

RECORD



The largest group of music majors to graduate from Avondale College were among those graduating in December. Pictured L-R (at back) are Jonothan Hughes, Louise Crosdale, Natasha Ryan, Renee Fulwood, (in front) Vanessa Schepp, Lorissa Cummings and Jillyayn Ah Sam.

Largest music class graduates

Cooranbong, NSW

Seven talented musicians were among the graduating class at Avondale College on December 6, and represented the largest group of music majors to graduate from the NSW-based college in its more than 100-year history.

Their abilities were showcased at a concert in which they performed classical, spiritual and contemporary music, both vocally and on a range of instruments. The concert was part of a program of events spanning graduation weekend, beginning with a consecration service on Friday evening during which several graduands were interviewed about their plans for the future.

Dr Ray Roennfeldt, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, addressed the graduating class during Sabbath morning valedictory services. Dr Roennfeldt urged students to consider their futures carefully. "The important question to ask yourself is not 'what will I do next?'" he said, "but rather, 'who will I become?'"

His Honour Judge John Bagnall presented the address during Sunday morning's graduation ceremony. He spoke about the ethical requirements a judge must consider in his role in court and encouraged the graduates to incorporate a strong ethical ethos into their own careers.

A special wooden table, handcrafted by industrial technology and design graduate Brad Collett, was placed on stage to hold the testamurs. The table featured a carved Avondale College logo on the front. —**Heather Potter**

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● **Youth ministries in the Cook Islands** are set for a bright future after a recent regional revisioning retreat at which an advisory team was formalised, a calendar scheduled, and a new support structure drafted. **Harmon Arere**, from the Avurua church, was appoin-



ted as district director, and **Liz Teina**, associate accountant for the Cook Islands Mission (CIM), as secretary for the Pathfinder/Adventurer advisory. The new structure will assist Pastor Eliu Eliu in his role as CIM youth director. "**Pastor Andrew Kingston** and I spent four days with just over 40 leaders," says **Pastor Nick Kross**, youth director for the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference. "It was exciting to feel the energy of these brothers and sisters who have a vision for growing youth ministry in the Cook Islands."

● Pastor **Don Bain** (pictured), director for Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care Services in southern Queensland, has recently been **voted in as president of Aged Care Queensland Incorporated**, Queensland's peak body for providers of aged-care services. He will also serve as a **board**

Sweet success for students

Nitendra Sabad and Anjaleen Ram were just two of the 151 graduates who received their diplomas and degrees at Fulton College's annual graduation on November 30.

Traditionally, flowers are used to make congratulatory leis for the graduates, but with the appropriate flowers not being as readily available in some areas, leis made from sweets are created to celebrate success.

While the majority of students were from Fiji, it was a pan-Pacific affair with graduates from Tuvalu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa and New Zealand. The colourful ceremony honoured 93 recipients of primary education diplomas and degrees, 17 from theology and 41 from the business department.

The guest speaker was former Fulton principal, Dr John Hammond, who served in Fiji for four years in the 1980s and is currently director for the Australian Union Conference education system.—

Elisapesi Latu



● Three students from **Gold Coast Adventist School (GCAS)** recently won two competitions with the same display. **Tamara Smith, Shivonne Blank** and **Matthew Fryer** (pictured L-R) entered their **sea otter enclosure** and associated information into the Griffith University



Science Competition. They won Best Entry for Year 7, Best Primary School Exhibit and the Best Overall Exhibit. The sea otter exhibit was then sent to Sea World to enter their animal enclosure competition. Other entries from the school won the Year 2 competition and were highly recommended in the Year 4 competition. This was the first year that GCAS has entered into this competition under the direction of Carolyn Coutts.

member of Aged and Community Services Australia, whose role is to



develop policies and strategies for Australia in cooperation with the Commonwealth Government and other care agencies. "Don's appointment, in no small way, is due to the excellent reputation of Adventist Aged Care in this state," says South Queensland Conference president **Pastor Ken Vogel**.

● **Elaine Donaldson**, a member of Port Macquarie church, NSW, has knitted about 300 **trauma teddies** for Red Cross, who distribute them on a needs-basis to police, ambulance service and fire departments for **children in crisis**. Red Cross has also sent them overseas, and some teddies have also been taken by fly'n'build teams to Africa, Laos and Thailand.



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know
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and
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our hope in Jesus Christ!

