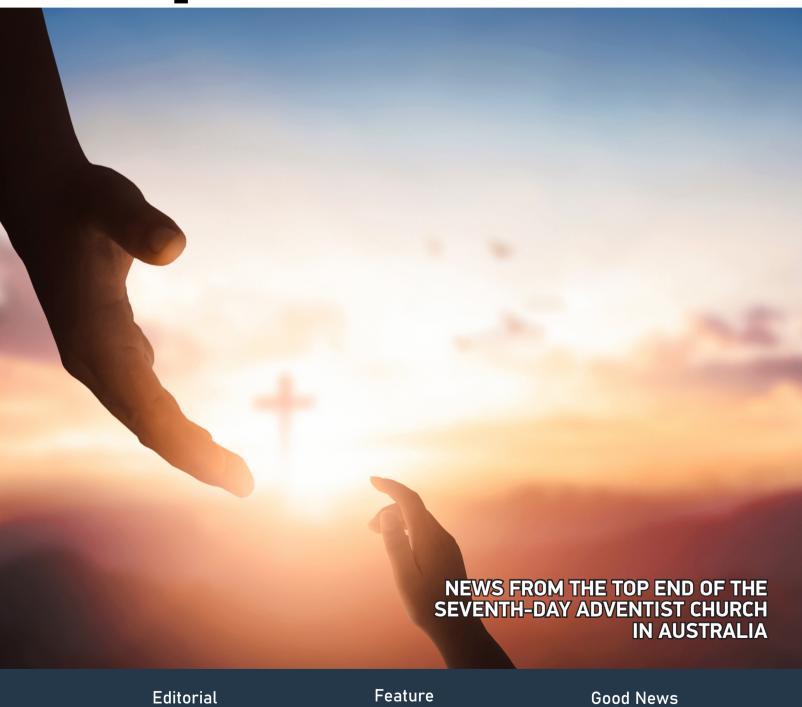
Georgetown Outreach

Top News

Beyond 2023!



STORMCo

BEYOND 2023!

As I sit down to write today, I am beginning my 10th week in Northern Australia.

So far, as I've toured the Conference, I've seen some amazing things! For example, 15 years ago, Alice Springs Church had four people present on a Sabbath morning. Today they have between 80-100 people. When I sat down there for lunch on Sabbath – both people I sat close to were in preparation for Baptism. Similarly, 15 years ago, Katherine Seventh-day Adventist Church had one family in attendance, today they have 60 odd people present for worship on Sabbath morning.

These are not the only good news stories. Our Bible workers at Tennant Creek, Eliki and Loata Vosalevu, have done an amazing job with the folks there. They have nurtured the people through hospitality and good old-fashioned care, and we now have close to 50 people in attendance on Sabbath. One family that joined the church around three years ago have brought a number of other family members to faith in Christ. Likewise, in Mt Isa, two people have recently made a decision for Baptism and Townsville City Church will be baptising approximately six people in just a few weeks' time.

This is NAC. These are some of the amazing things that are taking place here. I feel blessed to see these things and be part of what's going on and I feel even more excited to see where God leads in the coming years, especially in 2024.

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

Our Conference Executive committee has decided that we will join the Australian Union Conference, in 2024, for the Year of Evangelism. Why? Simply because in Christ there is life and there is life abundant (John 10:10). One of my biggest temptations in life, and maybe this resonates with you too, is getting too busy to show and share Christ with others.

In 2024 – I want to do things differently. I want to carry on the good work that is already taking place here. I want to:

- 1. Ask God to lead me to people of peace. In other words, lead me to people that are open to faith in Jesus.
- 2. Pray for these people and others.
- 3. As God answers my prayers and opens up doors take the chance to love, serve, and be hospitable.
- 4. Rather than giving just a once off blessing, invest in the relationships I'm led to.

Could you imagine? A movement in NAC. One where we all love, serve, and bless to the point that folks will want to know something more of our Jesus! It's my prayer that as we enter the year of Evangelism in 2024 that this is exactly what will happen.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 10-15

National ATSIM Camp

January 15-19

Summer Camp

GENERAL SECRETARY/CFO REPORT

BAPTISM REPORT

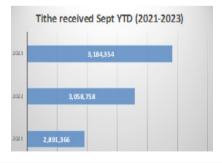
We are delighted to share that we have had 89 baptisms, so far in 2023, up to September, which is the highest number of baptisms in the last five years. Praise the Lord! This quarter, nine souls were baptised in Cooktown/ Wujal Wujal, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to Pastor Aporosa, who oversees the region, Pastor Eddie, who has been a key mentor in these areas, and Brendan Davis, the former Bible Worker for Cooktown, for their invaluable contributions. We are grateful for their dedication and hard work in making these baptisms possible.

