in three different provinces, treating 276 patients from 40 different villages and communities. Their work included more than 400 extractions and other treatments. The initiative was coordinated by the health ministry team at Vanuatu Mission with substantial support from the Rosendahl family in Australia. The 10,000 Toes Campaign also assisted the team with a mobile clinic and health talks to educate communities on how to look after themselves to prevent disease.—Phalguni James/Record Staff



# Avondale

## Students rate their experience as

### #1 in Australia

**S**tudy isn't the only big thing in Sela Uilou's life. She works. A lot. She serves in a leadership role on campus. And she ministers through music in her local church. So, having someone who understands these sometimes competing priorities makes a big impression. That someone is one of Sela's lecturers, counselling strand convenor Paul Bogacs. His influence and that of a community of what are likely to become lifelong connections has created a safe place in which to grow. The message Sela's received: "I'm going to be OK."

The final-year chaplaincy major is one of about 500 students whose responses to a government-endorsed national survey rank Australia's newest university as number one for satisfaction with quality of the overall educational experience. What stands out about Avondale is its people, says Sela. "The classes are a bit smaller, so you really get to know your classmates and lecturers. They can help not only with your education but also with your wellbeing."

Sela and other undergraduates who completed the 2021 Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching Student Experience Survey also rank Avondale as number one for satisfaction with quality of teaching practices and skills development. Satisfaction against each indicator improved in 2021, with the biggest improvement being with quality of the overall educational experience (up seven per cent).

The results of the survey, released on August 29, "are an indication of the commitment our staff make to our students", said vice-chancellor and president Professor Kevin Petrie. "Their desire to transform lives through Christ centred higher education runs deep. They consistently go the extra mile to engage our students in authentic, faith-

based learning and discovery."

Avondale has a history of high rankings in the survey, but the most recent survey is significant for two reasons.

One, it is the first time Avondale has been benchmarked with other universities. "So, to achieve the highest overall student satisfaction ratings of any Australian university is a remarkable achievement," said provost and senior deputy vice-chancellor Professor Kerri-Lee Krause. Two, the survey was conducted during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, "so the ratings are also a testament to the resilience of our students". And to the care of staff members. "They take a personal interest in the wellbeing of their students," said Professor Krause. "I've seen the effort they put in to get to know students by name. My own research confirms the importance of these practices in enhancing student learning."

In course-specific results, the Bachelor of Nursing has maintained its number one ranking across all student satisfaction indicators and the teaching courses are ranked number one for learner engagement. These rankings compare Avondale with all the Australian universities and higher education providers offering the courses.

While success is worth celebrating, the survey also gives data to inform ongoing improvement in areas such as preparing students with a range of employability skills and investing in digitally-enhanced learning resources.

"It matters a great deal to know our students are having a positive learning experience," said Professor Krause. "Their voice is key to shaping our student-centred strategy."

**Brenton Stacey**

Public relations and philanthropy officer, Avondale University.



# Loving the Sabbath

I've always loved the Sabbath. My earliest memories were asking my parents each Saturday "who are we having over for lunch?" knowing I had a great spread of food and some guaranteed play buddies all afternoon. But when my secular tertiary studies started requiring Saturday attendance, I was forced to think a little deeper about what I held important.

For those of us who grew up in the Church, the Sabbath is something we have always heard about and practised. But as we get older and take ownership of our faith, we question the WHY behind our traditions.

In a Church so often distracted by rules, we can easily forget the true purpose of Sabbath. Yet as we practise and learn from Jesus' example, we discover that the Sabbath really is a gift to man; ultimately revealing to us that God is love, and He teaches us to love.

This connection between LOVE and the SABBATH was an awesome realisation I made when I chose the Sabbath as a topic to write about for one of my theology essays.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

God is love; and the Sabbath reflects His love for us in patience, kindness, equality, honour, selflessness, calm, forgiveness, joy, protection, trust, hope and perseverance.

1. The Sabbath teaches us **patience** as we slow down and put on hold our daily urgencies.

2. Jesus displayed the importance of **kindness** over the emphasis of rules by healing on the Sabbath.

3. The Sabbath denies the possibility for **envy, boasting or pride**, as we all partake in this law equally.

4. God demands our attention on

the Sabbath to **honour** Him in our priorities.

5. In a self-seeking culture, the Sabbath shifts our perspective **away from ourselves** toward God.

6. Setting aside time with God shifts our perspective as we grow accustomed to the stillness of the Sabbath, instilling in us a **peace** that is **not easily angered**.

7. God keeps **no record of wrongs**, and the act of Sabbath obedience displays our freedom in God's forgiveness.

8. The freedom that Sabbath brings provokes us to **rejoice in the truth** of God's love.

9. God **protects** and cares for our health through the physical rest of the Sabbath while also providing spiritual rest through the reminder of our protection from the consequences of sin.

