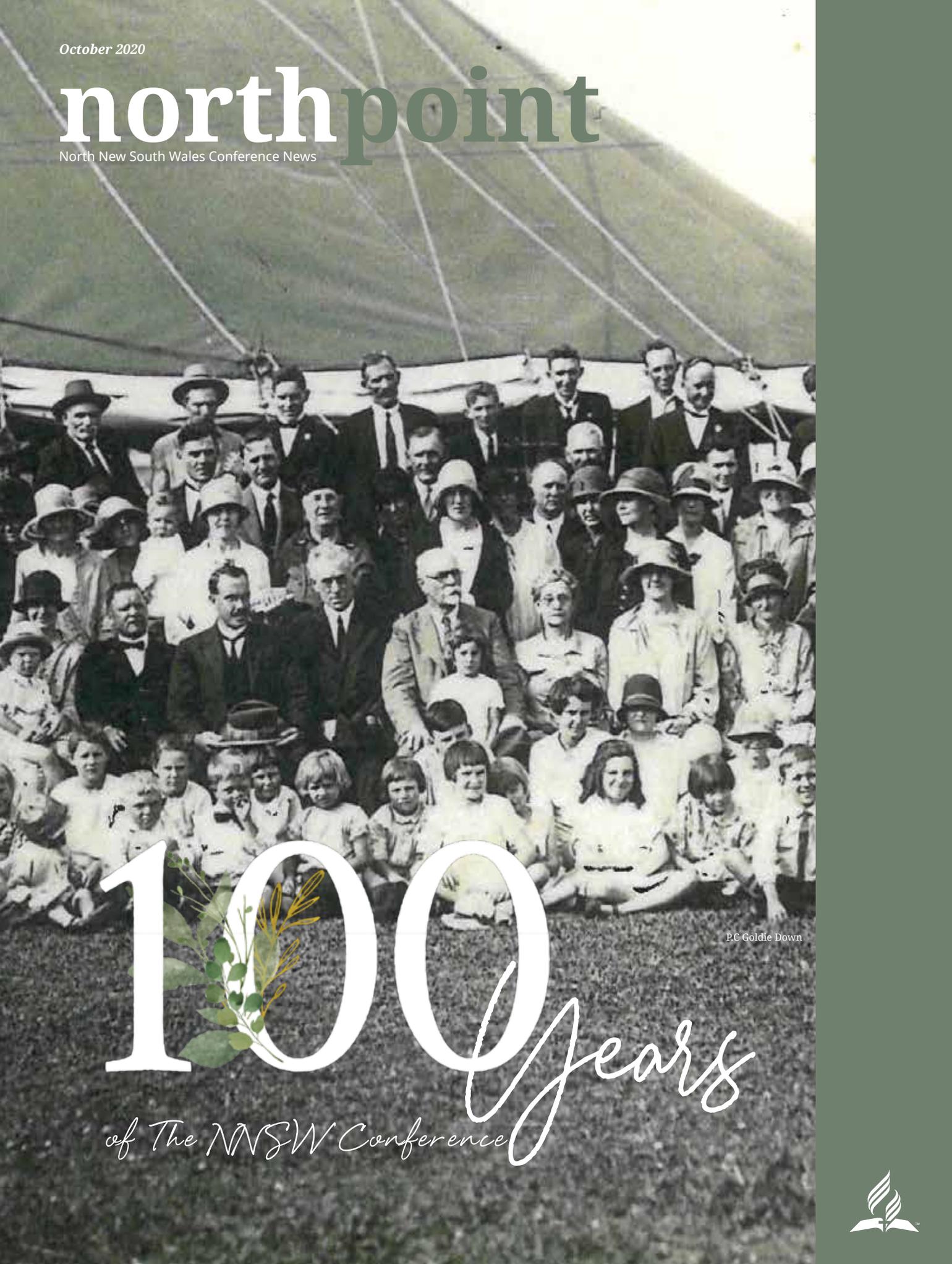


October 2020

northpoint

North New South Wales Conference News



P.C Goldie Down

100 Years

of The NNSW Conference



President's Message

Pr Adrian Raethel
Conference President

The ark has been brought back to Jerusalem and King David has rest from his enemies. God gives Nathan the prophet a message for David outlining how He has lead him and the nation of Israel. God reminds David: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel" (2 Samuel 7.8 NKJV). God tells David that his seed will build the temple and that his kingdom will be established forever. David's humble response in v.18 is enlightening. "Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?" Paraphrased in relation to the Conference, the verse would read something like: "Who are we, O Lord God? And what is this Conference, that You have brought us this far?"

