

# INTRAVIC

May 21, 2022



Victorian Adventist  
COMMUNICATIONS

IntraVic Newsletter a publication of the VAC



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## Editor's Note

Telling stories about what someone else did wrong is probably not the best way to build a quality relationship. Have you ever noticed that some children seem to have an amazing ability to share family secrets strategically? Red faces tell of embarrassment caused.

So when we'd seen this happen a few too many times in our own family – with harsh words spoken as a result, we figured we'd better do something to bring a positive change. Each morning at the end of family worship, I'd invite everyone to make a circle and with their right hand, grasp the thumb of the person on your right. It was easy after we'd done it a few times. Then I'd say, "To belong to a circle like this reminds us that God's love is like a circle. When we're part of a circle like this, we aim to love as God loves. We don't tell family secrets. We look for the best in each other, and if you can't do that, I hope your thumbs drop off." After we'd laugh a bit, we'd pray before rushing the kids off to school.

Why did we do it? We value loving relationships. We value each member of the family. It seems like there are times when we feel better about ourselves if we can point out the faults of others – but I don't think that would ever help build healthy relationships.

So what is the foundation for effective relationships? Is it respect, friendship and trust? Or time for each other, communication skills and forgiveness?

Does the fruit of the Spirit make any difference in relationships? I'd say a big, "Yes!" Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – now how can we get that fruit in our lives and relationships? Please pray that God will grow those fruits in your relationships – and throughout your church family.

You've probably guessed it by now. This issue of IntraVic is focused on relationships. Enjoy.

*Graeme Christie*

# Revive Abide

## Victorian Conference & Cedarvale's new health initiative

Jesus taught us to "love one another as I have loved you" and that "by this all will know that you are my disciples." (John 13:34,35). We're familiar with Ministry of Healing p. 143 where Christ's method of mingling with people, showing His sympathy and ministering to their needs – in short showing genuine love and kindness – was bedrock to building confidence and inviting them to follow Him.

Now notice the next paragraph, "There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonising, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen." Sister Ellen elaborates on "personal ministry" as relieving the poor, caring for the sick, comforting the sorrowing, instructing the ignorant and counselling the inexperienced. She finishes with this motivation, "Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit."

So how fruitful is your personal ministry? If your church were to close tomorrow, which I trust it won't, would you have a personal ministry? Personal ministry sits at the progressive nexus between personal leadership and team ministry. Rooted in our personal walk with God, He gives us love to serve people personally. We don't need a position. We need His love which the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts. (Rom. 5:5).

Each of these progressions cause us to learn to love in deeper ways.

- In personal leadership we learn to love God supreme – it's foundational. We also learn appropriate self-care so we can lead and manage our abilities, our time and our energy so we can make productive choices. This is where we become whole people.
- In personal ministry our love extends to others from our family and friends to our broader community. People are the only things going to heaven and we value their importance.
- In team ministry we love more intelligently by gathering our personal attributes into a shared direction with others. In team ministry, 1 + 1 can equal 4 or 8 as the synergies create better solutions than any one member could arrive at alone. In a team our weaknesses can be made irrelevant by the strengths of other members.
- In team leadership our love is shaped to lead a team of people or a part of a project to accomplish the directions of the group.

This helpful model can inform our growth inspiring us to move closer to Christ's heart and mind. This is how He worked. We love "because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). God's love catalyses us to



reach our full potential. In turn we share His love with others in personal ways and through the church ministry teams we work with.

We'll no doubt want to learn new skills about leadership and management as we progress, but it is a bottom-up pathway. There's no use... trying to lead a team if you're not led by God. It can be frustrating being a part of a ministry team when our own personal ministry compass isn't pointing north. And if love isn't at the core of it all – inside and out – then we're just making noise (1 Corinthians 13:1). Rather, "let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works". (Hebrews 10:24)

Notice that these encouragements about Christ's method and personal ministry are in the book Ministry of Healing. They are directly linked to "medical missionary work". Let me stir up your love and good works by appealing for you to pray and financially support an opportunity to train members throughout Victoria in the healing ministry of Christ.

