Exciting changes

It’s been a big week for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific, with new leaders and a new leadership structure announced during the Division’s Executive Committee meetings held at Church headquarters in Wahroonga, New South Wales (read more below).

And things are about to get even bigger.

HopeChannel New Zealand is launching this Sabbath at 6pm (UTC), with the new free-to-air television network able to reach up to 68 per cent of the population (3 million New Zealanders).

Here’s a quick rundown for all you Kiwis hoping (good pun, yes?) to tune in to tomorrow’s broadcast:

- **Freeview Satellite** – channel 27
- **Sky** – channel 204

Visit [www.facebook.com/hopechannelnewzealand](http://www.facebook.com/hopechannelnewzealand) for more information and to follow the countdown.
**SPD merges departments into single ministry**

South Pacific Division leaders voted on Wednesday to adopt a new church leadership structure that will see several key departments merge into one overarching ministry.

**New leaders named for SPD Unions**

Meet the presidents: Pastor Maveni Kaufononga (Trans-Pacific Union Mission) and Pastor Geoffrey Pomaleu (Papua New Guinea Union Mission).

**Phillip Currie elected San CEO**

Philip Currie was appointed CEO of Sydney Adventist Hospital during Wednesday's South Pacific Division Executive Committee meetings.

**Read Adventist World**

*Adventist World* takes an in-depth look at the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s 60th General Conference Session, held this past July in San Antonio, Texas.

**Food for thought**

Would you rather presents—land, protection, employment, houses . . . things—or the presence of God?
**Adventist Media gets new CEO**

Our new media man: Kalvin Dever has been appointed CEO of Adventist Media.

**Adventists serve at coronation of a king**

Seventh-day Adventists in Tonga served breakfast during week-long celebrations for the King of Tonga’s coronation.

**“The Fighter”: a true story**

Ken Vogel's first book for kids is a cracker of an adventure.

**Watch/download InFocus**

Refugees & gambling: The Australian Christian Lobby’s Martyn Iles says we need to **ditch the perception that conservative politicians have no compassion when it comes to refugee issues**.

Swap to healthy snacks! Leading Aussie dietitian Sue Radd gives some helpful tips on making the switch.
Think changes are only happening within the Church? Think again. Three years ago two women discovered something that has the potential to change the world as we know it.
South Pacific Division (SPD) leaders voted on Wednesday to adopt a new church leadership structure that will see several key departments merge into one overarching ministry.

The new Discipleship Ministries cluster brings together a number of former departments—Family, Women, Youth, Children, Personal Ministries, Sabbath School, Stewardship and Health—under the one banner.

Former Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) director Dr Leigh Rice was appointed as leader of the new ministry during Wednesday’s Executive Committee meetings at SPD headquarters in Wahroonga, New South Wales.

Four Discipleship Ministries team members were also appointed—Pastor Trafford Fischer (from Family Ministries), Dr Chester Kuma (from Health Ministries), Dr Nick Kross and Litiana Turner (from Youth Ministries).

One individual is still considering the fifth and final role on the team and funding is reserved for consultants.

The establishment of Discipleship Ministries is a move away from the old model of multiple church departments, where individual leaders took care of their own specific ministry. The new team will work collaboratively on all aspects of church mission.

“This new Discipleship Ministries team will focus on the Church’s mission statement which is to make disciples with and for Jesus before He returns,” said SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend. “We believe we can capture God’s preferred future and become the last day discipleship movement. This team will drive this focus for the SPD.”

“Feedback from the Unions was that although the departments at the SPD provided good programs, ideas and materials, there seemed to be no coordination in the message and focus given,” he added. “This new team structure aims to deliver discipleship in a coordinated way.”

A number of other leadership changes were also announced during Wednesday’s meetings.
Pastor Henry Monape was appointed secretary of the PNGUM, with Bob Butler remaining in the role of chief financial officer (CFO).

Bob Larsen was named as the new Trans-Pacific Union Mission secretary. His appointment fills the role left by Pastor Maveni Kaufononga, who was voted into the role of president of the Union on Tuesday. Kingsley Wood will take on the role of TPUM CFO.

