

Top News

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

SEPTEMBER 2019



EAST COAST ROADSHOW



CONTENTS

- 4 CFO / SECRETARY
- 5 LE CORNER / CHURCH NEWS
- 6 CHURCH NEWS / YOUTH
- 7 YOUTH

SAVE THE DATE

26 JUNE - 4 JULY
BIG CAMP 2020

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

30 SEPTEMBER - 7 OCTOBER

YOUTH 4WD CAMP

25 - 27 OCTOBER

PLA

28 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER

INSTITUTE OF YOUTH MINISTRY

2 NOVEMBER

DARWIN, PALMERSTON INVESTITURE

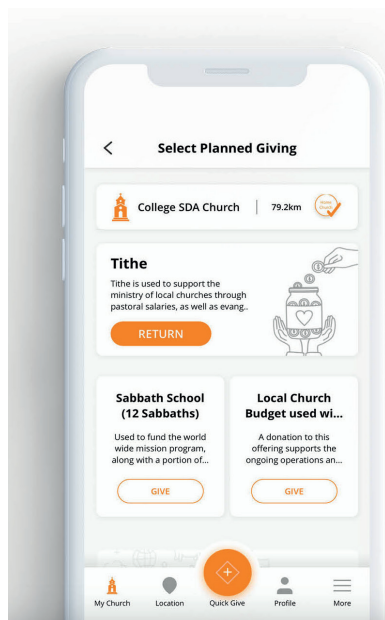
9 NOVEMBER

MACKAY INVESTITURE


16 NOVEMBER

MOUNT ISA INVESTITURE

TOWNSVILLE INVESTITURE




Never used eGiving before?
NEW eGiving app
now more simple to use.



Simple
User
Experience



Quick
Secure
Giving


Set up
Recurring
Gifts


Conference
Calendar
Giving


Tithe/
Offering
Calculator


Geo
Location


View
Giving
History



Editor

Elizabeth Suavai

Design

Alex Green Design

Contact

elizabethsuavai@adventist.org.au

Ph: 07 4779 3988

Fax: 07 4779 8891

Post: PO Box 51,

Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Contributors

If you would like to contribute to Top News, please contact us using any of the methods on the left.

Please include photos with your submissions wherever possible.

Top News is the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northern Australia. All articles express the opinions of their authors and not necessarily those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

OUR VISION
“EXPERIENCING AND
SHARING HOPE IN JESUS
CHRIST”

Find out more about us at na.adventist.org.au

A FRESH LOOK AT CHURCH

In the few decades I have been a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, some things have changed in the way we do church. Women used to all wear hats, a lot more was happening evangelistically and involving everyone, all the men wore suits, the overhead projector was bringing variety you didn't see outside of a mission program, Sabbath was an all day affair with AY's in the afternoon and a social event in the evening, and church camps and outings were a regular occurrence.

If you look at changes in church over a longer period of 150 years, you see some more dramatic variation. There was only Sabbath School and the Social Meeting on Sabbath morning - no church service (unless an evangelist or church leader was travelling through and addressed the saints). There were no pastors caring for churches. The churches cared for themselves using the local leadership structure while the pastors opened up interests in previously unentered territory. The church was a movement, growing at a rapid pace and having to continually adapt its structures to cope with the constantly expanding work. Mission was something members involved themselves with, and gave liberally to, rather than being the work of the pastor or evangelist.

But to see even more dramatic changes, we need to go back many centuries to when the early Christian church was starting. There were no church buildings and no clergy (these didn't appear until the fourth century). All church, ministry and evangelism happened in homes in the community, led by ordinary families. Males and females were equally involved in using the gifts of the Spirit and passing faith on to their children. Massive amounts of personal resources were committed to the work of ministering to needs in the community. Corporate worship and praise was a daily activity. The contrast is quite stark as we see what a difference two thousand years

The contrast is quite stark as we see what a difference two thousand years can make to the way church happens. Perhaps the best way to describe the difference is that the early church was missional (out in the community for the purposes of growing the church with disciple making disciples) versus attractional (all ministry happens in or from a church building, pastor expected to preach and visit members regularly, entertainment rather than service based), which is the church model we operate with today.