TITHE REPORT - AS OF SEPTEMBER 2023

We thank God for His blessings within our Conference and the faithful stewardship of church members in returning their tithes. The cumulative tithe received up to September 2023 is higher than the 2023 budget by \$153,973 and also higher compared to last year by \$125,595.

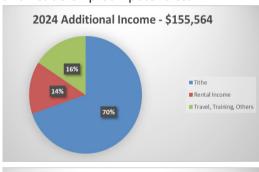
The first chart shows the monthly tithe received versus budget and the second chart shows the cumulative tithe received up to July compared against 2022 and 2021.

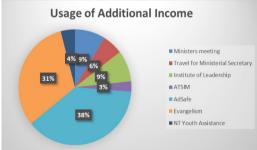




BUDGET REPORT

The NAC Church Budget for 2024 was approved by the Board on November 14. The main priorities and focus for 2024 are to support the year of Evangelism and invest in the engagement and leadership competency of the Ministers and Teachers. To foster new initiatives, we have budgeted for the same trend of tithe that we received in 2023. We have also reviewed the house rental income and performed cost optimization. The table below shows the additional income from 2023 and the areas of expenditures that will use this additional income. The three main expenditures are Adsafe cost (which is unavoidable and needs to be supported), Evangelism, and Ministers and Leadership Competencies.





PROJECT DEVELPMENT

Riverside Estate Development - The project to replace the amenities block and expand the commercial kitchen commenced in October. The project will be completed by Q1 2024 before Big Camp.



NEW HRIS AND PAYROLL SYSTEM

Our HRIS and Payroll system, TESS, is a major upgrade to our old system. The previous system reguired a lot of manual work and was very slow. However, the new system will automate many payroll and HR processes, making the whole process more efficient. We are grateful to the South Pacific Division and the Australian Union for allowing us to join the project at a heavily subsidised cost.

Keith McDougall has been working very hard on this project for the last 4 months, often sacrificing evenings to ensure its success. I am pleased to announce that the new payroll system was successfully launched in November. Praise the Lord! The system automates tasks like timesheet recording, payroll management, employee recruitment, and more, streamlining the entire process.



CONFERENCE

NEW FACES IN THE OFFICE

The Conference is happy to welcome three new faces to our office!

We have Chioniso (Chi Chi) Mukuwerere who started at the end of October and is the Executive Assistant to the General Secretary and CFO. Chi Chi is a member of the Aitkenvale Church and has worked at JCU for five years as an Education Divisional Support Officer. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce, Diploma in Marketing/ Public Relations and has completed a Secretarial Course. Chi Chi has significant experience in secretarial/ administrative roles and project officer roles, having worked in these positions for 25 years across Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Mishaellee Offer started in November and is the Receptionist and Personal Assistant to Youth Ministries and Communications. Mishaellee goes to Aitkenvale Church and is an active member of their youth group. She has grown up doing alot of outdoor activities and has been very active in Pathfinders. She is studying to be a nurse and has been working in various pharmacies for the past 10 years. She is looking forward to the many expriences she will face in this position and is pasionate about youth ministries

Finally, we have Jane Campbell, who has started as a casual Finance Clerk and Retail Assistant for the ABC Store. Jane is a member the Townsville City Church. She has been a full time mum for the past 10 years and prior to that she was a Sports Recreation Officer and Project Manager.

We want to welcome these three to our office and look forward to working with them!



