

# Top News

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

October / November 2019





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## CALENDAR

### UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

#### 11 - 21 JANUARY

JUNIOR CAMP ROAD TRIP - SOMERSET DAM

#### 1 FEBRUARY

INNISFAIL REGIONAL

#### 7 - 10 FEBRUARY

CONVERGE - STUARTS POINT

#### 22 - 23 FEBRUARY

GROWING TOGETHER

#### 28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH

PLA II

### RIVERSIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

Campground will be closed Friday the 14th December and will reopen on Monday 13th January 2020.

If you require accommodation for medical reasons during this time please contact the Caretaker directly on 0406 871514.

## SAVE THE DATE

26 JUNE - 4 JULY  
BIG CAMP 2020

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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”

# RECORD BOOKS

On Thursday, October 10, I made my way into the Guinness Book of World Records. While that sounds like an impressive feat on my part, it actually took an additional 2,498 people to make the attempt successful. That date was World Mental Health Day, and Townsville decided to spotlight the issue by going for a World Record for the “most people wearing high-visibility vests at a single venue.” So there at Bunnings in Fairfield (which had been flooded out in February along with much of Townsville) we gathered to beat the previous record set in Japan. You can imagine the response when the Guinness Book of Records man in his American accent announced that we had set a new World Record with a total of 2,499 people.



But that’s not the most significant record to be broken around that time. Less than two weeks before, the final meeting of our Personal Ministries Roadshow came to an end in Alice Springs, and when the numbers were tallied up 80% of our attending membership (1,049) had participated around the Conference! I think that is an incredible number, and far more noteworthy than a bunch of people in hi-vis vests. Why? Because the Roadshow meetings were making a difference for the Kingdom and four out of five people in our Conference attended!

There were a number of Kingdom building concepts that Pr Peter Roennfeldt shared in his presentations which will make a huge impact if applied: complete reliance on the Holy Spirit to empower and equip for mission, Agape meals, Ethne (the people around you) mapping, Discovery Bible Reading, conversational prayer, anointing. It should come as no surprise to find that these were key practices of the New Testament church and they experienced incredible vitality and significant growth as a result.

So our challenge now is whether we will move from being hearers of the word to doers (James 1:22) in regards to these practices. It’s more comfortable to continue on as we are, but the reality is that we will continue to experience the same lacklustre results by doing what we have always done. We have the opportunity to embrace the same exciting practices that church members in the first century were using but, above all, we get to partner with the Holy Spirit and watch Him open the way before us, and we get to operate in the centre of God’s will for us (to be a disciple and go and make other disciples).

Creating World Records is fun. Creating Conference Records is even better. But my aim is to create an Eternal Record by getting my name and many others in the Record Book in Heaven. That’s where it really counts. How about you?



**Darren Slade**  
President  
Northern Australian Conference

## NATALIE SCOTT - CFO/ SECRETARY REPORT

Hi everyone,

It has been a real privilege to join the Personal Ministry Roadshow this year, joining the folk at Cairns, Darwin and Alice Springs worshipping together and sharing some news from around our Conference.

You will see some changes next time you visit the **Adventist Book Centre** in Townsville, with Tracy Peterson now based inside the store. You will also find a couple of chairs so pop in and pay a visit when you are in town and enjoy some air-conditioning.

I've just returned from visiting **all of our Schools**, where work is continuing on strategic site development master plans to plan for not only future buildings, but also green space and play space. Our schools are developing rolling school improvement plans, introduced by our Education Director, Jack Ryan, to focus on all aspects of school operations. We serve a God of excellence and order and want to plan for sustainable growth across our Education system. It has been exciting hearing from the communities and now as the plans are being refined to hear clarity being sought about what our points of difference from other schools are.

With renovations required by the regulator completed, **Carlisle Adventist Early Learning Centre** has received approval to accept children as young as 24 months in the Centre.

**Carlisle Adventist Christian College** Outside School Hours Care also was granted service approval and has begun operations with a soft open in the final weeks of this term.

**Carlisle Adventist Christian College** is about to have its first Year 12 class graduate! Well done to the graduating students of 2019.

**Carlisle Adventist Christian College** and **Cairns Adventist College** have had accreditation reviews as well this year, and we are waiting on the results.