10. The Sabbath teaches us to **trust** and rely on God for our finances, productivity and guidance.

11. As the Sabbath points toward redemption, our souls are renewed with the **hope** we hold in salvation.

12. The rest that a weekly Sabbath provides allows for restoration, building within us a spirit of **perseverance**.

When we look at how God introduced the Sabbath after Creation and how Jesus observed the Sabbath on Earth, it becomes clear that the Sabbath "law" is a celebration and a blessing so much more than a rigid rule.

Embrace the Sabbath for what God has intended it to be. God does not give commands to make our lives more difficult so we can say "look God, see how I diligently suffered for you", but rather to enhance our wellbeing.

Dive into the process of understanding God's love and seek ways to pour out that love to show the world a love so strong that they spend eternity searching for its source.

**Jess Laws**

a Graduate Diploma of Theology student, youth pastor and chaplain in Sydney, NSW.



# Food truck

## Fundraiser



Adventurer, teacher and foodie Rachel Beaden has been in growing demand since she kitted out a food truck and started scooping up 100 per cent natural fruit ice-cream.

The food truck, called Baenana, dishes out guilt-free, dairy-free, sugar-free ice-cream generously topped with a selection of homemade toppings such as passionfruit sauce, Sunshine Coast peanut butter, fresh fruit, granola and the crowd favourite: vegan chocolate sauce.

Baenana was born when Rachel, a fan of weekend markets, noticed a lack of healthy food. Although she admits she's a hot chip fan, she said, "I loved the banana ice-cream I made at home and thought maybe I could provide it as an option for other people looking for healthy food." She recognised there weren't many options for people with dietary requirements or food sensitivities and wanted to provide something that would nourish people and leave them feeling good.

In 2018, friends and family helped Rachel paint and fit out a food truck. Since then, she has been selling ice-cream at her local weekend markets, events and camps.

She and her family recently set up Baenana at South

Queensland Big Camp for the entire week where they were fundraising through ADRA Australia for 25000 Spins and Ride4Rescue.

"I emailed about 50 banana farms to see if they'd be willing to donate any bananas. One company responded and said they'd be happy to," Rachel said.

LaManna Premier Group donated 900 kilograms of bananas.

Whether the sun was out or the rain was pouring, Baenana had a constant line of people waiting for ice-cream each day at South Queensland Big Camp in September.

Rachel and the Baenana team raised more than \$A7000 and look forward to future fundraising missions.

Links:

<https://25000spins.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/ride4rescue/>

<https://www.instagram.com/baenana.bowls/>

**Zanita Fletcher**

Assistant editor, *Signs of the Times*.



# Inspirational pair continue '100 Days of Prayer'

**M**other and son duo, Maeli and Mele Foaga from Predestine Adventist Church in Sydney, began participating in the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church's "100 days of Prayer" movement in March 2019. As the 100 days came to an end, Mele said to his mother, "let's carry on until Jesus comes!"

There are now many families who have joined them in this continued prayer program. Daily they pray for others—families, children and friends of friends—some church members, and some not. As of June 2022, they were halfway through another cycle of the 100-day program, which they had been through eight times.

Life has not always been comfortable for these prayer warriors. In 1997, when Mele was 18 years old, he received a diagnosis of lupus. This meant his kidneys stopped functioning and the following year he began haemodialysis. Three times a week for the past 24 years, Mele has made the journey to Blacktown Regional Dialysis Centre. Each visit lasts five hours,

which he sees as a perfect opportunity to talk with the nurses who attend to him. When the nurses share what is going on in their lives, he encourages them with the answer that has sustained him all these painful years: "Jesus cares".

A steadfastly positive person, Mele is still open to being upset, but gains strength from participating with his mother in prayer. Maeli, who for 13 years cared for her late husband, has a health ministry and shares messages of health and prayer over the phone. Prayer and fasting are used by them both.

After multiple hospitalisations in the past year, Mele has found it necessary to use a wheelchair at times but is thankful to still be able to drive a car. Mele says he "lives day by day" and looks forward to the return of Jesus. He says, "I just pray every day that I can lead someone to Christ."

**Arthur Hudson**

Intern pastor at Dundas and Hoxton Park churches.



# The Joy of being a deacon



I have realised that there is a noble work or office in the church which many people neglect—many have rejected the post of being a deacon. It has been regarded as the least office a person should hold. For me, being a deacon is a duty of a noble man. I am going to share with you the joy of being a deacon.

## I gave my life to the Lord through the deacons

I grew up in Rwalengre Village, 26 kilometres from Kiunga Town, Western Province, Papua New Guinea. When I was 13 years old I gave my life to Jesus and really wanted to know more about Him. I still want to know about God and serve Him. While trying to know about service the Lord led me to know the work of deacons.

The deacons and the deaconesses were the people who impressed me. Their warmth and welcome for me was the sweetest experience of my life. Just to name a few faithful deacons who made our church a haven: deacon Gwen Gra and his deaconess wife, and also deacon, Pa'a Awi and his deaconess wife. There were other deacons and deaconesses who did a great work for the Lord and are continuing to serve Him.