Chi Chi Mukuwerere



Mishaellee Offer



Jane Campbell

MFN'S MINISTRY

FELLOWSHIP OF MEN'S WEEKEND CONFERENCE

Peter Keioskie

The Fellowship of Men had their Annual Conference on Magnetic Island again this year. They are a leading pioneer for all the Australian Conferences in the support of men and as an outreach to men in the community. They held their Annual Men's Weekend Conference at Magnetic Island from October 20-22, with 26 men from Mackay to Darwin in attendance. The topics they were educated on this year were the subjects that last year's men asked to be addressed, including being a better Husband and Father, Spiritual Leadership and Masculinity in the Bible. Friday night was a settle in period with a meet and greet session. On Sabbath morning, they enjoyed two sessions with a third after lunch. There was plenty of content linking Physical, Mental and Spiritual together for balanced well-being. Late afternoon was a group bushwalk in nature to see the WW2 Forts sites and after tea the men enjoyed a communion around the open bon fire followed by games in the hall. Sunday morning was another enlightening session with our key note speaker this year Pr Michael Mohanu from Casey SDA Church in Victoria, who delivered well on the requested topics. A fulfilling, uplifting, fellowshipping and fun time was had by all. The 2024 Men's Retreat will be the weekend of August 9-11 with Union President Pr Terry Johnson as our key note speaker, so save the date and plan to be there.

The Lord has led and the groups in Mackay, Townsville, and Cairns have been conducting local events throughout the year. So, come along and support your brothers and yourself.

Please join our closed Facebook group called *Fellowship of Men*, scan QR code below. Men, please join us and you can stream all 5 recordings of the Mental Strength training we received.

If you are interested in joining in with a group it your area, here are the contacts; Mackay – Peter Keioskie 0438803575/pjk@ehw.net.au Townsville - Daniel Wakelin 0427856233/daniel.wakelin@bigpond.com Cairns – Peter Shuttleworth 0413353592/gromit70@bigpond.com Darwin - Farai Mbira 0431537183/mbiraf@yahoo.com If you are interested in starting a group in your area, please contact Peter Keioskie





NAC LEADERS BUDGET MEETING

On October 12, leaders of the conference met in person to discuss what they had been doing over the past year and what plans they have in place for 2024. As we enter into the Year of Evangelism (2024) the team wanted to refocus on mission, how they can serve people in the church and the community through their different departments, and how they can work together to give the community a better experience.

They discussed budgets and worked together to save as much as possible. All departments have some great missional plans for 2024, but in this current cost of living crisis, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep costs down. Please keep the team in your prayers as they finalise plans for next year and pray that God opens doors so the team is able to serve in a way that will benefit those who really need to hear about God's love.



Team Left to Right: Karen Gallo (Literature Evangelism), Keith McDougall (ABC Manager & Accountant), Peter Keioskie (Men's Ministries), Barney Daley (Health Ministries), Simon Gigliotti (President, Personal Ministries & Sabbath School), Jeffrey Masengi (CFO & Stewardship), Travis Siutu (Youth Ministries, Family & Children's Ministries), Lorraine Atchia (Communications), Chris Kirkwood (ADRA) We also had Lynelda Tippo (Women's Ministries) with us and Graham Chapman (Ministerial Association) who joined via Zoom

MOUNT ISA

BARBERSHOP MINISTRY

Ex-Barber turned Pastor, Tafu Sione has combined his trade with ministry to provide free haircuts to the local community in Mount Isa. Working with the Church's Women's Ministry and ADRA they are not only providing men with a new look, but also giving free clothes and food to those in need. Since the barbershop ministry started in early October, 30 men have come into the makeshift space located on the ground floor of Pr Sione's house. "It is running so well," stated Pr Sione, "we are intending to move the ministry to the church hall soon." The team is looking at extending the barbershop when they have more resources and are currently searching for sponsorship for equipment in order to do this. If you want to help with this great ministry, please contact the conference office.



MOSSMAN

ANNOINTING

Christians from all over Mossman gathered for Joy Cornell's annointing on October 7. Joy, who is 84, has been on dialisis for 15 years. Elders from various church laid hands on Joy as Pr Raymon Paletua said an annointing prayer.

"I'm not asking for healing," stated Joy, "I'm asking for peace and courage as I face the inevitable, and the assurance that I'm right with my dear Saviour." Those in attendance were deeply affected by the beautiful ceremony. The supervisor of the Know Your Bible study groups in the Mossman aread said, "It makes us all fee we want to be annointed!"

Please keep Joy and her health in your prayers.



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ALICE SPRINGS/TENNANT CREEK

STORMCO

In September, churches in the Northern Territory held two STORMCo's, one in Tennant Creek and the other in Alice Springs. These STORMCo's were run by our local churches who took on the motto that *Service to Others Really Matters*.