Many hours have been put in behind the scenes - not just from the staff on the ground at each school/ELC, but also our Education Director team through our service agreement with South Queensland, and our office in Townsville. Please continue to pray for our Education team and their leadership.

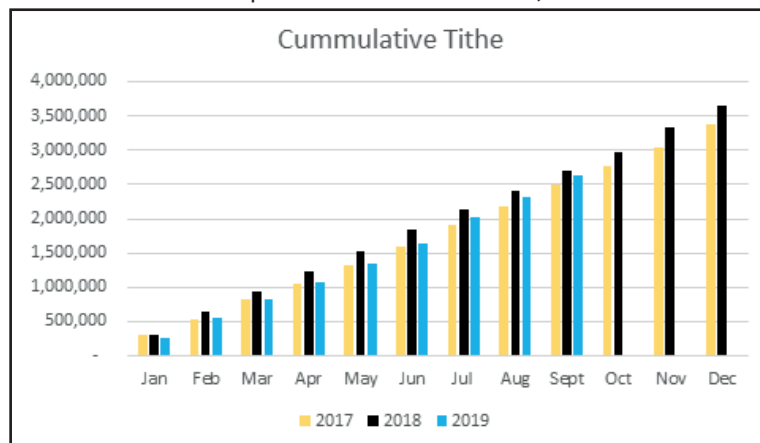
Our **Executive Committee** has been continuing to work on a strategic plan for the Conference, which will be presented at the Constituency Meeting next year. Those dates are 15-16 August 2020 and communication seeking delegates will be coming out through your local church pastor shortly.

The **Church Structure Review** work continues. As advised in the last Top News 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".

The Greater Sydney Conference finance team hosted our **new Accountant**, Keith McDougall, for a week to assist with his training and induction to working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are very appreciative of the offer from CFO Eva Ing and her team.

## STATISTICS

Our Conference **Membership** was 2,735 as at 30 September 2019. **Tithe** to 30 September 2019 was \$2,641,002. The graph below shows the comparison of tithe from 2017, 2018 & 2019.



We are thankful for faithful giving and give thanks to God. You will find some advertising in this issue for the updated eGiving app, as another way to return your tithe and/or offerings.

## STAFFING

New Principal for Riverside Adventist Christian School. Mrs Goodwin has been a teacher for over 30 years with experience in both Primary and High School. Most recently she has been the Head of Middle School in an Adventist school in Sydney and an Acting Principal in an Aboriginal Education Centre in Outback NSW. After visiting our school, she and her husband Ralph are excited about the move to North Queensland and becoming a part of the Riverside community. She is passionate about supporting children to thrive and develop a love for learning and believes that God has special plans for our school in the years ahead. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Goodwin as she leads this school into 2020 and beyond.

Thank you to our outgoing principal, Mrs Lynne Zappala. She has done an incredible job in stepping in to lead the school for twelve months while a suitable replacement could be found. Her passion and Godly care has endeared her to students and parents and she will be missed, along with her husband Sam who has contributed so much to the smooth running of the school. We wish them both God's richest blessings as they head into a new season of retirement.



## BIG CAMP 2020 REGISTRATION

*Have yourself a merry little Christmas,  
Let your wallets be light,  
From now on, book your van or tent online...*

As of 1 December 2019 you are able to register for Big Camp next year. We now have the ability to set up an automatic payment plan so you can either pay in full or start your instalments. We understand that Big Camp is a big financial commitment, especially to those who travel long distances. So if Big Camp 2020 is your Christmas wish, bookings are now open.

We hope to see you again in 2020.

To register or book accommodation visit:

[na.adventist.org.au](http://na.adventist.org.au)

...Faithful friends who are dear to us,  
Gather near to us once more.

## FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

We are seeking expressions of interest for two key services during Big Camp 2020:

- Cleaning the toilet blocks
- Running the Camp store

If you are interested, please contact Sarah Tekopua on 4779 3988 or [sarahtekopua@adventist.org.au](mailto:sarahtekopua@adventist.org.au)

## LE CORNER

### BOWEN OUTREACH

Bowen is a small, coastal town approximately 200 kilometres south of Townsville. Two women from the local SDA church were available to accompany Willa, at separate times, during the first two days. It was during these days of door knocking that Willa had the privilege of talking with and then leading a lady to the Lord. She also made contact with a retired couple who were very interested in her canvass and bought quite a few books. The man had been learning the guitar and was keen to receive a few lessons from Willa who then used the next three afternoons to return to their home for an hour to teach him both the ukulele and the guitar. I accompanied Willa on one of those teaching occasions and chatted to his wife. It was such a blessing to have them come and worship with us on the following Sabbath and to thoroughly enjoy the fellowship lunch.

