



Photo Credit: Felipe Collazos

## LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS

KEY TEXT: MARK 12:30-31

A Victorian Adventist Conference Magazine

# INTRAVIC

AUGUST 2024



# A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



## WHAT'S NEXT?

I'm told that Nunawading is the geographical centre of Melbourne which means the Victorian Conference Office is centrally located for those in the vast metropolis of Melbourne. I recognise that for anyone from the rural areas of Victoria, Nunawading isn't on their door step.

I want to give you a "heads up" that the Conference Executive Committee has already voted that one of the items for discussion at the 2025 Constituency Meeting will be the location of the administrative office for our Conference. From my perspective, Nunawading is a great location - with Nunawading Christian College, AdventCare Whitehorse, the Nunawading Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pavilions - the new retirement village and the Conference Office all on the one estate. So why talk about relocation?

Near on 40 years, the Conference Office has been the administrative headquarters for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Victoria and also for Adventist Schools Victoria (ASV). It worked well for many years, but right now we simply cannot all fit into the current Conference office, which no longer meets current standards (it doesn't have a lift) and is no longer considered fit for purpose.

The obvious answer would be to add a new wing to the current office. That's been explored in the past but for zoning reasons we've been told that we cannot expand.

Our Conference still has by far the lowest staff when compared with other conferences of a similar size and we're happy with that because our priority is providing for local churches. However, with the growth of our schools and growing matters of compliance, of necessity, our ASV team has grown. Consequently, the conference office can no longer accommodate both the Conference team and the ASV team - and then there's the lack of storage space since sheds were demolished so Pavilions could be built.

Adventist Schools Victoria have been operating from rented facilities at Burwood for about the last 12 months. We value being together with ASV. From a missional perspective and for many practical reasons, it makes sense for the ASV administrative team to be together with the Conference team however that is simply not possible with the current office. So, we're currently considering other options, and we want to talk about this with our constituency at the meeting in September 2025. Feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with us. So please pray that God will continue to guide His church in Victoria. Your prayer support is highly valued!

So let me turn to the theme for this edition of IntraVic - Loving God and Loving our Neighbours. Yes we do love the ASV team - and we wish they were able to be our neighbours!

**Graeme Christian**  
Victorian Conference President

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# LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS

## 40 YEARS OF ADRA VICTORIA

**"LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' THE SECOND IS THIS: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' THERE IS NO COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE."**

**- MARK 12:30-31**

On Saturday June 22, ADRA in Victoria held a special 40th anniversary event at Burwood Adventist Community Church. The evening was an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the work and commitment of ADRA's Victorian volunteers, to reflect on the past 40 years, and to look to the future.

Rebecca Auriant, the Conference ADRA Director in Victoria, began working one day a week with ADRA in May 2007.

"I was excited to work for the church and help people in need," says Rebecca. "There were four food parcel programs and two op shops at the time."

However, after the tragic Black Saturday bushfires in 2009, Rebecca identified a huge potential to serve the local community through ADRA and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, especially in times of disaster. After a few years, her role was made full-time.

"Today, by the grace of God, we have 23 programs across the state," says Rebecca. "We also have four op shops."

ADRA's projects help those in the community who would otherwise fall through the cracks. They are also the recipient of key government grants and have established crucial partnerships with Women's Housing, Afri-Aus Care, OrangeSky, SecondBite, Foodbank, and Support for Employment.

With much to celebrate, ADRA's 40th anniversary event in Victoria kicked off with a concert by music group The Commissioners. Throughout the course of the evening, local teacher and renowned artist Kate Pincheira did a live painting on the stage. The final artwork was sold at a silent auction for \$1,000, which was donated to ADRA's response in Gaza.

Shirley Tarburton and Krystelle Ko shared their family's long history of volunteering and engaging in welfare assistance through ADRA and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"In 1932, our family's official participation in Seventh-day Adventist welfare work began and has extended over nine decades through five generations," Shirley shared. "We are now into the second year of our 10th decade of work with ADRA and the various organisations that were its forerunners."

A highlight of the evening was the awards ceremony in honour of Pr. Eddie Erika and John Beament, two of ADRA's most dedicated volunteers who both passed away within the last year.

"Pastor Eddie Erika and John Beament were both trailblazers for supporting the most vulnerable people in their communities," says Rebecca.

The recipient of the Eddie Erika Award was Pollyana Stanly Levi; and the recipient of the John Beament Award was Courtney Baumgurtel.

The anniversary service also included encouraging words from AUC President, Pr. Terry Johnson, and Victorian Conference President, Pr. Graeme Christian. A special word of prayer was said by Pr. Mebzar Quinto over Dandenong Central volunteer Janelle Bocola and her recent amputation.

ADRA is the global humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that serves communities regardless of ethnicity, political, or religious affiliation. Globally, ADRA works with communities, organisations, and governments to enhance the lives of millions of people through sustainable community development and disaster relief.

Here in Australia, ADRA works in partnership with local Seventh-day Adventist churches to provide initiatives such as food pantries, community gardens, and emergency relief. ADRA in Victoria is proud to contribute to ADRA's global purpose to serve humanity so all may live as God intended.

**Rebecca Auriant**  
ADRA Victoria Director

**Ashley Standon**  
ADRA Australia Communications

**Naomi Janmaat**  
Communications Coordinator



# LOCAL NEWS PT.1

## ADRA Victoria Opens New Op Shop in Garfield

Garfield has a new op shop with the unveiling of ADRA's new spot to expand their help of the most vulnerable in the community.

The grand opening was on Tuesday 18 June and was joined by Mayor Kowarzik and Deputy Mayor Moore.

The ADRA Op Shop moved from Bunyip where it operated since September 2022. Mary Meyer has been managing the centre as a volunteer.

In the space of a year, the op shop has donated over \$20,000 in both in-kind and financial support to programs that help people in need.

Within Garfield, the work will continue as funds raised will go back into local programs that support people in need.

"It won't just be an Op Shop, it can also support people by giving out clothing and other necessities," ADRA Director Rebecca Auriant said.

