



Photo Credit: Pauline Escano

AT THE CENTRE

KEY TEXT: COLOSSIANS 3:17

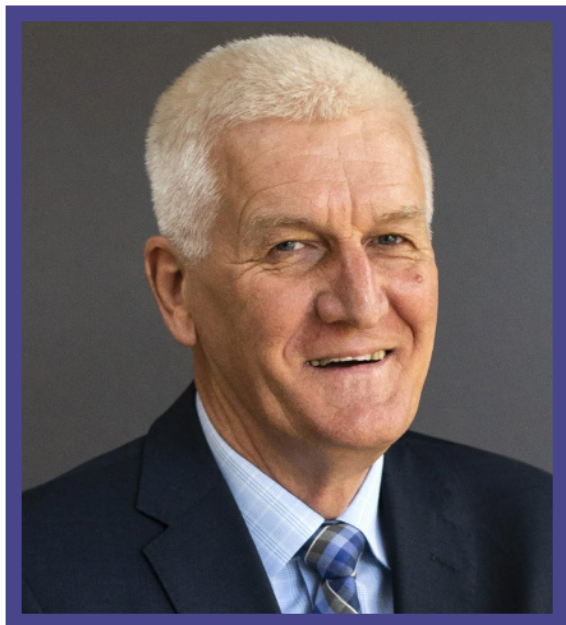
A Victorian Adventist Conference Magazine

INTRAVIC

MAY 2024



A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



WHAT'S AT THE CENTRE?

I took the opportunity to ask our office team, "What difference would it make if someone had Jesus at the centre of their life?"

The room was quiet for a bit as people took some moments to reflect. Then thoughtful answers came. To have Jesus at the centre changes everything, every aspect of life. How we treat others would be different.

Then I asked, "What difference would it make if a church had Jesus at the centre?"

"Board meetings would be easy," a well-experienced pastor responded quickly.

So, let me ask you, what is at the centre of your life?

As one of our office team said, "It's easy to say, 'Oh, yes, I should have Jesus at the centre,' but that's a defeatist approach. It's much better to say, 'I will have Jesus at the centre of my life.'"

That would flow on to decisions like,

- I will spend time with Jesus each day (regular devotional time)
- I will be faithful in attending Sabbath School and Church

- I will spend time in prayer... And there's so much more.

It's not as simple as just making a decision one day to have Jesus at the centre and that's it. To have Him at the centre of our lives is something we'll all need to come back to on a daily basis – maybe even more often than that.

Would it help to think of life as being like a wheel – with spokes (different dimensions of life) all joined to the centre? For some, fame or fortune may be at the centre – or it could be something else. However, if we put something at the centre that really ought to be a spoke in the wheel, life will be out of balance. Right now I'm inviting you to put Jesus at the centre and see what a difference that makes. With a strong centre, the wheel works well. So, once I've decided to have Jesus at the centre, I ask myself, How will that flow onto each of the various dimensions of my life? What difference will it make in each area? Will others notice the difference that Jesus makes? I'd say, "Yes!"

It was Jesus who said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in..." Revelation 3:20. So let me encourage you to prayerfully seek Jesus and again invite Him to be the centre of your life.

Graeme Christian
Victorian Conference President



WHAT'S INSIDE...



04 AT THE CENTRE OF IT ALL: A 2024 BIG CAMP RECAP

Relive the weekend when we went Back to the Heart of Worship with thousands of Victorian Adventists.

12 LOCAL NEWS PT.1

Ascot Vale hosts an inspiring concert, and the Australian Bible Museum visits Tynong.

14 YOUTH NEWS

Read recaps of AUC's Converge and Global Youth Day 2024.

16 PAVILIONS STAGE TWO

Galen Gan shares about the grand opening of Stage Two of Pavilions Blackburn Lake.

18 60 YEARS OF ADVENTIST SCHOOLS

See how Edinburgh College and Nunawading Christian College celebrated their 60th anniversary.

22 LOCAL NEWS PT. 2

ADRA Bairnsdale raises \$127,000, and the BOLD Conference shares this year's theme.

24 VICKIDS CORNER

Hey Kids! Let's learn about how God uses our kindness to bless others!

26 UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

AT THE CENTRE OF IT ALL

A VICTORIAN BIG CAMP RECAP

**"AND WHATEVER YOU DO,
WHETHER IN WORD OR DEED, DO
IT ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD
JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD
THE FATHER THROUGH HIM."**

- COLOSSIANS 3:17

From March 28 to April 1, 2024, Elmore Events Centre saw thousands of Victorian Adventists set up camp for the Easter weekend. How fitting it was to go back to a familiar location to explore the 2024 theme, "Back to The Heart of Worship."