A new chief executive officer (CEO) was appointed for Adventist Media. Kalvin Dever, previously Business Services director, takes over the position from Neale Schofield, who requested a leave of absence after seven years in the role.

The second day of Executive Committee meetings began on a bittersweet note, with Pastor Townend presenting citations to three long-serving church leaders who recently announced their retirement.

Dr Leon Clark was acknowledged for his years of service as CEO of Adventist HealthCare Limited (which manages Sydney Adventist Hospital), and Ken and Julie Weslake were awarded for their work as directors of the SPD’s Adventist Education and Children’s Ministries departments respectively.

There was a great applause from the gathered SPD delegates as they received their citations.
Julie and Ken Weslake with their citations.

Wednesday’s meetings also featured reports from several Church entities, including Adventist HealthCare Limited, Avondale College of Higher Education, Adventist Health Foods, Pacific Adventist University and Adventist Media.

The SPD Executive Committee concluded its annual meetings yesterday.
New leaders named for SPD unions

Pastor Maveni Kaufononga has been named president of the Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM).

The announcement was made during the first day of the South Pacific Division’s (SPD) Executive Committee meetings, which are being held at Division headquarters in Wahroonga, New South Wales, over the next three days.

Pastor Kaufononga had been serving as Union secretary for the TPUM, a role he stepped into at the start of 2015. Prior to this he served the Union as Youth Ministries director, and also took on the role of special assistant to the president in 2014.

The Tongan pastor has also served as Youth Ministries director in the Cook Islands (where his wife is from) and a university chaplain in Fiji.

"I know who I am with the limited experience I have," said Pastor Kaufononga. "It says a lot about our South Pacific leadership that they’d put their faith in me."

"We walk by faith not by sight," he added. "This isn't about me. It's about what God can do with anyone."

His appointment as president fills the gap left by Pastor Glenn Townend, who was named president of the SPD during the this year’s General Conference Session in San Antonio (USA) in July.

A second new union president was also announced this afternoon, with Pastor Geoffrey Pomaleu named president of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM). He replaces Dr Leigh Rice, who announced his decision to return to Australia earlier this year.

Pastor Pomaleu, originally from Manus Island, had been serving as president of the Morobe Mission.

"I'm very humbled by this appointment," said Pastor Pomaleu. "It's not something I've sought. I've always believed that where the Lord calls I will go. I've never turned down a call in my life."
The PNG pastor paid tribute to the "very good team" from which he is taking over, and acknowledged the "superb plan" they have already put together.

"I want us to play in field they mapped out, in harmony with the SPD and GC plans," he said.

A number of other appointments were also made during today's meetings.

Dr Carol Tasker will take on the role of Adventist Education director for the SPD. She replaces Ken Weslake, who recently announced his retirement.

Dr Tasker had been serving as associate director of the department since July 2013.

The following is a list of other SPD leaders who were reappointed today to their respective positions:

- **Greg Young** | ADRA (SPD) director.
- **Dr Graeme Humble** | Field secretary and Adventist Mission director. He was also named Spirit of Prophecy coordinator.
- **Dr Branimir Schubert** | Ministerial association secretary.
- **John Brereton** | Publishing director.
- **Tony Wall** | Publishing associate director.
- **Prof Ben Thomas** | Pacific Adventist University vice chancellor.

The first day of the SPD Executive Committee meetings began with morning worship, with the gathered delegates from across the SPD praying together in small groups.

In his morning address, Pastor Townend invited everybody to "be a part of the Adventist movement going forward."

"The Holy Spirit has been given to each and every one of us," he said, making reference to Joel 2:28. "Let us move forward together under His guidance."

*More details to follow.*
Philip Currie elected San CEO

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Philip Currie was appointed CEO of Sydney Adventist Hospital during yesterday's South Pacific Division (SPD) Executive Committee meetings, held at Division headquarters in Wahroonga, New South Wales.

Mr Currie replaces outgoing CEO Dr Leon Clark, who announced his retirement last year.

SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend presented Dr Clark with a citation during this morning's meetings. The citation pays tribute to Dr Clark's more than 13 years of service as CEO of the San.
Outgoing San CEO Dr Leon Clark (left) receives his citation from SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend.