"Its purpose is to raise funds for people in need in the local community, the partnership with Moy-Yan will add value through their food program, the Garfield Artists Club and the various programs that aim to provide more social inclusion."

The op shop will complement the overall work of Moy-Yan who already run several social programs for the community over the past two decades, as well as help ADRA's further work in Cardinia such as their weekly outreach bus in Pakenham.

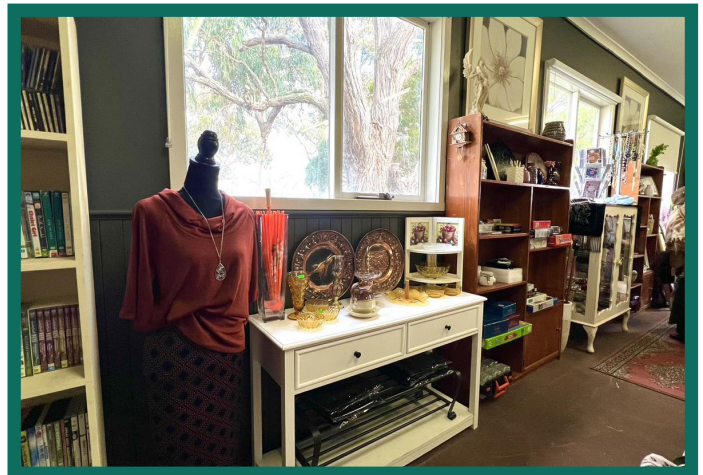
Mayor Kowarzik said he was proud to have cut the ribbon in the official opening.

"Very proud and excited to have what is now a really great partnership with Moy-Yan and ADRA at this Scout Hall," he said.

"We saw firsthand in Cardinia Shire the impact that ADRA had in the response to the storms that we had recently up in Emerald."

The ADRA Op Shop Garfield is located at the Garfield Scout Hall at 1 Beswick Street, Garfield.

*Article originally published in the Pakenham Gazette*



*Photo Credit: ADRA Op Shop - Garfield (Facebook)*

# Concert for Cairo Raises Funds for Pathfinders in Egypt

More than \$A3800 was raised at a fundraising concert held at Filipino-Australian Seventh-day Adventist Church on June 1 to support a Pathfinder Camporee at the Nile Union Academy in Egypt.

In response to the request from the Egypt-Sudan Field (ESF), a group of volunteers from across Australia and New Zealand travelled to Cairo from June 21 to July 7 to run the event.

Organised by some of the volunteers from Melbourne, the concert raised funds for the purchase of materials and supplies to support the camporee.

Musicians and singers from across Victoria performed at the event, including the Melbourne Adventist Youth Choir, The Commissioners, Solomon Island Boys and Tino Tusitala.

“Getting involved with Pathfinders had such a positive impact on my life growing up in the church. I’m honoured to give back to the community and serve other pathfinders across the globe,” said Glonaida Quiapon, one of the Melbourne volunteers who was at the event.

**Kymerley McMurray**  
AUC Communications Officer

*Article originally published in the Adventist Record*



Photo Credit: Adventist Record

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# YOUTH NEWS

## South East Youth Rally: Wholehearted

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The leaders from the South-East region came together and organised the first South-East Youth Rally.

Across the weekend of May 3-4, 2024, many gathered at Heritage College for their hearts to be filled with Christ-centred community.

Starting off strong with Friday night vespers, those who walked in were welcomed by warm smiles and colourful signs with encouraging words. A moving worship, great food and hot drinks left people eager to come back for more in the morning. The amazing Sabbath service was followed by a car-boot lunch.

Finally, rounding out the event was an intense Volleyball competition on Saturday night to promote cooperation and community.

We were blessed throughout the Rally with incredible messages from Pastor Ray Moaga, who shared on the topic of "Wholehearted" the theme for the Rally, and the VicYouth yearly theme. His messages included personal stories from his experience as a chaplain, as well as whole hearted moments from the Bible.

We also got to enjoy incredible music and special items from the deep talent pool in the South-East Region, including but not limited to groups from Crossroads, Clayton Cook Islands, and Carrum Downs.

It was a truly special event, and thank you so much to everyone who was involved!

**Darcy Holman**  
VicYouth Assistant



Photo Credit: @southeastdayouth

# Gippsland Muster: Horses and the Holy Word

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On the 29th of June, over 80 people braved the gripping Gippsland cold and made their way to the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre for an incredibly unique service.

Pastor Brett Townend, the President of the South Queensland Conference, presented a Gospel message straight from the horse's mouth. As he spoke, he drew out object lessons from his experience with horses - like breaking the horse in, developing a bond and trust, and discipline and correction.

We learned that God treats us much like the way you train a horse. By establishing trust and removing fear, the horse will eventually go wherever the master sends.

After the service, we finished up the night with a BBQ dinner. We were fortunate to have an indoor venue for this, as the rain continued long into the night.

Huge thank you to everyone who came along, and those who were involved with making it happen. A special thank you to those at Leongatha SDA Church, who played a huge part in running the night, and staying late to pack it up.

Our next Muster event is set for September 2024. We hope to see you there!

**Darcy Holman**  
VicYouth Assistant



*Photo Credit: Kalan Howse, Adventist Record*

# Victorian Pathfinders Explore Fosterville for 2024 Expedition

Expedition is often the highlight of the Pathfinder year, where Pathfinders from all across Victoria come together for a long weekend to practice and perfect their hiking skills. This year, we explored Fosterville, Victoria, where the property owner, Sheryl, was incredibly excited to have the Pathfinders return after ten years.

This event offers a challenge for all age groups and abilities. For beginner hikers, the Day Walker course helped teach necessary navigation skills, compass work and the essentials for rognaining.

For the slightly more experienced hikers, the Intermediate course offered a more detailed course, where hikers attempt to locate a mystery item along the course by finding clues at various locations. This is done across two days of walking, so hikers will set up an overnight camp on the first night and return back to base camp the next day.