## Helping deacons and deaconesses

When I started going to church at 13, I realised the sense of true calling. The calling was for me to be in the house of the Lord. "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). I found joy being in the church. Church became a haven for me when deacons and deaconesses asked me to help them.

I felt like being a deacon was not just looking after the church but also taking care of all that the Lord has entrusted to me. Sometimes my mother would find me in the church sleeping. I found peace when I went to church.

Something keeps yearning in my heart, "I would be the guardian of the Lord's". I began to read about the story of the priests and what they did in the sanctuary. All I learnt was a life of service. The story of young Samuel also impressed my life.

I would help the deaconesses arrange flowers and sweep the church. The deacons asked me if I could also assist in opening the church, and blowing the trumpet to call people for worship. Much more than that, I was entrusted by the deacons to stand at the door of the church to greet and welcome people into the church. It was a double blessing for me. Making people smile was the greatest joy of my life. In a world with broken people, lonely people and people with uncertainties, I felt that making people feel at home and accepted was what was required of me.



## Boldness to share God's love

While helping the deacons and deaconesses I felt that I should extend the love of God to those around us. Every Sabbath morning when I greeted people and ushered them into church I felt I must also feed the hungry. After the church service I would call the new interests to my house and feed them. I would also buy some clothes and give them to the needy people who came to church. It was a great joy to be a deacon.

God also impressed me about an interesting work I should do. After lunch on Sabbath I would walk six kilometers to a nearby hospital and visit sick patients there. When they saw a 14-year-old boy praying with them, singing and sharing God's love with them, they could sense the power of God. Some of the people I visited in hospital became Adventist. "The Lord is with you," one of the patients said to me. From the visitation I began to connect with people to share God's love. I also visited the old people and some people who were neglected in the community.

Every afternoon I would stand in community gatherings and preach. After class I would share the story of Jesus with my teachers. I also shared the truth with my friends. Some of my teachers gave their life to Jesus. My community saw me as a blessing. It was not because I was a leader in the church, but because the Lord gave me a heart of service. I came to realise that service in the name of Jesus is a blessing.

When I read Matthew 24:14 I was motivated to continue sharing, as it says, "this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all the world as a witness". The Lord did not ask me to fight for a position, rather, He asked me to be a witness so that I can be His servant to serve Him and His people.

Until now I am learning that being a deacon gives me boldness to serve the Lord. The story of Stephen continues to ring in my heart. Not just the boldness he had in sharing the story of Jesus but also his confidence to die in the name of the Lord. His prayer of forgiveness is a great example for every deacon. "Lord, do not charge them with this sin . . ." (Acts 7:60).

## From a deacon to a minister/pastor

When I was 17 years old in 9th grade, I was officially ordained as a deacon. It was a dream come true. I always love to read the stories of those who served the Lord. I found Psalm 84 a blessing. In Psalm 84:10 it says, "For a

day in your court is better than a thousand. I would rather be a door keeper in the House of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness."

I said, "I would rather be a deacon."

From 9th grade to 12th grade I served as a deacon in a town church (Kiunga, Western Province). Standing at the door and making people feel welcome into the church was exciting. Taking part in the Lord's Supper service and assisting the pastors in baptism is the greatest joy.

After I completed 12th grade, I continued studies, doing the Advanced Diploma in Pastoral Ministry at Sonoma Adventist College. In my first year they ordained me as an elder and I was asked to work closely with the deacons. For the next three years at the college I was assisting the deacons. With my experience being a deacon, I mentored other deacons.

When I graduated in 2017, I was posted to pastor three churches on Emirau Island, New Ireland Province in Papua New Guinea. During my three years there I continued to encourage the church leaders, including the deacons.

I would also assist the deacons and deaconesses in preparing the church for worship. Through serving others people give their life to work for Jesus.

After three years of serving the church I am continuing with my bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry and theology now at Pacific Adventist University. When I graduate I will continue to serve my God in a life of service.

