Decision made on Big Camp for 2012 and 2013

On 17 October, the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference Executive Committee made a decision about when Big Camp will be held in 2012 and 2013, after the decision regarding when camp would be held was referred back to the committee at the NNSW Conference constituency meeting (see page 2 for more information about the constituency meeting).

Big Camp for 2012 will be held from 28 September to 4 October, and will be a family-style camp. This will involve limited canvas, with one larger meeting tent and two smaller tents. There will be also be no conference tents, so people will need to use private tents and caravans. The format of this camp will be much simpler than a typical Big Camp, with a focus on family, encouraging them to worship together and build unity — much like it will be in heaven. More detail will be provided in the new year.

The dates for Big Camp in 2013 are 18 to 24 April. This seven-day camp will be held at this time of year because of the availability of the canvas and the likelihood of better weather conditions. The slightly shorter camp will allow families to pack up and get home before the final weekend of the school holidays.

NNSW shares the majority of canvas for tents with the South Queensland Conference (SQC). Changes to the school holiday schedules in both states mean that holidays now line up, and the canvas will already be in use by the SQC.

Three options were considered by the Executive Committee when it came to Big Camp. One was to run a full Easter camp in 2012, but this was ruled out because the turn-around between camp this year and next year would be too short. The second option was to hold no camp in 2012, but this was dismissed because of the passion for camp shown at the constituency meeting, and because of the positive things it does for the conference. This meant the third option of running a family camp in 2012 and a full camp in 2013 became the preferred option.

Pastor John Lang, retiring President of the NNSW Conference, says, “Big Camp is a positive thing for many people in the NNSW Conference. It’s important for the church to have an event like this. This year’s Big Camp, held from 30 September to 8 October, provided a wonderful experience through the challenges our presenters gave us of growing the church and being more involved in reaching the lost.”

The general theme of “On Fire” for this year’s camp allowed each tent to interpret it their own way to best meet the needs of attendees. In closing Sabbath on the final Saturday of camp, Pastor Justin Lawman, President of the NNSW Conference, noted that many people had spoken of being on fire for the Lord and taking this back to their own churches when camp finished. He emphasised the spiritual uplift that takes people through to the next camp meeting, and encouraged attendees to give more of themselves to help others. Pastor Lawman also noted that there were a number of people who had brought non-Christian friends with them to camp, and that they had loved attending.

There were a variety of activities and workshops for people of all ages to take part in throughout the duration of Big Camp. Although rain delayed a handful of the activities for teens and juniors early on at camp, the weather cleared up to allow mountain biking, surfing, an outing to Coffs Harbour, laser tag, water slides and a variety of other activities.

A number of workshops were conducted, including ones on Beyond The Search in the Connections Tent (see page 11 for more information) and media workshops in the Expo Tent. The workshops that attracted the most attention were the church planting ones with Pastor Tom Evans. Out of the workshops with Pastor Evans, there were 25 commitments to plant churches around NNSW.

There was also strong positive feedback about the men’s ministry programs hosted in the Family Ministries Tent. Attendees felt blessed by the information they were provided with, and discovered new ways in which to connect with other men.

Many months of planning and preparation went into creating an enjoyable Big Camp experience for all attendees. One example of this is the way in which the

(Continued on page 6)
OUR CONFERENCE

New president and officers elected at NNSW Conference constituency meeting

The North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference constituency meeting was held on Sunday, 11 September at Macksville State School Auditorium. Around 450 people attended the session, with the Australian Union Conference (AUC) and South Pacific Division (SPD) represented by Pastor Chester Stanley, AUC President; Pastor Ken Vogel, AUC General Secretary; Kingsley Wood, AUC Chief Financial Officer; and Kelvin Peuser, SPD Associate Chief Financial Officer.

With NNSW Conference President Pastor John Lang, General Secretary Bob Dale and a number of other departmental directors retiring at the end of this year, the constituency meeting saw a number of staffing changes set in place for the 2012–2015 period.

Pastor Justin Lawman, who has served as the NNSW Conference Evangelism coordinator for the past four years, was elected as President of the NNSW Conference. Pastor Paul Geelan, who currently ministers to Lismore and Casino Seventh-day Adventist churches, has been elected to the position of General Secretary. Russell Halliday was re-elected to his position as Chief Financial Officer of the conference.

Pastor Lang, who was thanked by Pastor Stanley for his work as President of the NNSW Conference, says, “I’m very happy with the team that has been chosen. I know that God will greatly enable them as they take up their new roles in fulfilling the Gospel commission.”

