

RECORD

December 17, 2005

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DEC annual meeting report



The new South Pacific Division (SPD) executive committee met in Wahroonga for the first time since the restructuring of the committee at the September SPD session.

SPD adjusts to new committee structure

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The new executive committee of the South Pacific Division (SPD) met from November 22 to 24 for the first time since its appointment at the SPD session in September.

Under the organisational structure voted by the session, the division executive committee will now meet annually to oversee the work and mission of the church in the South Pacific.

It was a meeting characterised by administrative matters, adjusting to the new structure of the executive committee and establishing governance for the new quinquennium.

Perhaps indicative of the nature of the meetings, members voted on more than

200 pages of policy amendments. The committee also rounded out the necessary appointments for the new quinquennium.

But according to SPD president Pastor Laurie Evans, the new format of the division executive committee will be simpler. "It was an abnormal meeting due to the need to set up a lot of things on a one-off basis," he explains. "But overall, the dynamic came together much better than we anticipated."

SPD leaders hosted an orientation evening for new committee members prior to the commencement of the meetings.

Pastor Barry Oliver, general secretary of
(Continued on page 4)



So what have I learned in my time as an editor?

No regrets

IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH'S workers in this division, there would be few who've worked in the same position or location for more than a decade.

I've worked at Signs, as an assistant editor with RECORD and *Signs of the Times*, since mid-1992, or more than 13 years. Now the times they are a-changin'. This will be my last editorial with my name on the RECORD masthead.

Taking my place is Pastor David Edgren (see page 3), who will be sitting in my vacated seat.

In 1992, after taking over the day-to-day care and production of *Signs* from Pastor Bruce Manners, my first task as an assistant editor was the editing of the September 1992 issue, which featured Mark Mitchell on its cover. Since then I've overseen 150 more issues, looked at almost 10,000 pages of text and illustrations and read almost two-and-a-half-million words. That sounds boring and onerous, but in reality it's been anything but.

Right above my desk is a postcard wall—a reminder of adventures and destinations: Signs outings; fellow workers and editorial colleagues; places I've visited, people I've met; people I've interviewed; memorable life events—a colourful, varied and interesting record of almost 14 years, which is figurative of my time here.

I like to say, and I believe it's the truth, "I have the best job in this division." Every day brought me something or someone interesting, and each year brought an opportunity or surprise of some sort.

So why leave and for what?

Well, first of all, I'm not actually going far—just a couple of doors along the corridor, in fact.

The end of 2005 marks a full decade of *Signs* ministry and promotion by Pastor Desmond Hills, who many have come to know through his ceaseless and tireless promotion of *Signs* magazine. He retires from his post in *Signs* Marketing this week and so, with the addition of a few in-house *Signs*-related tasks, I will take over that role—the management and marketing of *Signs of the Times*. In this, Pastor Hills will be a most difficult act to follow.

Although my time with *Signs* isn't really over, in reality my professional association with RECORD is. I'll deeply miss the church news and gossip that comes our way (off the record); the letters to the editor, both the supportive and disgruntled alike; and the closeness and insight into the church that being close to its news source brings. From here on, I'll be just another RECORD reader like yourselves.

So what have I learned in my time as an editor? Here are just a few things:

- First, we have a wonderful, close-knit church in Australia and New Zealand, and RECORD, to a large extent, is a primary element in maintaining that. Its unifying effect shouldn't be underestimated.
- Second, because you can't fool all of the people all of the time, one will need outside help at some point. Over the years most of the editorial team have come to RECORD from other professions, so we need the

assistance and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Here I've learned that "inspiration" takes different forms: sometimes it happens when you're lost for words and an idea kicks in from nowhere; at another, when you're saying too much, and caution is needed. I want to acknowledge God's leading in my work.

- Third, you can't please everyone. In fact, to try is to invite failure. The formula for success is elusive, but the formula for failure is simple: it's trying to please everyone. I haven't, as various letters and phone conversations attest, so I've learned to live with my decisions and defend them.

- Finally, you don't always get it right. In fact you can get it quite wrong sometimes. Giving *birth* to a boat is something quite different to giving a boat a *berth*, for example, and misplacing the Adirondacks . . . oh, well! When I've made a mistake, I've learned that it's easier and more effective to take responsibility, accept the criticism and move on, avoiding a culture of blame. I've also learned that it's better to learn from the mistakes of others, rather than your own.

As to the negatives, the regrets and problems of being an editor at Signs, speaking for myself only I can truthfully say there are none. In the almost-14 years at this desk, I've never encountered a day with a downside—except, perhaps, for that deadline on the periodic RECORD editorial.

Lee Dunstan
Senior Assistant Editor



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Editor Nathan Brown
Senior assistant editor Lee Dunstan
Editorial assistant Adele Nash
Editorial assistant Scott Wegener
Copyeditor Graeme Brown
Editorial secretary Meryl McDonald-Gough
Layout Jason Piez
Senior consulting editor Barry Oliver

www.record.net.au

Mail: Signs Publishing Company
3485 Warburton Highway
Warburton, Vic 3799, Australia
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Our vision is to...
know
experience
and **share**
our hope in Jesus Christ!

Adventist schools in PNG join NES

LAKE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Adventist schools in the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) will join the united National Education System (NES) at the beginning of the 2006 school year.

This was announced by the PNG Minister for Education, Michael Liam, on November 7, who said he is pleased the discussions between the National Education Board and church came to a successful conclusion after working for more than two years to bring the plans to completion.

Becoming a part of the NES will mean teachers at Adventist schools will receive their wages from the PNG Teaching Services Commission, and teaching appointments will be made in consultation with the relevant Provincial Education Boards.

Individual schools will be eligible for additional school subsidies and resource allocations, and there will be a significant reduction in school fees because of the additional government assistance. This reduction will make church education affordable to grassroots communities as well as their more affluent urban counterparts.

The education director for the PNGUM, Steve Piez, says, "It is important to under-

stand that despite the changes, Adventist schools will still belong to, and be managed by, the Adventist Church."

While teaching staff will receive their wages from the government, they will still be considered mission teachers and by law will be required to comply with church policies and philosophy of education.

"This is a direct answer to prayer for the church in PNG," says Mr Piez. "Its education system has been in serious decline for



Schools in PNG will join the NES at the beginning of the 2006 school year.

the past 10 years. This new partnership will assist the church's education program to achieve its primary goal of taking empowering, gospel-focused education to every corner of this country—even the poorest and most remote regions."

He adds, "I would also like to assure

church members that PNGUM is not merely handing over its schools to the government. The school system will still belong to the church but will be better situated to serve its purpose."

At the beginning of this quinquennium the Adventist school system in PNG was in serious decline. Due to a downturn in the economy, increases in population and the inability of many parents to meet the most basic school expenses, 23 primary and secondary schools were closed between 1998 and 2003, and total enrolments plummeted from 10,511 to 6,930—a loss of 3,581 students.

Compounding these problems was the cessation of the PNG government's annual grant-in-aid package of around \$A233,000 to the church's education system.

Mr Piez says, "Despite this, the local missions did their best to keep schools open. In many places, teachers' wages were drastically cut to a mere \$A93 per month or even less. However, these measures were not enough and schools continued to close."