First Sabbath at Finke

Two Aboriginal students from Aputula Community, in Finke, NT, who have been attending Mamarapha College (previously known as ATSIM Bible College) this year, started attending the college as Sunday-keepers, but now they have a strong conviction to keep God's seventh-day Sabbath.

When Pastor Don Fehlberg, minister for the Port Augusta and Whyalla churches, arrived in Marlene Doolan and Sandra Churchill's community to help them with their homework, they said to him, "Sabbath is coming and we want to have a Sabbath meeting. We want to keep God's seventh-day Sabbath."

So he set up the lounge room in the house where he was staying and they attended their first Sabbath service in their home town.

They asked Pastor Fehlberg to preach on the subject of the Sabbath so family members who came could hear the biblical

evidence. There was a positive reception, particularly from one of the student's sisters.

"November 8 was a historic day for the Aputula community," says Pastor Fehlberg. "On Sabbath afternoon we went to the



Singing from the Mamarapha songbook at the first Sabbath meeting at Finke are Mamarapha students (L-R) Marlene Doolan, Lorraine Ferguson, Sandra Churchill with two local community children.

Finke River, sat in the shade of a tree and sang and talked about the Bible. As the sun was setting we formed a circle and Sandra Churchill prayed for the first time in public, thanking God for the Sabbath we

had enjoyed."

At the invitation of the locals, Pastor Fehlberg presented seven evangelistic messages in a local church during the six days he was in Aputula.

Four more people from the community have applied to attend Mamarapha College next year, including a former chairperson of the community, an elder and a young man working as the assistant police officer in the community.—**Kellie Hancock**

Adventist authors a book on Islam

A new book authored by Dr Borge Schantz, director of the General Conference's Centre for Islamic Studies at Newbold, UK, for 10 years, with 10,000 copies printed late last year at Stanborough Press, UK, is already looking at being reprinted.



New book on Islam.

A regular contributor for *Signs of the Times* and *RECORD*, Dr Borge has ministered for many years in Islamic countries.

Islam in the Post-9/11 World was written to help readers understand current events; to enable Christians to dialogue with Muslims; and to provide essential background for outreach.

"The World Trade Center attacks, the war against terrorism, the war in Iraq and the terrorist attacks in Istanbul have given Islam a higher profile in the world than ever before," says Dr Schantz. "In addition, there are 1.2 billion Muslims in today's world, 300 million of whom live in the West."—**BUC News/Kellie Hancock**

Islam in the Post-9/11 World is available from Adventist Book Centres.

KidSpeak—children speak out about their world

Some children from the local community who go to Central Coast Community church, Wyong, NSW, every week on their own, spoke to Karen Price about the things they enjoy at church and how they serve others during the week.

This is the final in the series that was introduced to RECORD 12 months ago to celebrate 2003 as Year of the Child.



Name: Jesica
Age: 10 years old
Church is heaps good, especially singing out the front. I serve during the week by helping my mum.



Name: Jade
Age: 13 years old
It's fun to sing out the front, and help to run church. I help my nan and mum by going to the shops.



Name: Kiela
Age: 9 years old
I like praying to God and bringing people to church. I can pray for the other kids at my school.



Name: Skye
Age: 8 years old
I enjoy praying and going to church to learn about God. I can pray for sick people and those who live on the street.

From music ministry to pastoral ministry

Cooranbong, NSW

While touring and singing with the music group Endless Praise (now ep), Craig Vanas made a decision that led to his ordination to ministry in the Avondale College church on September 20, 2003.

Pastor Vanas grew up on the campus of Helderberg College (South Africa), where both his parents were on staff. His schooling was on campus, including his first year of theology. When the family moved to Longburn College, NNZ, Pastor Vanas worked in campus ministry before meeting Endless Praise at camp.

"I toured with ep for two years. This encouraged me to finish my theology degree and work within the church. The affirmation I had from people who loved and respected me led me to take up this challenge. I enjoy working with people and felt I could contribute with the gifts and talents God has given me."

He finished his theology degree at Avondale College, NSW, in 1998. He and his wife Girzee (nee Torres) were drawn together through a mutual love of music. Their daughter, Jaelee, aged four months, was dedicated during the ordination service.

Pastor Vanas has served in the North New South Wales Conference (NNSW) as a youth pastor at Murwillumbah, chaplain at Tweed Valley College, assistant pastor at Kingscliff and pastor of the Bray Park church. Last year he was appointed the associate pastor of Avondale College church.

