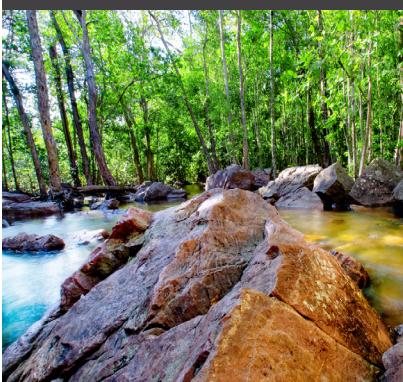
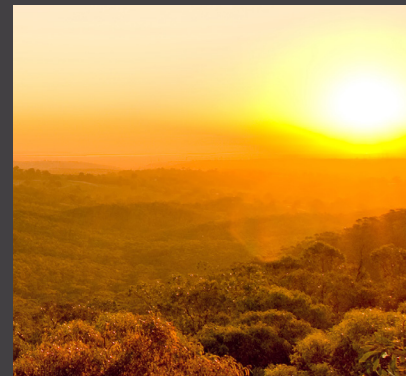


# Top News

NEWS FROM THE TOP END OF  
THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST  
CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

FEB 2019





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## CALENDAR

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 02 MARCH

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

#### 16 MARCH

YOUTH CAMP

#### 17-23 MARCH

YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER

#### 07-14 APRIL

STORM CO

#### 03-06 MAY

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS CAMP

#### 03-05 MAY

TENNANT CREEK REGIONAL

#### 24-26 MAY

NORTHERN YOUTH REGIONAL

### KAYAKING WHITSUNDAYS

22-29 SEPTEMBER 2019

REGO OPENS 08 JULY 2019 COST - \$100

Please email expressions of interest to [elizabethsuavai@adventist.org.au](mailto:elizabethsuavai@adventist.org.au)



# TIME TO BUILD

Over year-end my family and I spent time with our extended families down south, and during these break times I look for activity that is very different to the people oriented work I do all year. So I helped my brother build an extension on his shed, I helped my dad build a roof over his containers, I repaired the washing machine and replaced screens in doors for mum and I did a list of odd jobs for my mother-in-law. I find building work a lot of fun and it is no burden doing these tasks because I love the people I am doing all this for.

Well, it is a new year and as I return to my regular life I have pledged to follow through on some even more important building work. The Bible challenges me to “do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15). I have often been under the impression that I should work to correctly handle Biblical truth for others, but now realise it is first and foremost for my benefit. Let me show you...

“Do you desire to become a follower of Christ, yet know not how to begin? Are you in darkness and know not how to find the light? Follow the light you have. Set your heart to obey what you do know of the word of God. His power, His very life, dwells in His word. As you receive the word in faith, it will give you power to obey. As you give heed to the light you have, greater light will come. You are building on God’s word, and your character will be built after the similitude of the character of Christ.” (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pg 150)

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15)

There is some excellent building work for all of us this year. Only as we are building can we help build others up. Of course, this could easily turn into salvation by works if we lose the balance, so let me remind you what Ellen White said in the previous paragraph to the one above: “Religion consists in doing the words of Christ; not doing to earn God’s favor, but because, all undeserving, we have received the gift of His love.”

So how about we all go on a building journey with God this year, not to earn His favour but because He has already bestowed it so lovingly. This kind of building program will last for eternity!



**Darren Slade**  
President  
Northern Australian Conference

NATALIE SCOTT - CFO/ SECRETARY REPORT

The 2019 year is off and racing and one month has whizzed by already! A question for you. In all the resolutions for 2019 and/or plans you’ve made for the year, did they include any for mission and/or service? How are you going to be “Driven by Mission” this year? There is still time to make an amendment!