## Appeal

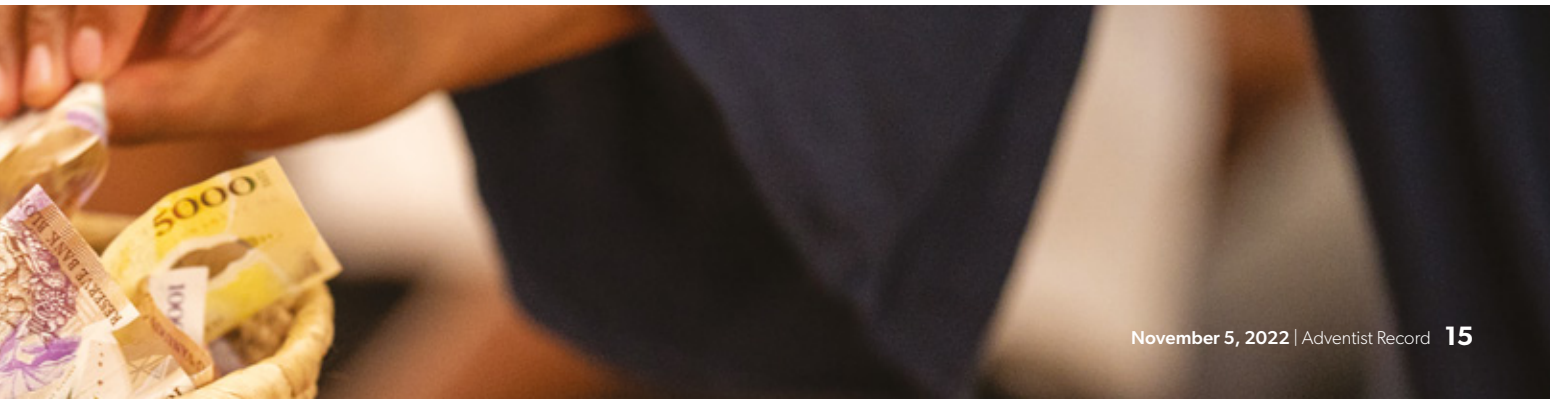
I have made up my mind that, even though I am a young minister in the service of the Lord, I will still serve as a deacon. Serving God and His people is the joy of my life. I want to be like the seven deacons anointed by the early church to settle disputes.

If I was asked to choose between being an elder, a pastor or a deacon, I would rather be a deacon. The deacon work gives me joy. It is the work I want to do in serving the Lord until my last breath. I encourage the church to regard the work of a deacon or a deaconess with great admiration.

If you are called to work as a deacon in your local church, do not reject the call.

**Joseph Yero**

Bachelor of ministry and theology student at Pacific Adventist University, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.





# A CHURCH FOR OUR CHILDREN

**"Maybe history  
wouldn't have  
to repeat itself  
if we listened  
once in a while."  
(Anonymous)**

**O**ur journey towards the truth as a part of the body of Christ requires us to listen to many channels of information: the natural world; our sources of inspiration (the Bible, Ellen White, prophetic voices); information sources like history and science; a variety of people in our church (the academics, the practical people, different ethnic groups); and most importantly the young as they are our future. The young are the new shoots heading toward the light that largely determine whether our Church becomes a stunted, diseased organism or a thriving community of believers exhibiting the characteristics of God's people.

None of these channels of information has perfectly encapsulated God's revelations to people over time. They all had/have various limitations. The natural

world as expressed in Romans 1:19,20 tells us much about the qualities of God. There is also much in nature that is brutal and harsh that can be confusing without listening to other voices like we find in the Bible and also the science disciplines.

The Bible itself was written to particular situations and needs to be interpreted through a variety of lenses. For example, we have worked out that we shouldn't practice slavery, but it took us a long time. It has been 157 years since the civil war ended between the Union and the Confederate states of America. There were more than 500,000 people killed and millions of casualties. This terrible toll, which still scars the United States today, could have been avoided. One reason that other solutions were not found was the belief by both sides that God, biblical truth and the





respective clergy were on their side. In 1865 President Abraham Lincoln spoke of this oddity. "Both (North and South) read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes his aid against the other".<sup>1</sup>

We have also worked out that gender is not the basis for recognition of spiritual gifts or access to salvation. The language of the Bible in many cases reflected the patriarchal nature of their society. Applying this principle to 1 Timothy 3:1, we see the *tis* (anyone) who aspires to the role of a bishop or deacon as "anyone" rather than "he" and the focus of the text is on the character of the person rather than the gender. Just as the *tis* (man) of Matthew 16:24 who would follow Jesus refers to anyone. Again it has taken us a long time. Our young people are often way ahead of the "Church" in recognising these important ethical principles. If we listen

to them, we all benefit. They feel it is their church and we end up with less egg on our faces.

Similarly, Ellen White operated within a particular milieu. She changed her position on issues. She was subject to all the pressures we face so didn't always get it right. Her vast writings are a blessing to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but not a source of authority to settle doctrinal, health, historical or scientific disputes. She is just one of the voices to listen to.

This principle also applies to sources of knowledge like history and science. They are developing disciplines. Each new generation stands on the shoulders of previous giants. Galileo and Copernicus contributed to an astronomical revolution, but others like Einstein and Hawking have built on their discoveries. The variety of voices in our community need to be heard and acknowledged. The most important voices are our younger members.

We have a tree plantation on our property that consists of a variety of native species. About half of the trees are *Corymbia Citriodora*, a variety of spotted gum. When healthy they grow into tall, majestic trees. However, they are prone to a fungal infection called *quambalaria*. It attacks new shoots and is particularly damaging to the leader shoots, which results in a stunted bushy tree. Trees are designed like humans to head toward the light until they face challenges like this fungal disease. The new shoots, the young in our church, must be encouraged in their pursuit of light. When the wider church sends a message to our youth that discourages their pursuit of light, we are harming the whole body of Christ.

Some of these inappropriate messages include that we as a denomination have the whole truth and other believers and sources of knowledge are wrong; a failure to be honest and acknowledge we have made mistakes in the past about what constitutes present truth; have treated some individuals unfairly at times; and finally, the things that matter to our youth are not unimportant or wrong, simply because they disagree with our current perception of truth.