"I love this job. I enjoy working with young people and the challenging questions they have, and the growth they go through. I love to see a diverse group of people get into something and give it a whirl for God—in service, in cell groups and in one-to-one ministry."

The Australian Union Conference ministerial secretary, Pastor Graeme Christian, preached the ordination sermon and the NNSW president, Pastor John Lang, presented the charge to ministry.—**Bruce Manners**



Pastor Craig, Girzee and Jaelee Vanas.

Sabbath-keeping teens on a roll

Perth, WA

Teenage sister-and-brother duo Lesleigh, 15, and Andrew Bower, 13, are committed to Sabbath more than their sport.

They recently played at the national in-line hockey championships in Perth, WA. Lesleigh's team won silver medals, being narrowly defeated for gold by Victoria, while Andrew's team came fourth.

Talent scouts selected Lesleigh to join the Australian in-line hockey team this year.

"Games are sometimes on Sabbath," says Lesleigh, "but the coach and all the team members know our stand on that and always give permission for us to be absent. Sometimes the organisers even apologise for being unable to organise all our games to take place on a Sunday.

"Grand finals are always scheduled for Sabbath, so we choose not to participate," she says. "I know that God has blessed me for upholding the Sabbath and has rewarded me in making the national team. My ability is a blessing and I thank Him for his goodness."

The first challenge that Lesleigh will take on as part of the national team is a game in



Andrew and Lesleigh Bower are committed to Sabbath more than their sport.

New Zealand in May, followed by the Amateur Athletics Junior Olympics in Iowa, USA, and World Championships in Ontario, Canada.

"I hope to be able to meet up with other Adventist families, especially young people, when I'm in New Zealand and North America," says Lesleigh.—**Larry Laredo/News West**

Fijian Adventists adopt destitute girl



Mrs Bokoi and Ruci Wati.

A Seventh-day Adventist family from Suva, Fiji, recently adopted a child of a poor Indo-Fijian family who lives near them.

Close to where Akuila and Kinisimere Bokoi live, in the suburb of Tacirua East, a fatherless, destitute family have been squatting for several years. The mother of the family, Ana Mati, felt her only way of providing a living for her family was to work the streets at night.

Three years ago she gave birth to a baby girl she called Ruci Wati. Ana felt she could not afford an extra mouth to feed, let alone to clothe and educate, so she gave her baby girl to the Bokoi family. She had observed there was something special about the Adventist family living in the neighbourhood; they were loving, caring and giving.

Recently all legal proceedings pertaining to the adoption of Ruci Wati were finalised and she is now also a member of the New Town Adventist church's primary Sabbath school.

Mrs Bokoi says they plan to give Ruci a good Christian education and she adds, "Please pray for us, especially Ruci, that she may accept Jesus and be included in the waiting crowd."—**Wapole Talemaitoga**

Ready or not?

Milton Hook, NSW

I'm always suspicious of a person's credentials when they paraphrase Scripture in support of an argument. And the writer of "The here and now" (Letters, December 6), in paraphrasing the prayer of the Pharisee to make it sound like the thrust of W A Townend's article ("A rare prayer," November 15), grossly misrepresents him.

The fact is, the Pharisee didn't see his need for justification. Pastor Townend, on the contrary, highlighted justification—"a righteousness from God"—Christ's righteousness given to us as a free gift. That's why one can say they're ready now for Christ's coming. We're fit for translation because of Christ's fitness, and that's not pharisaic. Also, the article neither said nor inferred that "we can work our way to a point where we feel we're ready," but spoke about accepting Christ's righteousness.

I have grave fears about the concept of the gospel presented in the letter. What is meant by "a process of becoming ready?" At what stage of the process should we consider ourselves ready for the Second Coming? And what is the standard of readiness? The Ten Commandments of Exodus 20? Is it the whole law in the *Torah*, the Sermon on the Mount or that embodied in the person of Jesus Christ? If it's the latter and we daily accept Christ's perfect righteousness as the substitute for our unrighteousness, then there is no "process of becoming ready"—we're already ready in Jesus Christ.

Peter Williams, Qld

The question is asked in the letter "The here and now," "Who is confident to say they're fit and ready for heaven now?" I have no hesitation in replying, "Because of the grace of God, I am."