After prayerful consideration, the PNGUM executive committee decided in September 2003 that the best solution to the problems would be to join the unified NES and become an education agency in partnership with the National Department of Education.—*Adele Nash*



◆ Wallsend, NSW, youth pastor **Casey Wolverton** (pictured, right), in his final baptism and sermon before taking up a new appointment at the Gold Coast church, Qld, has possibly set a world first. His baptism of **Scott** (left) and **Shari Coburn** (centre) on November 12 was likely the **first in the world to use the new baptismal vows** voted at the General Conference session earlier this year. They were

officially released only on the Wednesday before the baptism. The three new vows replace the previous 13 vows.—*Ray Boyce*

◆ **Five sisters** now live at the Victoria Point Adventist Retirement Village, Qld. The Heise sisters—**Edna, Yvonne, Ruth, Hazel and Alma**—meet each afternoon for a walk. Four of the quintet have lived in the village for many years, and were joined by Yvonne in October.—*Fran Craig*

◆ **Prospect International church**, SA, celebrated its **centenary** on September 17. Conference presi-

dent Pastor **Garry Hodgkin** presented the message at the commemorative service. An afternoon program included an AV presentation of church members who were descendants of the original Prospect church, and a **re-enactment of the opening and dedication service** 100 years ago. A 2.5m x 1m replica of the original church was on display.—*Joan Moreau.*

There's to be a **new editorial lineup** on the RECORD masthead from the first issue of 2006. Pastor **David Edgren** (pictured) will replace **Lee Dunstan** as an assistant editor for RECORD and *Signs of the Times*. Mr

Dunstan was appointed managing editor of *Signs* at the recent meetings of the division executive, with responsibilities for its **production, promotion and marketing**. While still employed at Signs Publishing Company, his connections with RECORD will cease from January 2006. Pastor Edgren comes from a pastoral position in the Tasmanian Conference.



“One Solomons” proposal voted by DEC

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

A proposal to combine the three missions in the Solomon Islands into a single administrative entity was endorsed by the South Pacific Division (SPD) executive committee on November 24. The proposal has been referred to the Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) executive committee for implementation, pending the report of the survey commission to determine the viability, suitability and time frame for the implementation of the proposal. It is expected this process will be completed by the beginning of 2007.

Pastor Lawrence Tanabose, TPUM president, presented the proposal to the division executive committee, which was endorsed by the TPUM session held in Vanuatu in September (see “Session endorses one Solomons mission plan,” TPUM session report, RECORD, October 15).

“The people of the Solomons feel they have been tossed back and forth since the organisation of the church in this part of the world,” said Pastor Tanabose, who is a native Solomon Islander. “We need a unified Solomon Islands Mission.”

Pastor Tanabose reported on a series of meetings held in each of the Solomon Islands missions in October and November. “In the Malaita Mission, 97 per cent of delegates voted for this proposal,” he reported. “Similarly, 87 per cent of those in the Western Solomon Islands Mission were in favour.”

However, the Eastern Solomon Islands Mission moved against this trend, with 58 per cent of church representatives voting against the proposal. But Pastor Tanabose said this is probably not a true reflection of the feeling of church members in that region. “Many of those who voted against came and saw us after the session and told us they had been misled, and thinking about it more carefully would like the vote to be taken again,” he reported. “Since then we have received many emails and let-



More than half of the people who attended the DEC meetings were new to the experience, with an increase in Pacific island representation.

ters and I would suggest those opposing has fallen to perhaps 30 per cent.

“Over these three meetings, 73 per cent voted yes. And I believe a lack of information and education led to the no votes.”

SPD president Pastor Laurie Evans, who attended two of the mission meetings, echoed Pastor Tanabose’s conclusions. “Three or four people were very vocal in the lead up to the Eastern Solomons meeting,” he told committee meetings. “The TPUM did not need to go back to the mission but they did that for the sake of clarity and communication.

“This proposal has been given good exposure and the overall yes vote and the vote at the TPUM session give a good mandate for this proposal,” said Pastor Evans. “It is the prerogative of the SPD executive committee to merge and form missions.”

After the vote was taken, Pastor Evans commended Pastor Tanabose, recently elected as TPUM president, for his work on this proposal. “This is a historic moment,” commented Pastor Evans. “This is the first time we have had a presentation to the division executive committee on an issue such as this from a national leader.”—**Nathan Brown**

SPD adjusts to new committee structure

(Continued from page 1)

the SPD, says, “We gave an overview of church structure and governance, familiarised them with the incorporated structure of the church in the South Pacific, explained the expectations of them as committee members and briefly discussed the formulation of agendas and meeting procedures.

“Many expressed appreciation for this opportunity. Never before have we had to work through this number of entities but this will be a regular feature of our executive committee meetings,” he comments.

According to Pastor Oliver, the new committee structure will also take some adjustment by those already familiar with its workings.

“Church entities will need to adjust to this in their thinking and planning, especially with us having just one meeting per year,” he reflects.

But, says Pastor Evans, there are a number of real advantages to the restructuring of the executive committee for the church. “Accountability is raised considerably,” he says. “We have never had church leadership and church institutions accountable directly to the division executive committee.”

Pastor Evans says this will flow on in greater transparency and much stronger governance with respect to our institutions and the division itself.

But, for Pastor Evans, the bigger advantage will be that the division executive committee will have a greater focus on reviewing the integrity of our mission and message. “Less micromanagement will allow more significant time to work on major items,” he says.

At the conclusion of the meetings, Pastor Oliver thanked committee members for their contribution, for giving their time and energy to the process.—

Nathan Brown

CFO reflects on challenges for church finances in SPD

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The report of the South Pacific Division's (SPD) chief financial officer, Mr Rodney Brady, to the SPD executive committee on November 23 focused on the strategic challenges for church finances and accounting systems in the coming five years. The substantive financial report was presented to the SPD session in September (see "Treasurer reports on financial change," RECORD, September 17).

"We need to communicate more effectively to our membership," he told delegates. "It has been a challenge to meet accounting standards and then be able to report to members in a way that can be easily understood."

Mr Brady reflected on the environment in which the Treasury Department works to manage the church's finances. "We have an increasing workload to meet external

requirements," he said. "We need to keep working on our legal structures and refining them."

He also noted the difficulties working across some of the unstable economies in the Pacific. "We need to plan carefully how to safeguard the church's financial position in these economic circumstances," said Mr Brady.

According to Mr Brady, ageing staff and infrastructure are beginning to pose challenges for the church. "More than 40 per cent of our financial staff across the division, conferences and missions are due to retire within the next 10 years," he reported. "We need to work on how we can fill these vacancies and find suitably qualified staff."

"And many of our buildings are ageing and in need of major maintenance or replacement. As a church, we need to find ways to address this."

Mr Brady stressed the church's mission must remain the primary focus in address-

ing each of these challenges. "The division will need to manage its assets—and assist other church entities to do the same—to ensure they are being used for maximum benefit of mission," he said.

"And these needs are heightened by the church's rapid growth in our island territories. This has been reliant on the church in Australia and New Zealand, but the growth in income from these areas is not keeping up with the growth in the Pacific."—

Nathan Brown

New session election procedures finalised

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

A new procedure for the election of conference leaders in Australia and New Zealand has been adopted by the South Pacific Division (SPD) executive committee at its annual meeting. According to SPD general secretary Pastor Barry Oliver, these new election protocols and associated documents are the culmination of a process that has been taking place over the past two years.

The impetus for change began with a presentation by SPD chief financial officer Rodney Brady in November 2003, in which he highlighted the need for natural justice and clarification of employment status and contracts.