He also thanked the directors and associates who were moving on to other roles — Pastor Murray Chapman from his role as ATSIM Director; Susan Magaitis from her role as Women’s Ministries Director; Pastor Peter Cousins from his role as Stewardship, Singles and Family Ministries Director; Shariene Guest from her role as Marketing and Communications Director; Ralph Luchow as Education Director; and Pastor Bevan Craig as Associate Director of Youth Ministries.

“We have greatly appreciated the work and commitment by all those listed above, and trust that God will continue to richly bless and guide them,” says Pastor Lang.

Pastor Lawman notes that the team for the new quadrennium is a “young team” who have great aspirations to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ go forward. “The way people were chosen was based on their orientation toward ministry and fulfilling the mission of the church,” he says.

“My vision is to elevate the local church and make it central. I want our conference to grow local leaders — it’ll be the local churches that finish God’s work, not the conference office,” Pastor Lawman adds.

He notes that NNSW has an “amazing” school system and a very well-run Adventist Aged Care system. He also notes that while it is the conference with the highest proportion of Adventists to the general population, the conference retains the goals of increasing baptism numbers and reaching the community.

Speaking of Pastor Lang, Pastor Lawman says, “John has been a father to me in ministry, and has really been a wonderful example and influence on me.”

Bob Dale, who has been the General Secretary of the conference for the past 12 years and is retiring at the end of this year, says, “We are very grateful that a significant body of members gave their Sunday to ensure that the proper processes of accountability were followed. We are also grateful to the Lord for safe travel, as many people spent more than eight hours on the roads that day to be in attendance.”

— Adele Nash

Photos courtesy of Ann Stafford

The officers, departmental directors and associates for the NNSW Conference are as follows:

President: Pastor Justin Lawman
General Secretary: Pastor Paul Geelan
Chief Financial Officer: Russell Halliday
Assistant Chief Financial Officer: Greg Fowler
Director of ADRA and Health Ministries: Nathan Hawkins
Director of Aged Care Services: David Knight
Director of Adventist Book Centre: Allan Hill
Director of Children’s and Family Ministries: Pastor Daron Pratt
Director of Education: Glen King
Associate Director of Education: Marilyn Hansen
ATSIM, Women’s Ministries and Singles Ministries: Lynelda Tippo
Evangelism Coordinator and Director of Sabbath School: Matt Parra
Religious Liberty: Pastor Justin Lawman
Ministerial Secretary: Pastor Gordon Smith
Director of Adventist Youth Ministries and Christian Services for the Blind: Pastor Jeff Parker
Associate Director of Adventist Youth Ministries: Rick Hergenhan
Director of Trust Services: Pastor Rodney Woods
Director of Communication: Pastor Paul Geelan
Stewardship: Russell Halliday
New NNSW Conference departmental leader profiles

Pastor Justin Lawman

Pastor Justin Lawman was born in Armidale in 1969. He has been married to Wendy for 19 years, and they have two children — Monica (18) and Caleb (16).

After Graduating from Avondale College, Pastor Lawman was called to work in the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference in January 1997. He worked as associate pastor in Coffs Harbour and Dorrigo churches for 12 months. Then he pastored the Grafton and Maclean churches, where Pastor Lawman was ordained in 2000.

Over the next four years, Pastor Lawman pastored the Port Macquarie church. He also cared for the Telegraph Point and Camden Haven churches for one year each. During this time, Pastor Lawman served on the conference’s Executive and Education Committees.

Pastor Lawman accepted a call to the Southern California Conference in December 2004, where he pastored the Community Adventist Fellowship for three years. He ran and assisted large evangelistic programs, and hosted a weekly radio program on Los Angeles radio.

For the past four years, Pastor Lawman has worked as Evangelism Coordinator for the NNSW Conference; running and coordinating evangelistic programs, training events, church planting and Natural Church Development (NCD).

Pastor Paul Geelan

Pastor Paul Geelan, aged 42, is married to Vanessa and they have two daughters, Lucy (10) and Anna (8).

Pastor Geelan is a third generation Seventh-day Adventist. He worked for the South Pacific Division and Avondale College Foundation for three years, and worked as a financial planner for 13 years.

Pastor Geelan undertook his training at the Amazing Facts College in the United States and graduated with a Graduate Diploma in Theology at Avondale College. Pastor Geelan ministered to the churches in Wauchope and Port Macquarie for one year, and has been at Lismore for four years. Pastor Geelan was ordained to the gospel ministry in February 2011.

In addition to pastoral work in the local church, he has presented five evangelistic series in 2011, and is currently serving on the Australian Union Conference Executive Committee, NNSW Conference Finance Committee, NNSW Conference NCD Leadership Team and is treasurer and council member of Blue Hills College.