Finally, the Advanced course was available for proficient hikers who wanted a greater challenge. Hikers chose their own route through the course and aimed to collect as many points as possible across three days by finding checkpoints throughout. More points were given for checkpoints that were difficult to access or far away from Base Camp. Hikers also set up two overnight camps and returned to base camp on the third day.

In addition to the hiking aspect, Pathfinders also had the opportunity to mingle and worship with other Pathfinder clubs on Friday and Saturday night. Paul Westerlund, the speaker for the weekend, spoke on the theme of "All Heart" and what that meant in a modern context. The theme was taken from John 10:10 – "Greater love has no man than this, that he lays down his life for his friends."

The worships were full of music and life, and the talks were also centered around dramas and Bible stories. We watched as stories such as the lame man who was healed after being lowered in from the roof came to life. As the characters in the story demonstrated what it means to be "All Heart."

Fantastic weather throughout the event saw lots of impromptu activities across the weekend such

as spotlight, rugby, and a Bible verse hunt. We were also treated to a camp-wide pancake feast on Sunday night.

We're incredibly grateful for the work of our volunteers, who made this event possible. Whether it was putting out checkpoints, providing first aid, or running activities, the dedication and hard work of those who sacrificed their time to be there was noticed and appreciated.

Thank you also to Sheryl, the owner of the property, for letting us use her amazing space for our camp! We appreciate your hospitality and generosity in letting us stay, and we look forward to returning soon.

**Darcy Holman**  
VicYouth Assistant



*Photo Credit: Kalen Howse*

# YOUTH NEWS

## High School Rally: A collaboration with Adventist Schools Victoria

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More than 250 high school students attended the inaugural collaboration between Adventist Schools Victoria and VicYouth at the “Even if” Highschool Rally.

It was an exciting event, with a great worship service put together by students from Nunawading Christian College, Heritage College and Edinburgh College. The speaker for the rally was Rahel Gungadoo, who answered the question “When is God not God?” by looking into the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel Chapter 3.

One of the big take away points from the message was that even though most of the Israelites felt that God had abandoned them to be captured by their enemies, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood up to declare their faithfulness “Even If” God didn’t rescue them from their fiery fate.

Through the worship we learned that we can trust God even when it looks like He isn’t there. And to believe, even in the “if” moments.

After worship and a delicious lunch of baked potatoes prepared by the Nunawading Pathfinder Club, we participated in an amazing afternoon program hosted by students at Avondale University. They had put together an interactive walkthrough activity that followed the journey of the Israelites in the book of Exodus.

We’re so grateful to everyone who helped make this event possible, especially Simon Hutton, and the ASV Chaplaincy teams for helping coordinate the event with over 60 volunteers across the day. We absolutely couldn’t have done it without you!

**Darcy Holman**  
VicYouth Assistant



Photo Credit: @vicyouthaustralia

# WELCOME TO WEEK OF WORSHIP

## WITH OUR ADVENTIST SCHOOLS

### Welcome to Week of Worship

Simon Hutton - Chaplaincy Coordinator

Week of Prayer, Week of Worship, Week of Spiritual Focus, Week of Spiritual Emphasis, Spiritual Emphasis Week, Festival of Faith. No matter what the week is called, these weeks of Spiritual Immersion in our schools are bookmarks in our students' spiritual story. Our chaplains, teachers and students spend countless hours planning and preparing these significant moments in our calendars.

During these weeks, students are challenged to walk out in faith and take the next step in developing their relationship with Jesus. The response to this is incredible! With students signing up for Bible Studies, other students are taking a leap of faith by wanting to learn more about baptism. Students also are encouraged to lead out in small groups and in their local churches.

A massive thank-you to all the staff, students and speakers who volunteered their time to make these weeks what they are! We really appreciate your involvement and passion to serve others and cannot wait for all the exciting things to happen in the coming terms!

### NUNAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Our Adventist schools are such fertile ground for sharing Jesus, and when we do, it is His beautiful character that draws the students to Himself. In daily worship, teaching the Encounter curriculum or in incidental and/or intentional conversations or interactions - our teachers and staff reveal Christ. Then as cream on the top, in our weekly Chapels and yearly Weeks of Worship, we see hearts touched and lives changed. Here is a snapshot what happened this year.

### NCC Primary: "Heart of a Champion"

Karen Horsley - Primary Chaplain

Based on the verse Hebrews 12:1-2 guest speaker, Alyse Hutchinson, invited students to:

- Choose to be on God's Team;
- Prepare for the race of life with prayer and Bible study;
- Run with endurance by fixing their eyes on only Jesus;
- Receive the prize of being a part of the Kingdom of God; and
- Carry the torch - share Jesus with others.

### NCC Secondary: "Ignite"

Wendy Mckeown - Secondary Chaplain

Our Week of Worship was a deeply spiritual and joyful experience. We were blessed to have Sukeshinie Goonatilleke ('Suki') as our speaker for the week. Suki shared stories of faithful followers of Christ throughout history who demonstrated what it means to choose love, meet Jesus in God's Word, stand for the truth and make the choice to follow Jesus. Suki also joined us for Mega ReVibe on Friday night to share her powerful testimony.

The week was also full of activities for us to hang out as a whole school, such as the annual SRC pancake breakfast on Monday, a lunchtime sausage sizzle on Tuesday, hot chocolates and Tim Tams for recess on Wednesday, followed by a Volleyball social in the evening, the closest campfire treat we could get with Rice Krispie treats on Thursday. We ended the week with 'Pasta with a Pastor', where a group of pastors from our local SDA churches served our students delicious pasta and garlic bread.

We were blown away by God's hand through the lead up to and throughout the week, especially when we read through the decision cards filled out by students on Friday.



## MERENDA HILLS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

### Sandy Wallis - School Chaplain

In a heart-warming and spiritually uplifting event, our primary students recently experienced our Festival of Faith, featuring guest speaker, Pastor Uili Mauga. The week-long festival left a lasting mark on the hearts and minds of our students.

Pastor Uili captivated the students with the life of Elijah. He shared how Elijah was fed by ravens, the touching account of his visit to a poor mother and her son who were down to their last meal, and the dramatic confrontation on Mount Carmel with King Ahab and the priests of Baal.