"The situation is not identical in every country of the division but a common trend is emerging," said Mr Brady at that time. "The legal position of our session election procedures has not been as clear as we would have liked and has relied on the good-will and understanding of employees to accept those procedures."

According to Pastor Oliver, the major

features of Mr Brady's original proposal have been carried through in the procedures adopted. "But this has been developed in consultation with three legal firms and all conference executive committees in Australia and New Zealand," he said. "It has been an extensive process."

The documents were adopted in draft form at the division executive committee's midyear meetings in May this year and have been further refined by legal advice. Having now been voted by the executive committee, the new procedures need to be considered and adopted at all conference sessions—now known as constituency meetings—in 2006 and beyond.

In this new process, everyone elected or appointed to a position of conference leadership will receive a letter of appointment setting out the job description and term of appointment.

At least three months prior to a conference session, a session nominating committee will meet to consider the recommendations for elections and appointments to be made at the conference session. This work is to be completed at least one month before



Committee members at the DEC meetings heard presentations from a number of SPD church leaders.

the session, allowing time for incumbents not recommended for re-election to challenge that decision.

"While providing another option, the new election protocols do recommend that only a president, an executive committee, an appointment committee and a constitution committee be elected at constituency meetings," Pastor Oliver explained. "All other appointments are to be made by the appointments committee."

Giving effect to this proposal, the division executive committee voted model conference constitutions for Australia and New Zealand, model conference constituency meeting and election protocols, and a series of associated policy changes.—*Nathan Brown*

First-timers see big picture

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

More than half of the attendees at the recent division executive committee (DEC) meeting were first-timers, with an increase of representatives from the Pacific islands. This was a result of new procedures put in place after the action was taken in September this year to discontinue division sessions [RECORD, September 17, 2005].

According to Mewie Launa from the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission, "I have never asked, contemplated or dreamt of being a part of the DEC of the South Pacific Division. I don't feel worthy to be on this committee—but I know God will empower me."

Mr Launa has worked in the private sector for more than 30 years and has frequently travelled overseas. However, this is his first church-related trip and he says, "I'm at the best part of my life now because I'm doing God's business."

The opportunity to learn about new issues and developments of the church before his colleagues back home, and the ability to see how decisions are made and passed through the local missions, were the highlights of Mr Launa's trip.

Another of the 46 first-timers was Solomon Islander Patilin Sisiolo, who echoed Mr Launa's sentiments. "It has been eye-opening to attend such high-level meetings," she says. "Ordinary church members don't usually understand how hard people [in administration] work and how everything comes about. All we get is the end product [of their decisions]."

"I've seen people coming together and praying a lot over these few days, and I see the Holy Spirit leading and working," she says. "Those at this level of work pray a lot before making a decision. It is wonderful that we have unity through the Holy Spirit, even though we come from diverse places."

Richie Reid, associate youth director for the South Queensland Conference, another first-timer, says, "It is good to actually listen to reports and get the bigger picture of the church and its mission."

According to Mr Reid, the most significant lesson he learned from attending the DEC meeting was being able to see that "the heart of all aspects of the church, from its institutions to its entities, is the same mission. The church is working toward a common goal, which is the vision to know, experience and share our hope in Jesus Christ." —*Melody Tan*

Appointments

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The annual meeting of the SPD executive committee made a number of appointments that remained to be made in 2005:

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Sydney Adventist Hospital: Phillip Currie

Director, Institute of Family Relations: Dr Bryan Craig

Investment and Financial Services Manager: Virgilio Cadungog

Senior Assistant Editor, Signs Publishing Company: Pastor David Edgren

Partners in Ministry Coordinator: Merilyn Webster

Manager, Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired: Les Relihan

Prayer Ministries Coordinator: Joy Butler; (Associate) Dr Paul Petersen

Retiree Ministries Coordinator: Pastor Ray Coombe

Associate Chief Financial Officer, Papua New Guinea Union Mission: Joshua Wambillie

Division Executive Committee members: Jenny Boyd (SA); Apaitia Waganiboro (Fiji); Pastor Tom Osborne (Fiji); Pastor John Skrzypaszekj (Ellen G White Research Centre).

◆ Projected enrolment at **Heritage College, Vic**, for 2006 is up 63 per cent on the numbers for 2005. A number of parents seeking enrolment were impressed by the **quality of the campus grounds**, remarking that students must be highly cared for if so much attention is given to its appearance. The Victorian Conference Education Department has **purchased some 20 acres** about 10 kilometres distant for the establishment of a secondary campus, to commence in 2009. For the second year running, the school won the Westfield shopping centre's "Shop for your school" competition, with **prizes totalling**

nearly \$A12,000. A larger prize, however, has been the **10 students requesting baptism** after studying with the college chaplain, Pastor Craig Gillis.—*Stuart Barons*

◆ **Scotland** will trial Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) **Christmas cards**. The cards are aimed to **promote ADRA's name** among non-Adventists. ADRA will also receive 33p for each pack sold. The packs contain five cards with a Christian theme and five with a traditional Christmas scene. Inside each card, along with the ADRA logo and website address and traditional season's

greetings, is the ADRA theme "Changing the world one life at a time." —*Messenger*

◆ To **encourage and inspire the spirit of giving** at Christmas time, a web site listing **125 things people can do to help** their community, from the basic to the innovative, has been developed. "There is plenty of desire from people to make a difference but often the one thing lacking is ideas," says **Dr Rhonda Galbally**, CEO of <www.ourcommunity.com.au>.

More @ www.ourcommunity.com.au/christmastips

◆ The **10th anniversary of the Croatian Adventist Association of Australia** was celebrated with a formal dinner, attended by more than 90 people at Tullamarine, Vic, on October 23. The consul of the Republic of Croatia, **Ana Modun**, spoke highly of Adventists and their humanitarian efforts through ADRA during the war years, and encouraged the continuation of their **highly respected cultural and social contribution** to the wider Croatian community in Australia. Coverage of the event was given in a half-page report in a Croatian ethnic newspaper and on Channel 31.—*Boris Jakovac*

New Ellen White DVD released

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

A new DVD from the South Pacific Division's (SPD) Biblical Research Committee has been released. *Prophetic Inspiration: The Holy Spirit at Work* aims to give a balanced, educational introduction to the life, ministry and writings of Ellen G White.

Issues that are examined on the DVD include what her role is, what relationship she has to the Bible, how God chooses people to be His messengers and how prophetic inspiration works.

Work on the DVD has taken more than three years, with study materials gathered and extensive research being conducted by the committee. The recording and editing processes were completed by Adventist Media.

Dr Paul Petersen, who worked on the DVD, says, "We have sought a consensus position among Ellen White scholars within our church."

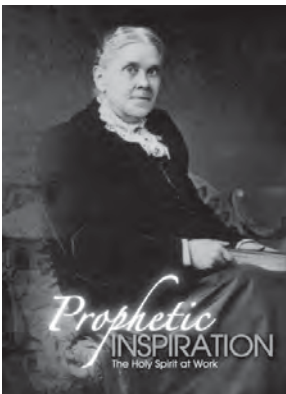
The main presenters are Drs Graeme Bradford and Allan Lindsay. A number of biblical scholars and theologians from the SPD also made contributions.

As well as providing people with a greater insight into Ellen White, *Prophetic Inspiration* aims to dispel common myths about her and her writing, as well as restore a balance in perceptions about her.