We have reduced our contingent of staff in the Office this year, with Gration Perera leaving and Charlene Luzuk’s role reduced to 10%. It has been good to welcome Elizabeth Suavai and Errol Ope who replace staff, and Sarah Tekopua part-time. All up, a reduction of approximately 1.3 FTE in the Office. Some of the team are working on year-end financials, with our first lot of auditors arriving late February, while others are working on the details for upcoming events (Big Camp, Youth programs, Board Meetings etc). We hope that you are making plans to come to Big Camp this year - save the date - 28 June to 6 July 2019.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES - BIG CAMP 2019

Applications are now open:

- Cleaning the Toilet Blocks
- Running the Camp Store

To express interest contact the Conference Office on 07 4779 3988.

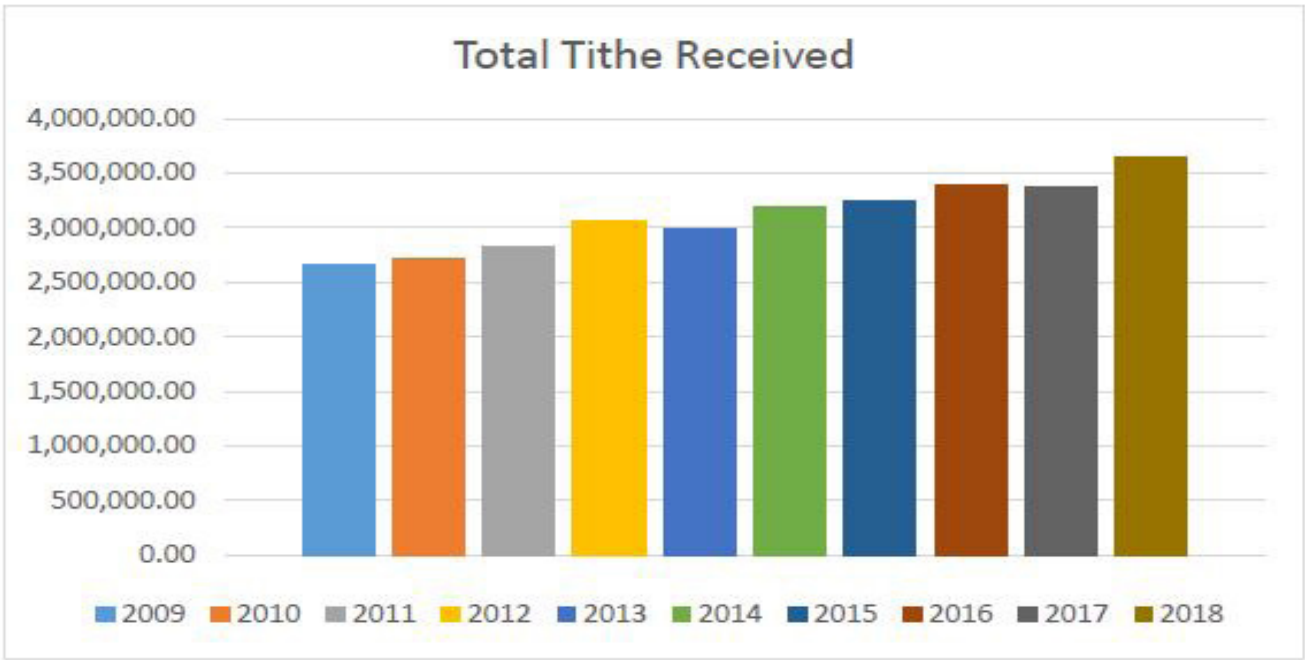
Applications close 15 March 2019.

MEMBERSHIP

Our total membership was 2,742 as at 31 December 2018 (2,699 at 31 December 2017). The 2018 year saw 48 Baptisms (up from the 45 in 2017 and 75 in 2016) and fifteen Professions of Faith across the Conference (up from six in 2017).