Pastor Uili emphasised a central and transformative lesson: "More prayer = More power! No prayer = No power!" This message encouraged our Primary students to incorporate prayer into their everyday life.

Mernda Hills' Festival of Faith is a testament to our commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of our students, alongside their academic and personal development. It was a joyous occasion that highlighted the importance of faith in everyday life and the incredible impact it provides to us all.

## GILSON COLLEGE

### Pr. John Michael Ghosn - School Chaplain

This year's Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW) in the Primary School profoundly impacted not only our students but also our staff and the broader community. We were honoured to host Pastor Sashka Tikulin, whose messages centred around the theme of 'Closer,' based on James 4:8.

Each day held a distinct focus: Monday encouraged drawing closer to God, Tuesday emphasised strengthening friendships, Wednesday highlighted community bonds, Thursday emphasised family connections, and Friday centred on the Gospel message of God's sacrificial love.

One of the stand-out moments of SEW involved a parent of one of our students. After the first day, her son expressed a desire to grow closer to God, despite their non-Christian background. Instead of dismissing him, she supported his new-found interest. Unsure of God existing, she prayed for a sign of God's existence. That night, she dreamt about a speaking event focused on friendship, featuring the biblical story of David and Jonathan. Feeling compelled, she attended our program the next day, where Pastor Sashka did in fact speak about the very same topic. This experience moved her to want to explore Christianity further and start reading the Bible with her son.

This story is just one example of the profound impact observed during SEW, illustrating how God's presence was palpable throughout our school community that week.





## EDINBURGH COLLEGE

Rachel Turner - School Chaplain

Edinburgh Primary recently celebrated our annual F.L.A.G. (Fun Learning About God) week, and it was a delightful journey of faith, fun, and food! This year's theme, 'Fear Not Bake Off,' turned our school into a bustling kitchen where students learned valuable life lessons through cooking challenges and activities. Our guest speaker, Mr. Tee, inspired everyone with his insightful message about the 'Recipe of a Cupcake Christian.'

**Flour Faith:** We kicked off the week by learning about 'flour faith.' The students participated in a blind fairy bread competition and created salt dough masterpieces. These activities taught us the importance of having faith, even when we can't see the outcome.

**Milk Movement:** On Tuesday, we explored the necessity of the 'milk movement,' emphasizing the need to take action with our faith. Students blended delicious smoothies in a friendly competition and enjoyed refreshing cold Milo drinks at lunchtime, reminding us that faith requires movement and action.

**Eggcellent Friends:** Midweek, our focus was on being 'eggcellent friends.' We learned the value of kindness and community by binding people together rather than pushing them away. The day's activities included an egg-cracking competition and the creative task of making Lego food, reinforcing the importance of friendship and support.

**Sugar Sweetness:** Thursday's lesson was about 'sugar sweetness,' highlighting the need for a positive attitude in all circumstances. Students engaged in a blind lolly-tasting competition and made their own sherbet, understanding that a sweet disposition can make life's challenges easier to bear.

**God's Special Ingredient:** The week culminated on Friday, when we combined all our 'ingredients' and added the special ingredient of God's love to make delicious cupcakes. The students participated in a cupcake-decorating competition, and each one received a beautifully decorated cupcake at the end of our Chapel service. This final activity underscored the message that we can create something truly wonderful in our lives with God.



## HERITAGE COLLEGE

Pr. Joshua Stadnik - School Chaplain

At Heritage College, both the Primary and Secondary campuses participated in their week of worship. Back in March, the primary school space was transformed to feel as if one had entered the starry skies. NASA

was the theme, which stood for "Needing A Saviour Always." Mrs Monique Johnson blessed the school, whose unique storytelling left everyone hanging on for more with every talk. It was a week full of faith-filled learning and fun.

Meanwhile, in May, our Secondary campus celebrated the vibrant Festival of Faith, featuring special guest speaker Pr. Ray Moaga. Pr. Ray captivated our students with his compelling life story, sharing several inspiring anecdotes. As part of the festival, students expressed themselves by writing personal messages on our blackboard centred around the theme "What am I made for?"

A prayer space was also filled after every session, with students taking the time to write thoughtful prayers and reflections on our prayer wall. The secondary courtyard was buzzing with excitement, filled with various games and activities, creating a fun and engaging atmosphere for all. It was a week of reflection, inspiration, and joy, fostering a deeper sense of community and faith among our students.

These weeks are definitely a highlight for the school and leave both students and staff inspired for the rest of the year. A big thank you to everyone who was involved. We can't wait to see what God does next.

## HENDERSON COLLEGE

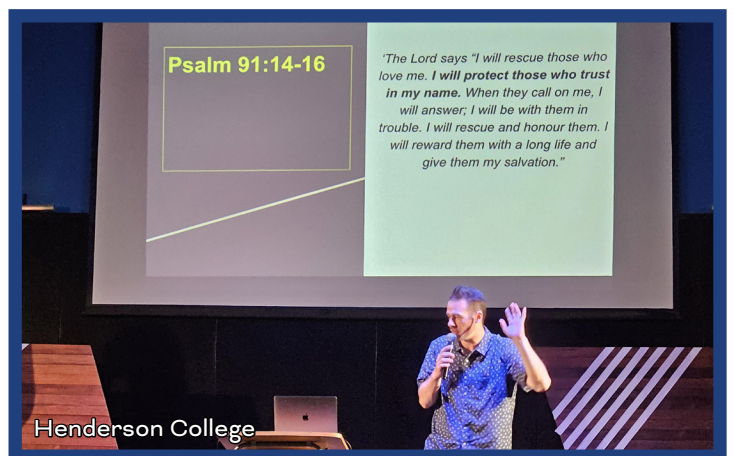
### Pr. Fereti Saaga - School Chaplain

For most of our lives, we find ourselves conforming to the routines and responsibilities we have each week. However, Week of Spiritual Emphasis (WOSE) disrupts the norm and reminds us to pause and be empowered by people who are walking with God each and every day. We had a double blessing for our WOSE with the husband-and-wife duo Jordan and Alyse Hutchinson as guest speakers.