Glen King

Glen King is a dedicated, resourceful educational professional with 32 years of experience in teaching, leadership and management of schools. He has served for 15 years as school principal in two schools (pre-school to Year 12), and deputy principal for eight years in two high schools, including a boarding school. His most recent role as School Development Officer for the NNSW Conference oversees 11 schools on budgets, master plans, strategic plans, development issues, Primary Schools for the 21st Century Projects, National School Pride Projects, OH&S compliance and Currawah Adventist Aboriginal College.

Matt Parra

Following his baptism in 1999, Matt attended Mission College, School of Evangelism. He then spent seven years in volunteer ministry in various locations. During the past six years, he has been employed by Michigan and then Central Californian Conferences, teaching and running field schools in their Evangelistic “ARISE” training centres. Matt has been married to Sherise, a registered nurse, for 4.5 years. They both have a passion for empowering and training others in evangelism. He enjoys hiking, surfing, reading and rock-paper-scissors battles.

Rick Hergenhan

Rick Hergenhan grew up in Bega. After finishing high school, he completed a trade as a dairy farmer on his family’s farm. In 2001, Rick volunteered as the manager of the Pinnacle of Terror team in the Tasmanian Conference. Working closely with the Youth Director, he gained experience mentoring Adventist youth and at-risk young people. In Tasmania, Rick met his wife, Libby. They married in 2004 and now have a young son, Giles. After feeling God’s call to ministry, Rick completed a Graduate Diploma in Theology and Ministry in 2009. Since graduating, Rick has been the associate pastor of Raymond Terrace and Wallisend Adventist Church, and is a Chaplain at Newcastle University.

Lynelda Tippo

Lynelda was born in Townsville in 1964, and is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestry. She became a committed Christian in 1992, being re-baptised in Moree by Pastor Malcolm Bull. Lynelda engaged in part-time ministry among the Indigenous people of Moree, before moving to Western Australia to teach Bible, basic psychology, cultural studies, computing and literacy/numeracy at Maramarapa College until 2010. She graduated with a BEd Adult Education through the University of Technology, Sydney. Lynelda has been involved in the Indigenous work in Western Australia (women’s groups, Bible studies, helping with church planting) and with the Western Australian Women’s Ministries Advisory Committee. Lynelda has a ministry called Wheelbarrow Ministry, which involves Indigenous women in regard to abuse recovery. Lynelda is currently at Currawah Adventist Aboriginal College. Her daughter lives and works in Melbourne.
OUR CHURCHES

Father’s Day breakfast at Wyong Grove

At the end of August, fathers — and other significant male role models — and their children went to Wyong Grove Public School to enjoy a hot breakfast and celebrate Father’s Day. Central Coast Community Church (CCCC) sponsored the breakfast, which was much appreciated by the whole school community.

It was great to see the children and men interacting and enjoying each others’ company. The school principal Jane Young said, “As you may be aware, this breakfast is sometimes the only yearly contact we have with some fathers, and as educators we all know that the adult/child relationship is well worth promoting. It is valuable to have dads connect with their child’s school community. Without the help of CCCC, we would not have been able to run this important event.”

Pastor Wayne Krause, minister at CCCC, attended the breakfast, mingling with the children, their fathers and school staff.

Rochelle Madden, Wyong Grove Public School chaplain, believes it was important to organise the event and show the school community the church’s support — both financially and in their capacity to serve them and build positive relationships.

The 10 cartons of leftover eggs were donated to Wyong Grove Public School to help with their own Father’s Day Breakfast, which was held on 1 September.

— Rochelle Madden

GodPod thank you and Avondale Brass Band visit at Raymond Terrace

Although we find it hard to imagine there are whole cultures in our part of the world where people still cannot read or write, one such person was at Raymond Terrace Seventh-day Adventist Church on Saturday, 3 September.

Amos, from Mamusi in Papua New Guinea, was present to thank the church members for their donation of money that helped enable his people to have their own GodPods. Although his people have no written language, they are now experiencing the marvels of modern technology through the medium of GodPods, which are hand-held, solar-powered devices the size of mobile phones and contain the gospel in Pidgin English.

As GodPods run on solar power, which does away with the need for batteries, the people can listen to the bible wherever they are. A series of health lessons and Bible lessons are also recorded on these machines. The marvels of modern technology have opened the world to these isolated people.

The church also enjoyed a visit from the Avondale Brass Band on the same day. The rafters rang with music as the band took the morning church program. The history of Christian music throughout the ages — from Gregorian chants to modern gospel songs — was recounted with examples from each era.