Dr Petersen says, "Extreme criticism from one side has been nourished by extreme positions taken by people on the other. Though obviously contrary to the intention of Ellen White herself, she has been abused to establish or settle exegetical or doctrinal

issues, thus replacing the Bible, or select statements from her pen have been hammered on the heads of those who look at any issue differently." —

Adele Nash



The new Ellen White DVD.

Avondale graduation second largest in 20 years

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Members of the second largest class to graduate from Avondale College received their testamurs on December 4.

Some 259 graduands were eligible to march during the ceremony, held in the Chan Shun Auditorium on the Lake Macquarie campus. These included the first with Master of Ministry degrees in family and youth ministries.

Former lecturer Pastor Alfred Jorgensen, 94, received the honorary award of Master of the College. "His teaching was noted for its academic rigour, his love of language, and occasional ironic edge," reads Pastor Jorgensen's citation. "His preaching had richness and depth." This is only the third time Avondale has conferred the award.

Pastor Laurie Evans, president of the South Pacific Division, referred to vision as "a white feather" in his address. "We can either dip it in permanent ink or do nothing and see it turn to dust," he told the graduands.

Friday's consecration service on the Lake Macquarie campus featured a drama written by graduand Makushla Kontaxis. Initially set at Homecoming in 2045, the drama showed how vision shapes action. "The kingdom of heaven is at hand—that's the grand vision that informs our personal vision," said speaker Pastor Gilbert Cangy.

Jenny Dixon encouraged nurses on the Sydney campus to be proud of their profession, saying, "Hold true to the values you have embraced as an Avondale graduate."

Anita Allen, Yanina Nunez, Lati Ratu and Jacqueline Thompson were baptised on Sabbath morning. Valedictory service speaker Pastor Lyell Heise challenged their classmates to pass on "spiritual DNA—the mitochondria of mercy, the chromosomes of courage." The baptisms bring to nine the number of students joining the church this year.

Other highlights of the year include: a record enrolment of 1060; increased Commonwealth financial assistance to students—FEE-HELP means most Australian citizens do not need to pay tuition fees while at Avondale, while nearly one-third of students now benefit from subsidised places in teaching and nursing; five-star *Good Universities Guide* ratings for educational experience, staff qualifications, getting a job and graduate outcomes; and new degree programs.

President Dr John Cox says Avondale is committed to its mission of delivering quality education in the context of an Adventist world view. "The high take-up of graduates demonstrates the value the community places on people with high ethical standards, a well-balanced lifestyle and a commitment to faith, integrity, justice and service." —**Brenton Stacey**



Communication and marketing major Lynden Rochford is one of 259 graduates of Avondale College this year, the second largest class in 20 years.

The message, not the money

BY KENT KINGSTON

CHRISTIAN BAND SWITCHFOOT HAS been in hot water recently for being a little overzealous in helping fans copy tracks from the band's new CD to MP3-friendly formats. In response to Internet chat-room queries, Switchfoot bass-player Tim Foreman provided detailed instructions for overriding the CD's anti-copying features. Sony, the band's record label, is not impressed and considering legal action.¹

We live in the age of unprincipled bootleggers who make small fortunes from copying and selling thousands of popular music CDs, DVDs and computer software at "bargain" prices. People generally agree with laws designed to stamp out this kind of thing. But when the same laws do not discriminate between commercial piracy and small-scale copying for nonprofit private use, most of us roll our eyes in disgust—and keep copying.

So many people I know—Adventists included—are happily ripping and burning their way through avalanches of blank discs in the full knowledge that it is "technically" illegal. How am I supposed to respond when someone has spent hours of painstaking labour compiling a music CD especially for me, even to the extent of colour-photocopying a front and back cover? Is it legalistic for me to feel uncomfortable with this, even as I express my gratitude?

Yes, much of copyright law is selfishly motivated, anti-creative, hypocritical and just plain stupid, but copyright law is still law, and we have biblical injunctions to "respect the authorities" (see Romans 13:1). Were the Roman laws in Paul's day any less nonsensical?

The only law-breaking permitted by Scripture is when human laws come into conflict with God's law (see Acts 5:29). At this point I have a confession to make. No, not a confession, a declaration: I once distributed photocopies of Matthew 5-7 (the Sermon on the Mount) from the NIV Bible, which is copyright and specifically

prohibits the copying of so many verses without permission. I have no remorse and would do it again.

For me, this is an example of where the laws of God and man come into direct conflict. The Bible is God's Word, and He wants us to share its good news with as many people as possible. It has been copied and translated over and over again through the centuries. To claim copyright over God's Word borders on contempt for its Author and those who have died for its cause. I am sympathetic to those who stand on principle and will only use the public-domain King James Version for this reason.

A common argument in favour of copyright law is that illegal copying "deprives

Christians should not be motivated primarily by profit or recognition, but by a desire to share God's love and truth.

the artist of income." And yes, Christian artists and publishers have a right to a living like everyone else. There's a limit to the romance of starving to death in a 19th century London garret while penning one's magnum opus. But surely many artists, especially Christian artists, care more about the message than the money. If they were in it for a buck, they'd be writing advertising jingles or Mills & Boon paperbacks.

Keith Green, the 70s Christian singer-songwriter, had a pricing policy for his concert tickets and record sales: "Whatever you can afford." Thus, if you were struggling financially at the time, Keith didn't want you to miss out on the message. However, if you were doing well, you'd be very welcome to mortgage the proverbial sheep station in order to support Keith's ministry.²

This was a challenge to Keith Green's contemporaries, and it remains a challenge today (sometime this week, wander into your local Koorong or Word bookstore and try to purchase a Keith Green CD for "whatever you can afford." You won't get far). Keith's example is a radical lesson in living by faith for us all, whether we're an artist or a civil engineer. We live in a money-oriented society, but as the apostle Paul warned, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world" (Romans 12:2, NIV).

Christians should not be motivated primarily by profit or recognition, but by a desire to share God's love and truth with spiritual seekers everywhere. Ministries such as Amazing Facts are to be applauded for encouraging viewers to make copies of their TV/DVD presentations and distribute them as widely as possible. And in terms of promotion and, arguably, profits, this can be effective—many people will hear a friend's copied version of a song and buy or recommend the original CD as a result.

I challenge ministries, artists and publishers to maximise access to their message (God's message) by removing every legally possible barrier to the wide and cheap—or free—distribution of quality Christian material. The technical means are available as never before—satellite TV, video streaming, music downloads, Internet radio, online magazines, e-books, and more. These will never (and probably shouldn't) replace "hard copies" altogether, but they maximise the opportunity to reach the world with the message of Jesus for these days. **R**

1. Switchfoot—<www.brokenmasterpieces.com/archives/001766.html#more>.

2. *M Green and D Hazard, No Compromise: The Life Story of Keith Green, Harvest House Publishers, 2000.*

Kent Kingston writes from Cairns, Queensland.

Prayer keys for Christmas

BY JOY BUTLER

CHRISTMAS IS TRADITIONALLY A time to think of, pray for and give to others. So why not use this time to pray for persecuted Christians?

Many thousands of people will be in prisons around the world this Christmas, longing for the company and fellowship of their families and churches. Others will be too afraid to worship openly, wives will be taking food to their husbands, families will grieve because they can't find missing members. It will be a time of sorrow for many; they ask for our prayerful support.