Working cooperatively with Cedarvale Health & Lifestyle Retreat, a supportive ministry registered in the SNSW Conference, the Victorian Conference is raising funds to revive the Abide Health Estate. Located an hour northeast of Melbourne, the purpose-built facilities already have a beautiful 13-room Residential Health Retreat, Dormitory and Training Centre for 16 students and market garden ready to operate. We are raising \$1.5 million to assist Cedarvale in completing the purchase. Cedarvale will own the estate and operate the Residential Health Retreat and the Health and Personal Ministries Departments of the Victorian Conference will open a Health and Ministry Training Centre.

Go to <https://reviveabide.com.au> to learn more of the potential to train and experience the blended ministry of Jesus Christ, resulting in a network of health and ministry workers throughout Victorian churches and communities.

May we let Christ's love shine inside and out and so reach a world in deepening need!

**Pr Andrew Jasper**

Director of Health, Stewardship and Personal Ministries

**BRING THE VISION TO LIFE**  
as the Victorian Conference and  
Cedarvale Health & Lifestyle Retreat  
appeal for prayer and financial support to

**Revive Abide**  
[reviveabide.com.au](https://reviveabide.com.au)



# Women's Ministry

## UPLIFT

On Saturday 14 May, we were blessed by testimonies from women across Victoria as part of our Women's Ministries UPLIFT program. Held at the Heathmont Baptist Church, over 40 women were gathered to be inspired, to uplift and be uplifted by each other.

Our guest speaker Suki Goonatilleke, author of *Sisters in Arms* and freelance writer, journeyed through the book of Ruth highlighting themes of courage, bravery and the importance of standing firm for what you believe in even if you don't know what the outcome will be.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for UPLIFT, we hope that you were blessed by the program.



## RENEW

Over July 22–24, women from across Victoria gathered in Phillip Island for RENEW Women and Young Ladies Conference. On Friday night, several ladies arrived for our afternoon program which was taken by our guest speaker for the weekend, Pr Moe Stiles. Moe spoke about the story of the widow's offering in Mark 12:41–44, highlighting the importance of showing up and being authentic. We were challenged to show up as our true selves, knowing that Jesus sees them us who we are and loves us.

On Saturday, we had our morning program which was filled with praise and worship. Pr Tarnya Garner spoke about the idea of the refiner's fire, that God uses trials to refine us so that we can come out of the fire as gold. We were challenged to have the commitment and courage to ask God to refine us.

After a short break, the morning program continued to the main worship service which was lead by Pr Moe Stiles, who spoke about Hagar and Sarai in Genesis 16. Emphasising that women need to work together, to support each other instead of working apart. Moe left us with a challenge to be involved in partnership with each other and create paths in which we become a movement who authentically advocate together.

On Saturday afternoon, Pr Pirooska Vranjakne-Feith led a workshop on how your learning style can be used to study the Bible. The evening closed with worship and the ladies spent the night watching movies and participating in fun activities.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Women's Ministry RENEW Conference! We hope to see you all again soon.

**IntraVic Staff**



## Dependence - Good or Bad?

We are educated in the humanitarian sector that dependence is disempowering. So we focus on providing pathways that create independence – education, employment, health and wellbeing programs.

But how does this empowerment model impact hope? Especially when you are working with a person who is in survival mode with a sense of hopelessness.

I recently read a blog by Noemi Hedrick:

“Having goals is not enough. One has to keep getting closer to those goals amidst all the inevitable twists and turns of life. Hope allows people to approach problems with a mindset and strategy – set suitable to success, thereby increasing the chances they will actually accomplish their goals.” (noemiphotography.com)

So who has hope? We have. We go to church every week, we sing songs, we hear messages of hope, we pray together, we share a meal together – but what are we doing with this hope?

Every week, ADRA teams are out on the city streets meeting people who are trying to survive in this broken world. If each person got to know one person, remembered their name, helped them with some of their

immediate needs and future goals, then maybe that’s how we truly see Jesus? Maybe our dependence on Him to share His hope is what people who are vulnerable are really needing?

