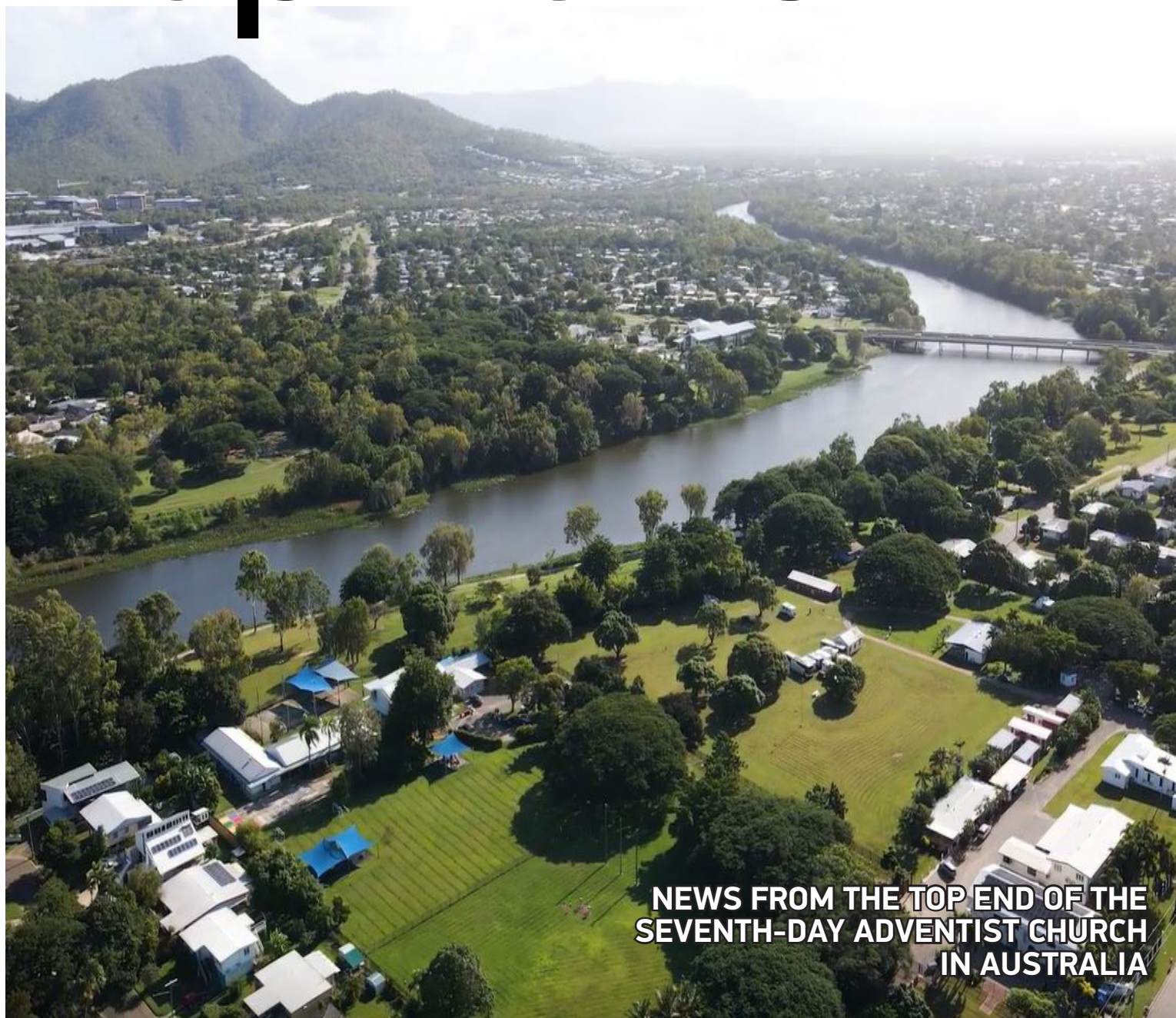


JUNE 2023

Top News



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

Editorial

Instant Karma

Feature

Big Camp

Good News

ADRA & Foodbank

INSTANT KARMA

I don't know how experienced the thief was at his trade, but on this particular night, he bit off more than he could chew (almost literally). His target was the fuel from a motorhome parked in the street. His method was the old fashioned approach of a siphon hose and jerry can. In the dark he snuck up to the vehicle and felt along its side until his fingers found the familiar shape of a filler cap. Prying it open he shoved the hose down the hole and began to suck. Moments later the silence of the evening was shattered with the sounds of coughing, spitting and retching as the hapless thief writhed on the ground in obvious distress. It turns out he had mistakenly stuck his siphon hose into the RV's waste tank!