The Avondale Brass Band has been in existence for more than 100 years. The youngest player in the band currently is in Primary School, and the oldest is in his mid-70s.

— Mary Fedorow

Dora Creek Church welcomes Creation Ministries International

On Sabbath, 17 September, Dora Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church was privileged to have Dr. John Anderson of Creation Ministries International speak, both in the morning and the afternoon.

During the church service, Dr. Anderson’s presentation was titled “Genesis: Relevant or Relic?” He emphasised that, without a literal understanding of Genesis 1 to 11, the whole concept of sin and salvation has no foundation.

After potluck lunch, Dr. Anderson continued with “Darwinism — Real Deal or House of Cards?”

He took attendees through the evolution of evolution, which was an intriguing study, pointing out that atheists long before Charles Darwin had been looking for ways to exclude God from the picture.

Charles Darwin himself was influenced by his grandfather, Erasmus Darwin. Later, Thomas Huxley applied Darwin’s ideas to human development. Dr. Anderson pointed out that many of textbooks used by students over the years contained “evidence” that was completely fabricated. The attendees then had a lively “question and answer” time.

Dora Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church would like to thank Dr. Anderson and the team from Creation Ministries International for their time and effort to visit Dora Creek.

— Gordon Howard
A group of 20 volunteers helped to build a clinic in the highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in June. Leaving Brisbane on 16 June and returning on 30 June, the group was financed by the Murwillumbah Seventh-day Adventist Church and led by Pastor Brett Townend. The trip proved to be a high for everyone involved.

Using funds raised from its share of the ADRA Op Shop in Tweed Heads, the Murwillumbah Church members decided to adopt a clinic in Minj Mu, located in the highlands of PNG outside of Mount Hagen. After many phone calls and emails arranging supplies to be delivered to the village, the group set off.

Three different welcomes made the group feel extra-special — one of the welcomes involved thousands of locals blocking the highway to greet the volunteers. What the clinic meant to the local people was soon realised by the emotional speeches given in Minj and Minj Mu.

After negotiating landslides and surviving a long, muddy drive, the group finally arrived in Minj Mu. They had anticipated they’d have to sleep on the ground with no electricity or running water, but were surprised to see a mini “resort” had been established at great cost and dedication by the local people. Male and female dormitories were provided, with kitchens and running hot water. The group was overwhelmed by the generosity of the people in Minj Mu, who were very appreciative of the clinic.

Murwillumbah member Margaret Frankland was the cook for the group, and was kept busy devising numerous ways to cook cabbage and keep everyone well fed.

After discussion with Lucas, one of the local elders and the owner of the land, it was decided the clinic would be built near the church, as concern over possible flooding by the river was noted. After clearing the area to make room, the ground was broken to begin the project. The clinic was completed to lock-up stage within nine working days, with interruptions of rain and power supplies included.

It was a great achievement, made possible by the leadership of the main builders Mark Penman and Neville Southon. They were assisted by the dedicated team of local people, without whose help the project would not have been completed.

Building the clinic wasn’t the only thing that happened during the visit. A daily medical clinic, which tended to the needs of villagers, was operated out of the church by Phil Jones, who was ably assisted by Pam Randalls and Rae Townend. A computer class was run for the local people by Hopal McClintock. Not to let a chance go by, the pastoral team asked Pastor Townend to conduct an evangelistic series in the evenings.

The final Sabbath the group was there for was a long day that was filled with blessings, with four people baptised in the Minj River. There were also 80 GodPods donated to the local mission field, which was made possible by the generous donation from Murwillumbah members, on top of the $30,000 provided to build the clinic.

Greg Walsh says, “The whole trip was such a high experience for all those who went and caught a glimpse of what a pleasure it is to serve. The dedication, generosity and friendliness of the highland people was on full display. Lucas provided the land for the clinic out of his own pocket. Dr David Nangan spent hours after work establishing the accommodation and negotiating safe access with the locals for safe access. Pastor Terry Koim let Pastor Townend know about the needs of the clinic.”

The group was also grateful to the local pastors who provided ample support and accommodation in Mount Hagen, as well as Inia, who translated for Pastor Townend during the evening programs.

— Greg Walsh
High School Tent leaders, volunteers and students took time out to visit the site for the tent earlier this year to “bathe it with prayer.” The team kept praying and giving their work to God as they prepared for the event, and this was strongly reflected in the spiritual blessings their programs provided. Praise also went to the 18+ Tent organisers and guest speaker Pastor Eddie Hypolite. The communion service held in that tent at the conclusion of Big Camp was a blessing for those who took part.