TITHE

Tithe is the means by which we employ pastors, plant new churches, and continue sharing the gospel in our communities. Thank you for being faithful in returning your tithes and offerings during 2018, and as you continue in 2019. Total tithe received during 2018 was \$3,644,516.51 (\$273,393.95 higher than 2017). We praise God as this increase has helped us to meet our expenses in 2018 and cover some of the deficits from prior years. The graph below shows the upward trend in tithe received over the last 10 years.





## THE ADRA CORNER



I was recently chatting to a few of our volunteers in an ADRA Op Shop over lunch. One of the volunteers was a lady in her 60's who had shared with me about how she has worked for various Op Shops over the past 20 years, and has now been at the ADRA Op Shop for 7 years. I had one question burning inside of me that I wanted to ask her, and I admit that I was hoping for a specific answer. "Is there something that is unique about your experience and time here at the ADRA Op Shop that sets ADRA apart from the other op shops?"

She stopped for a moment, clearly never having thought about it before, and I watched her brain tick over. Then suddenly her face lit up as she clearly found an answer that resonated deep in her heart; "Yes there is actually!" Even before she started to answer I saw her eyes start to

water and she smiled softly, looking down at her hands. "I belong here. They have become my family. I used to be lonely which is strange because I'm a very social person. I'm happy; we just care about each other."

When I am here with the other volunteers.

Then the three ladies started talking about an older man who recently died and how much they missed him and his quirky ways. They giggled when one of them joked that she thought that he never actually did any work but just walked around talking to people and cheering them up! Before long they were all teary and laughing out loud, just basking in the memories of their friend who had gone too soon.

This is what ADRA Op Shops are about. A place where people connect and belong. A place where the volunteers are driven to serve by their own sense of belonging, who serve customers with their hearts, not only with their hands. Where their care for each other flows over into care for those who enter their store. More than once I have heard volunteers say that their favourite thing about being an ADRA volunteer is seeing someone come into the store looking flat or down, but walk out a few minutes later with a smile across their face!

I want to take this moment to honour our ADRA volunteers, for the impact that they have on the lives of hundreds of people who are often in vulnerable situations. Thankyou.

*If you are interested in getting involved at an ADRA Op Shop or ADRA project, email [charleneluzuk@adventist.org.au](mailto:charleneluzuk@adventist.org.au) or call 07 4779 3988*

## TOWNSVILLE AND NQ FLOODING

In response to the overwhelming flooding in Townsville and surrounding areas in February, ADRA offered churches in affected areas up to \$2,000 each to use for assisting community members. This is a vital opportunity for church members to actively reach out and make a difference at a time where people are most vulnerable. And this is exactly what a large group of church members from Aitkenvale, Townsville City and Ayr churches did - they combined forces to fill, deliver and lay sandbags, to purchase bulk food items and deliver to help feed SES workers and go house to house to check up on people.

Nathan Bourke, the response coordinator shared that it was so great to see the difference that just a few people can make, filling in the gaps and needs to support the flood response. People were asking what ADRA is and it was an opportunity to share that we are volunteers from local churches, and that ADRA is a humanitarian organisation that not only responds to disasters, but



has various community-based projects across the region.

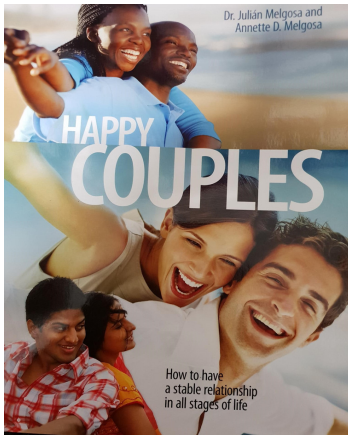
A huge thank you to those who contributed through providing social media support, physical labour, general coordination, moral support, the lend of their vehicle, donations and house to house visitations - it was a joint effort.

If a disaster hits your area, address your family's immediate needs, then those of your neighbours, then get in touch with your local ADRA Representative or pastor to find out how to get involved with an ADRA response.