What are the things related to their spiritual journey that matter to our

youth? We need to ask them. When was the last time we heard a young voice engaging in the decision-making agenda at the various levels of this denomination? I don't speak on their behalf, but from my experience I think the following things really matter: The nature of the gospel at an experiential and practical level. How do I live my life as a follower of Jesus Christ? An important component of this is the ethical treatment of other people. Are all people treated fairly and do we listen to a variety of information channels when determining the nature of inspired truth for our situations. I also think they're very interested in the "language" we speak to share the gospel. Is our worship style a "language" that resonates with young people and communicates the gospel to them? An important part of worship is music. Their music tastes may differ from my tastes and as an older member I need to be open to contemporary expressions of praise that are just as valid as nineteenth century hymns.

I don't think they're very interested in some of the theological debates that are peripheral to the teachings of Jesus. October 22, 1844, is a long time ago and is not seen to add value to their Christian experience today. Some would respond that this is because the message has been ignored. Another possibility is that our youth don't see it as "present truth" for their Christian experience because it's not a core component of the teaching of Jesus Christ.

The body of Christ, our "tree", is being attacked from many directions. Some of these attacks are beyond our control. Some are things that we can control, particularly when they come from within our community. These sources of harm to our young people need to be vigorously opposed as they compromise the whole body of Christ and affect the little ones that Jesus Christ charged us to protect.

1. sunherald.com, "The Bible played a role on the civil war's battlefields." 19/12/2011. (Author unknown). Accessed 12/7/20.

**Terry Bottrell**

writes from Queensland and has worked most of his life as a secondary teacher in Adventist schools.



# Date & seed breakfast cookies

Serves 8-12 Prep 10 Cook 10

These dairy-free grab and go muffin-like cookies are full of goodness and super quick and easy to whip up, being ready in just 20 minutes. Perfect as an afternoon snack or lunch-box treat, they are a natural source of protein and fibre too.

## Ingredients

- 1 large ripe banana, mashed (½ cup)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup milk, or So Good Soy or Almond Milk
- ¼ cup light flavoured olive oil
- 4 Weet-Bix wheat biscuits, finely crushed
- 1¼ cups wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 cup pitted dates, chopped (180g, 12 medjool dates)
- ½ cup sunflower seeds

## Tips

Add in some nuts for some extra crunch.  
Try replacing sunflower seeds with any other seeds to create different textures.

## Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (350°F). Line two trays with baking paper.
2. In a large bowl whisk banana, eggs, milk and oil. Add crushed Weet-Bix wheat biscuits and stir well to moisten.
3. Add flour, cinnamon, salt, dates and seeds, and fold through.
4. Scoop heaped tablespoons of batter onto prepared tray and bake for 10–12 minutes, or until the tops of the cookies are golden and firm.
5. Cool on pan for 2 minutes, then move to a rack and cool completely.

## Nutritional Information (per serving)

ENERGY	CALORIES	PROTEIN	FAT	SATURATES	CARBOHYDRATE
898kJ	214	6g	10g	1g	26g
SUGARS	FIBRE	CALCIUM	SODIUM	IRON	POTASSIUM
14g	3.2g	54mg	120mg	2mg	320mg



## Recipe of the Week

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# Conversations

## Wise encouragers

"Church needs 'oldies', says retirement author" (Instagram, see p6).

Thanks to all the "oldies" who still do church and are wise encouragers. We need you!

Intergenerational church families are so important. Retirement is a new beginning—it's your time to shine.

**R Townend**, *via Instagram*

## Word of encouragement for generational Adventists

Re: "The road to Emmaus" and "Do you suffer from generational Adventism?" (October 15).

Perhaps we all have different Emmaus experiences?

I'm not a generational Adventist. I came into the Church in 1975 through a John Carter campaign. And I sat on my hands through every one of his altar calls. I felt the call, but I refused to act on an emotional response. I was an atheist at the time, but knew enough about Christianity to know it required more than a mere emotional response, as Carter made clear when he taught "the heart is deceitful above all things", and that the commandments of God must still be obeyed, including the Sabbath commandment.

I was reluctant to become a Christian—a powerful incentive to resist Carter's appeals for commitment. I'd recently passed through a major turning point in my life, things were beginning to go well for me and I did not want to change course.

But I could not just walk away and ignore what he was saying. I had to follow it through, even if it took me where I did not want to go. So I argued every point, until people were calling me "Thomas". Finally, I could not refute Carter's Bible understandings, so I argued myself into the Church.

I did not become a Christian because I was burning with zeal; I did so because of compelling evidence from Daniel and Revelation that the God of the Bible is God, and that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God; objective evidence that proved beyond all reasonable doubt that the Bible is the Word of God and provides the only credible guide to the truth about God.

I am not a zealously burning Christian; I am an objectively convinced one. Has my distrust of emotions made me less Christian than those who are burning with zeal? Perhaps? Maybe not?