Mr Currie takes over from Dr Clark having after serving as deputy CEO of Adventist HealthCare Limited, as well as chairman of the Open Heart International (OHI) Management Committee.

Having been raised in New Britain, Papua New Gunea, and Fiji, Mr Currie has a passion for the people of developing nations.

He commenced his interaction with OHI in 1989 when he accompanied a cardiac team to Nepal. Since then, he has also participated in OHI mission trips to Solomon Islands.

Before taking on various hospital administration roles, which he commenced in 1994, Mr Currie completed nursing training at Sydney Adventist Hospital, followed by post registration experience in intensive care.
Wahroonga, New South Wales

Kalvin Dever has been appointed CEO of Adventist Media.

The announcement comes as South Pacific Division (SPD) leadership holds its second consecutive day of Executive Committee meetings at Division headquarters in Wahroonga, New South Wales.

Mr Dever has been serving at Adventist Media since 2006, first as IT manager and most recently as Business Services director. His appointment as CEO fills the position left by Neale Schofield, who asked for a leave of absence in August after serving in the role for seven years.
Adventists serve at coronation of a king

Nuku’alofa, Tonga

Seventh-day Adventists in Tonga served breakfast during week-long celebrations for the King of Tonga’s coronation.

Pallets of cereals and So Good were provided by Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing, and fed up to 4000 people over three days.

Tupou VI was formally crowned King of Tonga on July 4, capping a week steeped in traditional rites. Various activities were held during the week by different organisations, including church groups.

King Tupou VI at his coronation in July. [Photo courtesy: Wikipedia]

The Adventist Church’s program started with an early morning prayer, followed by 30 minutes of physical exercise before the free breakfast was served. There were three different sites and all of them were packed with people—cabinet ministers, church workers from different denominations, civil servants and company representatives.

Sanitarium export business manager Andrew Wigglesworth, who attended the event, said it “was a resounding success, helping to break down barriers between the Church and local community.”

On the first morning, the event was launched with speeches from Tongan Mission president, Pastor Saia Vea, and the Government Minister for Inland Revenue and Customs. The focus of the speeches was on the importance of making healthy food choices and protecting your most valuable asset—your health.

The King, who has a particular interest in health, was very pleased that a program that promoted exercise and healthy food choices was going to be provided for the Tongan people.

“These are people who had never been to any Adventist compound and never attended any of their programs," said Ronald Stone, Ministerial Association secretary and Global Mission coordinator for the Trans-Pacific Union Mission.

“A big thank you to the representative from Sanitarium, Andrew Wigglesworth, president of the Tongan Mission
Pastor Saia Vea, and Pastor Fanueli Mataele for coordinating this missiological event, and all the members of the Adventist Church in Tonga."

*Adventists are served breakfast after serving in the community.*

Beulah Adventist College students and staff also took part in the celebrations, providing food and music.

The remaining breakfast food was used to provide breakfast for patients at the local hospital.
Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier. Chances are you haven’t heard of these women. And the chances are also pretty good your life will be changed in unexpected ways by their research. Just three years ago, they discovered CRISPR-Cas9. And that discovery has the potential to change everything.

Literally everything? Well everything with DNA. Which means every living thing—including you, me, our children, the food we eat and the pets we play with. If it’s alive, CRISPR-Cas9 matters.

Why? Because it provides a mechanism to efficiently, precisely and cost-effectively edit DNA. Could CRISPR be the miracle cure for genetic diseases? It looks promising. Could it be used to target cancerous cells? Very possibly. Can CRISPR be used to edit the DNA of human embryos? We don’t have to guess on this one. Chinese scientists announced this year the first ever DNA edit of a human embryo using CRISPR.

And CRISPR is just one of the stunning developments that appear set to fundamentally alter the world we live in.

Satoshi Nakamoto. That’s another name you probably haven’t heard before, but whose invention has the potential to radically alter the world. Nakamoto is a pseudonym used by the creator(s) of Bitcoin, a crypto-currency.

