Ten families were represented at this year’s Re-Entry Retreat for returning missionaries held at the Crosslands Convention Centre in Sydney, beginning on January 3. It concluded on January 7 with a recommitment and dedication service, as all the attendees take up new roles and positions in Australia.

“The volunteers were returning from a range of countries including Albania, the United States, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, but represented a combined total of 225 years of overseas mission service. Cheryl Doss from the Institute of World Mission, with her husband, Gordon, was the key presenter, supported by Dr Brad Kemp, Pastor Graeme Humble and Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the South Pacific Division (SPD).”

“The weekend also featured a physical-activity challenge and afternoon river cruise. “The returning missionaries also enjoyed the quiet bushland surroundings at the Crosslands centre, which allowed families time to unwind and process some of the challenges of returning home,” reports Pastor Coombe. “Time was also spent in group discussion and understanding the transition that occurs as people move back home across cultures.”

“The SPD has conducted re-entry programs now for several years, which are a highlight for those returning from mission service overseas.” — Adele Nash
Church damaged by flames

WINDSOR, NEW SOUTH WALES

Fire severely damaged the Windsor church (NSW) in the early hours of January 18. According to preliminary reports, the fire broke out in the church building at around 5.30 am and took five teams of firefighters 90 minutes to extinguish.

“It was a very sad day,” says church pastor James Fletcher. “It was hard to believe such a thing could happen.”

For the past six months church members have been working on a new kitchen and toilet block, which were nearing completion. Thankfully these areas, along with children’s Sabbath-school rooms and the church hall, were not damaged by the flames.

“We now face a much larger challenge,” says Pastor Fletcher. “It will take most of the year to rebuild and repair the damage.”

While the Gothic-styled building and its contents were insured, several irreplaceable items—including the original marriage register, an old piano and the hand-carved pulpit—will be lost forever.

The fire comes as the church prepares for its 50th anniversary. The cause of the fire is still under investigation but it is thought that arson or an electrical fault may be to blame.

Church members will continue to meet in the undamaged church hall and Pastor Fletcher describes their first Sabbath there as a somber “time of reflection.”

“It proved to be a blessing as the members have given each other support,” he says. “While the church building has been destroyed, the church family will be stronger and will work together to face the challenge of rebuilding.”

Support has also come from the wider community with expressions of support and sympathy, while a number of other church groups have offered the use of their facilities.

“We would like to say thank you for the support we’ve had,” Pastor Fletcher says. “We know the Lord is still with us no matter what happens.”

Ordination a camp highlight in SNZ

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

The ordination of Asofitu Leatuavao was among the highlights of the South New Zealand Conference camp-meeting held last month in Christchurch. Pastor Leatuavao, who pastors the Samoan-Addington and Christchurch South churches, was ordained on January 14.

A native of Wellington (NZ), Pastor Leatuavao was working on a production line in his home town when he decided to pursue his call to ministry. “I grew up in the church and always wanted to be a minister but that was lost for some years,” he says. “A lot of things happened in my life and I strongly felt God’s call again.”

Pastor Leatuavao describes this experience as “coming back through many detours. Both my wife and I had good jobs and were living comfortably, but I felt dissatisfaction with my life and work and the urge to do more in the service of God.”

Pastor Leatuavao began his theology education at Fulton College (Fiji) and upgraded to a degree in theology at Pacific Adventist University (Papua New Guinea). His first ministry assignment was back at Fulton, where he taught for three years. He believes his teaching experience—especially working with students from a variety of cultures—has helped him appreciate the inclusiveness of God. “His Son would die for anyone,” he says.

Pastor Leatuavao and his wife, Sarai, have three children: Lance, Natalia and Larissa.

The ordination service was led by Pastor Jerry Matthews, president of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC), Pastor Kendall Cobbin, secretary of the Ministerial Association in the NZPUC, and Pastor Lindsay Sleigh, president of the South New Zealand Conference.

—Nathan Brown
Sanitarium’s boost to delight vegetarians

BERKELEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Warren Rixon, managing director for Manna Foods, is anticipating a bigger and brighter future for vegetarian foods after the announcement on January 11 of his company’s merger with Sanitarium Health Food Company.

“The merger of popular Manna Foods products progressively with Sanitarium Veggie Delights range brings together our innovative food-development experience with Sanitarium’s wealth of food marketing and food distribution network,” says Mr Rixon. “This will mean the availability of a greater variety of great-tasting vegetarian foods to the general public.”

Sanitarium is committed to capturing the Manna Foods market by creating flavour-some, wholesome and easy-to-use vegetarian foods. Mr Rixon will join Sanitarium’s food-innovation area where he will add much value to the future development of the vegetarian meals business.

“Warren is a gifted product developer,” says Sanitarium’s Australian general manager, Dean Powrie, who is delighted to have Mr Rixon join the team. “We will gain much as a company from Warren’s innovative approach to new-product development.”