# Conference News

IT'S THE TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN **LOVE** IS THE FOCUS, ESPECIALLY IN FEBRUARY ON VALENTINE'S DAY. WE ALL KNOW THAT **LOVE** IS IN EVERYDAY LIFE AND NOT AS FLEETING AS A DAY, SO WHY NOT FOCUS ON BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE **CLOSE TO YOUR HEART**.

THE ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRE ARE PROMOTING THREE BOOKS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY WHICH ARE ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS



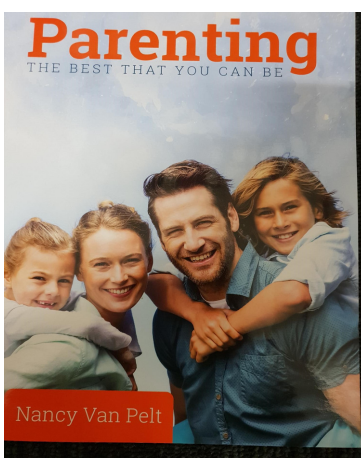
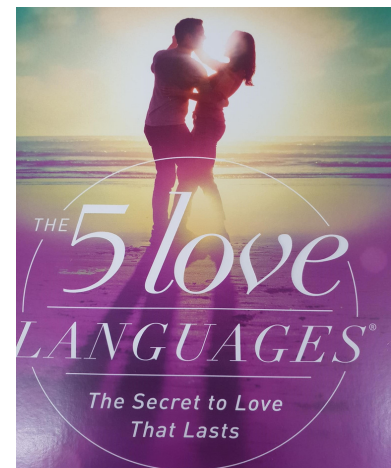
## Happy Couples by Julian & Annette Melgosa \$9.95

How to achieve a happy and stable relationship with one's partner in the different stages of life.

The problems a couple face are not the same when they are going out together, when they have children or when they become elderly. This is a practical book that can accompany us throughout life's journey because it encompasses a couple's entire life together, from courtship to old age.

## Five Love Languages, The Secret to Love That Lasts by Gary Chapman \$20.95

We forget to compliment, to give gifts "just because" to linger in our embrace. The things that say "I love you" seem to either not get said or not get through. This is a book about saying it—and hearing it—clearly. No gimmicks. No psychoanalysing. Just learning to express love in your spouse's language.



## Parenting: The Best That You Can Be by Nancy Van Pelt \$15.95

The Things that say : "I love you" seem to either not get said or not get through. This is a book about saying it and hearing it clearly. No gimmicks. No psychoanalyzing. Just learning to espress love in your spouse's language.

**Visit: [AdventistBooks.com.au](http://AdventistBooks.com.au) or 55 Leopold Street Aitkenvale.  
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Limited stock is available so get in quick.**



# Conference Staffing/ Education



It is with pleasure that we introduce to you Mrs Kim Mostyn as our new Kindergarten Teacher and Service Leader. Kim comes with many years of experience and expertise in working with children in Kindergartens, preschools and long day settings. She has a Bachelor of Early Childhood and a passion for young children and working closely with families. She has a love of music and signing, plays the piano and loves to swim.



The new Riverside Adventist Christian School Principal, Lynne Zappala, and her husband, Sam, have been welcomed to Townsville. Lynne stated, "There are so many familiar faces from when I taught here the first time from 1993-1997. Since we arrived, God has been showering us with His blessings. We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead."



Pat Tuialii and his family have arrived on NAC soil and stopped into the Conference Office in Townsville to meet the team. Pat and his family are excited about this new posting and have already made contacts within the Mount Isa community.



Chris Kirkwood and his wife, Kate, were welcomed at Townsville City Church on 19th January, introduced by Pr Darren Slade. Chris is looking forward to ministering to the church members and also actively working in the Townsville community to spread God's Word.

## CAIRNS ADVENTIST COLLEGE

First week of school and we have hit the ground running with a record breaking 97 students. This year we have gained 26 new students all wanting to be a part of our school community. God has surely blessed us!