Some call the homeless outreach as a ‘band-aid/relief’ approach – if it doesn’t address the root causes of poverty. However, some could argue that conversation, prayer and relief items that meet the first level of Maslow’s hierarchy is development, not merely relief. As the Bible says, “when two or more are gathered in his name, I am there also.” So are we still delivering a band-aid model or an eternal/infinite model for development?

Noemi ends her blog with this: “If we don’t have the hope that Christ is for us, then we will be engaged in self-preservation and self-enhancement. But if we let ourselves be taken care of, by God, for the future – whether five minutes or five centuries from now – then we can be free to love others. Then God’s glory will shine more clearly, because that’s how He becomes more visible.”

Dependence is good if the focus is Jesus.

**Rebecca Auriant**

Director of ADRA in Victoria



### Channel 7 and 9 with Curtis Stone

Praise God for the opportunity to be featured on Channel 7's *Sunrise* program and Channel 9's *A Current Affair*!

We were invited by Coles and SecondBite to be part of their annual Winter Appeal which raises awareness around the increasing costs of living and associated food insecurity. Previous to the invite, Heta and the team at Carrum Downs Samoa accepted two cheques from Coles for \$3,300.

Our youngest volunteer, Ava from Glenhuntly SDA Church, spoke to Channel 9 about her heart for service, while Perri a previous client but now volunteer at ADRA Ferntree Gully shared her story to Curtis Stone at the ADRA Breakfast prepared by Nunawading SDA Church members. There was so much joy in the room – I couldn't stop smiling all day, because I realised the power of connection, the power of God working through His people and the small acts of kindness – which breaks down barriers.

If your church is keen to help in a practical way this winter, please donate warm clothing, men's socks, hygiene products and non-perishable food to your local ADRA centre or send me an email so we can chat about how your church can be involved in your local community: [RebeccaAuriant@adventist.org.au](mailto:RebeccaAuriant@adventist.org.au)

## February

Responded to the conflict in Ukraine  
Responded to the NSW and QLD floods

## March

ADRA Rowville received a \$1,000 Coles grant  
ADRA Ukraine featured on Fox 5 USA

## April

Referral partnerships with Back 2 basics and Casey North Community Information and Support Service  
Message from the Knox police station: "The ADRA Food Pantry provides an invaluable support service to the Knox community and we at the Knox Police station are extremely grateful for their support."

## May

Mildura Backyard Blitz and Outreach  
Lilydale Backyard Blitz and Outreach  
Volunteer day at Plenty Valley  
Government House invite to celebrate 90th anniversary of Foodbank  
\$50,000 anonymous donation

## June

New outreach at Bourke Park, Pakenham, with Salvation Army and Blessed Collective  
ADRA Carrum Downs Samoan received a \$2000 cheque at the Grand Opening of Coles Botanic Ridge store.  
ADRA Carrum Downs Samoan received a \$1300 cheque at the renovated Coles Cranbourne West store.

## July

ADRA and Afri-Aus Care received a visit from the Andrew Crisp – Chief Commissioner of Emergency Management Victoria  
ADRA Community Care – Croydon received a \$7,000 grant from Maroondah Council

## August

Launch of Active August



## Finance Report

What a year it has been. 12 months ago (August 2021) Melbourne had just started its sixth lockdown, which was to last until October 21. 2021 and the year prior were certainly not business as usual years and of course we had concerns about the financial impact COVID may have on the conference. As I write this, 12 months on, I still don't think we can say it's business as usual but it's perhaps a little more normal.

A lot has been happening the last few months. During 2021 the conference board and executive committee made the decision to change our end of financial year date from December 31 to June 30.