Would anyone really use an anonymously created currency with no nation state behind it and no physical notes or coins? You bet. Today you can buy a ticket to London on Expedia, a copy of George Orwell’s 1984 from Amazon to read on the flight and some woolly undies from Kmart to wear when you arrive, all using Bitcoin. In fact more than 100,000 merchants accept it. Want to buy just one Bitcoin? It will set you back more than A$300.

Imagine a world where there is a transnational currency out of the control of governments. If the state can’t impact the currency, is it responsible for the economy? And if not, how relevant is it? And what about collecting tax revenue? It’s hard enough now. Can you imagine a world where multinationals hold their revenue in transnational crypto-cash? And what will happen to the value of our quaint national currencies if transnational, private crypto-currencies become the flavour of the era?
November 7, 2015. That’s the date set for the first autonomous automobile testing in the southern hemisphere. And it will all take place in beautiful Adelaide.

What we know already is this: self-driving vehicles are on the way. Google’s making them. Mercedes is making them. The Swiss are experimenting with modified self-driving VWs in Zurich. And the Americans are investing in the technology with gusto.

And we also know this: computers can very likely drive cars better than we do. They don’t text while driving, get drunk or drop hot drinks in their laps. And that’s a good thing because globally more than 1.24 million people are killed every year in car crashes.

Is there a chance that our children will never need a driver’s licence? That our hospital trauma units will empty out? That commutes will be faster and more productive as we sit in our pods and are driven around? Not in 100 years from now, but in 10?

With so much changing, it can be hard to know how to respond. My friend Craig Price pointed me to the thoughts of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos: “I very frequently get the question: ‘what’s going to change in the next 10 years?’ . . . I almost never get the question: ‘what’s not going to change in the next 10 years?’ And I submit to you that that second question is actually the more important of the two—because you can build a business strategy around the things that are stable in time . . .”

Which brings me to life. It’s an exciting—even beguiling—time to be alive. But it’s also unsettling and at times confusing. And if we build our identities around knowledge, assets or cultural norms, we will more than likely find our sense of self swept aside. In life, as in business, it is the things that remain stable that we need to build on.

I hope CRISPR-Cas9 lives up to its promise. I might buy a Bitcoin or two. And, though I love cars, autonomous transportation can’t come soon enough in my book. However, no matter what happens in science, finance or technology, what gives my life meaning will not change: timeless values, eternal wisdom and infinite love.

James Standish is editor of Adventist Record.
I like food. My wife willingly informs me of my dietary needs and the nutritional value of my choices. Good food gives me all the ingredients to live and function. So food serves a life-giving purpose. And it's a good thing that I enjoy eating it.

I like Bible reading. I know it gives me truth about God, myself, what to believe and how to live. But I like reading it because the God it reveals loves me, gives Himself to me, and has a purpose and future for me. So the words of Scripture give me spiritual life.

I eat and read the Bible every day. They are both habits but, more than that, they give me life, enjoyment and meaning.

If you are following the “Believe His Prophets” reading plan with many in the world Church, we are in the book of Exodus. Exodus records God creating the second greatest movement of history. God hears the pain of the enslaved Israelites, He calls leaders, acts miraculously and leads Israel on a journey of relationship with Him—providing food, water, guidelines for living and worship.

Israel does not always willingly follow. When God and Moses are conversing for 40 days on Mount Sinai the Israelites become restless and want a “god” to lead them. With Aaron’s help they make a golden calf and worship it. When Moses returns to the valley he is outraged and destroys the stone-written copy of the Ten Commandments. After some consequences, God commands Moses (Exodus 33:1-3) to lead the people on to the Promised Land and an angel will guide and protect them. But God will not go with them because they have rejected Him. Moses and Israel have a choice to make—do they take the presents or keep God’s presence?

What would you choose? Land, protection, employment, houses—the presents—or God’s presence? Moses intercedes for the people and God does go with them. We are called to be a part of God’s last great disciple movement before Jesus returns. This is another Exodus. There are presents or blessings on the journey but the greatest is the ongoing presence of God in our lives. Do we appreciate this presence?

 Pastor Glenn Townend is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.