We have welcomed a few new faces to our team this year. We have Sophie Standley who is our new secretary and is doing a fantastic job with the crazy but great start to the new year. Jennie Bonetti has joined us as a bus driver doing our Northern Cairns bus run and is doing a great job and always with a smile on her face. Lastly we welcome Pr Sean Tavai (Mr T as the students call him) who has joined our chaplaincy team.

We look forward to what God has in store for us in 2019.





## CARLISLE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



The church community and staff at Carlisle Adventist Christian College have been praying, and God has answered prayers in amazing ways. This is the fourth year that the school has had significant growth in students and staff, and the first time in its 67 year history to include Year 12 students! The school has started 2019 with 250 students, four additional staff and three new classrooms, and still more space is needed. Praise God, for ALL good things are provided by Him.



## RIVERSIDE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Riverside Adventist School got off to a great start with a working bee on Sunday the 20th of January. It was wonderful to see so many parents and church members working side by side all with smiles on their faces! What they achieved was nothing short of outstanding. Leaves were raked, lots of little maintenance jobs completed, kitchens cleaned and 3 big skip bins filled. We were blessed with great weather and pizza was enjoyed by all after a job well done! Within a few days, the rain began and still hasn't stopped and I am so grateful that all the work was done and the water could run away freely after our big clean up. The Ross River came within 3 metres of our school, but God is good and our school was spared!







I was lined up in Officeworks when I heard a lady with a strong accent talking about a missing dog. I turned around and said ‘have you lost your dog?’ The lady had lost her dog so asked if we could pray. I took her hand and we prayed. Her name is Maura from Ireland, she’s a nurse and had just got a job in Ramasinging. I explained to Marua that I wanted to go to Ramasinging for work but it is too expensive. Marua’s response was certainly a divine appointment ‘come and stay with me’ she said.

After a few weeks I called Maura to see if I could still come. ‘Yes of course, I have plenty of room’ she replied. Now I just needed to get a permit. I had difficulties obtaining my permit due to some staff going on holidays but when I thought all was lost, I prayed and my permit was approved just in time.

I met up with the leaders of the church where I would be working, they had previously come to our church in Darwin saying ‘they felt the Holy Spirit as soon as they put their feet in the church’. These leaders have previously been to a mission program and they often call me asking what church programs we have coming up.

On the first day, I was having a great time with about five ladies sharing about the Sabbath. They asked me to take a church meeting. There was about 70 people attending so I shared my personal testimony and how Jesus brought my husband and me together. Everyone laughed, clapped with joy and said Amen all at the right times.

I was able to cook a vegetarian meal for Maura she used to be a vegetarian and is going to change back. She asked me how I met Brent and she just loved our testimony. She wouldn’t take any money for board as she gets free rent and power. Praise God. so blessed!!



Simon Moore, whose baptism story is recorded in the book “Our Stories, God’s Stories,” mentions his younger brother named Daniel. Quoting Simon’s story: “Rosalyn, my wife, has a cousin named Darren. His wife Selina, and my brother Daniel were already having Bible studies with Andrew Johnson in Darwin, and they had all become convinced that the seventh day of the week was God’s Sabbath. Daniel sent Andrew to visit us at Mungkarta.”

IN THE PHOTO you will notice Daniel and his wife Mirelle proudly holding their new baby girl. Another new ‘birth’ happened when they came to pick up their next delivery just before Christmas 2018. While sharing the gospel another time with Daniel, he admitted he had been away from God for the past two years but through the gentle wooing of the Holy Spirit, he decided to respond to His invitation to open the door and let Jesus into heart. The next day they attended the Tennant Creek Church after travelling the 70km from Mungkarta.