From September 24 to October 1, 20 teens from Darwin, Katherine and Mareeba (QLD) held a STORMCo in Tennant Creek. Bible Workers, Eliki and Loata Vosalevu, welcomed the group, who was dedicated to serving the town. Tennant Creek is a central location for the Northern Territory and is the main town for the surrounding Indigenous communities, with hundreds of people visiting the town each day from these communities. During the week the STORMCo team broke into groups to complete different projects such as running a kids club, picking up rubbish, painting the church, holding community BBQ's and spending time with local kids at the Youth Centre.

Our ADRA Director, Pr Chris Kirkwood, drove the ADRA Truck to Tennant Creek also ready to serve and give assistance to the community in the shape of clothing, mattresses, linens and pillows amongst other things. The pop up shop they set up at the church had over 400 people from the community visit on the first day and they had to close the shop after three days as everything had been given away.

The STORMCo had a positive impact, not only for the community, who were able to see God's love in action and where some locals have started attending church, but for the volunteers also.

"It was great to see the kids open up and come out of their shell," said Pr Soani Vosalevu, organiser of the STORMCo trip.

"At first they were nervous and shy but by the end of the week they were more outspoken and relaxed, with many of them now attending Bible studies in their home churches," he added.

Many of the children transformed over the week as confidence in themselves grew with many of them saying they wanted to take what they have learnt at STORMCo to serve in their own local communities

"I learnt that I am capable to help this community and people really appreciate what we are doing," Scarlett, 12, from Palmerston Church.

"Seeing the kids come in (for kids club) everyday was really exciting, I enjoyed being with them and getting to know them," said Allaine, 16, from Darwin.

Since the STORMCo ended, many of the kids have become more involved in the church, not only through Bible studies but in planning to attend future youth events such as Summer Camp and Converge. They are looking forward to holding another STORMCo next year in September and we look forward to seeing the changes in the lives of those in the community and the volunteers.









Alice Springs Church ran a STORMCo, from September 28 to October 4, in conjunction with ELIA Wellness and Adventist Volunteers Service, from the South Pacific Division, the Alice Springs Pathfinders and the Pinnacle of Terror. ELIA Wellness set up 12 stations to complete wellness checks for those in the community, where the Pathfinders worked with health professionals to check blood pressure, sugar levels, body mass index and general wellness. Throughout the week, Pathfinders were involed in varous activities including singing in hospitals, while church members conducted prison visits, they were also involved in daily bread runs to Aboriginal communities where Pathfinders ran two kids clubs. Alice Springs has 18 Indigenous communities, or town camps, spread out within the township, and our church has a history of going to these communities to share bread and building relationships.

On the Sabbath, September 30, the first Seventh-day Adventist Church Plant in Yulara, the town next the Uluru, was opened and five people were baptised at the Alice Springs Church. God is really working in the Alice Springs region and we are blessed to have active Pastors and church members going out to do His work. "We have been doing the cycle of evangelism for many years in Alice Springs," stated Pr David Gilmore, Pastor of Alice Springs Church and member of the Institute of Public Evangelism.

"Building relationships with the community, getting to know them and caring for them is an essential part of evangelism, because it shows them God's love before you even introduce them to God," he added, "this is why programs such as STORMCo's are important for our church, they show the community that you care."

We cannot wait to see how God moves in our conference in 2024, as we focus on the year of evangelism and pray our churches continue to hold programs such as STORMCo's to serve the community and show God's love through service.



TOWNSVILLE CITY CHURCH/AITKENVALE CHURCH

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

20 members of the Townsville City Church and Aitkenvale Church distributed this year's sharing book, *The Great Controversy* to Townsville residents on September 16. Another 19 people went out on September 30, to share more books inlcuding: *The Great Controversy, The Great Hope, Steps to Christ,* and *A Taste of Food as Medicine*. They went door knocking across Burdell, Kelso, Hyde Park and Kirwan with smaller groups of eager literature ambassadors continuing to go out to share these books in groups of two.

Many of our churches around the conference are taking part in sharing this book with those in the community, please see your local church if you want to be involved.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

HIGH TEA

More than 25 women and girls from across Townsville aged between seven and their seventies, attended the first Women's Ministry High Tea of the year. The women enjoyed a delicious array of treats while making new friends and listening to two ladies, associated with the Salvation Army, share their experiences of ministry in the Indigenous community of Cherbourg.



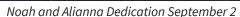
AITKENVALE CHURCH

DOUBLE BABY DEDICATION

A double baby dedication was held at Aitkenvale Church on September 2. Pastor Alfredo Campos dedicated baby Noah Jayce Christian Harton, son of Shataya Bowers and Bryce Harton. Noah was born on July 24, 2023. Pastor Ragoso Tagaloa dedicated baby Alianna Imani Rudatinya, daughter of Chantal and Wilson Rudatinya. Alianna was born on May 13, 2023.