Special offerings were collected on both Sabbaths of Big Camp. These included the offering that was dedicated to the World Changers Bible Project. Pastor Nick Kross, Director of Youth Ministries for the South Pacific Division, and Litiana Turner, Associate Director, want to officially thank the NNSW Conference for the “amazing level of support” offered to the project. The offering totalled $52,118.25. This will provide 10,423 Bibles and discipleship kits to young adults in the South Pacific.

Pastor Kross says, “These funds will see a harvest of nearly a thousand souls hearing the good news of Christ and His soon return. A special thanks goes to Jeff Parker, who programmed a second dedicated offering on the Thursday evening in the 18+ Tent, which raised $2718.”

He adds, “This is an amazing testimony to the belief in many church members that God’s Word must be taken to the world, one World Changer at a time.” He encourages people to find out more about the project and donate to it by visiting worldchanger.me.

Big Camp also provided a time to honour conference staff members who are retiring. During the final closing Sabbath program, Pastor Lawman took time to commend the pastors and administrators who will be retiring at the end of 2011. Pastor Murray Chapman is retiring from ministry after 43 years, and Pastor Lawman praised his wisdom and hard work. Pastor Russel Stanley is retiring after 41 years of ministry, although he will continue to lead Reformation Tour groups. Pastor Colin Dunn is retiring after 28 years of church work, and was praised for his tireless, diligent work. Pastor Wilf Pascoe — perhaps best known to some as “Mr Canvas” for his tent assembly knowledge — is retiring after 45 years of ministry. Pastor Ian Howie, who has worked for the church for 37 years, is retiring for a second time, after having been called back into ministry following the passing of Pastor Lindsay Sleight.

Pastor Roger Govender, Personal Ministries Director for the Australian Union Conference, presented NNSW General Secretary Bob Dale with a plaque for his 46 years of church work. Bob’s significant service to the church in both administration and finance was praised, and Pastor Govender noted Bob’s passion for fairness throughout his distinguished career. He noted that Bob’s love for the church was displayed through his care for those he worked with, and his love for his family. Pastor Govender also highlighted the blessing that Bob’s wife Lyndell has been to his ministry. In return, Bob expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve. He also spoke of his appreciation for the wonderful working partnership he has had with Pastor Lang.

Pastor Lang’s work was also honoured by Pastor Govender, who noted in his presentation that Pastor Lang protected and mentored people who worked for him, making an exceptional intern supervisor. Pastor Lang was ordained in 1983, and became president of the NNSW Conference in 2002. He has also served in a number of roles additional to that, and Pastor Govender highlighted Pastor Lang’s faithfulness, hard work and reliance on God, saying “John has undertaken outstanding visionary work with a heart for God and His people.” He also noted Barbara Lang’s quiet and strong support of Pastor Lang.

Pastor Lang said in his response that God was the One who deserved all of the glory. He spoke of the privilege of serving Him and enjoying the time he has spent in ministry in NNSW. “I believe the new team will be a strong team,” Pastor Lang said. “They will be a good team that will take this conference forward and hopefully will shortly see Jesus’ return.”

— Adele Nash

Photos courtesy of Kent Lock and Ann Stafford
Avondale students visit Indian school

In the mid-year break, nine Bachelor of Primary Education students returned to Australia with Dr Andrew Matthes from the Faculty of Education at Avondale College of Higher Education, having been to Bodhgaya, India. For many of the students, this was their first time out of Australia.

Over the course of four weeks there, they taught and served at the Aozora Children Welfare School, a free school for underprivileged children. Their experience was challenging, rewarding and very revealing. Confronted by the many development challenges, and limited by their time in India, they decided to look for ways to support the school when they returned to Australia.

The students have returned believing God has given them abilities, opportunities and responsibilities to make a lasting difference in Aozora School. The students formed special bonds with each of the teachers, translators and orphan boys from the school.

Although the school was founded seven years ago, they still receive no government funding. The school receives some assistance from members of the Avondale College community for their running costs. Currently, the school operates from the second floor of a shop, but will soon be left without a venue to continue with the mission of educating the children as the shop and building owner wants to use the classrooms to expand his store.

A second school operating under the same name is located 15 minutes away by foot in the nearby village of Hathiyar. It was at this second school the students completed their practicum, with children from both schools. When the school students and orphan boys are made to leave their current building, they have nowhere to go. The school building in Hathiyar is neither large enough nor suitable for housing.

Nikesh has also realised there is a great need for a school in amongst villages where many children still do not attend school. Through funds he raised, he has bought land at a suitable site in the middle of a village where the team was able to visit. Plans have been made for a three-storey building, which will include a dormitory, kitchen, 10 classrooms, an assembly room and ablutions blocks on each level. Their dream, and soon to be need, will only be achievable if the team is able to raise money to help them start building.