“That is why the Roadshow, with guest presenter Pr Peter Roennfeldt, has been so refreshing”

So you might notice that things have changed a bit from where Christianity started to today. We have inherited lots of tradition and culture over the years, and the centuries. That is why the Roadshow, with guest presenter Pr Peter Roennfeldt, has been so refreshing. Through teaching and modelling simple early Christian practices such as Agape meals, Bible reading, conversational prayer, anointing and a reliance on the daily filling of the Holy Spirit, we catch a glimpse into daily Christian life shortly after Jesus returned to heaven. It's exciting and empowering realise that every believer can take up the tools of discipleship and step out into the community with some wonderful ways of blessing people and bringing eternal change to their lives. What if as a Conference we embraced our missional roots and became a movement again? I believe that would put us in the centre of God's will for the NAC, and make an incredible difference for the Kingdom in our communities!



Darren Slade
President
Northern Australian Conference

NATALIE SCOTT - CFO/ SECRETARY REPORT

Hi everyone,

August and September have been shaping up to be very busy months. Our new accountant Keith McDougall commenced on 12 August so we have been getting him set up with access, introductions, handovers and training. Paul White's last day will be Friday 20 September and both he and Jenny will be very missed, not only in the Conference Office, but also within their local church communities where they have held key leadership roles.

We are ramping up towards year end (for those that may not be aware we operate on a calendar, not a financial, year). "Staffing season" is well underway and planning for 2020.

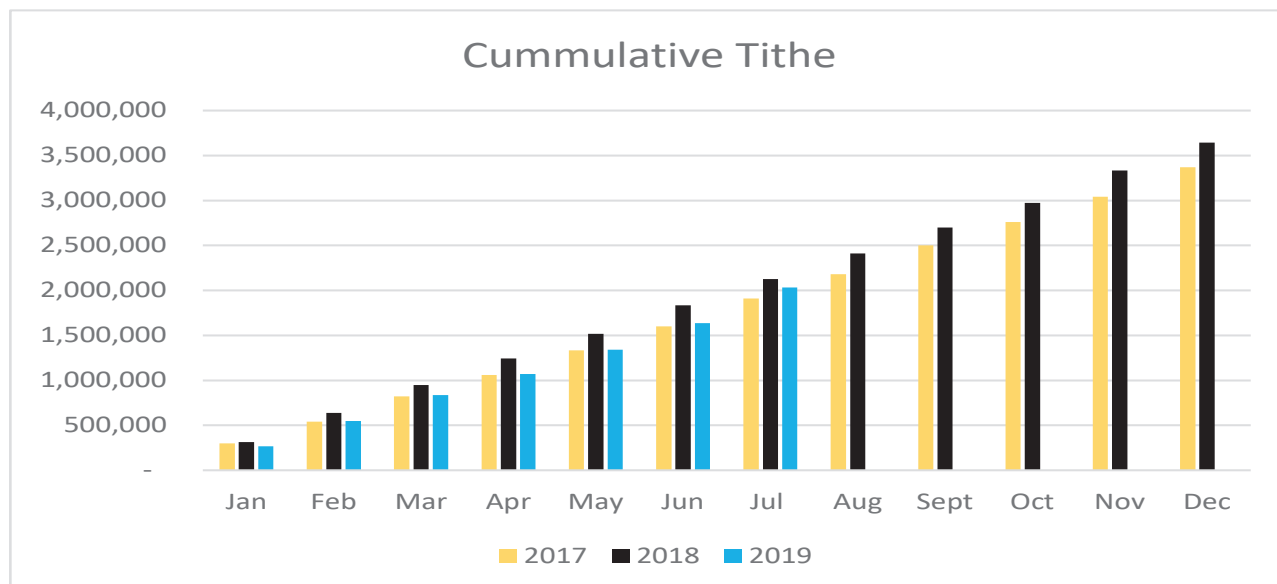
I have had to shift house recently as the place I was renting sold after the Townsville Floods. I was given a few months grace by the new owner and it was quite challenging trying to find a new place as there are still a lot of displaced people in Townsville. Many are still not back into their own homes. The whole shifting experience has shown me that we often don't realise the influence/example that we can be. My old neighbours, that I saw rarely but always exchanged smiles and waves, all invited me into their homes when I popped over to let them know I was leaving and say goodbye - somewhere I'd never been before. My new neighbours embraced me and welcomed me to the street. I have never experienced such a welcome before. I have received an invitation for dinner, an offer of a hand with anything anytime and may have found a car washer. It has made me pause and think - what are we like when new people come into our sphere/world - whether it is new neighbours, or someone that we don't recognise at church. I read a quote recently that said "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in" (Anonymous). I believe my neighbours live this. They make me excited and happy to be part of their community. Can I say the same about other aspects of my life - home, work, church ? Food for thought!

CHURCH STRUCTURE REVIEW

Work continues to progress on the Church Structure Review. If you are keen to keep up to date with the latest news join the Facebook Group "Structure Review - Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia."