A constituency meeting was held at Gore Hill, Sydney in October 1920 to divide up the then New South Wales Conference into 2 conferences, the South New South Wales Conference which also included the Sydney basin and the North New South Wales Conference. At the time, the latter comprised of 19 churches with 818 members. The Conference was served by 3 ordained ministers, 7 licensed ministers and 1 school teacher. By contrast, membership as of 30 June 2020 was 12,271 across over 90 churches, companies and groups. The Conference operates the largest Adventist School system in Australia with 10 schools (1 not currently operating), 2 early learning centres and over 3,600 students. Adventist Senior Living comprises of 2 residential facilities, 5 independent living villages and Home Care services. Across the organisation, there are over 1,200 active employees.

As the Conference celebrates its 100th birthday this month, it is appropriate to reflect, to remember and to be thankful. Over this period of time, think about the worship services that have been organized, the children's Sabbath School programs run, the evangelistic campaigns, the camp meetings, the youth camps and the list goes on. The people who have served, both in a voluntary and paid capacity, the sacrifices made, the money donated, the perspiration expended at working bees etc. So much given by so many. And while we are grateful for each person and every act of service, the praise, the glory and the honour goes only to God for His blessing and His leading.

Happy 100th birthday, North New South Wales Conference.

NSW Conference Presidents



J.M. Cole
1920 - 1922,
1924 - 1925



A.H. Piper
1923



H.E. Piper
1926



H.A. Hill
1926 - 1928



P.G. Foster
1929



E.H. Guilliard
1930 - 1931



A.H. White
1932 - 1934



J.W. Kent
1936 - 1942



W.J. Westerman
1935, 1943 - 1945



D. Sibley
1946 - 1955



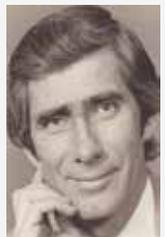
H.W. Hollingsworth
1956 - 1959



W.J. Richards
1960 - 1965



L.S. Rose
1966 - 1971



A.H. Tolhurst
1975 - 1980



A.D.C. Currie
1980 - 1985



R.V Moe
1972 - 1975,
1985 - 1996



P. Colquhoun
1996 - 2002



J.A Lang
2002 - 2011



J.S Lawman
2012 - 2017



T.L Evans
2017 - 2019



A.J Raethel
2019 - present



History of Stuarts Point Camp Ground

By Pr Rex Moe

Originally there were 2 camp grounds in the NNSW Conference. One at Byron Bay, which catered for the northern half of the Conference; and the other at Eraring, which catered for the southern half.

There were contentions between the northern and southern half. Neither had an effective camp ground. It occurred to me that the only way to resolve the contentious issue was to have a centrally located camp ground. To this end the Camp Ground committee was established.

Neville Fenton of National Parks & Wildlife, spoke to me about this 330 acres parcel of land as did also Ken Redman, Caretaker at Yarrahapinni. On my return visit from the Northern Conference I came in, changed into my work clothes and boots, and spent a considerable time evaluating its potential to develop as a camp ground, stepping over red bellied black snakes and other wild things.

I became convinced that this was the ideal site for a centrally situated camp ground, between north, south & west of the Conference.

The Camp Ground Committee met at Yarrahapinni and decided it was a very suitable site.

In the meantime I had contacted the Conference Solicitor, Peter Evans, and asked him to make an offer of \$500,000 for the purchase of the property. Hank Penola was Conference Treasurer at the time. I was in the car at Yarrahapinni with members of the committee when the phone rang and our solicitor told us that our offer had been accepted.

