

January/February 2021

northpoint

North New South Wales Conference News

Testimony

Ruth H

LITTLE BIG CAMP

Growing Spiritually
April 14-17
Stuart's Point Convention Centre

Due to current COVID restrictions, Big Camp for 2021 has been replaced by "Little Big Camp". It will have 3 meeting venues: Big Tent (marquee) which will run an intergenerational program, Young Adults (former 18+ tent) and the High School Tent.

Activities for children will run each morning and afternoon. There will be three (3) divisions for children: Beginners 0-3, Youngsters 4-9 and

Junior 10-12. There will also be activities for Teenagers (13-17) each morning and afternoon.

Applications close 12 noon on Friday February 19, 2021

[events.adventist.org.au/
Registration/Event/6975](https://events.adventist.org.au/Registration/Event/6975)

GREY NOMADS

Be Ready
May 7-15
Stuart's Point Convention Centre

*Speakers: Pr Darius Jankiewicz and
Pr Geoff Youlden.*

nsw.adventist.org.au/news/grey-nomads-2021/

PRAYER CAMP

I Will Pray
February 19-21
Stuart's Point Convention Centre

Cut off date for registrations with meals is February 12 but if you just want to attend the prayer meeting you can register up until the date it starts. Just remember to book your accommodation directly with Stuarts Point Convention Centre.

nsw.adventist.org.au/i-will-pray/



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Pr Adrian Raethel
NSW Conference President

On a recent visit to my local public library, a book in the Religion section caught my attention. It is written by Wafa Sultan who is a Syrian born psychiatrist who has emigrated to the United States and who has been included on Time magazine's list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2006. The title of the book – "A God Who Hates". Mrs Sultan argues that while the Koran describes God as merciful, patient and the Most High, it also uses terms such as "The Harmer", "The Subduer", "The Imperious", "The Humiliator" and "The Bringer

of Death". From her own experience, her personal and professional life and from the teachings of Islam itself, she has concluded that this world religion presents a low view of women. In fact it was an interview on the Al Jazeera TV network that catapulted her into the public arena when, after being repeatedly talked over by her male interviewer, she told him to be quiet so that she could respond to his questions. Brought up as a Muslim, Mrs Sultan has since renounced her faith in Islam and spends her personal time speaking publically about her views.

A core part of our mission is to give the world an accurate picture of the character of God. The devil has been so successful in misrepresenting it. One of the "sons of thunder", John, no doubt after his

conversion, came to realise the true essential nature and character of God. "... love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love", 1 John 4.7,8 (NKJV).

It is stating the obvious that we live in a world of turmoil, uncertainty, division and instability. The message of the Bible is as important and relevant now as at any point in history. And it is a message that God is alive and well, that He is love, that we don't need to be scared or afraid of Him, that we can freely approach Him because of what Jesus has done and as a result, our lives can be full of hope and peace. What a positive, encouraging, uplifting and much needed message to share with others.

IS IT WORTH IT?

The Conference invests heavily in chaplaincy ministry across all three entities of the organisation. There are 2 volunteer hospital chaplains (travel and phone expenses covered) that service 22 hospitals from the Hunter region to the Central Coast, visiting Adventist patients from country and local areas. Adventist Senior living fund 1.4 budgets that service the residential facilities at Cooranbong and Alstonville. Schools Ltd support 16 chaplains (both full and part time) across the 9 operating schools

as well as the chaplain coordinator, Pr Alvin Schick. Pr Schick has been working with personnel from Adventist Schools Australia and his counterpart in the South Queensland Conference Pr Mel Lemke to produce a tool that will measure the results of the work of our School chaplains. The 2020 Schools chaplaincy report is in and the results may surprise you.

- 60% of all students were engaged in at least one free choice faith based activity (such as contributing to chapel services or weeks of spiritual emphasis, participating in Bible or baptismal studies and engaging in service projects)

- 83 students were engaged in baptismal studies while another 689 were in Bible studies
- 470 students were engaged in hands and feet service projects
- 41 students from Adventist homes were baptised plus an additional 10 students from non-Adventist homes.

Pr Schick stresses that these are real numbers as chaplains feed information including names of students into the database to generate the reports. Chaplaincy is a big investment and yes, it is worth it.

Celebrating Baptisms in Lismore!

Sherree Merritt

In last months of 2020 Lismore celebrated several baptisms. On October 24 Deidre was baptised after seeing a church member Neville Leeson letterboxing leaflets, which advertised programs run online and via other media outlets. She indicated that she had seen and liked some of these programs, which had Neville returning to discuss her interest further. Bible studies eventuated, resulting in Deidre requesting Baptism.