## UNSTOPPABLE CAMPOREE, MOLESWORTH VIC

For two years, Northern Australian Pathfinders worked hard to fundraise and organise their way to the AUC Unstoppable Camporee in Molesworth Victoria. Right from the start, Pathfinders were making memories to last a lifetime. The activities were a hit with mud, water, and challenges to complete. The night programs were a favourite for many, with speaker Sam Leonor sharing the powerful story of Jesus.

It was a blessing to see our very own Northern Australian Conference become integral parts of Camporee; Tia Tini, Wes Tagaloo, and Caylem Smith formed part of the Praise and Worship team. The Darwin Pathfinder Club performed an outstanding rendition of “Kumbaya,” Ethan Bidois worked tirelessly on the activities each day, and Di Obst (who joined the drama team on day two of camp) performed in the Drama. NAC Teen Force members kept pathfinders safe during activities, and looked after crowd control each night.

The closing ceremony was a vibrant celebration of Jesus with the crowd singing His praise while fireworks lit up the sky.

I would like to thank everyone who supported Pathfinders with time and finance in order for them to attend camporee. A special shout out to all the leaders and parents who experienced a lot of blood sweat and tears in the lead up to camporee. You can be sure that it was worth it with:

- 709 decisions to serve Jesus
- 577 requests for bible study
- 553 recommitments to Jesus Christ
- 370 requests for baptism.

The majority of NAC Pathfinders are included in the commitments above. Please assist us in supporting them and affirming their commitment to Jesus. Our Pathfinders from the earliest age are more than capable of understanding who Jesus is, and what the Gospel is all about.





## FLY AND BUILD - MYANMAR



“Why Myanmar”, you may ask? It is one of the countries where the need is greatest. With approximately 54 million population, this Buddhist country has an Adventist membership of around 50,000.

All of their fields are organised as missions, including their Union. That means that they are not financially self-sufficient.

Five years ago, while doing a “Fly & Build” project to Mountain View Adventist Academy in Taungngu, Central Myanmar, Pr Marcus visited the team. He spoke with Pr Wolfgang about coming to help him with his church in Theinlar Village near Myaungmya, about a day’s journey by car. The pictures he brought showed a very large hole too close to the church building, which had been washed out over 20 years by the massive monsoon rains with 2500mm rainfall per year.

Brother Tom Gigliotti, (the builder) with 10 other volunteers, almost all of them from the Atherton Tablelands in the NAC, and 2 from Germany, started the Project on Jan 7 and finished Jan 18. In order to fill in this massive hole, they constructed 3 retaining walls with reinforced concrete fenceposts, cyclone wire and shade cloth. After the first wall was erected, dozens of trucks brought dirt, a total of 600 m3 and tipped it close to the hole.

The team were so thankful that 10 - 25 students from Myaungmya college (MUAS) and the Academy (AYAS) were able to assist. Without their help the project could not have been completed.

In the evenings, Pr & Mrs Wolfgang conducted an evangelistic campaign which saw the church packed on an almost nightly basis. Again many students supported it with musical items as well as with their attendance. The meetings culminated with the baptism of 14 precious people on Sabbath, Jan 19.

May all thanks and praise go to God for granting good health and strength to all the team, as well as His enabling Grace.



## ATSIM



The ATSIM Australia wide camp was held at Victor Harbour from 16th January to 21st January and the theme was 40 years of ATSIM God with us. People came from all over Australia to participate in this camp, some staying in tents and others staying in share room accommodation. The guest speaker for the camp was Pastor Jorge Munoz who had the people’s attention as he shared the Word of God and the stories that he told. Also during these meetings many people shared their testimonies of how God changed their life. The closing message was delivered by the South Australian Conference President Pastor David Butcher



## BAPTISM

### TOWNSVILLE CITY



The end of 2018 brought many special blessings to Townsville City Church with three separate days of baptisms. Caitlyn Thwaites gave her heart to Jesus in front of a packed church of family and friends. She had been studying with Pr Tom Osborne and her father, Brad Thwaites, for a number of months and was privileged to be baptized by Brad on 24th November. Caitlyn is a talented singer and is already using her gift for the Lord in church. She regularly attends the Junior Sabbath School and her gracious, loving manner is appreciated by everyone.