A few months later I was offered \$1.5 million to opt out of the contract!

The Camp Ground Committee was established with representation of 16 members across the Conference. Concepts for the development of the ground were considered and the basic plan from me, with all roads leading to the tabernacle, was adopted by the committee. The design architect employed by the Conference was Vilny Brickman from Coffs Harbour. His third concept on the layout, after much discussion, is as you see it today with the Big Tent being the centre of focus from all angles.

When work began, and the land cleared, it looked like the Sahara Desert, resembling a massive sandstorm in the wind. Truckloads of fertiliser (chook manure) and grass were brought in. The water table being 17' enabled us to put in bores in strategic locations and set the sprinklers going, and irrigation continued 24 hours a day until the grass had been established.

Neville Fenton have good advice on the flora and fauna of the land. The ABC centre, Kitchen and Dining Room, Admin Office, Caretaker House/Office Complex and Amenities Blocks were established.

With the sale of the two former camp grounds, plus the Conference reserves, the Stuarts Point camp ground was completed debt free.

The official opening was on 7 October, 1992 by the Kempsey Mayor who spoke in glowing terms of the relationship that existed during construction.

I consider it a great privilege having been involved in such a grand development in bringing harmony within the Conference and to the glory of God.



Eraring Camp Ground



Byron Bay Camp



Stuarts Point Camp



Memories From



Newcastle Earthquake SDA Helpers



Mission Plane Dedication



Gloucester Church 1989



Avondale College Bus



Opening of Polish Church Hall



Memorial Church



New NSW Conference Office Opening - 112 Lake Rd



Ladies observing their first Sabbath



Principles Hamilton School



Tamworth Church Picnic 1989



Bike for Bibles Central Coast & Cooranbong Riders 1989



The Past



Lismore 1924 Mission



Pioneer Program Heritage Work - 1984



Stuarts Point Big Camp - Kindergarden Tent - 2002



Byron Bay Big Camp - 1985



Pathfinder Harvest Thanksgiving - 1983



Byron Bay Big Camp



Byron Bay Big Camp Cooks



NNSW Camp Meeting - Eraring - 1977

NNSW Conference

Early Beginnings

By S.R. Goldstone

The North NSW Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was voted into existence at the New South Wales Camp-meeting held at Gore Hill, Sydney from October 5-17, 1920.

It was at this Conference Session that the New South Wales Conference was divided into what was initially known as the North East NSW Conference and the South NSW Conference. Shortly after the new Conference was re-named the North New South Wales Conference, with 58-year old John Martin Cole appointed the first president. An experienced missionary and administrator, Irish born Cole was a naturalised American who travelled to the Pacific on the first voyage of the Pitcairn in 1893 and after spending a number of years of service throughout the Pacific islands was appointed President of South Australia Conference and later New Zealand. He had a background in building and was known as a builder of churches.

The new Conference started with a membership of around 808 members, with the first Conference office being located in Newcastle and following the first camp-meeting of the new Conference held in Maitland in 1922 a new office was set up at 11 Cooranbong Road, Broadmeadow. In the latter part of 1920 and the early part of 1921 M. H Whittaker was running an evangelistic program in the rural community of Yarrawitch (near Walcha) while living in two tents. Opposition was so intense that meetings had to be held in the open under trees. Yarrawitch was the home of the Stace family and Whittaker's daughter married Dr Gordon McDowell. Later in 1921 Whittaker moved to Quirindi – his home town. As a result of the earlier work of Charles Paap a church had already been established in Quirindi and in spite of strong opposition, Whittaker was able to report that Pastor Cole visited Quirindi on January 14, 1922 and officiated at the baptism of ten candidates, with others planning to follow their Lord at a later date.

We note with interest that a church school was opened in Quirindi with George Masters being the sole teacher. Due to a number of Adventist families leaving the district the expected number of pupils from Adventist families was minimised, but some non-Adventist parents were happy for their children to have a Christian education with the result that eight non-Adventist children were added to the enrolment.