Leah, a year 12 student at our Adventist school in Goonellabah (Blue Hills College) showed an interest in spiritual things and began Bible studies. Later in January this year before COVID struck, she took a trip to the Bible Lands, which resulted in her being Baptised in the Jordan river. After more studies Leah made the decision to join the Seventh Day Adventist church through a Profession of faith.

Ned, a Uni student at the Southern Cross University in Lismore, came in contact

with a number of our SDA Young Adults. It was through their influence and friendship that Ned ended up having Bible studies. These Bible studies led Ned to believe in Baptism by immersion the same way that Jesus was Baptised. Ned was later Baptised at a beach in Ballina on 21 November and joined the Lismore SDA Church.



Baptisms at Blue Hills College!

Ben and Blade attended summer camp at the beginning of last year and both made a decision to be baptised.

The decision was, in a large way, influenced by their Cabin Leader Cullan, who made the trip up from Central Coast to Alstonville for the baptism. Thank you to the school and Pastors Tim and Dada for following up on their decision.

We can never underestimate the place Summer camp has in helping young people to make a decision for Jesus. Blade comes from a non SDA background, while Ben has grown up with church.



NEWSTART JUICE TURNS 1!

Joëlle Lawrence

NEWSTART Juice celebrated its one year anniversary on 20 November 2020. Colourful balloons, face painting and free juice and smoothie samples helped celebrate the milestone. The business sells a wide variety of delicious fresh fruit and vegetable juices and smoothies. A new watermelon drink was launched for the anniversary as well as a customer loyalty card.

The business is one arm of the Raymond Terrace Mission (RTM) Seventh-day Adventist Church located on the main street of Raymond Terrace at 45 William Street. NEWSTART Juice was opened with the purpose to serve the community by encouraging individuals to adopt a healthier lifestyle. NEWSTART is an acronym which stands for Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust.

NEWSTART Juice is run by volunteers who have a passion to not only provide for the community physically, but also spiritually. God has granted the volunteers with opportunities to build relationships with customers and talk about spiritual topics. By God's grace a couple was baptised at the beginning of this year after having Bible studies



with two volunteers. That relationship developed as a result of walking past NEWSTART Juice one day.

NEWSTART Juice as well as the adjacent RTM Op Shop, also operated by the church, aims to reach people where they are. Both businesses are open Mondays to Fridays from 9am - 4pm (3pm on Fridays).

It is RTM's mission to be "A safe place to find your way, discover truth and renew your life." In order to fulfill that mission

it needs people who are passionate about increasing the Kingdom of God. Perhaps you, or someone you know, have a few free hours a week to volunteer. Or perhaps you want to dedicate the next couple of months to serving God. If so RTM would love to partner with you in serving its community.

For more information contact us at church.rtm@gmail.com or call us on 0449 685 028.

BIBLE WORKER TESTIMONY

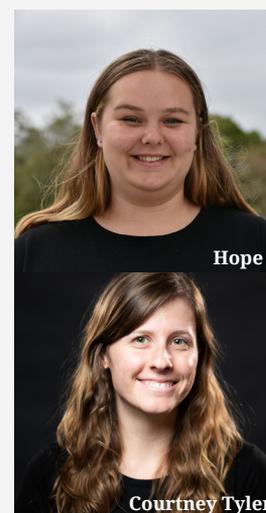
Courtney Tyler

Tweed Valley Adventist College

Hope started attending TVAC in 2014 as a Year 8 student, which she was excited about, knowing a number of students already. Hope reflects that she didn't really have a relationship with God at the time, her only encounter with God occurring when she'd attend the local Catholic church at Christmas and Easter to please her Grandma. Hope wasn't initially interested in getting to know God for herself but did join Friday morning group Bible studies because this was where her friends would go. Hope remembers the Week of Spiritual Emphasis (WOSE) in 2016 being a particularly significant moment in her journey, and when the speaker, Pr Boris Jovinov, invited students to make a decision, she chose to start individual Bible studies with Courtney Tyler (Chaplain). These continued for a while, but when some of her friends started losing interest in God, she chose to stop studies. God continues to work though, and in 2017 Hope went on the Year 11 Service Trip to Vanuatu and recalls the impact this has made on her