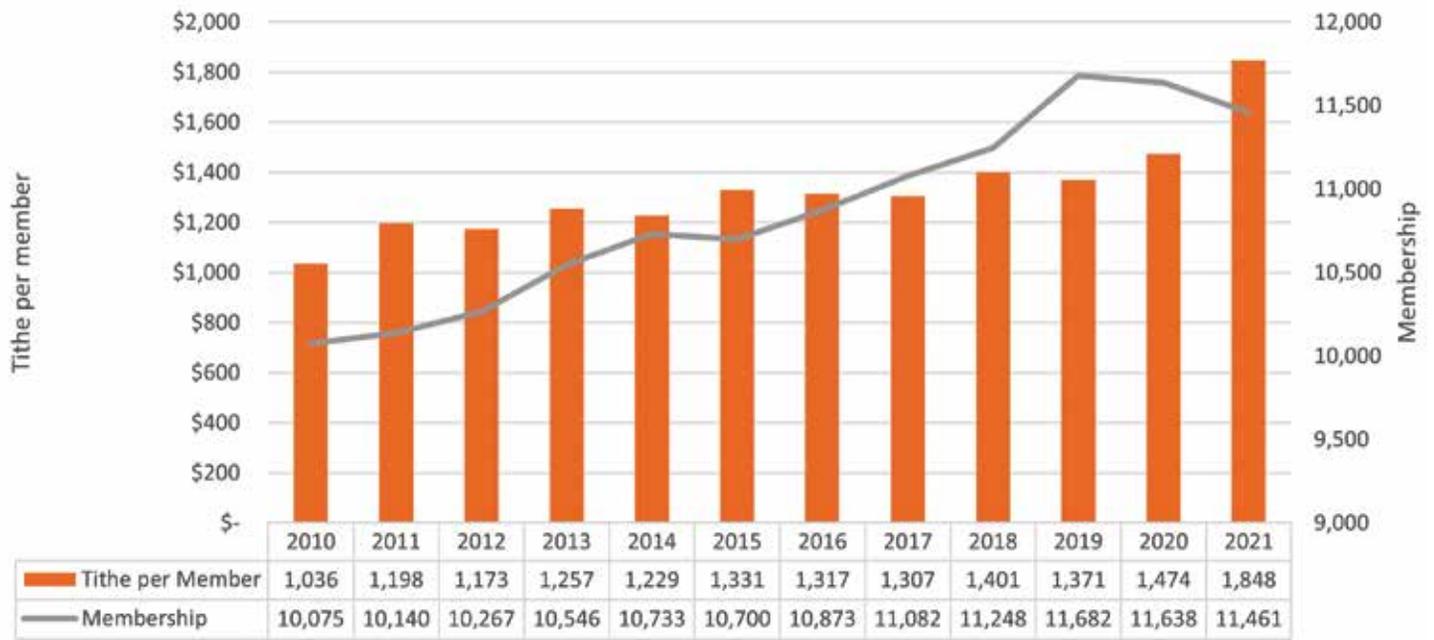
To transition this, change financial statements were prepared and audited for the year ended December 2021 and were prepared again for audit as at June 30, 2022. Budgets have been approved for the 2022–23 year and our finance team have been involved in a project with Adventist Technology to update the tithe and offering reporting systems our church treasurers use. These activities have kept our finance team extremely busy during the last few months.

I am pleased to report that despite COVID-19 we were able to generate a surplus for our years operations ended both December 2021 and June 2022. Our conference was blessed to receive some large anonymous tithe donations over the last few months which has ensured our surplus operating results. To those anonymous donors and members, we say thank you for your continued support of the church work in Victoria.

We are experiencing good operating results from our education and aged care companies, however both of these entities have experienced significant challenges over the past year with staffing.

These challenges have placed enormous pressure on our company CEOs in needing to manage the staffing shortages and to find creative ways to cover the various roles that have needed to be filled.

## SDA Church - Victorian Conference



The conference has a number of capital development projects currently happening in our schools, Aged Care and conference entities. The two largest projects are Pavilions Stage 2 and additional residential care facilities at AdventCare Nunawading. It has taken months of discussion with banks and lawyers to finalise the finance agreements for these projects.