The Primary School was impressed with Alyse's examples of ups and downs that have happened throughout her life, while the High School was in awe of Jordan's experiences through travel, being a professional chef, and appearing in a TV game show.

Both were able to add value through their interactions with students within the classrooms and during school hours whilst emphasising the important message found in our theme "God is Greater than our Ups and Downs".

We finished off the week with a celebration for our whole school community to meet Alyse and Jordan. Alyse summarised the week by speaking about making the most of the time that we are here on Earth and knowing that God is someone that we can rely on during our time here on this planet whilst Jordan emphasised that we do not need to do anything to earn this love from our Creator and that it is up to us to accept it.



# A REPORT FROM PNG FOR CHRIST

Seventeen Victorians participated in PNG4Christ – an unprecedented event in which over 2000 sites proclaimed the everlasting gospel over 16 nights across Papua New Guinea simultaneously.

The total attendance was in the millions, with total baptisms north of 270,000 precious people, and hundreds of thousands more who have indicated their desire to move towards baptism in the near future.

Inspiring stories of God’s blessing and protection can be told from those who participated. But the most amazing thing to me was to see the genuine hunger for God’s Word in these dear people.

This was clearly shown one night when the tropical torrential rain commenced just as I stood to share the night’s message – I asked the crowd of 7,300 people if we should cancel the night’s program – to which they respond loudly in the negative, and then continued to sit in the heavy rain throughout an hour’s message from God’s Word.

For those from Victoria, there were four laypeople and 13 pastors working across 15 sites with a total average attendance of 21,813 people per

night, and total baptism count of 3,590. The majority of our team were working in the New Britain New Ireland Mission which the Victorian Conference has recently become Partners in Mission with.

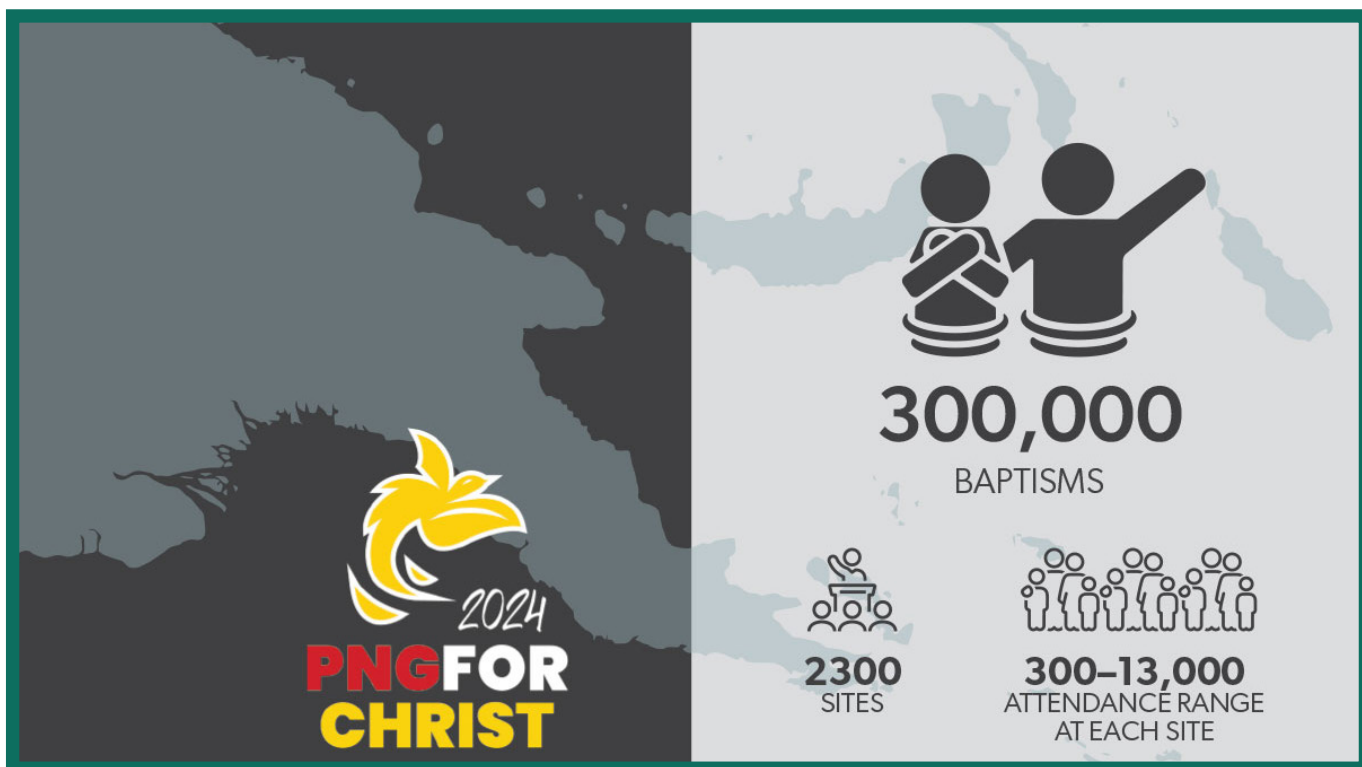
As a result of this phenomenal growth the local churches are now in desperate need for funds to be able to build new church buildings and/or expand and renovate the current buildings to accommodate this growth.

Also there are the numerous Adventist schools in Papua New Guinea that need financial resources to be able to provide for their needs including, classrooms, accommodation, amenities, books etc. If you feel you would like to make a financial contribution to some of these needs, donations can be made through the Victorian Conference which will be passed directly through to New Britain New Ireland Mission.

Please continue to pray for Papua New Guinea as they absorb and nurture our newest brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Craig Gillis**

Victorian Conference Secretary





# LOCAL NEWS PT.2

## Mums Support Mums in Mildura

Mildura Mums At The Table, in partnership with Mildura Seventh-day Adventist church, has been supporting the needs of local community mums. Most recently, they launched the Affordable Wardrobe project, aimed at addressing the cost-of-living crisis.