Remember Quang who, after his house was demolished, is serving a prison sentence for his consistent and bold stand on matters of religious freedom.

Think of the three mothers who are on trial because they ran a Vacation Bible School for children.

Pray for Berni's widow who now has five children to care for on her own since her husband died in a bomb blast intended to kill Christians.

Pause to pray for Roli, an old lady, who has a network of 70 churches and supports eight people in prison and remembers three who were executed.

Support Trieu, an ex-witchdoctor, as he shares the Bible under constant threat.

Two organisations support persecuted Christians and you can contact them to join their network of prayer and letter writing. Be a proactive Christian and a prayer-er.

Open Doors is a global ministry that responds to the needs of persecuted Christians in 45 nations where Christianity is forbidden or restricted. Visit their web site <www.opendoors.org.au>.

Voice of the Martyrs works in more than 50 countries. See their web site <www.persecution.com.au>.

As Hebrews 13:3 puts it, "Remember the prisoners as if chained with them, and those who are mistreated, since you yourselves are in the body also" (NKJV). **R**



Undeserved compliment

BY CHRISTINE MILES

IDIDN'T DESERVE THE COMPLIMENT. I had, after all, behaved like a bear with a sore head for most of the week, snapping at my children regularly and often because of tasks left undone or not completed to my satisfaction.

My theme for the week had been "Hurry, hurry, hurry." There was no reason to hurry. We made it to school each day before the first bell rang, with lunch boxes filled and homework completed. Beds were made, curtains opened, the breakfast mess cleaned up, and morning worship completed.

Even though my children were easily distracted from the small tasks allotted to them, they didn't deserve my terse commands and sharp responses.

On Friday afternoon, we had finished Sabbath preparation with the exception of one task: to change a \$20 note into gold coins, suitable for offerings at Sabbath school and church.

"Come on," I said. "Hurry up." Several times, in fact.

The truth of the matter was that the children were going as fast as they could go. But I was organised and they were not, so I snapped again, "I'm going. Get in the car or I'll leave you behind."

My children got in the car and we drove the short drive to the bank, accompanied by lots of chatter and a brisk "Pipe down" from me.

At the bank the children proudly

exchanged the note for coins, pleased to have some practice at being grown up.

As we buckled our seatbelts for the ride home, Miss 7 said, "You're the best mum in the whole wide world."

And I snapped, "Why?"

Really, for an adult who proclaimed to love God and her neighbour, I wasn't doing a very good job of either.

"Because," said Miss 7, "if we had a different mum we might not know about Jesus."

"Yeah, that's right," chorused the boys in the back seat. "We love God and it's all because of you."

I thought of Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (NIV).

My light wasn't shining that week. My exhaustion did not dissolve in that moment. Yet God in His infinite wisdom allowed my children to see past my frazzled temper and snappy outbursts. He gave me a moment to refocus on the purpose of my life.

We didn't drive home immediately. We sat in the car and we praised God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.

Because if one's light is dim, what better way to relight it than to focus on God. **R**

Christine Miles is a mother and freelance writer in Auckland, New Zealand.

Joy Butler is prayer coordinator for the South Pacific Division.

He's worth the risk

BY VYRONA PARKER

FOR YEARS I WENT TO CHURCH, FEELING good that I was doing what God wanted me to do. Over and over, I would ask God to show me what He wanted of me, then I would do what I wanted to do believing this was also His will. Following my own wants and desires, I continued on the path I had chosen as the straight and narrow, building the relationship with Jesus that I longed for.

I found it difficult to discuss how I felt about Jesus, and used that as an excuse to stay in the background and not have much to say. I finished secondary school, went on to work feeling quite pious, believing my behaviour was enough to witness for the Lord. I felt my relationship with God was growing, and strong. Knowing about what God was like through the story of Jesus' life here on earth, I thought I had built that relationship with God so well.

It had been hard work, but it was worth it, for I could talk to Him anytime, about anything I chose to say.

Then it all came crashing down when within two years I lost the two people in my family who were closest to me. My brother was killed in a car accident and my mum died as a result of breast cancer after a five-year struggle. My faith in God wavered, sliding downward quickly to a big zero. I lost the joy of fellowshiping with church members, and talking to God in prayer became a chore. Praising Him seemed blasphemous, seeing I had trouble even believing He cared.

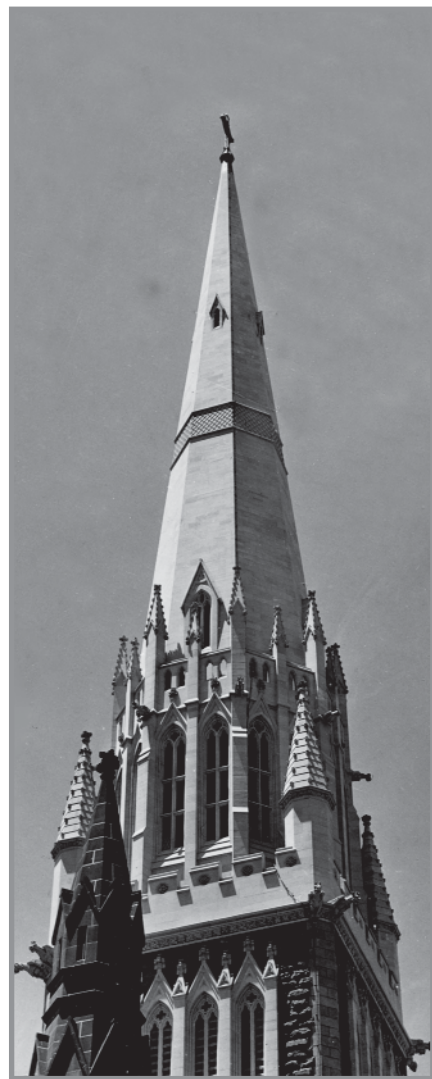
I went into autopilot, doing what had to be done without thinking, and just existing. I stopped studying the Bible as I couldn't concentrate enough to even take in a verse of the Bible, and existed by covering up my

true feelings toward God by relying on what I had learned and my knowledge of the Bible from childhood days. There were days when I wished with all my heart I didn't have to go to church, and I wouldn't have gone if I'd had nothing to do.

Because I had lost the relationship I thought I had with God I had nowhere to turn. I felt at a loss as to what to do and where to go. God was not part of my life now and there was no feeling between us. I wrote and wrote poetry trying to work out where my life was going. I still pretended to have a relationship with God when I was with friends and acquaintances, and when I went to a small group, I asked questions trying to find the answers to my questions.

Over and over, I tried to work out how I could regain my faith. I couldn't read my Bible, but still I tried. Nothing stayed in my mind. I began to feel depressed, and death seemed a pleasant thought. Often, I would think of different ways to forget the pain I felt. On the outside, I learned quickly how to put the face on so people wouldn't ask questions. I felt no-one understood or cared. All I could think of was how nice it would be to be dead. I did the right things, in my thinking, and I just went to church with an invisible cloak around me so I wouldn't get hurt again.

Even though I didn't think God was in my life, He was there. As the months rolled on, I felt mummified, but God kept working for me. I needed someone to off-load all my pain, hurt and despair. He sent the unlikeliest person I could ever think of, a person who I had little time for because of what I had chosen to believe about him. In my state of uncertainty, I had listened to



this gossip, and believed it. I sent letters to the "powers that be" to stop him from being appointed as my church pastor. I even tried to pray him away. I told them it couldn't be God's will that he come, all to no avail. He was to be our minister. I dreaded having to meet him.