Pavilions Stage 2 is a \$52.5 million development consisting of 66 retirement apartments in a multi-story apartment complex. Stage 2 also provides for a swimming pool for resident use. Ironside builders have been engaged for this building contract and have made a great start on site in the last few months. This project is due for completion in October 2023. I am pleased to report that we have sold more than 50 percent of these apartments.

The residential care development project at AdventCare Whitehorse is currently also in Stage 2 of a 3-stage development. Stage 2 will deliver a 3-story residential aged care facility providing 48 new beds with back of house services such as kitchen & laundry. SJ Higgins is the builder and is currently on schedule to complete this development by December 2022. This is a major investment of AdventCare of some \$17.6 million and will provide the opportunity to expand its services to the church and wider communities. Stage 3 is a 10-month project which will deliver new admin and reception facilities.

While these development projects are exciting to see happen, we are conscious of our core mission and ensure our financial resources are managed to help achieve that core mission by providing funding for mission & discipleship, resourcing and training, leadership development, and

media and communication. Recently the conference board approved our conference budget for 2022–23 which is just over \$19 million. While it sounds like a big amount, we have had to be careful how we have budgeted to expend this. In order to balance our budget for this year we have had to cut expenditure in a number of areas and rely on appropriation allocations from our unincorporated entity.

We would love to be able to provide more pastoral staffing to our churches in Victoria, provide additional evangelism grants, provide more resourcing to our local churches but the funds will only stretch so far. We have been encouraged by the faithful giving of tithes of our members during the last couple of years when COVID had such a devastating impact on businesses and families. We can look back and say God has blessed the Victorian Conference through those tough times and we have faith that he will continue to bless in the future.

When we look at the average giving per member, we note the giving per member has had a slow and steady increase. That changed in 2021 with the large anonymous and extraordinary donations received. Just imagine what an extra \$100 tithe per member per year could do. That extra \$1.1 million could provide more pastors, bible workers and resources to help fulfill our conference vision and mission. As God has blessed the Victorian Conference it is my prayer that He will also bless each of His faithful members. Every year we have financial challenges to face in our conference, but I am reminded that we face them not on our own because with God all things are possible.

**Graeme Moffitt**

Chief Financial Officer for the Victorian Conference

# Snapshot of our Schools



## Henderson College

Henderson College officially opened their Technology and Arts Hub in May.

The new space includes a material workshop, visual arts studios, robotics studio, staff workspaces and staff offices, along with an outdoor area and two basketball courts.

Students will now be able to study STEM, art and woodwork. Member for Mallee, Anne Webster, was invited to officiate the opening alongside Henderson College principal Sandra Ferry, Adventist Schools Victoria CEO Ashley Bailey and former Director of Education and CEO of Adventist Schools Victoria Brian Mercer.



## Nunawading Christian College

From Mrs Priscilla de Schwartz – 'It has been a big couple of weeks for our Primary long-distance runners. We took 23 runners to District Cross Country. Eight of those runners then made it to Division Cross Country. Of those eight, Alexis (Year 3) was the youngest runner who qualified to run in Eastern Metropolitan (Primary) Region Cross Country which is an amazing achievement. All students who ran competed with great determination and drive to qualify for the next round.

"Our division runners faced trying conditions; the day was wet and cold and we spent it under umbrellas cheering. Regardless of this, each student gave it their best when it was time to race. We are very proud of our students who represented NCC at these events."



## Heritage College Officer

Year 7 Orientation Day 2: Home Ec with Miss Baxter

On June 24, Year 6 students attended Heritage College Officer Campus (Secondary) to participate in their second Orientation Day as part of the Step into Secondary program.

The session introduced students to



working in the kitchen with Miss Baxter. With Year 8 students on hand to support, Miss Baxter divided the class into smaller groups to work together.

Mr Eales and Mr Schubert were on hand to support, students worked together, following instructions and undertaking a sensory analysis of three different recipes, discussing flavour, texture and colour.



## Edinburgh College

On June 12 in Art, students at Edinburgh College learnt about the 7 Kulin seasons as part of Reconciliation week. Each class from Prep to Year 6 have focussed on one season and have used a variety of indigenous designs to help create a whole-school 8 metre collaborative artwork!

