

# Top News Lite

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

ISSUE 16: 11/09/2020



## MINITORIAL

A couple of months ago at a checkup with my doctor we got talking about Covid-19. He explained his philosophy of living in the moment to help cope with the uncertainty of the future. At the time I thought it sounded rather hedonistic, along the lines of ‘eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we may die.’ But I noted that many Adventists I know also choose to live in the moment due to their uncertainty and fear of the future end time events. Somewhere along the line they have been made to feel scared about what’s coming and have no assurance of getting through those difficult times.

But the more I contemplate the ‘live for now’ mantra the more I see it isn’t actually out of step with Christian belief. Jesus Himself said, “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today” (Matthew 6:34). And that was after assuring us that He would provide our necessities. Regarding what the Bible tells us about the future it assures us we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37), to face trials with joy (James 1:2) and to patiently endure (Revelation 13:10; 14:12). It tells us not to worry or be anxious about anything (Philippians 4:6).

I think Mrs White put it all in perspective in an article she wrote in Signs of the Times on Oct 20, 1887:

“Live the life of faith day by day. Do not become anxious and distressed about the time of trouble, and thus have a time of trouble beforehand. Do not keep thinking, ‘I am afraid I shall not stand in the great testing day.’ You are to live for the present, for this day only. Tomorrow is not yours.  
Today you are to maintain the victory over self.  
Today you are to live a life of prayer.  
Today you are to fight the good fight of faith.  
Today you are to believe that God blesses you.

And as you gain the victory over darkness and unbelief, you will meet the requirements of the Master, and will become a blessing to those around you.”

Let’s live more in the moment doing the things on the today list above!



Darren Slade

President  
Northern Australian Conference

## CAIRNS CHURCH

The Cairns church have recently begun replacing it's boundary fence, so that there is better security for their Op Shop and volunteer staff as a number of times both the Church and Op Shop premises have been broken into. The fence will also provide security for when the church starts renovations on their Op Shop, kitchen and toilet block, which are still the original school amenities.



# CFO/SECRETARY MINI REPORT

## Coronavirus COVID-19:

- Continue to be vigilant with the health and hygiene principles (staying home if unwell, physical distancing, cough/sneeze etiquette, handwashing/sanitising, cleaning and disinfecting etc.).
- Ensure following State/Territory Government directives.

## Tithe and Offerings:

- \$348,970.47 was received in tithe in the month of July. As you can see in the table below, tithe year to date to the end of July is 4.86% higher than the same time last year, with \$2,131,562.98 received.
- We continue to praise God and say thank you that tithe received is overall trending upward from 2019, in what we know has been a very trying year in 2020.

	Same Period Last Year (2019)	Tithe Remitted (2020)	Variance \$	Variance %
January	267,362.38	294,489.28	27,126.90	10.15%
February	281,428.14	313,768.73	32,340.59	11.49%
March	286,209.86	242,802.71	(43,407.15)	(15.17%)
April	236,650.53	321,343.84	84,693.31	35.79%
May	267,407.74	296,656.98	29,249.24	10.94%
June	298,999.03	313,530.97	14,531.94	4.86%
July	394,619.85	348,970.47	(45,649.38)	(11.57%)
	2,032,677.53	2,131,562.98	98,885.45	4.86%

## Constituency Meeting

- Constituency Meeting Books are on their way to delegates. The meeting date will be shifting due to COVID restrictions and delegates will be advised when confirmed with the AUC and NAC Executive Committee.

## Projects:

- ADRA Shed – Construction is 100% complete, with some great advertising for ADRA on the Leopold Street side of the shed.
- Campground Fence – The Leopold Street frontage almost complete, with the gates currently being manufactured. Work continues on the rest of the perimeter.
- Schools – please join us in praying for the recruitment processes for staff for 2021; for both applicants and our leaders as they interview, that God will give wisdom and guidance.

God Bless,  
Natalie Scott



## LE'S REPORT

### WORKING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

We met Paul whilst canvassing on a recent outreach in Ayr. He was interested in health and in continuing to improve on his already healthy lifestyle. Paul was very interested in "Today, Tomorrow and You" and especially in the picture of the statue as outlined in the second chapter of Daniel. He purchased the book and expressed an interest in reading Daniel chapter two that very night!