The term "instant karma" has become popular in describing the above circumstance where the actions of a person backfire by causing an immediate unforeseen and unintended effect that may be deemed just deserts for those actions. I can recall a few cases of instant karma, some with brutal consequences such as a stolen car crashing and killing the driver. But the vast majority of behaviours are not followed by instant payback - whether good or bad. Sure, the Bible promises that each of us will reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7) but rarely does that happen instantly.

Instead, with the sometimes anguished cry of "Will not the judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25) we look to a future time when God will honour the faithful and punish the scoundrels. He will do right, but to the martyred saints who wanted to know "how long before you judge the people who belong to this world and avenge our blood for what they have done to us" the answer was given to wait a little longer (Revelation 6:10,11).

The wait for justice is not easy, just ask the citizens of Ukraine or Sudan.

I'd really love to see more instant karma around the distressing things that have come my way, and to others that I know and love. But, more often than not, we will have to wait for God's perfect timing, when it is all worked out in the end. In the meantime, I find David's words to be both true and comforting:

But in my distress I cried out to the Lord...

My cry to him reached his ears...

He reached down from heaven and rescued me...

He led me to a place of safety;

He rescued me because he delights in me.

(Psalm 18:6,16,19)

But in my distress I cried out to the Lord...

My cry to him reached his ears...

He reached down from heaven and rescued me...

*He led me to a place of safety;
He rescued me because he
delights in me.*

Psalm 18:6,16,19



Darren Slade
President
Northern Australian Conference

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DONATIONS FROM FOODBANK

Pr Christ Kirkwood - ADRA Director

Over the past three months, we have been blessed through our partnership with Foodbank as they have supplied 18 pallets of food to be distributed through the ADRA Food Pantry in Townsville and ADRA Op Shop in Mackay. In times of high need, due to the ever growing cost of living, these donations have been invaluable.

Because of the high cost of living, the ADRA Food Pantry has seen a growth from 170 people per week in January to helping almost 300 people per week in May. This has been a staggering growth in such a short period of time and we would not have been able to do it without our key sponsors such as Foodbank, Woolworths, DC and Second Bite. Unfortunately, we don't foresee these numbers reducing or slowing down in the near future, which will create problems to supply food to those in need.

We are requesting prayers for all our ADRA projects and if God is impressing you, to donate your time and funds so we can continue to help the ever increasing number of people who need food.

If you see a need in your local community and want to bring your church together to assist, please contact ADRA NAC so we can see how we can help you and your local community.



LITERATURE MINISTRIES FOLLOW UP

BOOKS FOR TIMOR-LESTE

In the April edition of Top News, we featured a wonderful story written by our Literature Ministries Coordinator, Karen Gallo, and how she was introduced to Pr Chris Anderson, President of the Timor-Leste Mission, at a Literature Evangelism Summit held at Avondale University.

God most certainly led these two to meet which resulted in 40 cartons of books, additional school books and hand sanitiser being sent to the Timor-Leste Adventist International School

The books arrived mid-March and Pr Chris Anderson sent through a video with his thanks. It is truly amazing how God can use different people to do something seemingly small to make a big impact in someone else's life. If you would like to see the video of thanks, please visit our Facebook page - *Adventists Northern Australia*.



CONFERENCE NEWS

EDUCATION ACCOUNTANT/BUSINESS MANAGER

We want to welcome Jano Runturambi to the conference office. Jano is our new Education Accountant/Business Manager and has 33 years experience working in accounting and finance with banking, construction and international mining companies across Indonesia, Laos and Australia. Jano graduated from University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business and has been living in Australia for 14 years. He has a wife, Lolyta and four children, Sharon & Clinton (twins), Sheryl and Jenifer. He is glad to join the Northern Australian Conference team to serve God's mission and to prepare people for Jesus' second coming.