STATISTICS

Thank you for your faithful returning of tithe and ongoing giving. Tithe to 31 July 2019 was \$2,032,678. The graph below shows the comparison of tithe from 2017, 2018 & 2019.



Our challenge, as you also experience at home, is to balance our budget in the face of increasing costs - CPI increases, utility charges, insurance premiums, wages. We are continually thankful for faithful giving and give thanks to God. If you haven't tried it as yet, consider eGiving as a way to pay your tithe, stewardship and offerings, either through the eGiving app advertised on Page 2 or the eGiving website.

LITERATURE EVANGELISTS BRAYDEN FROM ALICE SPRINGS

I met Brayden in Alice Springs. He is a crippled man with a sharp mind. I had the opportunity to share the Sabbath with him. We began to discuss the Sabbath and at the end he bowed his head and thanked Jesus for showing him and his dad the truth about the Sabbath. About 8 months later Brayden called me to mention that he had stumbled across 3ABN. He had begun watching Doug Batchelor and proclaimed that he loves Adventists. He then went on to ask 'why everyone hates Adventists?' I explained that it's the same reason why they hated Jesus. I went to Brayden's community for a visit and he sang a 3ABN song to me from Pillars of Our Faith. God is showing Brayden all the truths. He often rings me on Sabbath and we are able to have deep spiritual conversations about Jesus and His wonderful truths. I love how the Holy Spirit brings God's people together.

Literature Evangelist
Marian Jones



CAIRNS BREATHE FREE 2

Cairns church Personal Ministries held it's first evidence based cessation smoking program—BreatheFree2. Currently BreatheFree2 is a joint project between the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Dependency and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, with support from Loma Linda University School of Public Health. It's an update of the 30 year old stop smoking program. Thanks to Dr. Ike, Micheal & Denise Hansell and Robbie Ford for their support. Not forgetting the prayers of our church family. One participant saw the advertisement on the church board and walked in. One stopped smoking from being a 30 per day cigarette smoker, and others cut back drastically. Prayers were offered with and for the participants before and after the program. And prayers are continuing. The participants were provided workbooks and additional information to break the habit completely. Participants are engaged in ongoing bible studies and commitment to attending church on sabbath. We have much to thank the Lord for!



PHILLIPINES BAPTISM



Lyn Joy and Pr Wolfgang are currently in the Philippines, where they are conducting different evangelistic campaigns.

Their latest campaign has just concluded in Valencia on the Island of Bohol. The island itself boasts some of the most beautiful scenery/beaches in the Philippines. Its 1.3 million population enjoys a mostly rural lifestyle.

The religion here is strongly Roman Catholic. When they see that Adventists conduct a campaign, they watch and take note of the homes that show an interest. Before our mass baptism, men on motorbikes visit the same homes and warn the people not to get baptized. They try to intimidate them.

At a recent evangelistic campaign between 20 - 30 people decided to get baptized. But on the Sabbath of the baptism, not one of them turned up.

In the most recent campaign, an 81 year old lady was thrilled at the messages she heard. She confessed she had never heard such things before, about the love of God, about healthy living, about the 3 Angels Messages etc. She decided to get baptized. Consequently she received a visit from a man on a motorbike. He told her not to get baptized, or she will have her name removed from the church role. She told him, "just remove my name, because I have made up my mind."

This lady was one of 24 precious souls who gave their hearts to the Lord and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism.

Praise the Lord that the Lord still has people out there that need to be harvested into His remnant church.



JUNIOR CAMP ROAD TRIP TO SOMERSET DAM

NAYOUTH
Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northern Australia

Road Trip Junior Camp

Where: Somerset Dam
When: 11 - 21 January 2020
Cost: \$360

Junior Camp Road Trip to Somerset Dam is being organised at the moment.

We looking for some staff members between 18 – 30 years old. 2 Female and 2 Male.

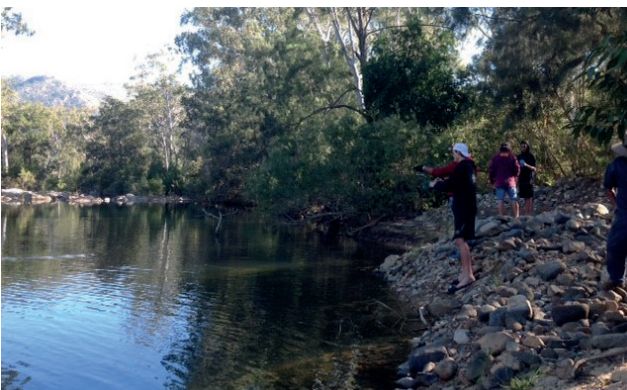
We are taking nominations for names so please contact the youth department to find out how you can help out!