life. She could see God working in the lives of the local people and also how much they loved Him – He was everything to them. In Year 12, the students at TVAC host the first WOSE program in the year and Hope sees God working in her life through this experience too. She was convinced by her roll teacher to say a prayer during the program, which she was very nervous about. They prayed together beforehand and Hope instantly felt her nerves reduce, knowing that she'd encountered God for herself. At the end of Year 12 (2018) she approached Courtney and asked to start Bible studies again. Around the same time a friend started inviting her to attend the local youth events at Murwillumbah SDA Church. She also started to seek God through His Word in her own personal time. Hope decided to study teaching and in January 2020 she felt impressed to contact Sue Redsell (TVAC Head of Primary) to see if there were any teacher aide jobs available. This was no coincidence as Sue had just been notified that one of the teacher aides had resigned and Hope was able to take the position, joining the staff of the school she had attended herself. Around that time another staff member, Brooke, began inviting her to young adult church events. Hope also started regularly attending Murwillumbah SDA Church and

bringing her family with her. Since then she has been involved in sharing Jesus with others, both in her own family as well as through the book truck ministry at Murwillumbah SDA Church. She was baptised on November 27th 2020, and we're praising God for the way He's led in her story this far. It's beautiful to see Him bringing a student, and now staff member, to accept Him as their personal Saviour and desiring to lead others to Him!



HE IS THE ONE

Leah Hodge

Evangelism Assistant

The Evangelism Department ended the year with a three-part Christmas series called He is The One. Our three conference evangelists: Lyle Southwell, Justin Torossian and Charissa Torossian covered the messianic prophecies of Christ's first advent, Daniel chapter 9 plus other amazing evidence for Jesus being our Lord and King. The series aired December 15, 16, 17 on three platforms: theend.digital website, Facebook and YouTube. These presentations can be viewed at any time and played back. They are a great resource to send to contacts,

friends and family. If you haven't had a chance to watch them, I highly recommend you do!

Total Episode Views: 10,149
Responses: 25



NOTICES:

Plant-based Chef & Team Needed for Food Farmacy

The Food Farmacy will be an exciting, plant-based eatery and health education hub located inside the new Atune Integrated Health Centre at Cardiff, NSW. It will bring together a team who are passionate about providing 'whole person' foods and services for the physical, mental and spiritual health of all clients, and is a great opportunity to work in a frontline, mission environment. The business is scheduled to open in early 2021.

For more information visit nsw.adventist.org.au/news/expressions-of-interest-food-farmacy/

Position Vacant: Manager – Stuarts Point Convention Centre & Yarra - a Centre for education, health and lifestyle.

North NSW Conference is seeking to appoint a Manager for 2 sites at Stuarts Point Convention Centre and Yarra. The Manager is responsible for the strategic management, generation of business and maintenance of facilities and operations at both sites.

Applications close 8 February, 2021.
nsw.adventist.org.au/news/manager-position-spcc-yarra/

Bible Worker Needed - Kingscliff

Kingscliff Church is looking for a Bible Worker to serve in their local area in 2021. If you or someone you know is interested in considering journeying with them and God please contact Matt Parra, Lynden Parmenter, or Leah Hodge.
matthewparra@adventist.org.au;
lyndenparmenter@adventist.org.au;
leahhodge@adventist.org.au

BIG CAMP APPEAL REPORT

Thank you for generously supporting the 2020 Big Camp Appeal. You saw an opportunity to invest directly in cutting-edge evangelism, community outreach, and spiritual revival in North NSW and God is blessing. Please read through this report to see the ways that your gifts are being invested. All praise to God for the wonderful results He is achieving. You can read the 6-month Big Camp Appeal report on our website here. nsw.adventist.org.au/news/big-camp-appeal-six-month-report-2020/

UPCOMING ONLINE EASTER SERIES

He is Risen

He is Risen is an online easter evangelistic series, which will be aired April 2-6 on theend.digital website, Facebook and YouTube. It will be touching on the crucifixion, resurrection and intercession of Jesus. It will be the perfect opportunity to share this message around the easter longweekend. If you would like to help the Evangelism Team spread the good news of this message, please contact leahhodge@adventist.org.au

FINANCIAL REPORT

If you would like to read the December Financial Report for 2020, read it on our website here. nsw.adventist.org.au/news/financial-report-december-2020/

Subscribe to NorthPoint online!

Don't miss out on the excitement. Get the conference news straight to your inbox!
nsw.adventist.org.au/northpoint-bulletin

The NewsCast

Listen to the latest NNSW Conference Newscast on our news and events page.
nsw.adventist.org.au/news-and-events

Enquiries

The NorthPoint Bulletin is printed 10 times per year by the Adventist Church (North New South Wales Conference).

Editor Marta Rutkowska
Phone (02) 4951 8088
Email northpoint@adventist.org.au
Website nsw.adventist.org.au

Contributions

We would love to share local news with the conference in print or online. Please send through relevant contributions to the above contact address.

Disclaimer: Articles express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

North New South Wales