After prayer, we decided that Thursday and Friday would be spent in an area near where we were staying. This was definitely the Lord's direction because the people we made contact with were so open to hearing our message. There was a young man who Willa spoke to who was amazed to learn about the Sabbath and also that Revelation was a book which could be understood. He said he was thinking of changing from the Baptist church and although he wouldn't take any Adventist material, he said he would definitely start studying his Bible carefully for the truth in it. While this conversation was in progress, Gillian 'happened' to be talking to his friend in another house around the corner who took a booklet on the state of the dead! During the last couple of hours of Thursday afternoon, Willa and Gillian worked together and spoke to two ladies who were Baptist church members. They were enthralled with the health message, and the Sabbath truth, and were excited that the pastor would visit them to begin Bible studies. Throughout this conversation, one of the ladies jumped up excitedly, ran inside, and began bringing out unopened piles of dusty books. They were the Encyclopaedia of Foods, the large format Spirit of Prophecy books and two bundles of Bible Stories for Children. She said she'd paid them off gradually a long time ago and had totally forgotten about them!

To sum up the week, the Lord's Holy Spirit was definitely working on the hearts of many people in Bowen as He led us to those who needed prayer, encouragement and Truth. We sold books, gave out books and made contact with about half a dozen non attending Adventists. Thanks to Bowen church for inviting us, to Naomi for opening her home to us and welcoming us as her guests and to the church members who came on doors with us and who prayed for the outreach.

Written By: Gillian Taylor  
NAC Jump Start LE

## CAIRNS CHURCH MENS MINISTRY

After two failed attempts due to bad weather—finally with much anticipation from the Cairns Church Men's Ministry, the weekend finally paid off. The weather was perfect for about 20 persons on board the "Kalise." Bill as skipper and Robbie co-ordinator of men's ministry made sure the fathers and their sons had a wonderful time of fellowship and fun! Little Zanda, two years old, joined his father on the trip and what an experience for both. Fishing, diving, snorkelling and spiritual bonding combined made the trip a real success.



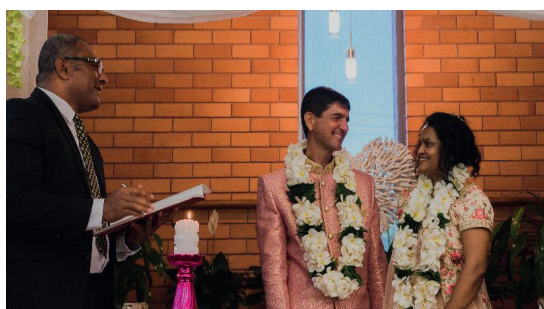
## BOWEN CHURCH STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

On the 28th of September, the Ayr, Home Hill and the Bowen churches met in Bowen for a combined communion. Some of the Ayr church realised that one of their members was sick and would not be able to go down to Bowen for that combined communion. So Dulcie Todd with the help of other members facilitated the Agape feast as taught by Pr Peter on the Road Show in a member's house. Those who attended are in the picture.



## TOWNSVILLE CITY WEDDING

There are many moments in life where memories are etched on our minds and hearts; baptisms, births, marriages and holidays, to mention a few. For Paul Seric and his wife Shareta, their excitement started the first day they spoke and over one year their worlds became one in their love for the Lord, family, friends and each other. On Sunday the 29th of September, Paul and Shareta were joined together in marriage by Pr. Narayan Gounder, Shareta's uncle, before family and friends. Paul and Shareta would like to thank the following people who travelled to share in this special day; daughter Tina, and son-in-law Eddie, granddaughter Brianna, grandson Dylan, Eddies parents from NZ, relatives from Germany, Brigitte and Peter Werner and Timmy, along with the church family. Everyone at Townsville City Church congratulate Paul and Shareta and wish them all of God's blessings.