This response comes not from confidence in my achievements, but in what Jesus has promised as a result of His completed work on Calvary. I suggest the letter writer read Luke 18, which he paraphrases, and he will see the outcome of the story in verse 14. The one who knew he was a

Why do people look for that perfect Ellen White quote that will tell them exactly what to do?

sinner is justified by the mercy of God and returns to his home a saved man.

We're not saved by focusing on Jesus, as suggested, but we focus on Jesus because we're saved. Titus 3:4-8 explains my confidence more fully than I can express it.

Serious questions

Susan Johnstone, Qld

I'd like to question the repeated recommendation made in church to study Ellen White's writings as if they're necessary for spiritual growth. When discussing a topic, why do people look for that perfect Ellen White quote that will tell them exactly what to do? Have we forgotten how to study for ourselves? Don't we trust our relationship with God or the fact the Holy Spirit gives discernment?

Jonah, Obadiah and Moses were all prophets, but I've never heard anyone refer almost exclusively to their writings and messages. I believe Ellen White was a prophet also, but, like those of the Bible, her writings need to be taken in the context in which they were given.

We've all seen people who have taken Ellen White's writings out of context and developed an extreme theology. How have we fostered such a climate? and, why do we risk being called a heretic if we question the way her writings are used.

Throw out temple impostors

Milton Wainwright, NNZ

I've just read, "Less tithing a 'deeply spiritual problem'" (Newsfront, November 22) and agree. The reader is left to assume, however, that the "problem" is in the members who don't return their tithe or have daily devotions. But I don't think it stops or starts with them.

When I was a child, the Adventist Church was alive and strong and growing. We learned our memory verses every week and reported daily lesson study, we had 45-minute sermons from the Bible and sang hymns sacredly. A minister once said "sermonettes make Christianettes," and now we're lamenting that these Christianettes have "deeply spiritual problem[s]."

I believe 10 per cent is the place to start, but little of my tithe goes to the conference. I support an Adventist doing a work that qualifies for tithe support.

When Nehemiah found Tobiah living in the tithe rooms of the temple, he found so few people were tithing, the Levites had to support themselves. But after Nehemiah threw Tobiah out, the people brought their tithes again (see Nehemiah 13:7-12). I anxiously watch to see if any Nehemiah among our leaders will put the church back on track.

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 2) for contact details.

Just a coincidence



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Appreciation

Shields. The family of the late Stanley Shields wish to thank all who supported them at this time with prayers, visits, flowers, cards and in other caring ways. We also thank those who visited and supported Stan during his illness. Please accept this as our personal thanks.

Anniversaries

Hawken, Arthur and Shirley (nee McCormack) met while studying at Avondale College and working at the SHF factory in Cooranbong, NSW. It was love at first sight and six months after meeting they were married on 6.9.43 at Arthur's parents' home near Dunedoo. On the night of their 60th, Lola and Ron Shanks, their daughter and son-in-law, gave a wed-



ding reception for them and 70 guests who had travelled from all over Australia. Many loving memories were enjoyed on this occasion. Congratulations were received from Her Majesty the Queen and other dignitaries.

Stirling. Family and friends of Roy and Joyce gathered in Malanda, northern Qld, on Sunday, November 2, 2003, to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. All six of their children were present, travelling from as far away as Norway and United Arab Emirates for the occasion. Also present were some of their 18 grandchildren



and 27 great-grandchildren. Congratulatory messages were read from Her Majesty the Queen and other dignitaries. Roy and Joyce are widely known through their long association with Lake Eacham, where Joyce operated the kiosk and Roy was the National Parks ranger for northern Qld.

Sutcliffe, Howard and Ethel celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary on 22.10.03 at Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village, Yeppoon, Qld. Howard and Ethel joined the Adventist Church in 1957 and are still strong believers in Jesus today, and enjoying life.



Weddings

Arevalo—Navarro. Esteban Luciano Arevalo, son of Fernando and Rita Arevalo (Forest Lake, Qld), and Catalina Noemi Navarro, daughter of Aldo Navarro (Brisbane) and Patricia Lobos (Capalaba), were married on 7.12.03 at The Rotunda, Kangaroo Point Cliffs, Brisbane.

Jorge Munoz

Christie—Latta. Steven Anthony Christie, son of Larry and Gail Christie (Maryborough, Qld), and Kim Sharee Latta, daughter of John and Kaylene Latta (Drake, NSW), were married on 7.12.03 in the Maryborough Adventist church.