Since I became a Christian I have

weathered storms that would have driven me far from God if I was just a feel-good Christian, because my faith is based on sure knowledge and understanding, not a mere fire in my belly; knowledge and understanding that no matter how far away from God I feel I am, He is there beside me; knowledge and understanding that no matter how thorough a mess I have made of things, God is still there beside me, with His mop and broom.

There have been other people who came into the Church on fire for the Lord, but lost steam and drifted away when the fire in their bellies burned out.

I'm not a generational Adventist, but maybe I am not very different from them. They grew up with the knowledge of God that I obtained in the Carter campaign, never having a conspicuous Emmaus experience, but knowing and living the truth nonetheless. Some of them do fall away. Many of those come back.

You cannot inherit faith, but objective knowledge and understanding can underpin and sustain it when life's vicissitudes threaten to overwhelm you. So maybe being a generational Adventist is not such a bad thing.

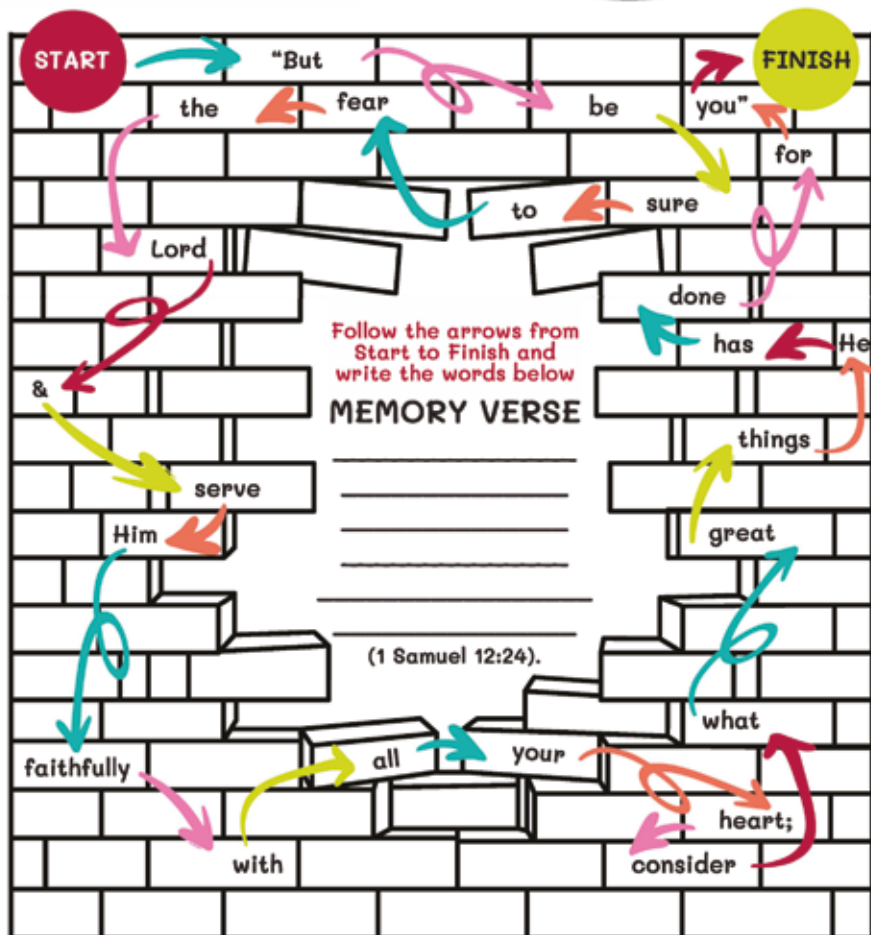
**Peter Schaper**, *Qld*

A cartoon illustration of a young boy with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a red tank top with a pink graphic. A speech bubble from the left contains the text: "We know when we know it."

Nehemiah was a special helper to the great Persian king Artaxerxes and served him faithfully. One day Nehemiah heard sad news about his home city of Jerusalem: the gates and walls were broken, lying in pieces on the ground. The king noticed that Nehemiah looked sad and asked what was wrong. Nehemiah shared his desire to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls. The king encouraged Nehemiah and even helped by providing resources. God blessed Nehemiah's work.



Colour  
Nehemiah as  
he speaks to  
the king.



PLACE THE TOOLS IN EMPTY SPACES SO THAT  
EACH LINE HAS ONE OF A KIND.





## Obituaries

**HARRIS**, Ruth, born 20.2.1937 in Carlton, Vic; died 22.9.22 in Ferntree Gully. She was predeceased by her husband David in 2014 and her son Donald. She is survived by her children, Judith Watson (Newcastle, NSW), Peter (Townsville, Qld), Stephen (WA), Janine Gray (Cooranbong, NSW), Susan Wilson (Boronia, Vic) and Wendy Patterson (Croydon). Ruth worked for a number of years as a literature evangelist. She had a vision to place copies of Arthur Maxwell's *The Bible Story* into every prison in Australia—a dream that was realised. Ruth was recognised for her unique ability as a literature evangelist.