## CAIRNS CHURCH

### SABBATH SCHOOL AND STEWARDSHIP REVIVED

The Cairns region were extremely blessed over four consecutive nights, with powerful and inspiring presentations by Dr Erika Puni who spoke about how to revive our Sabbath School time stressing the importance of personal Bible study and how to be faithful in Stewardship. Dr Puni outlined four Bible study principles for lesson preparation:

1. Observation: identify key words, concepts/themes, repetitions
2. Exposition: looking for “meaning”
3. Application: applying the message to self, first, and in these times
4. Presentation: sharing and delivering for benefit of others

Dr Puni also outlined seven habits of a highly effective Bible student:

1. Think for ones-self (not just a reflector of another man’s thoughts)
2. Make time for in-depth Bible study (be intentional to make time)
3. Allow the biblical context to rule (Exegesis)
4. Seek to understand the big picture (Meta Narrative or Major Themes)
5. Listen to God’s voice in the text
6. Keep pace with Gods present truth (truth is dynamic)
7. Make personal application

With Stewardship Dr Puni outlined four main passages concerning Tithe and Offering that all Adventist should know:

1. Leviticus 22 offering
2. Leviticus 27:30-33 tithe: a specific quantity of the whole
3. 2 Corinthians 8
4. 2 Corinthians 9

“Stewardship is the response of our salvation” therefore “Stewardship is a privilege not a burden” was what Dr Puni shared.



## CAIRNS CHURCH

### BAPTISM

The Cairns Church Family have so much to thank the Lord for! Nine beautiful people committed their lives to Jesus on the 23rd of November 2019. What is so exciting is that everyone committed faithfully to Bible study each week and were enthusiastic about learning. When the six young people were told about their baptism date, they were so thrilled and couldn’t wait for the day—and that went for the three adults as well! The parents of the young people were overjoyed to see their children commit their lives to Jesus. Family, Friends and Elders joined in to embrace these special people with gifts, flowers and warm hugs. You can see both our pastors, Levi and James, beaming with joy, because of the wonderful blessings the Lord has bestowed upon the Cairns Church Family. Our hospitality team along with many others, hosted a delicious fellowship lunch prior to the baptism. Much gratitude to our Deaconesses and Deacons who made sure the baptismal font was looking so special. Actually, everyone present made the day special by contributing in one way or another. Pr. Levi made an appeal and two people stepped forward for baptism. It was a beautiful day! **Back Row:** L-R: Samantha Smith; Pr. James; Pr Levi; Witold Kurowski; **Front Row:** L-R: Uzia Ngarupe; Claudia Kurowski; Lily Ngarupe; Mateaki Lomu; Binda; Akamoe Paulo; Julie.





## PERSONAL MINISTRIES

### I THINK CHURCH SHOULD BE....

What do you expect from church? Should it be welcoming and friendly? Does the preaching need to be good? What about the praise and worship? How do you feel about programs that drag on too long?

So let me ask you again what do you expect from church? Don't skip over, right now think/write/discuss what you expect from your church?

Now that you have done that, find in scripture what God expects from your church? Here are just a few to get the ball rolling:

- Visit orphans, widows and the afflicted (James 1:27)
- Giving all you have to mission (Acts 4:32)
- Bearing one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Anointing (James 5:14)
- All believers are priests (1 Peter 2:5)
- Believers baptising other believers (Matthew 28:19)

Now let me ask you one more question. What would upset you more? If your church didn't meet your expectations, or God's expectations?

While there is nothing wrong with having a good program, friendly and warm atmosphere, good preaching and great worship music – these are not what scripture expects of the church. How can the Holy Spirit use you to obey scripture and what the Bible commands and expects of the church? Are you willing to submit what our culture has caught and make way for what scripture has taught?

What do you expect from your church?

Christos Spero  
NAC Personal Ministries Director

## TEEN EX 2019 - KAYAKING THE WHITSUNDAYS



Sea Kayaking teaches teens that God's love is deeper than the sea!

Our teens had an eight day expedition kayaking and exploring the Whitsunday Islands. We all experienced personal achievement, hiking, paddling, fishing, snorkelling. All up we kayaked a total of 32Kms, were towed by the boats (due to bad weather) a total of 23 Kms. This is not including the hiking and exploring we did on land.