Paul attended the local church's Friday night prayer and Bible study meeting which he enjoyed greatly. He also attended church the next Sabbath and also the Sabbath after! Paul enjoyed the fellowship lunches after the services and together with his partner he also enjoyed an evening of fellowship with the local pastor and his family.

Paul has expressed a desire to continue attending prayer meeting and church. The Holy Spirit is clearly at work in his heart!

A key factor in his spiritual journey so far has been the nurture provided by local church members which has enabled him to feel at home in the local church.

When we are welcoming of visitors to our meetings we are aiding the work of the Holy Spirit in His work of impressing the hearts of people with the love of Christ by demonstrating this love in a practical way.

Are you and your church willing to work together with the Holy Spirit to show the love of Christ to visitors to your church?

Willa and Ian Brough  
Literature Evangelist Leaders  
Northern Australian Conference

### OUTREACH IN MAREEBA



Ian and Willa Brough took the five-hour drive North from Townsville on Friday 28 August, ready to begin a week-long Literature Evangelism Outreach in the township of Mareeba, about an hour's drive west of Cairns. The next day Paul and Sharita Seric followed, keen to help with the distribution of life-giving materials! Ian took the sermon on Sabbath at Mareeba Church about Acting on Belief. The sermon was zoomed so folk at home could also benefit from the message. After lunch, people gathered to give out packs of Spirit-filled literature to the community. We had a wonderful afternoon meeting people and gifting them books! The picture attached shows most of the group who went out, and includes Pastor Esava and Ateca Koro, who blessed us with a devotional thought and prayer when we returned. Many thanks to the church members who either went with the team on the doors or who prepared beautiful lunches during the outreach week, such a blessing! Many friends have been made, including some who want Bible Study or ongoing DVD ministry.

Looking forward to the next outreach in Mackay in October!

*Picture L-R: Pr Esava and Ateca Koro, Ilaisa Bera, Ian and Willa Brough, Vilisoni, Patrick Hastie Paul and Sharita Seric, Cheryl Treloar, Matthew Bro, Karen and Mark Gallo. Absent Jenny Kum Yuen and Claire Hand*

Karen Gallo  
Jumpstart Literature Evangelist  
Mareeba Church





## ADRA APPEAL CHARLENE LUZUK

This year's ADRA Appeal will be going ahead, and ADRA will be sending churches all the information needed in the coming weeks. However, the door-knock will not be a part of the Appeal, but there will be a range of other activities suggested which can be utilized by our churches. We are looking forward to a great year for the Appeal, and look forward to hearing how your church was able to connect with your community in new ways!

# YOUTH DEPARTMENT

## MACKAY YOUTH RALLY



On August 21-22nd, I had the privilege of spending the weekend with the Mackay Youth. Our theme for the weekend was, "Who Are You?" The theme for the weekend came due to COVID and our young people were going through a bit of Zoom fatigue. Friday night started with a BBQ and opening Sabbath at Harbour Beach and on Sabbath we were able to spend time together with a group discussion at the Botanical Gardens followed by closing Sabbath and a games night of basketball and volleyball. A big thank you to all the youth in Mackay that were able to come out over the weekend and also to Pastor Ragoso and Pastor Maciej for helping out.

## TOWNSVILLE RALLY #TOGETHER



Last weekend on Friday the Townsville Youth were able to catch up at The Strand for opening Sabbath and a group discussion on Sabbath at Palmetum. Our theme for the weekend was #Together. It was an awesome time of spending time together, eating together and in fellowship enjoying God's creation at Palmetum. A big thank you to the youth groups from Aitkenvale and City Church that were involved.



# PATHFINDERS IN AUSTRALIA



1 HOUR LIVE FROM MELBOURNE  
19 SEPTEMBER 2020, 3PM AEST

*Come  
JOIN THE  
celebration!*

# ANNUAL SACRIFICE OFFERING

SEPTEMBER

12

What if you took a week to save money you would have spent on something you don't really need, and then donated it to the *Annual Sacrifice Offering* on September 12?

**The *Annual Sacrifice Offering* helps to fund Global Mission pioneers as they reach the unreached across the world.**





Called to be...  
**AN AMBASSADOR?**

## **COULD YOU BE AN AVONDALE AMBASSADOR?**

If your experience at Avondale was a highlight and you wish that for others, Avondale Alumni is keen to partner with you.

- | Keep your local church up-to-date with news and information from Avondale
- | Share your Avondale memories and help others create theirs
- | Receive Avondale merchandise and study-related benefits