“People are stretching their last dollars and we see it amongst our mums especially,” says Larissa Forbes-Wilson, volunteer moderator for Mildura Mums At The Table. “From clothing their kids to feeding their kids, it’s everywhere.”

Mums At The Table, a ministry of Adventist Media, partners with local Seventh-day Adventist churches to serve mums in the local community. Working with volunteer moderators from local churches, Mums At The Table organises in-person events to connect with community mums. The ministry also shares parenting information on digital media.

Lyndell Macgillivry, Jodie De Groot, Jenna Edwards, Holly Munro, Ashley Ferry, Sandra Ferry and Larissa are the volunteer moderators for the Mildura group. Since its inception in February 2023, they have been actively involved in serving the community. They have launched several initiatives to reach all demographics of mums, tailoring different experiences for different parts of the community.

These include healthy lunchboxes sessions, food hampers for mums facing hardships or fleeing domestic violence, the Affordable Wardrobe project, playground meet-ups, dessert nights, walk and talk meet-ups, weekly playgroups, a child-and-baby first aid course, craft or exercise sessions in the park, and a Mother’s Day community event.

Through the Affordable Wardrobe, mums can find good quality children’s clothing, receiving the clothes for free or through a donation if they feel impressed to contribute. All the clothes in the Affordable Wardrobe are donated, and Larissa washes, sorts and stores the clothes in her garage until the next event.

The Affordable Wardrobe typically operates at the Mildura Seventh-day Adventist church hall while playgroup is happening. This way, the kids are able to play while their mums “shop”. It is open to everyone and has received a great response from the community.

“Mums are just so happy to be able to pick up high-quality clothing . . . so many just can’t believe the generosity of others,” says Larissa.

Towards the end of last year, Emily\* attended the group’s dessert night event. At the end of the night, she confided in Ashley that she had been looking for a church community to join. She was also interested in learning more about Christianity. Emily’s baby was only five weeks old when she first started attending Mums At The Table events, and she found that connecting with like-minded mums really helped her in her motherhood journey. Emily has since been attending all Mums At The Table events and has connected well with the other mums from the Mildura Adventist church.

When Sam\* first joined Mums At The Table, she was searching for a space where she could have a break from her kids, as she is a single mum and always “switched on”. She reflected that the group has provided her with a space where she can relax and have a laugh, chat with other mums and take time-out from her kids.

Through the partnership with the Mildura Adventist church, Mums At The Table is actively fostering a supportive network in Mildura to provide assistance to mums in need and serve the community.

Churches or individuals interested in being part of the ministry can contact Mums At The Table at [hello@MumsAtTheTable.com](mailto:hello@MumsAtTheTable.com)

**Melody Tan**

Mums at the Table Project Manager

*\*Names changed to protect privacy.*



Photo Credit: Mums at the Table

# The Avenue hosts Intersection to Create Community

The Avenue Church started during COVID-19, when we, as a community, sensed God calling us to start a church that would unleash God-given potential in the lives of young people in our spheres of influence. While the church formally began a few years ago, its roots trace back to a Friday night ministry at NCC called Re:VIBE. Many of the leaders who led Re:VIBE graduated and wanted to do something for God in their new life stage.

Since then, Avenue has been a network of 4 different micro-churches called “Pathway Groups” that gather in houses and universities across the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

We’re all about community and genuine relationships where we help each other in our journey as disciples of Jesus. While the primary expression of our church is smaller gatherings of people in less formal environments, we gather all our Pathway Groups together every quarter for what we call Intersection.

At the Intersection, we celebrate what God is doing in our wider community and hear a message from someone who shares a sermon relevant to where we are currently at as a community. This event is an excellent opportunity for new guests to observe what our community is about from a distance before choosing to immerse themselves in the life rhythms of our church. It also encourages those in our community to see what is happening in our wider network.

Our last Intersection happened on July 6. Sashka Tikulin shared her message and story, moving many people in our community. We sang together and then highlighted various things that were happening in our Pathway Groups.

As a church community we have a heavy emphasis on discipleship and helping people walk with Jesus in the context of loving community. That is why church for us looks more like opening the Bible, praying, and encouraging each other at a table than going through the motions of sitting through a worship service each week. We still do

believe in the value of worshipping together as a wider community, which is why we have regular Intersections and Prayer and Praise every Wednesday night. But for us, our desire is to see church be the dynamic, missional movement that it once was (Acts 2:42-47), sending missionaries into the spheres of influences that God has placed them.

**Jeremy Choo**  
A Leader in the Avenue



Photo Credit: @avenuemission

# YOUNG ADULT NEWS

## Thinking Faith invites discussing and living faith

Even as the regular students and teachers were on holiday, Nunawading Christian College became a place of discussion and learning over the two days of the “Thinking Faith” conference on July 5 and 6. Organised by VicASA, the Adventist Students Association in Victoria, the conference included music, reflections, an interview and several plenary sessions aimed at provoking conversations about faith.

Speakers at the second year of this conference covered a wide range of topics including physicist Dr Lachlan Roger’s explanations of quantum physics and faith, Dr Maury Jackson’s presentation about the context of theological ideologies, Dr Rebecca Dunn’s coverage of COVID-19 and its aftermath, and Pastor Jinha Kim’s experience writing Truths to Live By, a devotional book for secular people. Each speaker presented both informative and challenging ideas relating to faith and the contemporary world.

The conference included an interview with Christian Pastor and justice advocate Tim Costello, chief executive of Micah Australia, a coalition of Christian justice and development agencies, including ADRA Australia. Mr. Costello discussed how his faith affected his strong sense of justice and his thoughts on the intersections between social justice and Christianity.

With conversations about the topics continuing long after the event ended, “Thinking Faith” proves that discussions of Christianity, politics and science shouldn’t be avoided. Our faith isn’t sectioned off from our lives but rather fused into everything we do, and examining what this means can strengthen our relationship with both Christ and our community.