Phil Downing

Dela Cerna—Meddick. Jotham Bersabal Dela Cerna, son of Felix and Rhoda Dela Cerna (Hornsby, NSW), and Rebecca Joy Meddick, daughter of Michael and Kerrie Meddick (Berkeley Vale), were married on 30.11.03 in the Beecroft Presbyterian church.

Geoffrey Youlden

Tovao—Wilson. Aeto Tovao, son of Taima (Auckland, NNZ) and the late Sape Tovao, and Fialupe Wilson, daughter of Rupina Puni (Sydney, NSW) and the late Arthur Wilson, were married on 30.11.03 in the Bankstown Adventist church.

Erika Puni

Obituaries

Giusa, Carol Ann, date and place of birth unknown; died 9.12.03 in Stawell Hospital, Vic, of a terminal illness. She is survived by her sister, Joe Renouf (Stawell); her brother, Pat; and her 11 children. Carol was planning to be baptised in the Stawell church and had given herself to the Lord. There were many tributes of love paid to her from family members during an emotional service.

Mike Francis

Hargreaves, Johanna Maria (nee Blauss) born 13.3.1902 at Resenfeldt, Germany; died 26.10.03 at Batemans Bay, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Henry, in 1958; also her daughter, Caroline Butler, in 1990; and her grandson, Gordon Hargreaves, in 1977. She is survived by her daughter, Katherine Gillespie (Mel-

Position vacant

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bourne, Vic); her son, Roger (Batemans Bay, NSW); her daughter, Margaret Siezien (Canada); her grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Johanna was devoted to serving God and caring for her family. She is fondly remembered for her motherly kindness and enduring faith.

Alan White

Palmer, Ellen Winifred (Nell, nee Moore), born 25.10.1912 at Gordonvale, Qld; died 21.9.03 in Villa Vincent Nursing Home, Townsville. She was predeceased by her husband, Sydney; and her sons, Gary and Stephen. She is survived by her children, David, Helen, Lyle, Elaine and Eunice; and her beloved grandchildren. Nell was a woman of grace, beauty and substance; a devout Christian, an artist, painter and poet. She was also a warm, open, loving person who relished a great discussion, especially on religion and life, which gave great comfort to many visitors, who shared her experiences, together with her wisdom and insight. She was the best mother a child could have wished for; deeply missed by all her family.

Kevin Robinson

Willis, Eileen Hilda (nee Chamberlain), born 27.6.1924 at Subiaco, WA; died 26.11.03 at Mandurah. On 5.8.46 she married Athol, who predeceased her in 1998. She was also predeceased by her infant son, Lawrence. She is survived by her children, Bruce (Mandurah); Rosalie Belford (Terrigal, NSW) and Lyell (Warnervale); her seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Eileen was a greatly loved mother and grandmother; a strong Christian and active church member. She was keenly interested in health and earlier involved in dietetics and managing health food shops.

Cyrus Adams, Joe Gray

Advertisements

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Spain/Morocco/Portugal group tour departs April 20, 2004. Small group. Option to stay afterwards to visit friends/family in Europe and return separately. Phone Ann (03) 5962 2999. Email <contact@timeouttravel.com.au>.

Notice is hereby given that the **79th special session of the South New South Wales Conference** of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the Goulburn Adventist Campground, 20 Wollindilly Avenue, Kenmore NSW. The business session will commence at 7 pm, Saturday, April 10, 2004. Delegates will be appointed in harmony with the constitution. The business of the session will be to give consent to the recommendation from the South Pacific Division and conference executive that there be created limited liability companies to operate the conference general operations and school system.

50th anniversary Wagga Wagga Adventist Primary School—May 15, 2004. We are seeking contact from all ex-pupils and teachers. Memorabilia wanted. Please phone Marilyn (02) 6925 4182 or <wwaps@bigpond.com>.

Tour China. This two-week tour commences April 6, 2004, and will cover five major cities. Attractions include Great Wall, Summer Palace, Ming Tomb, Terracotta Warriors and Li River, a scenic wonder. Enjoy fun and fellowship with Chinese vegetarian meals and Sabbath worship with fellow believers. Limited places available. More information phone John Chan (03) 9761 6131 or email <john.chan@ihug.com.au>.

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Finally

A famous conductor said, "The most difficult instrument to play is the second fiddle. To find a violinist who can play second fiddle with enthusiasm—that's a problem. But if we have no second fiddles, we have no harmony."