To ensure the continuation of product development, Mr Rixon will be based at the former Manna Foods production plant that will transform into a new products pilot plant. Mr Rixon will continue to work with his wife, Ella, who has assisted him to grow the friendly and helpful service offered by Manna Foods over the years.

Mr Rixon was part owner and principal food innovator behind the Longa Life foods range that commenced production in Yatala (Qld) in 1985, and was later purchased by Sanitarium in 1998.

Warren has received several previous offers to sell his technology and know-how. However, the offer to integrate his creativity and experience with Sanitarium had the greatest appeal.

“I have a lot of ideas that I can work on now that I haven’t had the opportunity to do because I was always busy managing the business as well as producing the product,” says Mr Rixon. “Working with the team at Sanitarium Development and Innovation gives me a greater insight into the market and access to lots more exciting ingredients.”

Sanitarium’s Veggie Delights brand has also been given a boost with Australia’s supermarket giant Woolworths announcing that 50 of their top-selling stores will be allocating more space to the chilled meat-free section and, in particular, Veggie Delights on a trial basis.

The move from Woolworths is in response to increased interest in vegetarian meal options in Australia. Woolworths will look to permanently expand this section if, during the trial period, the increased shelf space is matched by an increase in sales.

Mr Powrie says, “The opportunity is a fantastic one for Sanitarium. I would like to encourage all of our church members to support Veggie Delights in order to help continue to grow the brand, and in turn increase the dollars going to Sanitarium and back into the church.” —Julie Proestin

The Sanitarium Vegie Delights range.

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Hymns hit mark

SHEILA WALTON, TAS

Hurrah for the letter “Hymns, psalms and songs” (Letters, January 21) for expressing so well the silently borne wishes of many older members of our churches. We feel secure standing on the time-tested foundation of our message and faith in Jesus expressed in hymns, and can sing our songs of praise from our hearts.

We don’t need to copy other churches’ ways of praising God—we have our own time-honoured songs of experience and praise that honour God and make a foundation of faith for our younger ones to build on.

The right price

LEON AND DOROTHY POWRIE, PNG

We would like to correct a figure given in “PAU marks 21st with new buildings” (News, January 21). Those who submitted the figure for the opening of the School of Health Science (SOHS) PNG Incentive Fund (AusAID) Project either made a typing error or did not have the correct information. The amount of “K500,000,” stated for the construction of the SOHS building, is incorrect. A more accurate approximation to the actual cost can be obtained by adding another zero (K5,000,000).

The building includes seven lecture/tutorial areas including, a 185-seat auditorium, computer lab, microbiology classroom, and practical lab with facilities for nursing practice, diet and nutrition training, and physical and hydro therapies.

PAU now offers a four-year Bachelor of Nursing degree and training in two specialty areas—Bachelor of Health Science (Maternal and Child Health Nursing) and Bachelor of Health Science (Rural and Community Health). An additional specialty in Acute Care Nursing is planned for 2007.

Mission a priority

BERT COZENS, NSW

The writer of “Better funding” (Letters, January 14) highlighted the need for more mission support. For instance, many mission buildings in the Pacific are deteriorating, while many church members in the homelands are concentrating on luxurious homes.

We pay at least five times as much for petrol as we did 25 years ago. Why not give five times as much for missions as we did then? If our priorities are in the right place, most Adventists could give 5 per cent of their income for missions.

Note: Views in Letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author’s original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See masthead (page 3) for contact details.
**Weddings**

David—Jenith. Keith Alan, son of Geoffrey and Jean (nee Folkard, WA), and Christine Jacqueline, daughter of Wolfgang (late) Otto, of Queensland, were married 7.12.06 at Croydon Park, Prahran. The couple reside in Melbourne. 

**Obituaries**

Barden, Allyn Louise, born 21.5.1939, died 11.12.05 at Torbay, Vic. She was greatly loved and cherished by all his children. Allyn lived a long, full life and has left behind a legacy of nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was a much loved mother to Ray, Anne, Lesley, Lindy and John. She leaves her partner, John McEwan, and two stepchildren, Matthew and Julie. She is survived by her mother-in-law, Helen McEwan, and her brother, Jim Barden. A memorial service will be held on 17 December, 2005, at the Sheraton Mirage Resort, Gold Coast. 

Lamont—Annie. Dr Ince Alexander Lamont, son of Peter Lamont and Penelope Lamont (nee Austin, NSW), and Garnet Austin, daughter of Dr and Mrs Vincent Austin (Adelaide, SA), were married 27.11.05 in the Prospect Adventist Church, Lawrence Lamont. 

Kefford—Turner. Russell Kefford, son of Norma and Mereditor Kefford (Margaret River, WA), and Carolyn Turner, daughter of Roland and Olive Kefford (Launcest), were married 13.11.05 in the beautiful setting of the Sheraton Mirage Resort, Gold Coast. 