For the Camp itself we are calling all 10-12 year old's! Junior Camp Road Trip is not something you want to miss out on! Catch the Bus down to Somerset Dam for the time of your life at this QLD wide junior camp! You can register online at nayouth.adventist.org.au/events/ The cost is \$360 all inclusive of transport and activities, accommodation and food.

MACKAY BOYS DAY OUT



The Boys Day Out is a mentoring initiative sponsored by the Youth Department. Each Church is given an opportunity to request funds to support an activity that creates a space for men and the male youth, teens and children to spend time together. The bad news is we start to lose the male demographic from 14 years of age. The good news is mentoring can help keep youth connected to Jesus. Mentoring is powerful! Teens are figuring out how to make it into adulthood. By having adults invest their time with the younger generation, we are inspiring them with what healthy adulthood looks like. The good news is you don't need to have anything in common. By doing things together like fishing, servicing a car, going camping, playing basketball or whatever it may be, you create common ground and positive memories. Mackay Central took a group of boys camping at Eungella, Fairleigh organised activities, Edmonton and Cairns teamed up to go camping and fishing on Russell Island and the Great Barrier Reef, Aitkenvale spent the morning fishing (and cooking the fish on the beach for morning tea!). All in all positive memories were established and good times were shared. Mentoring doesn't have to be limited to a program or an event. Anyone can use their vocation/talents to mentor. Are you a tradie? Take a teen on the job for some experience. Are you a musician? Offer lessons to the younger generation. Are you in the army? Teach teens the art of bush survival. Are you a respected sportsman? Love to cook? Know how to sow? Gifted in outdoor recreation? Whatever it is, you can use it to inspire and mentor the next generation.



BOOKS ON PROMOTION

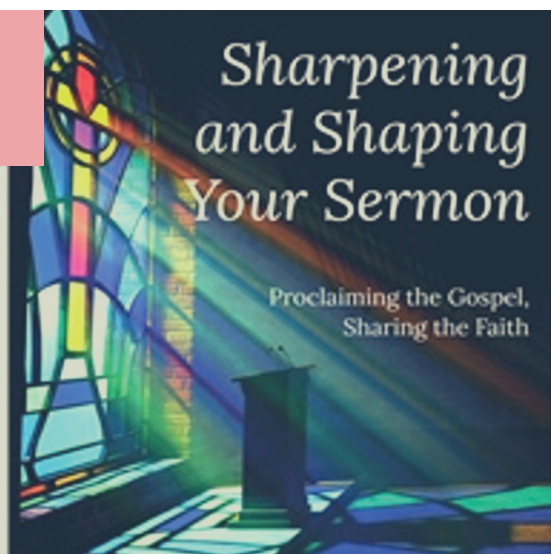


VERY INSPIRING

PRIVATE DOSS VENTURED INTO WAR WITHOUT A SINGLE WEAPON TO DEFEND HIMSELF. HE WAS GIVEN THE MEDAL OF HONOUR. BY BOOTON HERNDON
\$3.95

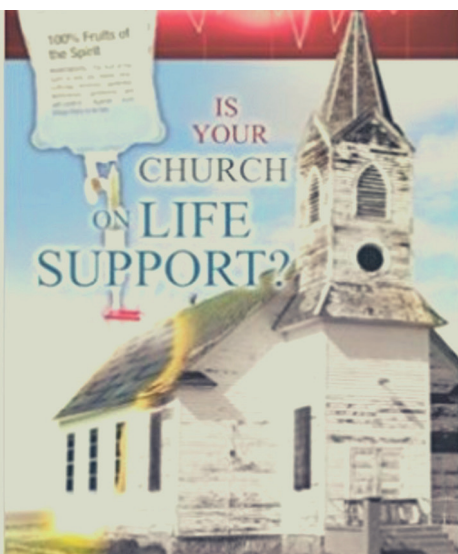
SHARING FAITH

HELPFUL INFORMATION ON HOW TO PREPARE SERMONS. BY MERVYN WARREN & BENJAMIN REAVES
\$12.95



TOO TRENDY!

WHY IS YOUR CHURCH LOSING MEMBERS, WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT? LEARN HOW TO TRANSFORM A DYING CHURCH INTO A THRIVING CHURCH. BY RUDY HALL \$12.95



Visit AdventistBooks.com.au or 55 Leopold Street
Aitkenvale Ph (07) 4728 7097
Limited stock available so get in quick.



ADVENTIST CHURCH
ABC CHRISTIAN BOOKS