**Elisabeth Dunn**  
Journalism Student



*Photo Credit: Kalan Howse*

# Victorian Young Adults Games Night

On the 15th of June, young adults from churches all around Victoria came to close Sabbath at Nunawading church.

Pr. Jonathas Newlands shared a great message about “How to manage burnout”, and pointed us to the Bible for advice and council, which was a blessing for many.

We were then divided into teams to participate in a series of fast-paced, engaging, fun-filled games to get everyone socialising.

Special mention goes to the delicious food, including fresh hot jam donuts prepared onsite, served and thoroughly enjoyed.

This event was an opportunity to put into action the very reason VicYA was formed, bridging the gap this particular cohort so commonly experiences. The church was filled with the laughter of people who quickly went from strangers to friends.

Victorian Young Adults (VicYA) advisory team consists of 6 members from different churches, with a common goal of creating a safe and interactive space.

The focus is on connection, community and intentional time spent with others, nurturing each other’s growth, walking with God, and journeying through life as believers, seeking and non-believers alike through worship, discussions, small groups, activities, and simple but impactful shared moments.

**Avish Rao**  
VicYA Representative



Photo Credit: @victoriantyoungadults

# ADVENTCARE WHITEHORSE OFFICIALLY OPENS REDEVELOPMENT

After three years of building work over three stages, the Redevelopment of AdventCare Whitehorse was completed in late May 2024.

This has involved the following improvements:

- **An additional 48 beds are available to the community. Sixty new beds were built in two new wings, and an old 12-bed wing was demolished, increasing the total to 182 beds.**
- **A new services wing comprising a new Kitchen, Laundry, Comms Room and Staff amenities.**
- **A new Training Room to facilitate the conduct of dedicated aged care courses to attract school students to a career in aged care.**
- **New core services were installed for water, electricity, fire services and gas.**
- **An additional 100kW of solar panels.**
- **A significant redevelopment of the 38-bed Memory Support Unit, including enhanced lounge, activity and dining spaces. In addition, a dedicated entrance to the unit is directly accessible from the entry driveway.**
- **A new and expanded reception and consulting rooms and a hairdresser.**
- **A new café will open shortly for residents, visitors, and staff.**
- **Relocation of the Corporate Office to the site.**

AdventCare has been proudly serving the Adventist community for the past 68 years and this comprehensive redevelopment program will ensure that AdventCare can continue to serve the local communities for many years to come.

On 18 July 2024, we were pleased to host the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, The Hon. Ged Kearney MP, to officially open the redevelopment.

This was a great occasion attended by many members of the Church who had been involved in the planning and development of this project.

The Assistant Minister praised the work of all in providing a wonderful facility for our residents, their families and staff and expressed the Government's support.

This was followed with a tour of the new Elmshaven Wing and a delightful morning tea with the residents. The Assistant Minister mingled with the residents who appreciated her interest and enjoyed time with her.

**David Reece**  
AdventCare CEO

*Photo Credit: Fiona Sexton*





## LIVING TOGETHER IN LOVE!

**LET US THINK ABOUT EACH OTHER AND HELP EACH OTHER TO SHOW LOVE AND DO GOOD DEEDS. YOU SHOULD NOT STAY AWAY FROM THE CHURCH MEETINGS, AS SOME ARE DOING. BUT YOU SHOULD MEET TOGETHER AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER.**

**- HEBREWS 10:24-25**  
(International Children's Bible)

Toni and Lydia loved going to their new church. They had a wonderful Sabbath School with a very kind teacher. They could tell that she loved Jesus very much! His love bubbled out of her when she talked about Him!

Every week children were involved in the worship service. Last week Lydia showed a beautiful shell she had found and explained how it filled her with wonder. Children also helped to make the scripture reading special. Once Toni drew pictures of the different verses to show the congregation. One week he sang a scripture song with the rest of his class.

Pastor James included children in his sermons. They would hunt for his illustrations, or he would show them an experiment. Everyone made sound effects to help him tell the story of the lost sheep.

After the service each of the children visited with a senior person. Toni talked to Mr Berg about birds, and Mr Berg would save stamps for Toni's collection. Lydia visited Mrs Gerito. She made her

a bookmark with a Bible verse on it, and Mrs Gerito would lend her lovely books to read about missionaries or make cookies for Toni and Lydia's family. Then they prayed for each other.

## LET'S PRAY!

Dear Father God, I praise You for putting us in families, communities, and churches where we can care for one another and share what You are doing in our lives.

I thank You God for the church where we worship. I am sorry God for the times when I haven't wanted to go to church.

Please help me to find ways to be kind and loving to the lonely and elderly people in my church. I pray for the leaders of my church and all the members. Help us to be a place where everyone who comes can experience Your wonderful love.

Amen!



**Content Originally published by:**  
Adventist Children's Ministries

**Source:**  
10 Days of Prayer 2024  
Faith in Every Footstep

# Seeking Heavenly Treasures

## Word Search

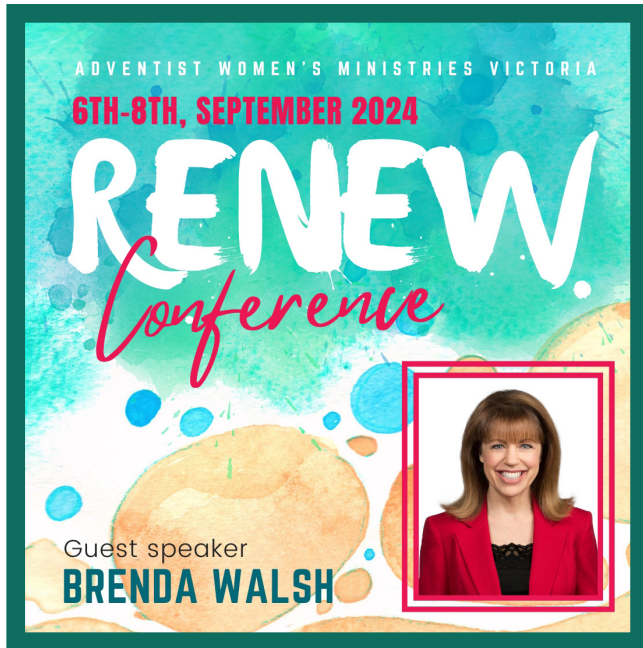
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Solve the puzzle with the word bank below. Puzzle based on Thessalonians 5:11