The cost of this project is around $115,000.

Although the main school is registered as Aozora Children’s Welfare School, it has been named Aozora Adventist School. This is due to the influence of previous Avondale teaching trips at the same school. Nikesh is now a baptised follower of Jesus, and the boys in his care have also learnt to trust God. Each day, the boys pray to Jesus, and the boys in his care have also learnt to trust God. Each day, the boys pray to Jesus.

God has put this project on the hearts of students who went on the trip, and they would appreciate any support from interested people — whether it be through prayers, finance, advocacy or practical advice.

— Karina Larsen

Good Art: Art For Good raises funds for Women’s Health Project

Wallsend Seventh-day Adventist Church member Joanna Darby is using her talents as an artist to help raise money for Asian Aid’s Women’s Health Project in Nepal, and to encourage people to be creative in raising money for Asian Aid (or other charities of their choice).

A selection of Joanna’s paintings have been printed on postcards, which are made of 100 percent post-consumer recycled card with soy-based inks. There are two different packs available, with four postcards and envelopes in them each, costing just $8.

The Women’s Health Project is an Asian Aid initiative in partnership with private and public health sector institutions that provides surgery to repair uterine prolapses for women in Nepal. Uterine prolapse is so common in Nepal that it is thought to be a normal stage of life for women. It is an incredibly painful condition, and it causes innumerable health problems, as well as social rejection.

Joanna wanted to give more money to the project, and says, “I had been thinking about God’s question to Moses in Exodus 4:2 — ‘What’s in your hand?’ — and realised that one of the greatest things I could do is to use my art to fight for social justice.”

Her aim is to fight ugliness in the world with beauty. “Beautiful things, beautiful words, beautiful cards can be our weapon against the darkness. Isn’t that what the Gospel is?” she says. “I wanted to put something good out there. Good art. Art for good.”

Joanna’s art has been exhibited in Sydney, Newcastle, Port Macquarie and Canberra in artist-run, commercial and public galleries. Her work has also been shown in Parliament House, and pieces can be found in collections around the world.

Joanna says the Women’s Health Project is a worth cause because when you save a woman, you save a village. “Of course it’s amazing to give a person back their dignity,” she says. “But it’s hugely practical as well. When a mother is healthy, her children are cared for and fed, and are free to go to school and get an education. Often a woman cares for so many that you aren’t just giving life to one person, but a dozen. The project is so simple — I can’t believe that this life-changing surgery only costs $300.”

Joanna and her husband have been involved with Asian Aid and the “Big Day In” (see page 11) for several years and sponsor a child in India. “I love the grass-roots nature of Asian Aid and the focus on sustainability and local development,” she says.

— Adele Nash

Postcards are available by visiting www.joannadarby.com (where you will find a link to the online shop), or you can email Joanna directly at joanna@joannadarby.com to place an order.
Musical celebration of Spring at AARV

More than 100 residents and guests of the Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village (AARV) enjoyed a morning matinee of music on the first day of Spring for 2011. Lyndon Watts, principal bassoon player of the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, had recently performed at the Opera House in August with the Australian World Orchestra, a group of international musicians at their inaugural Australian performance.

Lyndon was returning to his boyhood home in Alstonville, having attended Blue Hills College in the late 1980s before taking up a musical career. He lectures part-time as a professor at the University of Berne, Switzerland, in addition to performing with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra. Lyndon was ably accompanied by his mother Eleanor Watts, the pianist for the Sydney Male Choir. Lyndon’s grandfather Pastor Frank Pearce, the first manager of the AARV, was present with his wife Kath to enjoy the performance by their daughter and grandson.

The new AARV site manager, Stuart Hillier — a 1974 Sydney Adventist Hospital graduate with 25 years’ administration experience and recently the Regional Health Administrator for the North Coast Region — introduced the performers to the assembled guests.

The audience was delighted and enthusiastic with Lyndon’s spirited performance of Romantic music, which highlighted the distinctive tone colours of the bassoon. What a delightful way to enhance the arrival of springtime in the spacious and attractive setting of the AARV dining hall!

— Lionel Hughes

Avondale Retirement Village receives council development approval

Avondale Retirement Village residents will soon benefit from a new activity centre and 36 new independent units following Lake Macquarie City Council’s approval of the first two stages of a redevelopment master plan.

“We are grateful to have reached this redevelopment milestone,” says David Knight, Managing Director of the Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (NNSW). “These new facilities for the residents and their families continue the ongoing renewal of a village that has been serving the Adventist community since the 1960s.”

