

Top News Lite

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

ISSUE 1: 03/04/2020



MINITORIAL

Some time ago I was on the breakwater in Townsville and noticed a small yacht had broken from its moorings and washed up against the rocks where I was walking. It was damaged, on its side and full of water, completely at the mercy of the tides. For many people that little sunken vessel accurately pictures the anxieties, stresses and pressures that have driven them from a place of safety and wrecked their lives, thanks to the Coronavirus pandemic. Perhaps that is you, or maybe you fear it may soon be. We all need a good anchor, a solid mooring in this uncertain ocean of travel bans, home isolation, grocery limits, job losses, sickness and the risk of death. I know of such a Person. Perhaps we could exercise our faith rather than our fears and sing the truth of this comforting hymn (593):

In times like these you need a Saviour,

In times like these you need an anchor;

Be very sure, be very sure

Your anchor holds and grips the solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One,

This Rock is Jesus, The only One!

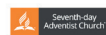
Be very sure, be very sure

Your anchor holds and grips the solid Rock!

Darren Slade

President

Northern Australian Conference



South Pacific

Australia: www.egiving.org.au
New Zealand: www.egiving.org.nz



HOW TO STAY MENTALLY WELL DURING ISOLATION AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

Here are seven things I recommend that you can focus on as you practice healthy social distancing and follow protective shelter in place directions:

1. QUIT KEEPING UP WITH THE LATEST COVID-19 NEWS.
2. INCREASE YOUR DAILY PHYSICAL EXERCISE TO AT LEAST ONE HOUR.
3. RE-ORGANIZE YOUR HOUSE.
4. PLANT A GARDEN.
5. GET CLOSER TO THE MEMBERS IN YOUR HOME.
6. EXPAND YOUR SKILLS.
7. PRIORITISE SPIRITUALITY.

NAC BIG CAMP 2020

Unfortunately due to the current restrictions around coronavirus (COVID-19), the Northern Australian Conference Big Camp (26 June – 4 July 2020) has been cancelled. We encourage you and your church families to stay connected whilst in your homes using technology, phone or mail. We hope to see you all next year at our annual event. In the meantime, stay healthy and in prayer as we go through this difficult time.

HELLO!

I'm here to help if you need!

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you need assistance due to COVID-19 I can help with:

☐ Picking up shopping

☐ Running errands

☐ A friendly phone call

☐ Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

I'm part of the

Church community

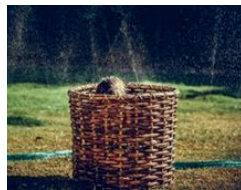


ADVENTIST CHURCH in Northern Australia

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNER

A big happy hello to all the children and families in our Conference. This website is amazing - disciple.org.au - and has some fantastic resources for the school holidays. One of the most exciting sections is BIG CAMP at Home in the Children and Family section. Big Camp starts on Friday night the 10th April and will have fantastic speakers and craft activities. A lot of children have been worried and anxious as have our families, so check out the Children's Ministry Resources for ideas. There are some short clips from Dr Andrew Pennington on Covid-19 in the Health section as well. Another idea is to take a hike in your own backyard and tell us what you can see. What's the view like? What treasures did you find? What can you do? Ask Mum or Dad to take your picture (no faces please) and post them on the NAC Children's Ministry WhatsApp (0428462033) or email them to KylieDavis@adventist.org.au.

Be creative and have fun!



CAIRNS ADVENTIST COLLEGE CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

On Friday the 28th February, Cairns Adventist College participated in Clean up Australia day. Years 5-6 helped by cleaning up Norman Park in Gordonvale, and the IGA supermarket surrounds, whilst Years P-4 cleaned around our school. It's great to do our part to help keep our community clean! Thanks Mrs Fulwood for coordinating this event.



CARLISLE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE WEEK OF WORSHIP

We had our Week of Worship on the 16 - 20 March. During this week we had a chapel service everyday with Caleb Kingston, a ministry and theology student from Avondale College, speaking to us about how God can do new things in our lives no matter what we've been through. We had both a primary and secondary program. Our theme verse was Isaiah 43:19 - "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." As well as some good chats with Caleb we enjoyed lots of worship, led out



by our primary and secondary chapel bands, icebreakers by our hosts and an awesome puppet show led by our primary student chaplains. Throughout the week we saw God move, with a Friday count of 18 decisions for baptism and multiple decisions to get more involved in our community, follow Jesus or join a bible study group. No matter the numbers or outcomes - we are so happy that we were able to see our students be passionate and excited to serve!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDIES

Cairns church members found a way around "social distancing." Church members from the Torres Strait and New Caledonia joined our sabbath 4pm bible study group. Everyone (13) shared their favourite bible texts and their daily walk with Jesus. We were all uplifted and encouraged. It's an enthusiastic group, bible studies happening more often than not, and the duration—2 hours.

This group is so energised about bible studies. Feeling blessed!



We welcome anyone to join! Just contact Eunice on 0408158011 or eunicewinship@bigpond.com

BAPTISM IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

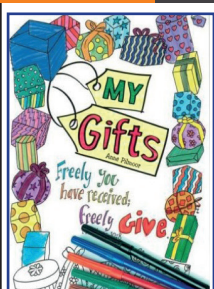
In amongst all the craziness we rejoice that youngsters are still raising their hands to connect and commit to Jesus Christ through the waters of baptism. On the Sabbath of the 8th February four of the Darwin youth made that commitment. All of heaven and the Darwin folk celebrated as a family. The Darwin folk were challenged by Pr Sigi "Church Members vs Disciples" and many renewing their view of Discipleship. Zaq [21yo] is the first in his family to be part of the Adventist family. Sizol [20yo] studies Psychology, Geraldine [18] studying nursing and Lena [14yo] attending Rosebery Middleschool. Zaq Butler, Lena Cokanasiga, Geraldine Francis, Sizol Fuyana.



On March 7, approximately 1,050km east of Darwin in the township of Nhulunbuy [pop. 2,500] a small home group meet each Sabbath. Three young sisters, Katelyn [18yo], Naomi [16yo] and Hannah [14yo] expressed their commitment to Jesus through baptism. "They've been wanting to do this together before Katelyn heads off to University in Texas, USA, [June] on a full scholarship" says the mother Esther Rika. The special day took place at Shady Beach and was shared by the church family, friends and their grandparents. The celebrations continued with Jonnie Rika [father] & Sunny Chakkupurakkal's famous naan bread & currys for lunch. Blessings to all our church family over there in Nhulunbuy.



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