Then a godly woman said to me that maybe God had a plan for this man. She encouraged me to have an open mind. I again covered up my feelings and let people think that I had accepted this disaster. I went about doing "good" in the sight of others, attending meetings, playing music for church, and basically being a false Christian.

At our small-group meetings, we studied the Bible by reading a chapter a week. We had a little discussion and then had prayer. My "new" pastor spoke to me after one meeting and told me I needed a relationship with God from my heart. I was

shocked that he could see through me so quickly, but when I thought about it for a little while, I had to admit that I hadn't felt anything for God for a long time.

Slowly, with the help of my new-found friend, he showed me through the Word and by example what God meant to him. He told me that his job was to introduce His friend Jesus to me so I would get to know the Father and could introduce my friend Jesus to others, thus doing what God commissioned us to do, to spread the gospel.

During this time, I was also healing, learning why I felt so much despair. Times of depression continued, but all through this time I had the reassurance that God was with me, even when I couldn't feel His presence. He felt so far away, that sometimes I would cry out to Him, pleading with Him to walk with me. Each time I went through this deep depression, I wondered if I would ever laugh again. I couldn't find any joy in life, but had become so good at acting, I was able to fool most people.

I was given hope again, and introduced to the God of love that I had only thought I'd known. I began seeing God's face in my mind when I talked to Him, and often I would reflect on an image I had in my mind of Jesus dying on the cross for me. We would spend time talking of Jesus and His love for me, and often I would be in tears thinking about His sacrifice. I began to feel a warm glow

when I spent this time with Jesus. Prayer again became part of my relationship with and search for God. I began to look forward to talking to God, and as I went to

God never left me, even when I thought He wasn't there.

church, I found it wasn't so hard to concentrate.

God never left me, even when I thought He wasn't there and, looking back, I feel strengthened to know I was able to get through this time of darkness with the help of God's leading, and the acceptance and love of friends.

Today, I am part of a group that has planted a new church in my area. It is a church with a difference, and has a plan to meet people where they are without judgment, introduce them to Jesus and in turn, show them how to bring their friends to Him so they can be disciples too. My greatest joy is working with this group to reveal God's love by showing others what God has done in my life. Yes, God does know the end from the beginning and He also knew what He was doing in my life.

I can now say God is worth trusting, for He only ever had my best interest at heart. He has proved His love for me and His ability to take control of my life and, because of this, contentment and peace follow. He even sent to me a pastor I didn't want, a pastor who made the difference because he was willing to be different.

He has reminded me that, despite my fears, God is worth the risk! **R**

Vyrona Parker writes from Nairne, South Australia.



Fill in the Blanks

"Help each other with ___ troubles. When you do this, you truly obey the ___ of Christ."
Galatians 6:2 ICB

Count on Jesus...

There is only one Jesus - but not in this puzzle! Starting with the letter J every time, move either horizontally, vertically or diagonally to find the number of times Jesus can be found.

E	S	J	E	S
U	J	E	S	U
S	S	J	U	S
U	S	E	S	E
S	U	S	E	J

Colour in...

the Widow giving Elijah the last of her food.



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Send us your stories of evangelism you have tried or your dreams of how we can make a greater impact in our communities.

You don't need to write the perfect report; just send us the answers to Who? What? When? Where? How? and Why? Include contact details so we can get in touch to get any further information and a photo, if you are reporting on something already happening and if a photo is available.

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Anniversaries

Gotts, Phillip and Wilmer (nee Harrington) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 19.11.05 with approximately 70 people at the Greensborough church hall. They were married at the Preston church on 19.11.55. They had four children, Rouvea Talty, Tiani Murdoch, Melea Couty and Perry (deceased). Phillip and Wilmer have lived in Melbourne all their married life and have been active members of the Preston and Greensborough churches. They would like to thank all the friends and family who attended and made this special day such a memorable one.

Phillips, Phil and Jean (nee Wordsworth) were married on 29.10.55 in Townsville, Qld. To mark 50 years of marriage, family and friends gathered together to enjoy great fellowship and a delicious meal at their daughter's family home in Rockhampton. Phil and Jean's children and their spouses were present: Carolyn and Neil Hinton, Rod and Rexine Phillips and Kaylene Kosmeier (Ben Kosmeier absent); and their four grandchildren: Jason and Toni Hinton, Nicole and Keiran McGarity, and Justin Phillips.

Appreciation

Barnard, Len and his daughters, Sharyn and Kaye, and their families, wish to thank all for your overwhelming support following the passing of our beloved Mavis. Your phone calls from near and far, the many cards with words of comfort, and the glorious flowers you sent, as well as your consoling visits, all combined to soften our sadness and helped us to realise what a caring extended family we have. The outpouring of your love was a deep source of comfort and strength to each of us. Our hearts sigh for the glorious resurrection morning.

Candlin, Doreen, Paul, Wendy, Lynden, and families, offer sincere thanks to all who prayed, sent flowers and cards, made phone calls, cooked meals and spoke words of comfort at the passing of much-loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, Gerry Candlin. We cherish the memory of a Christian gentleman and long for the resurrection morning.

Hughes, Helen, Keith and Winsome, Derek and Maureen, their families, and the Hewson family, sincerely appreciate the expressions and acts of love, support and sympathy received following the sad loss of Glen, a loving husband, brother, brother-in-law and uncle. The ongoing support of a loving church family, with many prayers, calls, cards and floral tributes, have been a source of comfort and strength at this sad time.

Kersting, Mel, Elizabeth, Stuart and Cherie Tipple, and families, wish to thank all who gave their support and sympathy during Joan's long illness and subsequent passing on 18.10.05. We have been comforted and uplifted by your love, care and practical support and look forward to meeting Joan, a loving wife, mother and grandmother, on the resurrection morning.