# News from AdventCare

Our building works at AdventCare Whitehorse are moving along well and the next Stage is planned to be completed in December 2022. We will then increase our resident rooms from 134 to 182 with two new wings of superb accommodation and amenities. We anticipate opening these new beds in late January 2023.

These works will also see a major refresh of our core building infrastructure so that we can provide services to the Church community for another 50 years. We will have the following:

- A new kitchen and laundry
- A new dedicated resident private dining room for family functions
- A dedicated staff training room with the latest audio-visual equipment

The following renders show what the new facilities will be like. If you have any enquiries about permanent or respite care in our new wings please contact our Admissions Officer on 9259 2132



## Warburton Units

Our eight new two bedroom retirement units at Warburton are now completed and residents are moving into their new home.

There has been strong demand for these units and only one is now available. These are the first retirement units to be built in Warburton for many years and show the commitment of AdventCare and the Church to provide support and services for the local community.

If you wish to enquire about these units, please contact Keith King our Units Manager on 9259 2106



## Would you like to work in aged care?

With the current challenges of COVID and staff shortages in the aged care industry, AdventCare is working hard to maintain good staffing levels and to recruit more staff. If you have an interest in working as a registered nurse, enrolled nurse or personal care worker at our Nunawading or Warburton locations please contact us on the following numbers. If you have an interest in training also, please talk to us as we would love to promote opportunities for Church members to work with us at AdventCare.

AdventCare Whitehorse Tel: 9259 2000    AdventCare Yarra Ranges Tel: 5966 4400



## Frankston Sunday Market

Earlier this year, Josie, a member of Frankston Seventh-day Adventist Church, brought forward the idea of having a Sunday Market. After working in an op-shop in Seaford and volunteering at a foodbank two days each week, she was inspired and wanted to find alternative ways to outreach to the community.

With Frankston's local community market closed due to COVID, Josie and her team stepped in to fill the gap. The first market was open to church members only to list items for sale, they could purchase a table for \$20 and sell preloved goods, clothes, ornaments, collectables, tools, and religious books.

After receiving great feedback, Josie decided to open the market to community members, inviting them to open their own stalls. With the \$20 fee going directly to the church and the profits to those who run the stalls, this gives members of the community who may be struggling an opportunity to make some extra money.

There are already five stalls booked for next month, and Josie is hoping that more members of the church and community will get involved. The Sunday Market is open on the last Sunday of every month from 9 am – 2 pm.

If you would like to open your own stall, get in touch with Josie on 0425 785 951

**Josie & IntraVic Staff**

Frankston Church



## God is Working Through Literature Evangelism

Recently our pop-up bookshop was blessed with 26 sales plus 19 *Great Controversies* were given as a free gift to each customer in one day. Another day we experienced 22 sales and 22 *Great Controversies* were gifted. Of all these sales 90 percent were Bibles (adult and children's).

We call our Bookshop "Mobile Bookshop 2 U" as we also deliver books to customers homes. With 26 sales in one day, we believe that our ministry will play a part in leading many people to the kingdom of God. The bookshop is set up in different shopping centres to reach as many people as we possibly can. We have had feedback from people who tell us that they enjoy reading *The Great Controversy* and our other books such as *Steps to Christ*, *Desire of Ages* and *Christ's Object Lessons* by Ellen G. White. We offer these books to each of our customers for free for them to enjoy.

Many customers come just to discuss end time or ask what is happening; we love these discussions, especially since COVID. The high sale of Bibles demonstrates people's thirst for information about God, Christ, and the future. (COVID has prohibited us from going home to home) but now people come to us. Yes, the people come to us! Please pray for your Literature Evangelists who are out at the forefront of reaching the people through our truth-filled literature.

**Geoff & Sylvia Wall**

Greenvale Church



## Nunawading Church Honours Fundraiser

Over two decades ago Erick van Schoonhoven, now in his 90s, raised more than \$250,000 towards the building of the new Nunawading Church. This outstanding effort was accomplished by selling used newspapers that members brought in; collecting, restoring and selling furniture; collecting, sorting and selling coins, artwork, jewellery, LP records, CDs and artefacts etc. But the greatest money-spinner was his now famous book sales.