That weekend, we learned that when God is at the centre of our lives, everything we do is an act of worship—the camp programs and activities provided a tangible example. Check out how each division used their words and deeds to praise God with these recaps:

ENCOUNTER

Written by Paul Kotanko

What was one of the most popular things at the Encounter Pavilion this year? The answer may surprise you—the T-shirt worn by staff!

Encounter staff wearing it received more than a few requests from people wanting to know where they could get them from. Alas, they were only for staff so that we could be easily identified.

What made the T-shirt so popular? The graphic and Bible text perfectly summarised what the Encounter Pavilion, the Speakers and the Christian life are all about!

The theme for this year was "Back to the Heart of Worship."

The camp day always began with family worship with kids and adults treated to great singing led by Kenton Ridley. This was followed by a story with David Edgren.

The main speaker, Dr. Sven Ostring, in his opening message, called us to get back to the heart of worship. He powerfully preached on Elijah and his message of turning the people's hearts back to God.

Drs. David & Beverly Sedlacek took us on not only their personal journey of trauma but shared their and others' research on the subject. They gave practical help to people who have or are experiencing trauma, which probably covers the entire population.

Pr Nick Kross invited us to "come as we are" to Jesus and shared a vision of personal and group-based discipleship.

The music and singing from the Encounter band were superb, and the Vanuatu men's singing group, The Commissioners, lifted the roof many times in their praise of God. Michael and Makea from Cranbourne Church were the most delightful hosts, really setting a nice tone for the meetings.

The highlight? Foot-washing and Communion on Friday night. Some cried while doing foot-washing for reasons known only to themselves. It was clear that Foot-washing and Communion on Friday night set the tone for our weekend quest to return to the Heart of Worship.

CONNECTIONS

Written by Moe Stiles

The Connections Tent served as a vibrant nexus, seamlessly bridging the gap between generations and fostering a place of belonging during camp among our multi-generational, multi-ethnic, and multi-experienced community.

Our dynamic music team led worship with familiar melodies intertwined with fresh compositions. Each song centred on the transformative presence of Jesus, infusing every session with a palpable reverence. Moreover, the Connections team cultivated an atmosphere of warmth and inclusivity, ensuring that all who entered felt embraced and valued. With an ever-open table and the comforting aroma of a freshly brewed cuppa, hospitality reigned supreme, inviting each participant to find solace and fellowship amongst each other.

During the programs, Dr. Dilys Brooks immersed attendees in a transformative journey back to the essence of worship, through the lens of Ephesians. She articulated a poignant message, urging participants to perceive one another through the prism of our multi-ethnic, multi-generational, and intersectional identities. She emphasised the importance of embracing diversity within the fabric of worship, inviting individuals to cherish their uniqueness while fostering a collective sense of belonging.

Workshops spearheaded by Dr. Dilys and Nathan Brown explored the church community's complex tapestry of loving relationships. Delving into the heart of the matter, they fearlessly confronted a sobering truth: Amidst competing priorities, the essential task

of fostering loving relationships often fades into the background within the broader Seventh-day Adventist Church. Participants were beckoned to confront this reality head-on, acknowledging the urgent need to infuse their congregations with a culture of justice, mercy, and compassion – a pivotal task to cultivating genuine love and empathy within the church community.

As Big Camp drew to a close, Dr. Dilys Brooks implored attendees to embody the ideals of the "new humanity" depicted in Ephesians, envisioning a future where communities are distinguished by their unwavering love for one another and their neighbours. This clarion call resonated deeply, igniting a collective resolve to transcend barriers and forge bonds rooted in compassion, mercy, justice and love.

The overarching message of the Connections Tent was clear: genuine worship comes from authentic human connection and recognising individuals through the lens of the image of God in their unique essence. By embracing the richness of diversity, fostering nurturing relationships steeped in love, and embodying the profound principles illuminated in Ephesians, communities have the potential to radiate as luminous beacons of love. Dr. Brooks' profound insights serve as a powerful catalyst to embark on a transformative journey towards a future characterised by belonging, compassion, and reverence for the sacredness within each person. This is living in the new humanity!

If you were part of the workshops at Connections at Big Camp and would like to continue some of the conversations in your local church, please contact Moe Stiles (moestiles@adventist.org.au) and let's talk about how we can contribute to and support this important work in your church and community.

YOUTH 18+

Written by Darcy Holman and Mandy Mazarire

The theme for the Youth Tent this year was "Heartbeat."

Our wonderful speaker, Avondale University Chaplain Priscilla Mariassouce, spent the weekend reminding us that Jesus is our heartbeat. He is the essential rhythm of our life, and we should get back to the heart of our relationship with Him.