Appointments

Avondale College appointments 2006: ●**Kristy Baker**, to teach lower primary, Gilson College, Victorian Conference (VC), Australian Union Conference (AUC). ●**Sally-Anne Bobongie**, to teach middle primary, Prescott Primary-southern, South Australian Conference (SAC), AUC. ●**Maurice Calcutti**, assistant accountant-graduate trainee, South Pacific Division. ●**Anita Carvill**, to teach food technology and junior science, Central Coast Adventist School, North New South Wales Conference (NNSW), AUC. ●**Amy Clark**, to teach upper primary, Darling Downs Christian School, South Queensland Conference (SQC), AUC. ●**Daniel Cole**, to teach primary, Central Coast Adventist School, NNSW, AUC. ●**Cristian Copaceanu**, ministerial intern, VC, AUC. ●**Leigh Davies**, to teach English and history, Avondale High School, NNSW, AUC. ●**Miranda Dunstan**, to teach middle primary, Gold Coast Adventist School, SQC, AUC. ●**Nicholas Dunstan**, to teach middle/upper primary, Brisbane Adventist College, SQC, AUC. ●**Phillip Evans**, to teach English and drama, Avondale High School, NNSW, AUC. ●**Rontania Govinder**, to teach junior secondary, Mountain View Adventist College, Greater Sydney Conference (GSC), AUC. ●**Rochelle Hokin**, to teach SOSE/English and Bible, Henderson College, VC, AUC. ●**Clinton Jackson**, to teach physics, maths, junior science, Brisbane Adventist College, SQC, AUC. ●**Matthew Jensen**, to teach secondary PDHPE and IT, Mountain View Adventist College, GSC, AUC. ●**Stephen Kang**, to teach IT, Lilydale Adventist Academy, AUC. ●**Rochelle Knopper**, to teach lower primary, Esperance Christian Primary School, Western Australian Conference (WAC), AUC. ●**Michelle Litster**, to teach upper primary, Tasmanian Conference (TC), AUC. ●**Tony Maola**, ministerial intern, South New South Wales Conference (SNSW), AUC. ●**Abigail McHugh**, to teach secondary mathematics and science, North West Christian School, TC, AUC. ●**Nicole Mau**, to teach English, Northpine Christian College, SQC, AUC. ●**Terese Morton**, to teach upper primary, Ironbark Christian School, VC, AUC. ●**Danielle Miller**, to teach infants, Ipswich Adventist School, SQC, AUC. ●**Yanina Nunez**, to teach home economics, Auckland SDA High School, North New Zealand Conference, NZPUC. ●**Sven Ostring**, ministerial intern and tertiary students chaplain, WAC, AUC. ●**Damien Rabe**, to teach Year 6, Heritage College, VC, AUC. ●**Latileta Ratu**, to teach English and drama, Henderson College, VC, AUC. ●**Emmanuel Reynaud**, to teach food technology, Macquarie College, NNSW, AUC. ●**Christopher Riley**, to teach primary, Central Coast Adventist School, NNSW, AUC. ●**Timothy Shelton**, ministerial intern, Greater Sydney Conference, AUC. ●**Dale**

Skinner, to teach middle/upper primary, Ipswich Adventist School, SQC, AUC. ●**Deveron Strickland**, ministerial intern/youth pastor/chaplain, SAC, AUC. ●**Matthew Tompson**, ministerial intern, SAC, AUC. ●**Jim Zenith**, to teach PDHPE, Macquarie College, NNSW, AUC.

Retirements

●**Russell Akers**, SHF head office (39 years). ●**Pamela Bowen**, Sydney Adventist Hospital (24 years). ●**Percy Harold**, South Pacific Division (35+ years). ●**Lorraine Hope**, overseas (17 years). ●**Larry Laredo**, Western Australian Conference (27 years). ●**Trevor Lewellin**, SHF Warburton (19 years). ●**Graeme Loftus**, North New South Wales Conference (35 years). ●**Peter Raymer**, South Queensland Conference (36 years). ●**Faye Whelan**, Coronella Retirement Village (25 years).

Trans-Pacific Union Mission

Western Solomon Islands Mission

●**Jedis Hivai**. ●**Bob Lawrence**. ●**Dellie Riringi**. ●**Titus Rore**.

Malaita Mission

●**James Gamasi**.

Papua New Guinea Union Mission

New Britain New Ireland Mission

●**Maylyn Gila** (widow support). ●**Leo Jambby**.

Morobe Mission

●**Daniel Magiwari**. ●**Timothy Supsup**.

Central Papua Mission

●**Vaeabu Daiva**. ●**Earle Ope**. ●**Joseph Urviv**. ●**Phillip Wani**.

Weddings

Flores De La O—Cripps. Jose Carlos Mauricio Flores De La O, son of Gloria De La O Portillo (Hobart, Tas), and Aleicia Maree Cripps, daughter of Christopher and Marilyn Cripps (Hobart), were married on 27.11.05 in the Glenorchy Adventist church.

Kevin Amos

Gabriel—Donaldson. Adam Gabriel, son of Alan and Rhondell Gabriel (Tweed Heads, NSW), and Karlia Donaldson, daughter of Steven (Murwillumbah) and Lana Donaldson (Tweed Heads), were married on 20.11.05 at the Coolibah Downs chapel, Nerang, Qld.

Adrian Raethel

Kreso—Halteh. Mato Kreso (South Morang, Vic) and Ann Halteh (East Doncaster) were married on 20.11.05 in the Wantirna Adventist church.

Morrie Krieg

Lang—Porter. Alan Douglas Lang (son of Dorothy (Albany, WA) and the late William Lang, and Lois Isobel Porter, daughter of the late Albert and Bessie Porter, were married on 11.9.05 in the Ipswich Adventist church, Qld.

Sandor Gazsik

Obituaries

Beasley, Desmond Judd, born 2.9.1929 at North Franklin, Tas; died 15.11.05 at Cooranbong, NSW. He was predeceased by his wife, Nancy, in 1994. He now sleeps as we wait for the resurrection morning.

Claude Judd

Cook, Leith Robert James, born 12.1.1917 at Hamilton, Vic; died 10.6.05 at Warragul. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; and his brothers, Alvin (USA) and Clem (Hamilton, Vic). For some years Leith was a salesman for the Sanitarium Health Food Company. He built upon those entrepreneurial skills in a successful business career. In recent years Leith renewed his association with the church, enjoying fellowship in Bega and Bairnsdale. He served his Lord with a joyful heart and his fellow man with a generous spirit. He will be remembered and sadly missed by all who knew him.

Gavan Grosser

Davies, Rhoda Daisy, born 25.7.1922 in Liverpool, England; died 11.11.05 at Bunbury, WA. On 8.3.86 she married Fred, who predeceased her in 1996. Rhoda was a loving, caring person.

Robert Kingdon

Davis, Colleen, born 15.12.1943 at Bega, NSW; died 4.11.05 in her home at Nowra. On 7.9.63 she married Don, who predeceased her. Don was a local printer in Bega. She is survived by her children, Wayne, Glen, Scott, Kim and Shayne. The family shared a varied experience of printing, restaurant, grocery shop and cattle farming. Colleen was a loving, compassionate person, who will be greatly missed.

Cyril Brown

Drummond, Allan, born 10.8.1929 at Guildford, WA; died 25.11.05 in Kalamunda Hospital. On 22.11.52 he married Carmel. He is survived by his wife (Dongara); his children and their spouses, John and Sally, Robyn and Darren Peakall, Andrew and Liz (all of Perth); his eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. In 1960 Allan and Carmel were baptised by Pastor Wal Taylor. Allan shared his spiritual convictions with all who would listen and will be missed for his practical Christianity.

Glenn Townend

Eades, Doris (Dolly), born 23.3.1919 at Northcote, Vic; died 23.11.05 in Coffs Harbour Hospital, NSW. On 4.1.41 she married Colin, who predeceased her. She is survived by her son, John (Menai); her daughter, Kristina Marce; her seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Ken Love

Eggins, Vida Florence, born 1.11.1917 at Maclean, NSW; died 7.11.05 in Maclean Hospital. She is survived by her children, Fay Chandler (Palmer's Chanel, NSW), Patricia Roth (Bundaberg, Qld) and Betty Chandler (Ipswich); her grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren. Her family were present at the



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and lived it to the full. She was full of laughs and love, and overflowed with both. Thanks for the memories.

Lynn Burton, Mark Wilson

loved by all who met her. In death as in life she left her estate to charity. She is sadly missed by all who loved and knew her.

Richard Araya-Bishop

Paterson, Hazeline Jean (Hazel), born 1901 at Anakie, Vic; died 31.10.05 at Yarra View Retirement Village Hostel, Warburton. Hazel never married and is survived by her nephews, Leon Paterson (Ballarat) and Neil Marshall (Anakie); and her niece, Pam Paterson (Warburton). Hazel served the church in the 1920s, 30s and 40s as a teacher in Western Australia, Victoria and Tasmania, and then for three years as demonstration teacher for the Trans-Australian Union Conference. She reached the grand old age of 103.