CONFERENCE NEWS

POSITIONS

The Northern Australian Conference Appointments Committee recently met and appointed people for the following departmental positions:

Health Director - Barney & Lexie Daley

ATSIM Director - Pr Raymon Paletua

Communications Director- Lorraine Atchia

Literature Ministries Director - Karen Gallo

We are still searching for a Women's Ministry Director, so if you are passionate about women's ministry and have ideas to grow this ministry in our conference, please contact us at nacinfo@adventist.org.au

CONFERENCE NEWS

FAITH FM STUDIO

The Faith FM Studio at the Conference office has been completed! Pr Darren Slade has been faithfully working on the studio in his spare time over the last two and a half years and the end result is fantastic. Phil Pennington, a member of Ayr Church, has been employed as the producer and has been working on different programs. We look forward to seeing the content produced from this studio and can't wait to see how God reaches lives through Faith FM.



faith FM
POSITIVELY DIFFERENT

uplifting spirituality | health advice | inspiring music | family insights



EDMONTON CHURCH AGAPE MEAL

Shirley Westacott

Edmonton church members enjoyed an Agape meal on Friday night, April 7, as they remembered what Christ did for them around 2,000 years ago. They enjoyed a simple meal of soup, bread rolls, nuts and fruit, and were privileged to have Pr. Harold Harker and his wife join them. Pr. Harker led out in a short devotional as they celebrated the Lord's supper together. It's always special to have an Agape meal around the same time of the year as Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples and when he instituted the Lord's supper. It makes those long ago events seem so much nearer and relevant for today.



HEALTH RETREAT MAKER HEALS

Seven people from Townsville, Ayr and Biloela attended a 10 day intensive health and gospel program, *The Maker Heals*, from April 18 - 27. The program was held at WellNest on The Range, 40 minutes from Townsville. Guests enjoyed great fellowship and were treated to a Spiritual and Physical feast. In the words of Jacklyn Barr-Starkey, one of the participants, "I was wholistically blessed, meals were nutritionally rich, delicious and very attractively presented. Joy permeated every meeting, meal and interaction. Praise God for this life saving ministry." More of these programs will be held throughout the year, for more information please visit: <https://maker-heals.org.au/>



AITKENVALE CHURCH BAPTISM

Pr Jeffrey Masengi had the privilege of baptising Alexis Harerimana in the Ross River on April 29.

The nursing student from South Africa had been wrestling with accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior for several months and finally made his decision to make this public declaration. Alex has said that after he finishes his study, he will teach others about Jesus.



LITERATURE MINISTRY TRAINING IN TOWNSVILLE

Karen Gallo

During the course of our travels around the Conference, we have worked with many churches who reach out to their communities with literature. Many of these church members are passionate about being involved in this ministry and several have hinted that they would like to try this ministry at markets, both giving away, and selling literature.

While attending the LE Summit earlier this year, I was impressed with the way that Sandy Wallis, from Victoria, set up her Pop-up Bookstalls, and her generous involvement in upgrading the online training and resources available to anyone involved in Literature Ministry. Praise God! Sandy agreed to fly up and spend some time training us.

Willa Brough, a Literature Evangelist based in Townsville, and I, benefitted from Sandy's expertise in approaching Christian schools, and from April 17-21, we visited five different schools in the Townsville area, meeting some lovely librarians and taking orders for our excellent children's resources. Librarians thoroughly enjoyed getting out into the fresh air to view the samples we had displayed in the back of the vehicle (see *photo*). They were grateful to be able to hold the books and flick through the pages, as most of their ordering is now done online. For Willa and I, this has opened up a whole new vista of opportunity to make friends and serve our communities even better.

Over the weekend of April 21-24, several Literature Champions arrived ready to learn more about and experience market stalls. While Willa was enjoying *The Maker Heals* program, the team took over her stall at Willows Markets. With Sandy's training before, demonstrations during, and debriefing after, the team had lots of questions and minds were whirring with thoughts on how these ideas could translate into their own communities. Watch this space: maybe someone wishes they could have been involved - you can. Connect with the Literature Ministries team at Big Camp, there'll be stories on the first Sunday afternoon from 2:30pm to 4pm in the Big Tent and the LM stall will be manned at various times throughout the week.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



Willows Market Stall



Market Training Group



Schools Display


BIG CAMP 2023

It is nearly time for Big Camp and we are excited to see you all! We have a full camp this year, with approximately 1,000 people already booked in. If you plan to attend, you need to register. For safety measures we need to know who is attending our camp so please register by 9 June or expect delays/being turned away as we cannot let people onto the site who are not registered.

Big Camp commences on Friday June 23 with Opening Sabbath in the Big Tent at 5:30pm and the final program will be on Saturday July 1 with Closing Sabbath in the Big Tent at 5:00pm.

The program is full of events and activities during the week with each Division being cared for.