Brian Lawty

**KILLEN**, Joyce (nee Lewis), born 22.1.1933 in Newcastle, NSW; died 12.9.22 in Victoria Point, Qld. On 14.5.1964 she married James (Jim). Joy was predeceased by her siblings, Lionel, Phyl, Joan, Ken, Bob and Lesley Lewis. She is survived by her husband (Victoria Point); son, Andrew and Grace (Camp Hill), daughter, Heather and Vernon Rudwick (Carindale); grandchildren, Thomas, James, Alexander, Ainsley and Megan;

brothers, Dr Alan Lewis (Newcastle, NSW), Dr John Lewis (Sydney) and Dr Terry Lewis (Melbourne, Vic); and numerous nieces and nephews. Joy's early career saw her work in hospitals across Australia and for a short time in Singapore. She loved nothing more than supporting her grandchildren in their academic, creative and other endeavours.

J Neil Tyler

**MIDDLETON**, Jasmine Delphine, born 18.5.1938 in Sydney, NSW; died 31.8.22 in Aegis Aged Care, Shoalwater, WA. She was married to Austin Rhoden. She is survived by her daughter, Tamara Brown; son-in-law, David (Ric); and grandchildren, Eliza, Angus, Sydney and William (Toronto, Canada). Jasmine went to Avondale school in Cooranbong and later moved to WA and was a member of the Rockingham church.

Charles Crock



**PUNA**, Elizabeth Matangaro (nee Thomas), born 19.12.1947 in Aitutaki, Cook Islands; died in Rarotonga. She was married to Pae Iro Puna. She was predeceased by her daughter, Tipoki in 2000. Elizabeth is survived by her husband (Rarotonga); children, Taki

(Melbourne, Vic), Tuakana (Rarotonga, Cook Islands), Iro (Auckland, NZ), Elizabeth (Hobart, Tas), Repeta (Rarotonga, Cook Islands), Russell (Vic, Melbourne), Manuela (Rarotonga, Cook Islands), Eliza Puna (Rarotonga); and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Elizabeth was a caring and humble person, who had a big heart for her God, family and community. Though her life was filled with health challenges, she never complained and lived life to the fullest.

Russell Puna

**STEELE**, Annette Maree (nee Thomas), born 10.3.1942 in Traralgon, Vic; died 13.8.22 in Alstonville Adventist Retirement Hostel, NSW. She was predeceased by her sister, Loretta. She is survived by her husband, Matthew; sister, Joy; children, Louise, Andrew and Luke; grandchildren, Natalie, Samantha, Samuel, Olivia, Thomas, Taylor and Sophie; and great-grandson, Ezra. She loved children and for many years served in the children's Sabbath school. She was a loving and lovable person. She had a great faith in God and now rests in peace awaiting the resurrection.

Keith Jackson



**TONKIN**, Frances Olive (nee Crombie), born 12.3.1922 in Aberdeen, Scotland; died 12.9.22 in

Rossmyrne Waters, WA. In 1945 she married Pastor Merv Tonkin, who predeceased her in 2013. Fran is survived by her sons, Ray, Jim and Robert (all of Perth); daughter, Judy (Melbourne, Vic); eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. A centenarian, Fran was also very proud of her Scottish heritage. She nursed at the Sydney San (now Sydney Adventist Hospital). Together, Merv and Fran pastored churches across rural NSW and then in WA. Fran had a deep faith in God and was loved by all she met. She will be remembered for her warm hospitality, the wonderful stories she told and her practical jokes.

Uili Mauga



**WEEKES**, Jack, born 15.7.1934 in Taree, NSW, died 11.9.22. In 1954, Jack married Jean (Lambert), who predeceased him in 2007. Jack is survived by his second wife, Jan (Murray); daughters, Julene and Ralph Raymond, Ruth Everett, Jenny and Craig Davis, Jacqui and Tony Knight; grandchildren, Elise,



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Simone, Ashley, Amanda, Shane, Jackson, Natasha and Ellesha; and 13 great-grandchildren. Jack actively shared his faith and love for God through the way he lived, putting others first and helping all he met. Resting now until the resurrection.

Graham Stewart, Tony Knight

**WINTER,** Arthur, born 4.9.1928 in Grafton, NSW; died 20.9.22 in Byron Bay Hospital. On 24.3.1953 he married Pearl Beryl Hinge in the Glen Huon church, Tas. Arthur is survived by his wife, Pearl; son, Brian; daughter, Annette; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He served as head elder in the Mullumbimby church, NSW, and held many positions in the church during his active church life. He was highly respected by his fellow church members and in the community. He was a very successful orchid grower and very active in the district Orchid Society. Arthur won many prizes for his blooms in shows and competitions. All who knew him recognised Arthur as a true Christian gentleman.