We all experienced different challenges, but together with God we overcame and had an absolute ball! What a joy it was to witness the teens make lifelong friendships, being teens together exploring, fishing, laughing and having positive memories for life. My favourite memory was our "No Talent Time Talent Show." It was more entertaining than a comedy festival. Thanks to all the Teens and Staff! We are looking forward to Teen Expedition 2020 caving at Chillagoe!







# ADVENTIST CHURCH ABC CHRISTIAN BOOKS

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- | Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary)
- | Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Teaching

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- | Master of Philosophy
- | Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

\*Based on the 2017-2018 Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) \*

# Called to be... **AT AVONDALE**



# #TOGETHER 2020

## JANUARY

11 - 21 Jr Camp Road Trip

## FEBRUARY

7 - 10 Converge

22 - 23 Growing Together

28 - 1 March PLA II

## MARCH

6 - 8 Darwin Youth Camp

21 Global Youth day

22 - 28 Youth Revival (YWOP)

27 - 29 Townsville Youth Rally

## APRIL

14-19 STORM Co\*

## MAY

1 - 4 ATSIM Youth Camp

8 - 10 Southern Region Youth Camp

22 - 24 Northern Youth Regional

29 - 31 Mount Isa Youth Camp

## JUNE

1 - 10 Tour de Finke

26 - 4 July Big Camp

## JULY

9 - 27 PNG Mission Trip

## AUGUST

7 - 9 ἐκκλησία (ekklesia)

7 - 9 Divinely Made

15 - 16 NAC Constituency Meeting

21 - 23 Southern Youth Rally

28 - 30 Boys Day out\*

## SEPTEMBER

21 - 27 Teen Expedition Caving Chillagoe

## OCTOBER

23 - 25 Youth & Young Adults Camp

30 - 1 Nov Growing Together II

## NOVEMBER

7 Alice Springs, FNQ Investiture

14 Mackay, Ayr Investiture

21 Darwin, Edmonton. Townsville  
Investiture

28 Mount Isa, Cairns Investiture

## DECEMBER

4 - 6 Summit Leadership Conference

## 2021

5 - 9 Youth Congress(Rotorua, NZ)

Junior Camp

2 - 4 April NAC Pathfinder Camporee

### Notes:

\*Local Church Initiative



# YOUTH

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northern Australia



# Northern Australian Conference - 2020 Calendar -



## JANUARY

11 - 21 Junior Camp Road Trip

## FEBRUARY

1 Innisfail Regional  
7-10 Converge  
22-23 Growing Together  
28 - 1 PLA II

## MARCH

6-8 Darwin Youth Camp  
21 Global Youth Day  
22-28 Youth Week of Prayer  
27-29 Townsville Youth Rally

## APRIL

14-19 STORM Co\*

## MAY

1-4 ATSIM Youth Camp  
8-10 Southern Regional Youth Camp  
22-24 Northern Youth Regional  
29-31 Mount Isa Youth Camp

## JUNE

1-10 Tour de Finke  
16-18 Minister's Meetings  
25 Teachers Connect Meeting  
26-4 Big Camp

## JULY

9-27 PNG Mission Trip

## AUGUST

7-9 ἐκκλησία (ekklesia)  
7-9 Divinely Made  
15-16 NAC Constituency Meeting  
21-23 Southern Youth Rally  
22 Cairns Regional  
22-29 East Coast Roadshow  
28-30 Boys Day out\*  
29 Mackay Regional

## SEPTEMBER

21-27 Teen Expedition - Caving Chillagoe

## OCTOBER

17 Darwin Regional  
17-20 NT Roadshow  
23-25 Youth and Young Adults Camp  
30-1 Growing Together II

## NOVEMBER

7 Alice Springs, FNQ Investiture  
14 Mackay, Ayr Investiture  
21 Darwin, Edmonton, Townsville  
Investiture  
28 Mount Isa, Cairns Investiture

## DECEMBER

4-6 Summit Leadership Conference

## 2021

January - Youth Congress (Rotorua, NZ)  
January - Junior Camp  
April - NAC Pathfinder Camporee

\* Local Church Initiative



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™

*Northern Australia*