Follow the official Big Camp Facebook Page



Follow our Facebook Page to get information on:

- Programs
- Speakers
- Big Tent Live Stream
- Latest Photos and Videos



Trust Services Appointments

BIG CAMP 2023
26 - 30 JUNE 2023
9:00AM - 4:00PM

email: nacinfo@adventist.org.au
or
call: 07 4779 3988

BRING YOUR SECOND HAND

BOOKS

TO BIG CAMP AND DONATE THEM
TO THE ABC SHOP

BIG CAMP FAQ

I am not staying at the Riverside Convention Centre
Q: (campgrounds) but I am going to camp, do I need to register?

A: Yes, please register as a day visitor

I am staying on the
Q: campgrounds, what site do I have?

A: We will not be communicating the site number until you arrive for site check-in

I am a local or live close by,
Q: do I need to register?

A: Yes, please register as a day visitor

I am staying in a friend's
Q: tent/caravan/motorhome, do I need to register?

A: Yes, please contact sarahtekopua@adventist.org.au with your full name, phone number, email and date of birth

I am coming for the day (day visitor), does it cost to attend Big Camp?

A: No, but if you would like to give a donation to go towards the cost of running camp we will gladly accept!

Q: When can I arrive at Big Camp?

The campground is open for site check-in from midday Thursday June 22. Unless you are Big Camp staff, we are not allowing others to arrive before this due to safety risks while setting up

FRI 23	SAT 24	SUN 25	MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT 1
Prayer Tent 6:15am - 6:45am	Prayer Tent 6:15am - 6:45am	Prayer Tent 6:15am - 6:45am	Prayer Tent 6:15am - 6:45am	Prayer Tent 6:15am - 6:45am	Prayer Tent 6:15am - 6:45am	Prayer Tent 6:15am - 6:45am	Prayer Tent 6:15am - 6:45am	Prayer Tent 6:15am - 6:45am
Family Worship 7:00am - 7:45am Big Tent	ADRA Fun Run 7:00am - 8:00am	Family Worship 7:00am - 7:45am Big Tent	Family Worship 7:00am - 7:45am Big Tent	Family Worship 7:00am - 7:45am Big Tent	Family Worship 7:00am - 7:45am Big Tent	Family Worship 7:00am - 7:45am Big Tent	Family Worship 7:00am - 7:45am Big Tent	Family Worship 7:00am - 7:45am Big Tent
	Sanitarium Breakfast 8:00am - 9:00am Free Breakfast	Sanitarium Morning Devotional 9:00am - 9:15am Prayer Tent	Women's Morning Devotional 9:00am - 9:15am Prayer Tent	Women's Morning Devotional 9:00am - 9:15am Prayer Tent	Women's Morning Devotional 9:00am - 9:15am Prayer Tent	Women's Morning Devotional 9:00am - 9:15am Prayer Tent	Women's Morning Devotional 9:00am - 9:15am Prayer Tent	
	Sanitarium Promo 9:00am - 9:45am	Program 1 9:30am - 10:30am Russel Stanley - The Waldenses: Light Shining in Darkness	Program 1 9:30am - 10:30am Russel Stanley - John Wycliffe: Authority of The Word	Program 1 9:30am - 10:30am Russel Stanley - Martin Luther: Return to Grace	Program 1 9:30am - 10:30am Russel Stanley - Ulrich Zwingli: Strife Over the Supper	Program 1 9:30am - 10:30am Russel Stanley - Protestant Reformation: Response of Churches	Program 1 9:30am - 10:30am Russel Stanley - Protestant Reformation: Response of Churches	Sabbath School 9:30am - 10:30am
Sabbath School 9:30am - 10:30am Mission Offering	Divine Service 11:00am - Noon Pavel Goia - To Know God	Family Fun Day 11:00am - 3:00pm School Oval	Program 2 11:00am - Noon Robbie Berghan - Revisiting Revelation: Jesus' Goal	Program 2 11:00am - Noon Robbie Berghan - Revisiting Revelation: Our Need	Program 2 11:00am - Noon Robbie Berghan - Revisiting Revelation: His Mission	Program 2 11:00am - Noon Robbie Berghan - Revisiting Revelation: His Enemy	Program 2 11:00am - Noon Robbie Berghan - Revisiting Revelation: His Enemy	Divine Service 11:00am - Noon Pavel Goia - Filled by His Spirit
Baptism/ Mission Spotlight 3:00pm Big Tent	Church Clerk Membership Training 1:30pm - 2:30pm Conference Office Board Room	Men's Ministry Meeting 1:30pm - 2:30pm Big Tent	Literature Ministry 1:30pm - 2:15pm Big Tent	PIMs Meeting 2:00pm - 3:00pm TBA	Workshops 2:30pm - 4:30pm	Workshops 2:30pm - 4:30pm	Workshops 2:30pm - 4:30pm	Women's Ministry Resource & Share 11:00am - Noon Big Tent
Opening Sabbath 5:30pm Riverside Adventist Christian School	Closing Sabbath 5:30pm Carlisle Adventist Christian College	LE Stories of Faith 2:30pm - 4:00pm Big Tent	Workshops 2:30pm - 4:30pm	Prayer Tent 4:30pm - 5:00pm	Prayer Tent 4:30pm - 5:00pm	Prayer Tent 4:30pm - 5:00pm	Prayer Tent 4:30pm - 5:00pm	Ordination Service 3:00pm - 4:15pm
Evening Program 7:15pm Pavel Goia - Come and See	Evening Song Gospel Program 7:00pm - 7:45pm Mount Isa Quartet	Evening Program 7:15pm Pavel Goia - Revived by His Spirit	Evening Program 7:15pm Pavel Goia - Unconditional Surrender	Evening Program 7:15pm Pavel Goia - Total Commitment	Evening Program 7:15pm Pavel Goia - Victory in the Final Conflict	Evening Program 7:15pm Pavel Goia - The Battle belongs to the Lord	Evening Program 7:15pm Pavel Goia - Praying for Revival	Division Items & Closing Sabbath 5:00pm
ABC Book Hr 7:45pm - 8:30pm								