Every few months the church hall was used to display and sell thousands of books that came from church members, deceased estates, excess stock from school libraries and so on. This involved countless hours of travelling all over Melbourne and country Victoria to collect his "stock", sort it all and price the items before each sale.

In a simple ceremony on Sabbath morning, July 2 the Nunawading Church affirmed and honoured Erick by naming the church library, "The Erick van Schoonhoven Library" and attaching a plaque in honour of his work. Erick was very quick to say that it could not have been done without the help of the numerous church members who assisted in sorting, pricing, packing, unpacking and moving boxes of books. Yes, there was a lot of help but it would not have happened without Erick's indefatigable drive.

**Pr Tony Campbell**  
Nunawading Church

## MAYC Choir Update

"Sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him." Psalms 98:1.

In June this year a group of passionate young people got together to form a youth run and youth led choir. After a tough two years full of lockdowns and uncertainty, we felt like God was putting on our hearts a desire to start a youth choir. After a few months of planning and advertising, The Melbourne Adventist Youth Choir was started. We had an overwhelming turn out to our first open rehearsal and social night with over 50 people signing up to join. We were incredibly blessed with support from our local youth and churches, especially the Springvale Spanish Church who provide a space for our rehearsals. We meet regularly and learn together ways to develop our voices and raise praises to our God. We have a passionate conductor who sources our music and arranges hymns specifically for MAYC.

We are currently working on a few songs that are almost ready to share and we have plans to have our first performance soon. We are also excited for the Christmas period as there are plans in the works for a Christmas concert for the community. We have an Instagram, @Melbournyouthchoir, where we share short videos of our rehearsals, songs we are working on, and any upcoming performances.

We continue to praise the Lord for His guidance and ask for our church community to keep us in their prayers as we use this ministry to glorify Him.

**Andreea Mohanu**

Co-founder of MAYC Choir



How can anyone put his faith in Christ if he's never even heard about Him? How can he hear about Him if no one tells?

Romans 10:14

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Issue Schedule:

Issues published quarterly  
Scheduled the 4th weekend of  
February, May, August & November  
Deadlines fall on the  
21st & 22nd of the preceding month

NEXT DEADLINE

January 21

April 22

July 22

October 21

IN CHURCHES

February 26

May 21

August 27

November 26

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## Food Sensations

On Saturday, 23 July Bairnsdale held a "Food Sensation" program which educated and entertained. About 35 people attended, which included church folk and the general public. Presenters gave four recipe demonstrations, savoury and sweet, including a butter-less chicken with chickpeas and choc amazeballs.

Other presenters spoke of the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating and Dietary Guidelines, label reading, money saving tips, food safety and meal planning, as well as healthy plant-based substitutes for animal products in our favourite meals. Each guest was given two free recipe books produced by the Western Australia Department of Health and Food Bank, plus various other informative pamphlets.

The evening concluded with a lucky door prize draw, won by a young woman. She and her mother were delighted to have the book *The Optimal Diet* (A CHIP recipe book). They had been invited to come by a church member. Before going home some of the guests mingled and chatted as they enjoyed hot drinks.

Bairnsdale Church will be offering more of these free programs in the future.

**Judy Walker**

Bairnsdale Church



## Bendigo Pathfinders

Pathfinders have been meeting every fortnight on a Tuesday and are having lots of fun. They do a range of activities including badminton, ten pin bowling, projects such as glass craft and drawing, and learning about endangered animals, worms, and learning CPR and first aid. They also meet monthly on a Saturday afternoon along with the Adventurers and have been exploring what to do when you get lost, hiking rules and map and compass work.