In November 1921, Ruby Dray, Conference Secretary/Treasurer was able to report

there were nineteen organised churches in the Conference with a membership of 904. Pastor Harvey was caring for the Newcastle area; H. A. Carr was located at Guyra; and R.A. Salton at Glen Innes. Of interest is the work carried out in Kurri Kurri where Spiritism had a strong influence. Spirit mediums actually attended his public meetings and reacted favourably to his lectures as did the local Press. As a result, a combined meeting was held in the Hamilton church on November 19, 1921 when twenty-four candidates were added to church membership through baptism.

The first camp-meeting of the North New South Wales Conference was scheduled to be held on the Maitland Showground from February 9 – 18, 1922. It proved to be a happy occasion with living conditions being blessed by favourable weather. There were not sufficient family tents to house all who wished to attend so alternative accommodation was set up in some of the Showground's permanent buildings. Reports showed that the membership had been increased to 963 through baptisms and by profession of faith. Five new churches were organised since the setting up of the new Conference.

Three Conference workers were ordained to the gospel ministry at this camp-meeting - Brethren S. Walton, R. A Salton and M.H. Whittaker.

All in all it proved to be a successful start under the blessing of God to the newly formed North New South Wales Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

NNSW Brief History

Adventist Schools

The upcoming historical information is sourced from the SDA Encyclopaedia NNSW Conference article by Paul Geelan

1897 – After being transferred from North Fitzroy, Victoria, Avondale School opened in Cooranbong on 28 April with 25 students. Both Primary and Secondary Schools were transferred to the current site at 119 Avondale Road in 1980

1900 – The Hamilton Church established a school with classes held in the rear of the church building on Lindsay Street, Hamilton. In 1935, land was purchased in Kemp Street Hamilton and the school was relocated. Macquarie Adventist College commenced operations on its current site on Lake Road Wallsend in 1994

1950 – Blue Hills College (formerly Lismore Adventist School) was established in the church hall in Brewster Street Lismore and later transferred to its

present site at 17 Blue Hills Avenue 1958 – Tweed Valley Adventist College commenced as a primary school in Riverview Street Murwillumbah. It was relocated to its current site in Hall Drive Murwillumbah in 1974

1967 – Macksville Adventist School commenced operation on 31 January with classes being held in the Macksville Church hall and was relocated to its current site at 11 Dudley Street Macksville in October 1984

1969 – Central Coast Adventist College was established in 1969, commencing in a small building on Mann Street Gosford. CCAS relocated to its current site at Penrose Crescent, Erina in 1970.

1977 – Kempsey Adventist School was originally located on Yaraval Street Kempsey and moved to 108 Crescent Head Road in October 2001

1977 – Manning Adventist School commenced operations in 1977 and is located on Bucketts Way Tinonee

1982 – Established in 1982, Toronto Adventist School is located on Wangi Road Toronto

1991 – Port Macquarie Adventist School was established in 1991 and is located at 500 Ocean Drive, Port Macquarie

NNSW Brief History

Adventist Senior Living

1955 – Located at 552-578 Freemans Drive Cooranbong, Avondale Lifestyle Community was established in 1955 and now comprises of both the Avondale and Alton sites

1984 - Alstonville Lifestyle Community is located at 77 Pearces Creek Alstonville and consists of a 51 bed hostel and 84 independent living units

2012 – Jewells Lifestyle Community was purchased in 2012, is located at 7 Niaba Road Jewells and has 97 independent living units and community facilities

2012 – Also purchased in 2012, Wyee Point Lifestyle Community has over 40 independent living units and is located at 100 Government Road Wyee Point

2018 – Tweed Heads Lifestyle Community was purchased in 2019.

Major Evangelistic Campaigns

1951 – George Burnside City Mission, Newcastle

1962 – George Burnside City Mission, Newcastle

1979 – Fordyce Detamore Evangelistic Series, Cooranbong

1992 – Kenneth Cox City Mission, Newcastle

1993 – C D Brooks Evangelistic Series, Moree.