Jamieson, Beatrice Mabel, née Watters, 21.11.05 at Penrith, NSW. She died 10.12.05 at Nambour Hospital. On 12.12.58 she married Ernest Alfred, born 7.12.1920 at Timaru, NZ; died 9.3.05 at Timaru in New Zealand; buried 15.3.05 at Timaru Cemetery, New Zealand. On 5.11.42 he married Edna, who predeceased him before 1990. He was also predeceased by his daughter, Nancy, in 1996. He was survived by his second daughter, Sean, by his beloved stepfather, Ron Kingsmill, and by his great grandchildren, Hannah and David. 

Haidy, Kathleen Louise, born 11.11.1951 in Christchurch, NZ, died 9.12.05 in Long Beach, Calif. After her death in 4.2002, her husband, Karl married her, who was predeceased by her first husband. She was a much loved by her family and friends. She leaves her sister, Sallie. 

Pullin, Vincent Harrison (Vin), born 24.6.72 at Hastings, NZ, died 8.11.05 at Napier, NZ. The funeral of eight children to Willfred and Alfie Pullin. He gave up at an SAAS and enjoyed sports and encouraging the elderly. He had a very happy marriage to Mags, who predeceased him. He had five of his own children. In the last two years of his life he had found a very special friend in Betty Batty, who rear- ranted great Christian care for him. He died knowing that he had “found the good fight and ran the race”.

**Position vacant**

A Shift Electrician, Maintenance Services—Sanitarium (Cooranbong, NSW) is seeking, a full-time Shift Electrician who has a strong commitment to the advancement of production goals. The successful applicant will demonstrate an understanding and commitment to OSH in the workplace. He/She is required to work closely with PLCs, particularly Allen Bradley and Omron; have proven fault finding and problem solving skills; hold a current Electrician’s License; be able to work rotating shifts including weekends; Experience in food industry and in instrumentation would be an advantage. Application forms (including salary) should be forwarded to Group Human Resources, Sanitarium, P.O. Box 57, Central Coast Mail Centre, NSW 2258 (fax (02) 4494 8099; email shapehr@sanitarium.com.au). 

For church-related employment opportunities visit the Employment section on the SDA online. 

**Advertisements**

**Noticeboard**

### Final Days

A possesment is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities; an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties. — Reginald H Mann

Ending Prices: knew as one of Australia’s top Christian music groups, it is still taking auditions for musicians from and with skilled musicians; and revivals between the ages of 18-25 to be part of the 2006 team. The group is also seeking a full-time driver licensed to drive between the ages of 27 to 35. You will need to contact homeworks@sdaustralia.org.au or on 0427 510 841. 

Family reunion cruise to Alaska—September 27–24, 2006. Special cruise to Alaska will visit Juneau (Alaska Christian Church, Fourth Fir), Delf (Delf Homes, Victoria), Cruising in Prince Rupert, B.C. (Denzil, Janet Jefferson, Mission House, Denzil). On 27.9.99 the married William Seberry, who predeceased in 1995. He was also accompanied by his second daughter, Sean, by his beloved stepfather, Ron Kingsmill, and by his great grandchildren, Hannah and David. 

Finally, a special farewell to Betty Butson, who recently passed away. Betty was a special friend in Betty Butson, who recently passed away. Betty was a special friend in Betty Butson, who recently passed away. Betty was a special friend in Betty Butson, who recently passed away. Betty was a special friend in Betty Butson, who recently passed away. Betty was a special friend in Betty Butson, who recently passed away. Betty was a special friend in Betty Butson, who recently passed away. Betty was a special friend in Betty Butson, who recently passed away. Betty was a special friend in Betty Butson, who recently passed away. Betty was a special friend in Betty Butson, who recently passed away. 

**Endless Praise—**

On March 4, 2006, East Bencubbin church is disbanding. As many people described Ernie’s life. As a deacon he faithfully cared for the church; as a good father he cared for his family; as a businessman he cared for his business; as a builder he built his family and as a teacher he taught his children. As a dressmaker, she specialised in wedding and fancy dresses and was quite skilled. She had a keen interest in numerous collecting and craft hobbies. Appreciating the wonders of nature made difficulties of his life. As a much loved mother to Ray, Anne, Lesley, Lindy and John. She leaves her partner, John McEwan, and two stepchildren, Matthew and Julie. She is survived by her mother-in-law, Helen McEwan, and her brother, Jim Barden. A memorial service will be held on 17 December, 2005, at the Sheraton Mirage Resort, Gold Coast. 

Note: 

Rekindle friendships, and celebrate a piece of your past. Receive the Hope Channel and 3ABN translations of his difficulties. — Reginald H Mann

**Central Coast**

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