Errol Wright, Cranville Tooley,  
Tema Fetacai

## Advertising

### MISSIONARY LUNCH. 1PM, DECEMBER 10. KRESSVILLE ACTIVITIES CENTRE (Opposite the Village church)

Current and ex-missionaries, descendants and friends are invited to lunch. Please bring a lunch and your plate. Cutlery and drinks provided. Our theme for short talks this year is "Answers to prayers/ miracles". Queries to Warren Martin. 0428 727 384.

### BIBLE LAND TOURS 2023

Five fantastic programs conducted by experienced tour leaders. Peter Roennfeldt: to Jordan/Israel and Turkey/Greece, including Patmos. Four departure dates. Gary Kent to Israel, Jordan and Egypt—October 2023. Contact Anita at Allround Travel for tour details. Email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au> or mobile 0405260155.

### SINGLE ADVENTIST MINISTRIES NATIONAL CONVENTION

December 30, 2022 to January 3, 2023 at Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne, NSW. For more information visit <events.adventist.org.au/event/info/7208>. Call Wilma Falcke on 0424097484 (AH or text).

### SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON ON AUDIO CD

Christian Services for the Blind produces an audio CD of the Sabbath school lesson quarterly for those with vision impairment. If you or someone you know could benefit from this free service

please contact us. Phone: +61 (0)2 9847 2296. Email <csfbhi@adventistmedia.org.au>. Post to Christian Services for the Blind, Locked Bag 1115, Wahroonga NSW 2076.

### ABSOLUTE CARE FUNERALS

The Adventist family owned and operated business, caring for you from Sydney to Newcastle and Wollongong. Contact Arne Neirinckx, who understands our Adventist philosophy. Contact us on 1300 982 803 or 0408 458 452 or <arne@absolutecarefunerals.com.au>, even if you have already paid for your funeral.

## Positions Vacant

### BUSINESS ANALYST FOR ADVENTIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA (ALSO OPEN TO SENIOR BUSINESS ANALYST APPLICANTS) LOCATION WITHIN AUSTRALIA TO BE NEGOTIATED

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (AUC) Limited has a great opportunity for you to join our collaborative technology services team for Adventist Schools Australia. We are looking to welcome a full-time business analyst to assist in providing technology services for nine school entities across nearly 50 schools. This position will assist in improving business work flows associated with learning management systems, student information systems and accounting and finance systems, with a special focus on gathering, validating and documenting the schools and school entities' business requirements. You will also be working with the broader team to facilitate the introduction of processes to achieve the desired business outcomes, all while identifying issues and any risks involving business impacts along the way. For further details please contact Melissa Hill at <AUCHR@adventist.org.au> and visit the Adventist Employment website. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion and close applications early. Only those who already have the legal right to work in Australia may apply. **Applications close November 9, 2022.**

### PEOPLE AND CULTURE MANAGER—AUC OFFICE RINGWOOD, VIC

Are you a people person with a passion for helping others achieve in the workplace? The Seventh-day Adventist Church (AUC) Limited is seeking an experienced HR professional to join the team as people and culture manager. In this role, you will work closely with the Union secretary to ensure a healthy and positive working environment, enhancing the effectiveness of the Church in its mission across Australia. This broad and varied role requires the individual to possess well-developed organisational and administrative skills, including strong attention to detail and the ability to prioritise as well as maintain a high level of confidentiality. The successful candidate will also boast excellent communication skills and the ability to collaborate and work in a team setting. If you have qualifications and experience in HR (or similar) and are looking for an opportunity to serve the Church, please contact Michael Worker at <michaelworker@adventist.org.au> for a position description and application requirements. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion and to close applications early. Only those who have a legal right to work in Australia may apply. **Applications close November 24, 2022.**



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### PART-TIME 21h/WEEK

We are seeking a qualified Social Worker who has experience in related field work and in facilitating support group sessions. You will be supporting the centre manager and be integral in building teamwork and morale.

Join our team in this exciting, hands-on and rewarding role.

**APPLY TODAY, APPLICATIONS CLOSE 27 NOVEMBER 2022**

## VOLUNTEER DRIVER ADRA Blacktown Community Centre

Do you love to be on the road and have the desire to volunteer a few hours per week? We are looking for someone who loves driving, has a clean driving record, can lift up to 20kgs and is willing to help out in the Food Pantry.

Please contact Grace on  
[gracecopoceanu@adrablacktown.com.au](mailto:gracecopoceanu@adrablacktown.com.au)  
for more information.

Applications to be sent to [HR@adra.org.au](mailto:HR@adra.org.au)  
For more details, please visit [adra.org.au/work-with-us](http://adra.org.au/work-with-us)



# ADRA CHRISTMAS TREE

**Run an ADRA Christmas fundraiser  
virtually or in person at your church.**

*Come together to give life-changing gifts to people in need this Christmas.*



## REGISTER NOW

[adra.org.au/christmastree](https://adra.org.au/christmastree)  
or call 1800 242 372

If you register to receive a physical pack this will be sent to you after 1/11/2022  
Register online at [adra.org.au/christmastree](https://adra.org.au/christmastree) or call 1800 242 372