Kay Torrisi and Helen Munro were baptized the following day after deciding it was time to follow their hearts and publicly show how much they love Jesus. Helen and Kay have been attending church for a while and both know their Bible well. They invited a number of family and friends who were there to support them on this special day.



Gemma Mayo and Judith Gray were baptised a few weeks later on 15th December. Gemma's dad made the trip from Victoria to witness this important occasion. It was a day of celebration where Gemma and Judith were overflowing with love for their God and supported by a very excited church family. The service was followed by a fellowship lunch where Pr Tom and Va Osborne were farewelled.

### BOWEN



Dawn White had reached a low point in her life. Unable to sleep in the early hours one morning she watched a religious speaker on the television. From then on Dawn sought out opportunities to learn more about Jesus. Dawn was pleased to find a Sabbath keeping church so close to where she lived and was baptized by Pastor Esa-va Koro at Bowen Church on 15 December 2018. It was a wonderful day of rejoicing as Dawn shared her testimony of how Jesus had changed her life.



### NORTHERN BEACHES



Northern Beaches SDA Church (Cairns) congratulates our first baptized member since the church's inception in February 2017. Church members of Northern Beaches, Edmonton and Innisfail, family members and friends gathered together to witness the baptism of Minna Jolie Bělík (17) on the morning of Sunday the 23rd December

at picturesque Babinda Boulders, officiated by Pastor James London. All who were present noted that interested onlookers became silent as they observed the rebirth of a young lady stepping into a new chapter of life having graduated from high school in 2018. Minna is a very active member of the church as a Junior Treasurer, Junior ADRA Representative, and occasional Sabbath School teacher. She also is actively involved as a Master Guide in the FNQ Pathfinder Club, recently attending Camporee in Melbourne as part of Teen Force. Minna was also nominated to attend the Chosen conference held in Sydney in July of 2018 where she was impressed by the Holy Spirit to make the life-changing decision to be baptized into the family of God. We pray that Minna will continue to keep her eyes on Jesus and the testimony of her baptism will plant seeds in all who were witnesses.

### KATHERINE

## CUPCAKE SALE RAISES \$1000 FOR A MATE - IN JUST ONE DAY



Three Katherine boys have raised more than \$1000 in one day in support of a sick mate. The boys have tapped into Katherine's love of cakes to raise a mighty amount for Wayne Stubbs. The idea to raise money for Mr Stubbs, a firefighter of more than 12 years who was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer in November of last year, came to Taitt Green a little while ago. Elliott Green (8), Taitt Green (10), and Lenny Hankinson (11), spent the better part of their day at their makeshift lemonade and cupcake stand, taking large donations from the public. Elliott and Taitt Green, who are part of the St John Ambulance cadets, said they have known Mr Stubbs for the majority of their lives. The boys made almost 100 cupcakes and more than 50 litres of lemonade for the fundraiser, which sold out quickly.

"At first we wanted to make \$50, but then we doubled it, and then doubled that.

"We even had one person pull over and hand us \$200," Taitt Green said.

While school has started up for the boys they plan to continue their fundraising efforts on the weekend.



Dr. Timothy R. Jennings, M.D.

# AUSTRALIA TOUR

February 22 - March 9th 2019

*Come and see how:  
"Changing your view of God  
changes your brain!"*

Dr. Timothy R. Jennings is a Christian psychiatrist,  
author, international speaker, radio & TV personality.



...and so much more!

**Cairns Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
**302 - 308 Gatton Street, Manunda 4870**

**Date: Tuesday 26 February 2019**

**Time: 7pm**

**Topic: 7 Levels of Moral Decision Making**

**A freewill offering will be collected to cover expenses**



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