Testimony

ARISE for Life Bible worker Jacinta met 22 year old Jenny, an international student from Vietnam, whilst taking surveys at the University of Newcastle in 2019. Jenny initially was hesitant to say yes when asked if she wanted to have Bible studies due to her Buddhist background. However, due to the friendliness of Jacinta and her ARISE for Life colleagues, she decided to explore the Christian faith. In Jenny's own words, "She seemed nice so I was curious!" Bible studies soon became a regular occurrence and Jenny even started attending Friday evening Care groups for fellowship. ARISE for Life ended and no decision had been made, however Jacinta and other church members from the University of Newcastle Church Plant continued to study the Bible and reach out to Jenny. When COVID struck causing lockdown restrictions and church closures, it was a difficult time for Bible workers to navigate how to reach their seekers and contacts. They quickly realised that it was during this lonely time of isolation that people would be seeking out community and companionship more than ever.

The University of Newcastle Church ensured to have an online hosting party when the NNSW conference led a series called "The End" evangelistic program. Jenny would watch these videos and come to a deeper understanding of the gospel of Jesus and the Seventh Day Adventist faith. It was a quiet Sabbath day when churches had re-opened again that Jenny stated she would like to make the decision to step into the waters of baptism and follow Jesus!

On the 29th of August 2020, she was officially baptised into the Seventh Day Adventist church as a public declaration of faith. She stated many times that she would also like to study the Bible with her younger siblings back home in Vietnam and share her new found faith with her family.

It was through consistent efforts, regular prayer and an attitude of service from the young people of this conference that Jenny was able to join the family of God. She is truly an example of the "first fruits" being born and evidence that God can still move in mighty ways, even during the unprecedented times we are living in today.



Ordination

Pr Alex Green

Alex Green was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Avondale College Church on Sabbath 5 September 2020. The service was pre-recorded due to the pandemic. Alex, together with his wife Laura, commenced ministry at the Wallsend Church and then transferred to the College Church where he has now ministered for the past two and a half years. Alex and Laura were joined by a small group of colleagues and friends with their parents watching online due to COVID-19.

Pictured from left to right: Pr Cranville Tooley, Laura Green, Alex Green, Pr Adrian Raethel, Pr Abel Iorgulescu.



Number One!

Congratulations to the Faith FM breakfast show hosts, Lyle Southwell, Minni Frauenfelder and Liam Shuttleworth for achieving the top rated program on the Australia wide Faith FM network for the month of August. The breakfast show is produced and sponsored by the NNSW Conference.

ADRA Appeal

With the door-knock not going ahead this year, we are predicting a shortfall of approximately \$165,000 across churches all around Australia. As the ADRA Appeal is the major source of funding for local projects in your Conference, and that of other Conferences, it is important that we encourage churches to support the ADRA Appeal through other means of fundraising and giving.

Upcoming Events

Creation Online Summit -

October 23rd - 25th
registrations are now open
events.adventist.org.au/event/info/5899

America and The End: 2020 unmasked

The NNSW Evangelism Department is producing an online evangelistic series centred around Revelation 13 which will be premiered around US Election, at the end of October. Stay tuned for more details on dates and times.

SoZo Health Retreat

Stuarts Point Convention Centre
November 8th - 15th
sozohealth.com.au

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The NewsCast

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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).

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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.

100 Celebrating the CENTENARY

● ONLINE WEEKEND

Join us for a once in a lifetime weekend of online centenary celebrations **16-17 October 2020**.

Friday 16 October

7:00pm Opening Sabbath Family Worship

Sabbath 17 October

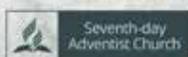
10:00am Adult and Children's Sabbath School

11:00am Family Worship Service

A centenary celebration documentary showcasing God's leading and blessing over the last 100 years will be released **Sabbath afternoon**.

 facebook.com/NNSWAdventists

 youtube.com/NNSWConference



North New South Wales

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