Twin girls, Annabelle Mae and Abigail Elizabeth Jamesion were dedicate by Pastor Ragoso Tagaloa at Aitkenvale Church on October 28. The girls were born on July 7, 2023 and are the daughters of Lindsey and David Jamesion.







Annabelle and Abigail Dedication on October 28

TOWNSVILLE

STUDENTS AWARDED

On Monday, October 16, five of our young people were awarded at the Calvary Christian College (Townsville) presentation night.

Taane Joseph, Year 9, received the Christian Character Award

Caleb Thwaites, Year 7, received the Christian Character Award

Caitlyn Thwaites, Year 11, received the Excellence in Music Award, Christian Character Award and was Nominated for Female School Vice Captain for 2024

Ruvarashe (Ruva) Tagwi, Year 8, received the Academic Excellence Award in English

Kudzaishe (Kudzi) Tagwi, Year 9, received the Academic Excellence Awards in English, Science, History, HPE, Highest Overall Academic Achiever and JCU Shield Award!

Pr Alfredo Campos and Pr Chris Kirkwood were there, along with the children's parents, to support and congratulate them. We are proud of our Adventist students who have excelled, not only academically, but in having a Christ-like character.

On Tuesday, October 17, Pimlico State High School (Townsville) held their presention night and Willow Campbell Year 7, received the JCU Sheild Award and Academic Honours Award.



L-R: Taane, Pr Alfredo, Caleb, Caitlyn, Pr Chris, Ruvarashe and Kudzaishe



Willow Campbell and Jane Campbell

RIVERSIDE ADVENTIST SCHOOL

FIRST PLACE IN ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Riverside Adventist School came first in the Townsville Junior Lego Robotics Competition on October 25.

Teams from schools in Townsville, the Burdekin and Charters Towers participated in this event where young minds were challenged to craft innovative solutions using LEGO robotics kits.

Unlike traditional competitions, this event provided a unique twist, as teams received their problem statement and LEGO packs on the spot, fostering spontaneity and quick thinking. The atmosphere was electric as the teams engaged in intense designing, building, and programming sessions. The challenge this year was for the students to design, build and code the quickest race car.

Congratulations to the students involved and to Riverside Adventist School.



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ADRA

DISASTER PREPARATION

For the second year in a row, ADRA Townsville has taught disaster preparation to local christian school, Calvary Christian College. Almost 100 students attended three sessions held over two days and listened as Pr Chris Kirkwood, ADRA Director for the NAC, explained the disaster cycle and how the students could prepare for and help in natural or manmade disasters. One group was lucky enough to see a delivery of nine pallets from Foodbank Australia. ADRA will use the items in these pallets to make up hampers containing food items and personal care items, these will be distributed to the community if there is a natural disaster.

















hopebooks





OUTREACH

GEORGETOWN OUTREACH

Kimberly Hunter

On September 19, an outreach program took place in Georgetown, five hours west of Cairns. 36 people from different churches, not only from the Northern Australian Conference, travelled to the small, quaint town in Far North Queensland. God brought this group together in record time to run the outreach program and it's truly a miracle how quickly this group of people came together to make great things happen for the Georgetown community.

While already serving in our own communities, it was discovered that there was an opportunity to step out in faith and help the community. Many talented and eager people answered the call to arms, and with a vast set of skills at our disposal we were able to provide plumbing and electrical repairs for the church in Georgetown, door knocking and spreading the good news, a vocation bible school program, handing out various literature and even hosting a health program with natural remedies and cooking demonstrations. The week of outreach and fellowship was concluded with a small church service. None of this could have happened without a huge amount of prayer, planning and people who were willing to use their skills and experience for God's glory.

The week of outreach yielded so many amazing results and good news stories from Georgetown community. One such story is of Tony, who used to attend the church when he was a child and lives next door to the Georgetown Church from which the outreach was based. He observed what was going on and decided to get involved and attended the outreach programs. Many people took time out to spend time with him, he was given a Bible, the children played music for him, and he bought health and spiritual books. Tony was very serious when talking about his health. He'd had a stroke some time ago, and even though he was back at work, things are still not the best health wise for him. During the outreach, Tony felt impressed that he needed to give his life to Jesus and on Saturday night, he was offered the opportunity to invite Jesus into his heart. "Yes" was his immediate answer! Praise God! We prayed, talked and he just glowed!