Eric Kingdon, Joy Kingdon

Svensson, John August Roberts, born 25.2.1935 at Narromine, NSW; died peacefully in his sleep 4.11.05 after a period of illness. John spent most of his life on the family farm "Warrawee" at Narromine. He married Gwen Di Salvia in August 1964. He is survived by his wife; his children, Michael, Brenda Florida and Robert (all of Narromine); his six grandchildren; and his brother, Bruce (also of Narromine).

Mark Roberts, Colin Dunn

Paulus, Evelyn Ellen Joyce, born 26.7.1919 at Toowoomba, Qld; died 4.11.05 at Kingaroy. She was predeceased by her husband, John; also her son, Lionel. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Stanley and Anne (Alice Springs, NT); and her daughter, Myrtle (Kingaroy, Qld). Joyce was a wonderful person, dearly loved by all who knew her. She knew Jesus and shared Him with all who would listen. The blessed hope was real to her. Maranatha!

*Bill Cross, Tony Urrea
John Rabbas, George Backhouse*

Trethewey, Robert Edward (Bob), born 30.3.1914 in Wellington, NZ; died 9.11.05 in Quirindi Nursing Home, Quirindi, NSW. On 26.4.56 he married Doreen Webb. He is survived by his wife (Werris Creek); his daughter, Lynley (Sydney); his son, Graeme (Maitland); his daughter-in-law, Lesley; and his grandchildren, Alwyn and Helene (Maitland). Bob was a commercial and fine artist, working during the 1970s as an artist with the Signs Publishing Company. Many evangelists used his paintings, including Pastors Jim Cherry, John Carter, Harold Harker and John Coltheart. Bob continued painting until he was 90. The RSL honoured him at the graveside service and he now awaits the resurrection when he will see the Master Artist, Jesus Christ.

Clive Nash

Race, Gwen, born 28.2.1921 at Burnie, Tas; died 31.10.05 in Sydney, NSW. She was the youngest daughter of Pastor Whitehead. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Peter and Lyn (Goulburn); her grandchildren, Carolyn, Jonathan, Stephen and Belinda; her sister, Esme Whitworth; and her brother, Irwin Race.

Bruce Shield

Warren, Lillian Daisy (nee Umfreville), born 9.9.1911 in Hobart, Tas; died 1.11.05 in Victoria Point Nursing Home, Qld, after a long illness. In 1934 she married James, who predeceased her in 1984. She was also predeceased by her sister, Kath Claus; and her brothers, Fred and Len of Tasmania. She is survived by her nephew, Walter Claus (Qld); and her nieces, Dawn Roberts and Monica Rosevear (Tas). James and Lillian lived in Nowra for nearly 50 years and were active members of the church there. God knows her resting place.

Wheeler, Mary Gladys (nee Hollingsworth), born 23.2.1900 at Bookara, WA; died 21.10.05 at Cooranbong, NSW. In 1925 she married George, who predeceased her in

funeral service of "nana by the river," held in the Maclean SDA church. As long as most could remember, she had lived near the bridge going into Yamba, by the Clarence River which, during flood, flowed through her house.

Gordon Smith

survived by her sons, Frank (Perth), Raymond (Adelaide, SA), Peter (Melbourne, Vic) and Robert (Adelaide, SA). Nita was a kindly person with a deep love for God, family and friends. She will be sadly missed.

Allan Croft

Ewart, Alexa Jeanie (Jean), born 10.7.1917 at Pahiatua, NZ; died 19.11.05 at Tauranga. In 1938 she married Jack at Taumarānui, who predeceased her in 1996. She was also predeceased by her son, Jim, in 1992. She is survived by her sons, John, Neil and Bruce; and her daughter, Christine (all of Tauranga).

John Veld

Gillard, Graham Edmund James, born 14.11.40 in Christchurch, New Zealand; died suddenly 5.11.05 in Christchurch in his 65th year. He is survived by his parents, Elsie Herbert and the late Colin Gillard; his wife, Lorraine (nee Reid); his children and their spouses, Lydelle and Cary, Tim and Tereena, Charlene and Steve, Andrew and Christine, and Natasha and Daniel; and his 14 grandchildren. Graham was passionately committed to his family and his God. He was an important part of the core group, which planted Riverlands SDA church three years ago. He was much loved by his wife and children; and a special gramps to his grandchildren. Asleep till Jesus comes.

Paul Rankin

Kelly, Nita Kathleen, born 25.5.1914 at Port Lincoln, SA; died 11.11.05 in Perth, WA. In 1934 she married Jim, who predeceased her in 1981. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Joan, in 1964. She is

Langford, Warren, born 11.4.1929 on Pitcairn Island; died 21.6.05 in Carnarvon Private Hospital, Henderson, Auckland, NZ. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Iris; his daughter, Suzanne; and two adored grandsons, Jason and Darrin. In 1958, when Iris needed medical attention, they moved to NZ from Pitcairn. Warren served the church as a deacon and elder for many years prior to his illness.

Terry Johnson

MacArthur, Donald Malcolm, born 6.8.1923 at Glasgow, Scotland; died 27.7.05 in Baringa Private Hospital, Coffs Harbour, NSW. He was predeceased by his first wife, Bette. He is survived by his second wife, Rae (Coffs Harbour). The strong-minded Scotsman finally rests. Greatly missed by his wife.

Ken Love

Mount, Jessie Ida, born 30.10.1917 at Walthamstowe, Essex, UK; died 15.11.05 at Mandurah, WA. On 30.4.36 she married Ernie, who predeceased her in 2002. She is survived by her children, Mick (Wembley Downs), Doreen, Sylvia (both of Ravenswood) and Masie (Booragoon, WA); her eleven grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. Jessie was a beautiful, caring, happy, carefree and unassuming person who danced her way through life



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1975. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Vyrona Durrant, in 1984. She is survived by her daughter, Joan Dick (Cooranbong); her son-in-law, Bruce Durrant (Vic); her stepsister, Erica Freeman (WA); and her grandchildren, Calvin Durrant (WA), Susette Butcher (Cooranbong, NSW) and Julie Van Ballegooyen (WA). Gladys, the last of the Hollingsworth family from Bookara, worked with her husband, George, at the SHF and supported him in establishing the Perth Advent Band. She will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Clem Van Ballegooyen

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We're celebrating and you're invited to the anniversary of the Avondale College church building—March 11, especially if it was your church home. Details? Phone (02) 4980 2272; email <sharon.turner@avondale.edu.au>

Remembering 100 years of Adventists in Warburton—April 7–9, 2006. If you have been part of the history of Adventists in Warburton—at the Signs Publishing Company, the Warburton church, the Warburton Christian School, Yarra View Hostel, Sanitarium or the hospital—plan to be part of this weekend. Special guest: Pastor Jim Coffin, former editor of RECORD. Watch this space for more details.



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Birdwood SDA church

invites past members and friends to celebrate their 50th anniversary—February 25, 2006. Thanksgiving service commences 11.00 am. Bring a plate of savoury food to share. Dessert and drinks provided. BYO chair. Afternoon program 3.00 pm. Memorabilia contact Merv (08) 8568 5390.

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