The first impressions of the newly commissioned PAC 750XL aircraft is that it is bigger than expected, according to sightseers. Recently acquired by Adventist Aviation Services (AAS), the plane landed at Cessnock (NSW) during its maiden flight from New Zealand to its new home in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Scores of sightseers travelled to Avondale College’s Flying School at Cessnock airport on May 25 to participate in a dedication service, including many former missionary pilots sharing old photos and memories.

AAS chief pilot Pastor Roger Millist says this is the first acquisition since 1977 and will make possible the ongoing service that has been provided for almost half a century.

“Funds for the replacement of aircraft have been put aside over the years,” Pastor Millist explains, “but serious fundraising was also needed to make this dream come true today. People all over the world have donated to make this plane possible.”

Among other donations, the project has been the focus of camp-meeting mission offerings during the past two years, as well as concentrated fundraising by church members in PNG. (Continued on page 3)
Volunteers in Action provide equipment for Solomons

HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

At the end of March, the Solomon Islands Mission (SIM) received $A160,000 worth of equipment from Volunteers in Action (VIA) Australia directors Cliff and Tony Morgan. The equipment included four outboard motors, two 21-foot fibreglass canoes, 20 cartons of Bibles, two cartons of butterfly lamps, roofing iron for churches and several water tanks. It will go to regions in need of water transportation to carry out volunteer work and programs in the field.

Regions that will directly benefit from these gifts are the Malaita, Makira-Ulawa, Guadalcanal and Western Provinces. Other regions will receive Bibles and butterfly lamps to be used in volunteer work.

Pastor Johnny Tango, Global Mission director for SIM, says, “I would like to thank VIA Australia, on behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Solomon Islands, for their generosity.”

He adds, “In the Guadalcanal region a group of volunteers from the United States and Australia recently finished building classrooms and a dormitory at Kopiu Adventist High School. Students and staff of the school expressed their thanks to the team.

“The group, led by Pastor Irvin Ferris, a retired minister from Australia, has successfully completed the project. We thank Pastor Ferris and his team on behalf of the church for the great work done.”

VIA has plans to bring another group from Australia to the Solomon Islands in August to assist in building a medical clinic.—RECORD staff/Johnny Tango

Broome church runs health check at expo

BROOME, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

On May 5 and 6, the Broome Adventist church ran a health-assessment outreach program at the Broome Expo, with around 330 health assessments completed over the two days.

The health tent was close to the entry–exit area, providing ideal exposure to all those entering the expo.

Blood-pressure tests were conducted by church member Chris Cavilla and a visiting general practitioner. Church members Janet Cavilla, Cherelle Fitzclarence and Wendy Cavilla gave feedback to each person about their health age and how they could improve their lifestyles and increase longevity.

Other church members kept children entertained with face painting while their parents completed individual health assessments.

A four-point plan, which will be delivered over four nights, has been developed for use as a follow-up session.—Colin Kenworthy

Studies say soy for healthy heart

BERKELEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

A new meta-analysis study from Japan, published in the April edition of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, suggests soy protein and isoflavones are effective at reducing cholesterol levels and offer significant benefits for cardiovascular health.

The new findings of the meta-analysis on soy and cholesterol state soy protein enriched with isoflavones, contained in foods such as soy milk and tofu, significantly decreased “bad” LDL cholesterol by nearly 5 per cent while significantly increasing “good” HDL cholesterol by 3 per cent.

Michelle McCracken, accredited practising dietitian for Sanitarium Health Food Company, says this new study further confirms the already vast body of evidence supporting the inclusion of soy in the diet for cholesterol reduction and heart health.

“In the past three months alone, there have been four separate studies published in leading journals, the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition and the British Journal of Nutrition, highlighting scientific evidence linking the consumption of soy foods and the reduction of cholesterol,” she says.

“The inclusion of one to two servings of soy foods, such as soy milk on your cereal, in your smoothie, or tofu in your stir-fry in the evenings, is a good step toward managing cholesterol levels and promoting good heart health.”

Julie Praestin, corporate and communications engagement manager for Sanitarium, says, “This study once again points to the benefits of the Adventist healthy lifestyle and plant-based eating.”—Jae-mes Tipple

More @ <www.sanitarium.com.au> or <www.sanitarium.co.nz>
The purchase of a new mission aircraft was also one of the designated projects for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in third quarter last year. The new plane cost $A1.8 million. The PAC 750XL is a turbo-propelled aircraft and was built by the Hamilton-based Pacific Aerospace Corporation in New Zealand. The plane flew from New Zealand, via Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands, to Cessnock and continued on to Murwillumbah, with three stops in Queensland before it was due to arrive in Goroka on June 1.