The activity centre will provide flexible meeting spaces for church services, craft and social activities, and a new hub for the village’s in-house television channel. Residents will also be able to use the centre for birthday parties and weddings anniversary celebrations.

The new independent living units will replace a number of one-bedroom units, which date back to the 1960s, with contemporary and more spacious, stylish accommodation.

With 99 percent of current residents saying they would recommend the village to others, the Avondale Retirement Village is strongly committed to quality care.

“And quality care needs to be delivered in quality facilities,” says David. “The development approval will help us deliver these quality facilities.”

The application for the $15 million development was submitted to the Lake Macquarie City Council in January this year. Construction is expected to begin in early 2012. A plan of the development and an artist’s impression of the activity centre are to the left of this article.

— David Knight
Manning Adventist School raises $34,000 in 34 days

You might remember reading about Manning Adventist School (MAS) working to raise $34,000 in 34 days in the September issue of NorthPoint. This year was the second year in a three-year fund-raising plan, the ultimate goal of which is to raise $100,000 in 100 days. Staff and students at MAS believed that with God’s leading, they could raise the funds — and they did, raising $34,261.20 in 34 days.

The fund-raising events concluded with a money trail along Manning Street. MAS principal Shannon Quick says, “Our fund-raising concluded with a money trail along Manning Street. $864.10 was placed on the ground in a straight line, over a distance of 24 metres. Many marvelled at what we were doing and why!”

Shannon and students from MAS gave a presentation about their fund-raising efforts in the Big Tent on the first afternoon of Big Camp. The presentation was well-received by attendees of the afternoon meeting, many of whom were impressed by how well the students spoke about their fund-raising efforts and experiences.

Students made collection tins to put in local businesses as part of their fund-raising efforts, spoke with local business leaders, collected donations, appealed for items for an auction and took part in the numerous fund-raising activities during the 34 days.

Shannon says, “The students have done the most amazing job. Their diligent efforts, faithfulness to each other and God, and desire to provide something significant for the local community is second to none. Praise God for their vision. This year the students learnt that, when a group of people work together, great things can be achieved. They also learnt that God provides for all our needs.

“The students and staff of Manning Adventist School have believed, that with God’s leading, they will be able to raise $100,000 in 100 days. The funds would be raised primarily by running events and seeking donations. The 100 day period has been split over three years, pretty much for the month of September each year, from 2010 to 2012.”

The money collected this year adds to the $35,230 raised in 33 days last year. In 67 days of fund-raising, MAS has raised $69,491. This leaves MAS with $30,509 to raise in 2012.

These funds will be used to develop community-based facilities that everyone will be able to benefit from on the school grounds. These facilities will include shaded play areas, car and bus parking, extended playing fields and tennis court (with lights), and to clear around and fence the school’s dam. These facilities will complement their new multipurpose hall that they adjoin.

Shannon adds, “The students and staff at Manning School alone did not achieve this alone. Without the assistance of so many others, the fund-raising would not have been achieved. The generosity of local people, many of whom provided goods and services to school for us to sell, strengthened our belief in the vision. They have developed a real sense of community.

“The 34 days fund-raising project grew into a community project. 50 businesses allowed the school to place money tins at their premises, 184 items were donated for the auction and 50 people attended our formal dinner. Not all went to plan with our family fun day being cancelled due to rain! But in the end, more than 1000 people contributed in some way. Their willingness to assist their local community will always be remembered.”

— Shannon Quick/Adele Nash

Aussie barn night raises funds for Cambodia

The Avondale School community recently put on their dancing boots for a night of fun. It was a fund-raiser event for the Year 12’s annual “schoolies” mission trip to Cambodia.

More than 300 people attended a barn night, which was held in the multipurpose centre. The class that had the most students attending — Year 4R — was congratulated for their support.

“Such events strengthen and bond the school community in a very family friendly way,” said Head of Primary, Len Farquharson.

Everyone certainly had a good time, with some students saying it was the “best night ever.” Organiser and promoter Karen Zeuschner was assisted by Dianne Griew and Leticia Campbell from the primary school music department.

The money raised is going to the Year 12 students who have chosen to travel to Cambodia instead of taking the traditional schoolies trip. They will use the experience to assist people in need and to make a truly memorable finish to their schooling. — Susan Rogers

Aussie barn night raises funds for Cambodia

Musician Peter Dixon and his band hosted the barn night with their excellent country music. Students had spent the whole term learning the various barn dances and classic Australian songs.