The outreach program was such a special time for everyone involved and the team were able to achieve so much for this community. We all feel as though each person was handpicked by God for this work and look forward to more opportunities like this in the future. We are eager to see what God has planned for this community and the surrounding area and continue to pray for many blessings for them. A big thank you to all who were part of making this outreach happen.

PATHFINDERS & ADVENTURERS

INVESTITURES

It is investiture season again and we just want to say congratulations to all the Pathfinders and Adventurers who are getting invested. Thank you to all the staff and leaders who have volunteered their time to create something special for the children, and thank you to all the parents who have supported their clubs by bringing their children to events and assisting the leaders where they can. It is a big committment to join Pathfinders and Adventurers and even bigger to lead out so we appreciate everyone who was invovled!

This year started with a bang as most of our Pathfinder clubs made their way south to the National Camporee in Tumbarumba NSW. Throughout the year we have seen clubs fundraising, getting involved in outreach programs such as STORMCo, door knocking and giving out hampers. We have new clubs being created during the year such as Katherine Pathfinders and Adventurers, Mossman Adventurers and Alice Springs Adventurers. We have been so excited to hear about these new clubs because that means these churches are growing and members in these churches see the value in having these clubs for their children. We pray we have more clubs opening next year!

Thank you, once again, for your dedication and support and we pray you enjoy the break over the year end, ready to do it all in 2024.



Alice Springs Pathfinder & Adventurer Investiture

Katherine Pathfinders and Adventurer Investiture



Darwin Pathfinders and Adventurer Investiture

Townsville Pathfinders and Adventurer Investiture



Mount Isa Pathfinders and Adventurer Investiture









Seventh-day







blueshift

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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

January 26 for the February 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



January		July	
10-15	AUC ATSIM Camp	15	QLD Adventist Schools – Term Three
14	Summer Camp – Staff		Commences
15-19	Summer Camp	19-21	Women's Ministry Retreat
22	QLD Adventist Schools – Term One	26-28	Institute of Leadership Weekend
	Commences		
F - 1		August	
February		5-11	USA International Camporee
	Townsville Regional	9-11	Fellowship of Men Camp (Magnetic Island)
9-11	NASBOD Leadership Vision Weekend		
	AUC Converge	Septem	iber
15-18	Ministers Meetings	13	QLD Adventist Schools – Tern Three Finishe
23-25	Leadership Vision Weekend (Face to	14	World Pathfinder Day (Local Church)
	face Church Board)	14-15	NAC Constituency Meeting
24	Youth Leadership Training	16-29	Youth Rush
March		17-21	STORMCo Carlisle Adventist College
9	Cairns Regional	22-29	STORMCo NT
16	Global Youth Day/ Global Children's	22-29	STORMCo Mareeba
	Day	30	QLD Adventist Schools – Term Four
16-23	Youth Week of Prayer	Commen	ices
23	Darwin Regional	Octobe	•
28	QLD Adventist Schools – Term One	12	
	Finishes	12	Youth Rally & Volleyball Competition
April		10.2 Nov	(Townsville) Personal Ministries Roadshow
• 7-11	Teen Ex (Hiking)		
13	Alice Springs Regional	20-3 INUV	AUC Institute of Youth Ministry
15	Schools – Term Two Commences		-
20	Mackay Regional	Novem	
26-12 May	PNG for Christ	2	Alice Springs Investiture
_		8	Katherine Investiture
May		9	Darwin Investiture
18	World Adventurer Day (Local Church)	9-15	eWeek of Prayer for Youth & Young Adults
11-18	Health Week	16	Mount Isa Investiture
18	Building Better Health Regional	23	Townsville & Ayr Investiture
June		30	Mossman Investiture, North Mackay
11-13	Ministers Meetings		Investiture & Mackay Central
	G		Investiture
16-21 19	Big Camp Set Up	Decemb	ber
19	QLD Adventist Schools – Term Two	6	QLD Adventist Schools – Term Four Finishes
21.20	Finishes	7	Mareeba Investiture, FNQ Investiture
21-29	Big Camp	, 11	Last Day for Teachers
22	Youth Touch Football Comp	14	Edmonton Investiture, Cairns Central
		14	Lumonton investiture, Califis Central



Investiture