According to Pastor Millist, this new plane arrives at a time when many commercial and private flight operators are pulling out of PNG because of rising fuel, maintenance and labour costs. The PAC 750XL is the first of its type to enter the country and will be used by AAS to treat the sick in hard-to-reach places in the highlands of the country. AAS flies supplies and medical staff and sets up temporary clinics to treat the sick in PNG. Those with more serious conditions are evacuated to hospitals. The plane will also help to ferry church leaders to regional and administrative meetings.

“Safety is our priority,” Pastor Millist told the crowd gathered for the dedication. “This plane can carry more people—up to nine passengers—without overcrowding and can climb faster to avoid high mountains and bad weather. It can carry heavier loads and has shorter take-off and landing capabilities.

“The upgraded, higher-output turbine engine also runs on the cheaper and more easily available jet fuels, which seriously reduces our flying costs,” he explained.

The May 25 dedication also drew media interest, and was featured in the Newcastle press and on NBN 3 television.

The Cessnock event followed a similar dedication in Auckland on May 20, with Pastor Jerry Matthews, president of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference, at Ardmore Aerodrome, the plane’s first stop on its journey to PNG. Church members took the opportunity see the plane close up and encourage the AAS crew in their ministry.

The new aircraft has been built specifically to meet the needs of AAS using a combination of options, including a cargo pod, full copilot’s instrument panel, heavy-duty landing gear fittings, satellite phone and can travel to 6000 metres (20,000 feet) from brake release in 22 minutes.

—David Gibbons/Arianna Kane

◆ Following a recent evangelistic campaign at the Vatuwaqa church, Fiji, 17 people were baptised, including a former Muslim who was living in the church hall. Khalid Khan (pictured) was raised by his grandparents as a staunch Muslim. When they died he moved in with his aunt, who then emigrated, leaving him without a place to stay. Mr Khan was befriended by Inoke, a young Fijian Adventist, who was also looking for somewhere to live. They were given permission to stay in the Vatuwaqa church hall. There, Mr Khan met Kelera Rokeva, who answered his questions about the Bible and introduced him to the “Discover” Bible-study course. Together, Mr Khan and Ms Rokeva plan to reach out to the Indo-Fijian community around the church, beginning with small-group ministry.—Joe Talemaitoga

◆ Church leaders from around the Solomon Islands have recently attended a leadership-training program in Honiara. Dr Barry Gane, director of leadership and professional development for the South Pacific Division, is educating church leaders throughout the Pacific by conducting a series of training cohorts in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Dr Alex Currie and Pastor Calvyn Townend assisted Dr Gane in the Solomon Islands, where they taught conflict resolution and leadership skills. Each course is recognised by Pacific Adventist University and may be credited toward a degree.—Alex Currie

◆ TV advertising for a free viewing of The Search 6 videos will screen in Griffith, NSW, on WIN Television, June 16-24.
Adventist health directors tour health facilities in Solomons, PNG

HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

A team of doctors from different levels of the Adventist Church administration recently visited Adventist health facilities in the Solomon Islands Mission (SIM) and the Papua New Guinea Union Mission.

Dr Chester Kuma, associate director of health ministries for the South Pacific Division (SPD); Dr Lester Ross, director of health ministries for the Trans-Pacific Union Mission; and Dr Silent Tovosia, director of health ministries for SIM, spent three weeks touring the facilities in the Guadalcanal, Malaita, Western, Makira-Ulawa and Isabel Provinces.

Dr Tovosia says, “The purpose of this visit was to provide an indication of the state of our health institutions at present. Later we will be establishing a health commission that will chart the future direction, goals and strategies of our health work in this mission.”

In Malaita, the trio visited Sango clinic, Atoifi Hospital, Atoifi School of Nursing and the Honoa clinic. They also visited the remains of the Kwalabesi clinic, which burned down in February. Dr Tovosia says, “This is a real loss to the community, but we are working to re-establish this facility in the future.”

The leaders also met with directors to share their vision and aspirations for Adventist Health and the mission of the Adventist Church. Part of the strategy for reaching out to communities includes the formation of an Adventist health professionals association.

“We’re excited about the prospect of teaming up with mission personnel in reaching out to others holistically,” Dr Tovosia says.

While in Papua New Guinea, the doctors took the opportunity to visit Pacific Adventist University (PAU).

Speaking of the tour of the medical facilities, Dr Kuma says, “There are about 37 mission clinics and most of them are run down and located in very remote areas. The report of this trip will substantiate the launching of the ‘Church to clinic’ program initiated by the SPD Adventist Health Ministries Department.

“This is a program where each mission clinic’s needs will be met by churches in Australia,” Dr Kuma explains.

He also said that this program is the first of its kind and his department is anticipating good results.

“We must not lose sight of our mission as a church,” was the message to the PAU community from Dr Kuma. He said the mission of the Adventist Church is to proclaim to all peoples the messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour and to unite with His church, and nurturing them in preparation for His soon return.