Over the ANZAC long weekend our Pathfinders travelled to Whroo State Forest (near Rushworth) and joined other clubs from across Victoria to have a PathFUNder camp together. They were challenged by the speaker, Pr Dave Leo, to be Mountain Movers and grow their faith every day. They had fun doing a range of activities and games throughout the weekend. On the Sunday our club completed an amazing race style challenge and finished first, solving the final riddle to each receive their own VicYouth cap.

**Pr Eric Johnson**

Ballarat Church



## Dandenong Polish Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Dandenong Polish Church celebrated the 40th anniversary of their church on Saturday 2 July.

With music and special items from the United String Ensemble and Wantirna Polish Church. Pr Graeme Christian also attended the service and encouraged the congregation in his message to continue to help others to be ready for when Jesus comes.

There were slideshows highlighting the different events that have happened over the past 40 years and how the church has contributed to the community.

There was also a special mention and a gift of appreciation for an elder who has been serving at the church for the past 20 years.

Thank you Dandenong Polish Church for your ministry, may God continue to bless you as you do His work.

**IntraVic Staff**



## Gateway Wins Souls Through Bible Study Classes

Over the past couple of years, Gateway Lighthouse in conjunction with our online ministry team, Online Church Melbourne, has been broadcasting a series of weekly Sunday morning programs on Facebook as well running a Sabbath morning Bible study class aimed at reaching our families, friends and wider community. This ministry first started during the COVID-19 pandemic as an outreach in a time of immense isolation and is now following a hybrid model, with many of our friends attending Sabbath morning Bible class in person as well as online.

Our most recent Bible class series, Prophecies Through Time, has been blessed with a number of attendees from many different walks of life, work colleagues, friends and relatives, who have been searching for Bible truths. Their commitment to learning more about the book of Daniel and its prophecies through class attendance, completion of study guides and written reflection pieces culminated in a graduation ceremony on 9 July, which served as an encouragement for both attendees and our church. Our Bible class series has taken a unique approach in soul winning as part of our broader evangelistic efforts, with a yearly plan devised to study Daniel and Revelation in a small Bible class setting. So far God has blessed immensely, with two of our attendees repeatedly making a stand for baptism and now undertaking personal Bible studies in preparation. We have also witnessed many other lives being transformed as they continue to grow in their walk with God.

On 6 August, our Bible class will be starting a new series, The Revelation of Hope, where we trust God will bring in many more into his fold. Follow Online Church Melbourne on Facebook, Instagram or check out our website to find out more: [facebook.com/onlinechurchmelbourne](https://facebook.com/onlinechurchmelbourne); [onlinechurch.melbourne](https://onlinechurch.melbourne)

**Jessalynn Chia**

Gateway Lighthouse Church



## Lilydale Academy Church Closure

The Lilydale Academy SDA Church was officially organised on Sabbath 12 November 1966 at a meeting at the Academy, chaired by Pastor Leo Rose, Victorian Conference President, with 34 charter members.

After consultation with boarding students in 2000 about their wish to attend Sabbath services at Lilydale Church instead of conducting them at the Academy, the matter was discussed at a Church Business Meeting on 7 June 2000, and it was voted to advise the students that they would continue to attend Sabbath services at Lilydale Church. Adult members of the Academy Church wished to continue worshipping as a church in the Girls' Chapel. Pr Ken Mead, a retired pastor, was requested to be the Church Pastor in a voluntary capacity.

Lilydale Academy Church has had a huge impact on the local community with small gift cards and cards distributed to neighbourhood fathers and mothers on Mother's Day and Father's Day, from 1997. The church provided financial support to Road to Bethlehem yearly, and periodically for ADRA disaster relief; it was involved in sponsorship and mail-out of *Signs* magazine to non-Adventist Academy student families and distribution to the Spirit of Tasmania; The church was also involved in coordinating Harold Waldrip's community Diabetes Health Seminar in 2009.

After the church had been closed for 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions the future of the church was discussed at length. Sadly, due to dwindling numbers and ageing of current members the church closed on 3 February 2022.

**Toni Bolst**

Former member of Lilydale Academy Church





# **BIG CAMP ELMORE 2023**

Save the Date  
Easter Weekend  
April 6-10



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