*Changes to the program may occur before Big Camp begins

NAC BIG CAMP

WORKSHOPS

2:30PM - 4:30PM

ADRA

- ADRA DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
- UNDERSTANDING YOUR COMMUNITY

EVANGELISM

- BECOMING A MOVEMENT AGAIN
- SHARING FAITH AND THE END OF THE WORLD

HEALTH

- THE MAKER HEALS ORIENTATION
- MAKER HEALS AROUND THE WORLD
- APPLYING NEWSTART
- HOW TO FAST & BENEFITS OF FASTING
- FORGIVENESS
- WELLNEST HEALTH RETREAT
- HOW TO BE HAPPY
- COOKING DEMO

CHILDREN & FAMILY

- SEVEN WAYS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUR CHILDREN
- SEXTING, CYBER BULLYING, GAMING AND THE DIGITAL SPACE
- SEVEN TIPS FOR RAISING BOYS/GIRLS
- RAISING YOUR CHILD'S RESILIENCE FACTOR

FAITH FM

- HOW TO USE FAITH FM AS A LOCAL CHURCH OUTREACH TOOL

ADF CHAPLAIN ANZAC DAY

Pr Ragoso Tagaloo

As a Chaplain with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), I had the privilege to march through Townsville's Strand on ANZAC Day, along with other Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel from the Army, Defence Veterans and the many others involved in the march. It was an indescribable experience. For many years I have been cheering and supporting the ADF by attending the Dawn services and watching the parades from the sides of the road but being part of the organisation is something else.

One of the highlights of the day was the fly-over of the Snooks and Taipan helicopters as we marched on the Strand, it was a spine-tingling surreal experience to be part of a historical moment by paying respects to those who fought for this nation so freedom could be experienced in the present. While I participated in Townsville, it was also a proud moment for my son, Wesliam, in Villers-Bretonneux France, where he sang the national anthem for the Dawn service as a musician (vocalist) in the Army Band in Duntroon, Canberra. It's interesting that I now work alongside Defence with my other two sons (Simon and Orlando) serving in Adelaide in the Army and Air Force.

My brief initial thoughts on the meaning of ANZAC Day is the commemoration of the sacrifice of those who have died in military operations, of courageous Australian and New Zealand soldiers who left a powerful legacy behind in Gallipoli, Turkey and abroad.



(L-R) Simon, Ragoso, Dorothy, Wesliam and Orlando Tagaloo

ANZAC DAY

ANZAC DAY MARCHES

Our schools and many of our Pathfinder & Adventurer Clubs honoured ANZAC Day by participating in local ANZAC Day Marches or holding ANZAC Day Services.