“The message in the mission is special, unique and urgent because time is running out,” says Dr Kuma. “We have to share the message in whatever capacity God has placed us.” —Johnny Tango/Edna Woori

◆ A Uniting Church minister for 17 years, Irau Kwari (pictured with his wife), from Hula in the Central Province of Papua New Guinea, became an Adventist after reading the book Sevenenth-day Adventists Believe … A Biblical Exposition of 27 Fundamental Doctrines. After studying with an Adventist friend for three months, Mr Kwari was given the book, which he says he read more than eight times. He is now studying at Pacific Adventist University, where he lives with his wife in the married units. “I am looking forward to the blessed times ahead,” says Mr Kwari. “Until that time comes, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in the life-saving work of helping people to learn about the great Life-giver, Jesus Christ.” —Max Zaccias

◆ When members of the General Conference (GC) Session Theme Committee reviewed past GC Session themes, they noticed not one mentioned grace. “We said to ourselves, ‘As a denomination, we believe in grace; why shouldn’t it be our theme?’ says Pastor Gerry Karst, general vice-president of the GC and chair of the committee. So, when Adventist delegates from across the globe gather in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, for the church’s 59th GC session in 2010, it will be under the theme “Proclaiming God’s grace.” The 2005 GC session saw the theme become more integral to the meetings held, driving many of the devotions, workshops and presentation topics. For 2010, Pastor Karst expects that trend to continue. He says each speaker, worship director and even music coordinator will aim to “amplify” various aspects of grace. The theme of “Proclaiming God’s grace,” according to Pastor Karst, will “give the delegates something around which to rally, [The theme] will give the session spiritual direction and help presenters focus on a very important element of [Adventist] belief.” —Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

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▲ IT Lecturer/Dean, Department of Business Studies—Fulton College (Fiji) is seeking to appoint a lecturer in Information Technology who will also be head of the Business Studies Department. Applications close June 29, 2007.

▲ Administrative Assistant—South Pacific Division (Wahuorgna, NSW). The South Pacific Division head office seeks an experienced senior administrative assistant to assist with event management and facilitate the productive and efficient operations of the church’s administrative functions. Applications close June 28, 2007.

▲ Department Assistant—South Pacific Division (Wahuorgna, NSW). The South Pacific Division head office seeks a capable departmental assistant to help facilitate an efficient department by undertaking various clerical and administrative tasks. Applications close June 28, 2007.

▲ Deputy Vice-Chancellor—Pacific Adventist University (Papua New Guinea). The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd is inviting expressions of interest for the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the second ranking officer at PAU. Applications close July 18, 2007.

For more information please visit the positions vacant section of the SPD website at <http://spd.adventist.org.au/employment>. All written applications, including CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your church pastor, should be forwarded to Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahuorgna NSW 2076, Australia; email <chr@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 0943.

▲ Maintenance Manager Position—Lilypad Adventist Academy (Victoria) is seeking an experienced Maintenance Manager. The position will commence July 2, 2007. Hours will be determined by negotiation. Salary commensurate with experience. The role includes coordination of major maintenance, implementing OHS policy and procedures, conducting minor maintenance, care of Academy rental properties, completing essential services requirements and assistance with event management. Please direct all expressions of interest to the Academy Principal, Dr Daryl Murdoch by June 15, 2007.

Phone (03) 9928 2211; email <dmurdoch@adventist.org.au>.

▲ Campground Caretakers—Northern Australian Conference (Townsville, Qld) is seeking caretakers to manage the Riverside Campground and Convention Centre, commencing immediately. This multi-faceted, live-in position would suit a caring, committed couple with good organisational and people skills. Ongoing marketing, as well as contact details.

Applications will close during the winter season. For more positions, check the website at <http://spd.adventist.org.au/employment>.

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Makor, Ivy May (nee Matthews), born 2.6.1921 at Capertee, NSW; died 31.07.07 at Oberon. In 1941, she married Stan, who predeceased her in 1989. She was also predeceased by her son, Geoffrey, in 1984. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Marie and Norm Fitzpatrick (Oberon); her daughter-in-law, Rev. Maher (Oberon); and her four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Ken Bird

Obituaries

Baas, Pieter, born 8.3.1922 at Haarlem, Netherlands; died 25.4.07 at Warekila Lodge, Adelaide, SA. On 18.12.94, he was married to Karina. He is survived by his wife (Adelaide); his children and their spouses, Michael and Lesley Baas (Willunga), and Marij and Max Pedler (Adelaide); and five grandchildren. He was a kindly gentleman who had a deep love for the Lord. He will be sadly missed.

Allan Croft

Hull—Smoker. Kyle Hulls, son of Max and Lynn Hulls (Perth, WA), and Jasmine Smoker, daughter of Brett and Annette Smoker (Albany), were married on 19.4.07 at Livingston church, Perth.

Steven Good

Justice—Uprichard. Lynelle David Justins, son of Kenneth and Phyllis Justins (both deceased), and Joy Uprichard Lois, daughter of Lynden David Justins, were married on 6.5.07 in Kholo Gardens church, Perth.

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