Q L N E N C O U R A G E P  
A V Q J Z K P B U I L D R  
R T Y U I O P H T I A F A  
X C V B N M E A C H A S Y  
G H J K L Z X O T H E R H  
L Z X C V B N G R O W Z X  
V B N M A S D F G H J K Y  
Z X C V B N M A S L O V E

**FAITH PRAY ENCOURAGE BUILD**  
**EACH OTHER GROW LOVE**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## RENEW WOMEN'S RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 6-8

Phillip Island Adventure Resort

RENEW is our women and young ladies conference - a weekend full of good food, making new friends, catching up with old friends, worshipping together and being inspired by the message brought by our special guest speaker Brenda Walsh and local ladies from our surrounding churches. This year our theme is "Lifesaver" because Jesus is our life saver, not just for a day, or a year or even a lifetime, but for all eternity. Gather the girls - friends, sisters, daughters, mums, aunties, grandmas, the neighbours - EVERYONE!

Register at: <https://victoria.bluevineyardevents.com/renew-conference-2024/>



## REGIONAL DAY 2024

OCTOBER 26

Gilson College

Mark your calendars for an amazing Sabbath filled with praise, worship, testimony, and community! Connect with churches across Victoria as we congregate at Gilson College for a combined service.

More details to come!

## BOLD CONFERENCE OCTOBER 11-13

This year's theme is I'mPossible: Impossible Lives made Possible by God. Though you feel unworthy, gripped by fear, and ashamed, you will realise God has a unique plan for your life. Get inspired by: Dr. Terry Johnsson (Former Honor Guard, President of the USA), Dr. Kara Johnsson, Julian Archer, and Michaela Jones, as they share their stories. More details to come.

## VICYOUTH RALLY OCTOBER 11-13

FOR MORE EVENTS, CHECK OUT OUR 2024 CALENDARS AT [VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU](http://VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU)

# UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

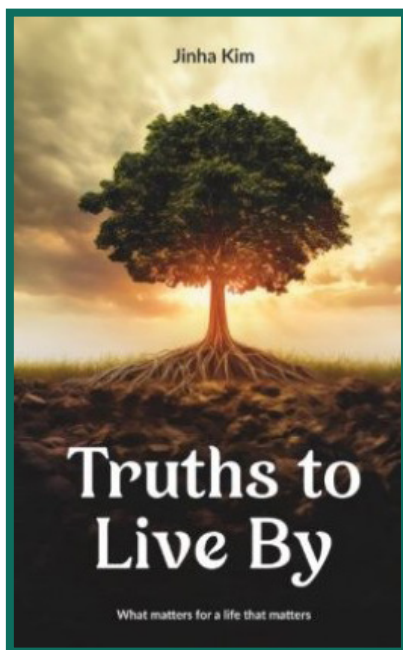
## ADRA'S ACTIVE AUGUST

Register at [activeaugust.com](http://activeaugust.com)

Globally, 1 in 4 people are experiencing hunger, and in Australia 1 in 6 people have been food insecure in the last year alone. Commit to walk, run, or ride 50km, 100km, or 250km this August, or choose your own distance to challenge yourself! Register now and start fundraising to fight hunger!

## TRUTHS TO LIVE BY - JINHA KIM

Now available at [adventistbookcentre.com.au](http://adventistbookcentre.com.au)



What if we just paused for a moment?

It's all too easy to be swept along through life by habits and schedules, barely recognising, let alone questioning, the actions that fill our days or the choices that shape our identity.

This book invites you on a 30-day journey to delve into what really matters for a life that grows deeper—in relationships, in our own groundedness, and in our ability to discern what motivates and fulfils us.

Each short reading offers food for thought and practical steps for those who want to live a considered life—a life where we actively choose who we become by engaging with the stories, questions, ideas and opportunities we often overlook in our busyness. By taking time to ponder which truths to live by, we can find strength to live lives that matter.

## VICKIDS MERCHANDISE IS HERE



You can now share your love and support for VicKids by simply wearing a shirt

Place your order for your very own VicKids T-shirt by contacting one of the following:

**Adventist Book Centre - (03) 9264 7766**

**VicKids - [shonetdraco@adventist.org.au](mailto:shonetdraco@adventist.org.au)**

Don't miss out on this awesome design!

**THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!**

**FOR CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE GO TO:**  
[adventistemployment.org.au](http://adventistemployment.org.au) or [vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au)

**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**

Send in your stories and we'll share them with everyone in one of our upcoming issues!

Here's our email:

[victorianadventistcommunications@adventist.org.au](mailto:victorianadventistcommunications@adventist.org.au)

## WHERE TO FIND US:

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[@Victorian Adventists](https://www.facebook.com/VictorianAdventists)

**Website:**  
[vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au)

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**100**  
**TICKETS ONLY...**  
 DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

# AVONDALE HOMECOMING 2024 MISSION CRUISE

Missing your old Alumni? Fear not! We've teamed up with your fellow Adventists here and in the Pacific and Royal Caribbean to bring you a tour like no other... Departing Sydney November 4th we'll sail for 9 nights and stop at 3 mission centres in the Pacific for Alumni only experiences. On board, we've organised private meeting rooms, a praise and worship program and other activities... or if you need some quiet time, we'll just see you by the pool! Reserve your ticket now on the QR link below.



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AUPA is the tour organiser. The cruise is operated by Royal Caribbean. You are responsible for your own travel and medical insurance and cruise booking using the reference we generate for you. Your \$349 tour reservation is non-refundable and mostly tax deductible. If the cruise ship fills, we will offer you a refund or we will transfer your booking with us to the next available event. AUPA will take all care with organising off ship events but these will be subject to the usual tour operator availabilities, weather, local, traffic and civil conditions for which AUPA cannot insure against.