Townsville Pathfinders & Adventurers
Carlisle Adventist College



Riverside Adventist School



Darwin Pathfinders & Adventurers
Cairns Adventist College



DARWIN PATHFINDERS

GREATER DARWIN PATHFINDERS ANSWER THE CALL TO SERVE ON MOTHER'S DAY

Semi Francis

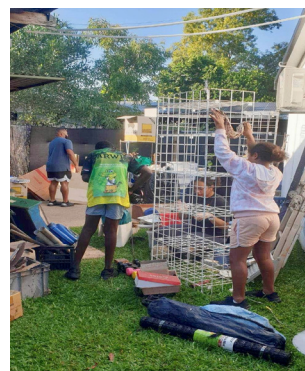
On the special day to celebrate mothers, the Greater Darwin Pathfinders received a call that could not be ignored. Despite wanting to spend the day with their own mothers, the Pathfinders, along with guardians and parents, stepped up to serve their community by helping Ros Jones, one of the longest serving members of the Darwin Seventh-day Adventist church.

Club Director Tomasi Cokanasiga put out the call for assistance and the Pathfinders did not disappoint. They showed up in large numbers and worked tirelessly to support Ms. Jones, who has dedicated much of her life to serving the church and community.

Tracy, Ros Jones's daughter expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve someone who has given so much to others, even while struggling with health issues.

Semi Francis, the District Director said, "It was an honour for the Pathfinders to lend a hand and they hope to continue to make a difference in the lives of those in their community."

Despite the focus on mothers on this day, the Greater Darwin Pathfinders reminded us of the importance of serving others, especially those who have made a difference in our lives. Their selflessness and dedication serve as an inspiration to us all.



RIVERSIDE ADVENTIST SCHOOL

COWBOYS VISIT

Cowboys players Tahlulah Tillett and Romy Teitzel shared their valuable time with Riverside Adventist School on April 26, with the Adopt-a-School program. They shared some real-life tips on how to develop resilience when things get the children down. They talked about not giving up, but also tapped into the support team that we all have around us. The children also had the opportunity to go outside and developed some footy skills on the oval.



YOUTH

YOUTH RALLY @ VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

On March 25, the Northern Australian Conference held its first Youth Rally for the year and those who were in attendance were blessed with inspiring music and a great message from Adam Weinheimer, one of the youth from Aitkenvale Church.

In the evening, eight teams, over two divisions competed at the Volleyball Tournament. It was wonderful to see the passion and team spirit as the night went on. To help fuel the players and spectators, Townsville Pathfinders and Mareeba Pathfinders sold food to fundraise for their clubs.

At the end of the night HighCoast won the B Grade Division and the Tully Coconuts won the A Grade Division in a nail-biting final where they had to go into overtime against Mareeba Genesis.

The next sporting competition will be at Big Camp with Touch Footy on June 24.





YOUTH

JETS CAMP 2023 - READY UP

Over 50 juniors and teens attended the annual Northern Australian Conference JETS Camp from April 7-12 at Quinola Lakes, situated in the Atherton Tablelands.

Campers from Mount Isa, Cairns, Mareeba, Townsville and Mackay enjoyed four days full of activities, including water sports, ZORB balls, volleyball, basketball and crafts. Each morning the campers read devotions in their cabin groups and each evening there was a camp worship with uplifting songs and music, and great messages to *Ready Up* from guest speaker, Pr Carlos Fauatea. The messages encouraged the juniors and teens to surround themselves with people who would influence them positively and challenged them to find who they are and what they are able to do to *Ready Up* for Jesus.

At the end of camp, 35 kids made a commitment to Jesus, 24 said they were interested in Bible studies, 16 want to learn more about baptism or be baptised and 14 are interested in being mentored.

We were blessed to be surrounded by an incredible group of campers and staff, making the camp a success with memories that will last a lifetime.

The Youth Department is looking forward to JETS 2024 which will be held from 16-19 January 2024.





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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.

Deadline

July 7 for the August edition

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 IS TO BE
A “CHRIST-CENTRED
THRIVING DISCIPLE-MAKING
MOVEMENT”

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

In the **POWER** *of the* **SPIRIT**

NAC BIG CAMP 2023

SPEAKERS



PAVEL GOIA
Adults



MURRAY HUNTER
Young Adult



TIM AH-SAM
Highschool



SHAREE FREENFIELD
Junior



DARON PRATT
Primary

OTHER GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



RUSSEL STANLEY



ROBBIE BERGHAN

JUNE 23 - JULY 1 2023