— Shannon Quick/Adele Nash
What is Big Day In, and how did it begin? Big Day In originally began about 13 years ago as a youth event for the Newcastle region. But it soon became an event with a purpose: a movement of people who believe God’s name is justice and are determined to declare that name to the world through action, supporting and fighting for the most vulnerable and most disadvantaged.

From sponsoring one child in India through Asian Aid in 1998, Big Day In now collectively sponsors seven children, and has provided opportunity for hundreds of children to find individual sponsors. Big Day In 2010 raised $24,000 which bought a water pump and furnished a computer room for the Kollegal school, provided drinking water for the Nuzvid school, and built functional facilities at the Mohamadpur school in India, as well as providing life-changing surgery for Nepalese women suffering uterine prolapse. Apart from raising money, Big Day In has sought to raise awareness about social justice issues and has empowered individuals to further pursue the fight against poverty.

Why should social justice be important to Christians? Justice is the foundation of God’s throne — it is His heart. Serving God is serving others and God want us to stand up for those who cannot stand for themselves. The Big Day In team believes that being a voice for the helpless is one of the loudest ways to announce to the world who God is really like.

What is this year’s theme? “Hope in Motion” is this year’s theme. We want Big Day In to be something with momentum and with movement, and to foster a culture that acts on the desire for a better future; a culture that makes it happen.

What is Big Day In supporting this year? We will raise money for two projects this year. Nepal’s Women’s Health Project and Kollegal special-needs school. 40 percent of Nepalese women suffer from second and third degree uterine prolapse and live in misery, rejection and constant pain. This Asian Aid projects provides education to help prevent the condition and simple surgery to correct it. We are aiming to raise $10,500 to transform the lives of 30 women. We are also aiming to raise $10,000 to help pay for a new dormitory, the development of new vocational courses and updated training for the teachers at Kollegal school, which cares for over 100 hearing impaired students.

When and where is the Big Day In? The Big Day In weekend starts on Friday night, 25 November at 7:30pm at Wallsend Church (182 Lake Road, Wallsend — entry via Macquarie College). This program is specifically for high school students with Central Coast Adventist School, Avondale School and Macquarie College joining to raise awareness for social justice. The Saturday morning program, 26 November at 10:30am, is for all ages and will challenge and inspire you.

What can people do to support it? Pray for this event and for the work of Asian Aid, invite friends and come along, and plan to give! Join “Big Day In — Hope in Motion” on Facebook to keep up to date with all the news.
**POSITIONS VACANT**

**North New South Wales Conference**

**Personal Assistant — North New South Wales Conference Youth Department** *(Maternity Relief)*

Applications are invited for the position of Youth Department personal assistant (12-month maternity leave position) for the North New South Wales Conference, commencing January 2012. This full-time position requires the successful applicant to support the Youth Department directors with planning and organisation of the Youth Department programs and events throughout the year. The person will be a practicing Seventh-day Adventist who is a self-starter. The applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Office, have great organisational skills, be prepared for weekend work and periods away from home (summer camps and Big Camp), have the ability to relate well to youth, and be passionate about youth ministry. For more information, a full job description or to send on your CV, please contact Pastor Jeff Parker via jeffparker@adventist.org.au or phone 0407 261 886.

Applications close 7 November, 2011.

**Macquarie College**

**Business Manager**

Applications are invited for the business manager position at Macquarie College commencing January 2012. The business manager is a member of the senior executive and is responsible for the oversight of the financial affairs and commercial operations of the college, reporting to the principal and to the college council. The new appointment will build on the significant financial success of the college and comes at a time of significant growth and development. A passion for and proven record of financial management, appropriate qualifications, and rapport with staff are essential. Previous experience within a school environment is desirable. A position description is available at www.macquariecollege.nsw.edu.au. For more information contact the principal on (02) 4954 6222 or email principal@macquariecollege.nsw.edu.au.

Applications close 9 November, 2011.

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**GREY NOMADS CAMP**

**4—12 May, 2012**

**Stuarts Point Convention Centre**

The North New South Wales Conference’s annual Grey Nomads Camp for 2012 will be held at the Adventist Convention Centre, Stuarts Point, NSW from 4—12 May, 2012. The event is open to people from across Australia, and is an excellent opportunity for retirees to meet and fellowship together.

Dr Roy Adams, a former associate editor of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*, is the guest speaker for the 2012 Grey Nomads Camp. Dr Adams spent the majority of his time in pastoral work in the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. He obtained a PhD in theology from Andrews University before lecturing at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines. He has long been a highly sought-after speaker, and is a prolific writer. He worked as associate editor of *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* from 1998 to 2010.

Accommodation is limited to private caravans and tents. Additional accommodation is available in nearby public campgrounds. More information will be made available early in the new year regarding applications.