Thanks to the brilliant effort of Gilson College Community Church, our praise and worship created an atmosphere full of joy and reverence. With each song, we celebrated a Loving Father and acknowledged a Powerful God.

But music and prayer weren't the only forms of worship seen at the youth tent. Pastor of Warrnambool Church, Landry Patii, showed us that exercise is a way of honouring our bodies as God's wonderful creation. To get the heart pumping, he ran a Boot Camp and organised an exciting obstacle course!





For those who preferred to express their praise on a canvas, Mandy Mazarire ran a creativity workshop. Here's what she had to say:

"Why do we worship? To glorify God, to soften our hearts towards Him because He is worthy of it, to draw closer to Him, and to nurture a deeper connection with our Creator.

Why a creative workshop? Creativity is who God is, and what an amazing privilege we get to witness His work at any given moment. It's special to express ourselves in the talent He has bestowed on each of us. It's the ability to commune and bring thoughts to life to glorify and connect with God, just like He did when He created each and every one of us."

We praise God for the incredible team and attendees we had this year and pray that we can all see you again in 2025!

HIGH SCHOOL

Written by Jayden Croft

Big Camp 2024 was an unforgettable experience for our High School division, filled with inspiration, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Pr Sean Tavai, who currently serves in Cairns, captivated us with his messages on Kingdom Culture. He reminded us that our very breath is a testament to our inherent purpose and value in God's eyes. Throughout the weekend, we delved into the rhythm of Jesus, learning to align our lives with His and allowing His gospel to drive us forward. Culminating on Sunday with a powerful reminder that we carry the representation of God's kingdom with us everywhere we go.

Amidst engaging activities like volleyball, group games, and scavenger hunts, Sunday's highlight was our thrilling Fun Day, featuring Laser Tag, Human Foosball, and the ever-popular Gaga Pit. But beyond the excitement, the true essence of Big Camp shone through as we forged meaningful connections and deepened friendships.

The weekend's pinnacle came on Sunday night, as 133 young hearts responded to the call of Jesus, expressing their desire to accept and love Him. Additionally, 91 asked to strengthen their relationship with Jesus through Bible studies, while 46 said they wanted to signify their dedication through baptism.

It was a weekend charged with the Holy Spirit that we pray will leave a lasting transformation on the high schoolers here in Victoria. As we reflect on the impact of Big Camp 2024, we eagerly anticipate the continued transformation and blessings that await us at Big Camp 2025.

JUNIORS

Written by Jonathon Gillard

The Juniors Shed was once again an unforgettable experience for our young campers. The theme, The Game Plan, aimed to connect juniors to God's ultimate game



plan for their lives. Guest speaker Simon Hutton, the Chaplaincy Coordinator for Adventist Schools Victoria, shared captivating Bible stories and sports illustrations that held the attention and inspired the juniors.

Outside of the worship programs, there were many opportunities for creativity and fun. The juniors especially enjoyed the paracord bracelet craft activity organised by April Gates, a volunteer from Mildura. Even in the unrelenting heat of the weekend, the campers enjoyed the outdoors, with the Junior Olympics and the Chalk War emerging as some of the most memorable experiences. Between the praise and worship, crafts, and outdoor activities, there was something for every junior to enjoy.

The success of the annual Juniors ADRA Car Wash fundraiser added a layer of achievement. Thanks to the generosity of those donating, the fundraiser exceeded expectations, raising over \$1000 – double the amount collected in the previous year. Given the dustiness of the campground, we can't guarantee whether the cars were much cleaner after leaving the car wash.

In all the joy and laughter of camp, the part we are most excited about is the decision from more than 60 Juniors who expressed an interest in being baptised one day. As our campers head back to their families and local churches, we pray that the memories and decisions they made at camp will create a foundation for a lifelong journey with Jesus. We are already looking forward to seeing them again next year!

KIDS DIVISIONS

Written by Uili Mauga

Big Camp 2024 was vibrant, energetic, and an exciting weekend in our kid's divisions. Despite the challenge of the heat during the days, our teams organised amazing activities in line with their themes, so not only were our kids kept safe, but they had a great time!

Upper Primary focused on "Stella: Discovering God's amazing universe and creation". The tent was divided into activity sections, with one activity, a spaceship in which experiments were conducted, and object lessons were learnt about the wonderful creative genius of God. For the first time, they had a guest speaker, Mrs Pauline Escano. She delivered powerfully engaging messages and immersed herself in the activities with the kids, which they loved. We want to thank the team for the energy and enthusiasm you brought to Upper Primary. Well done!

Lower Primary went under and dove into God's beautiful creation on and under the water. We can safely say there was a lot of water spray, and the staff enjoyed using it to cool the kids! Our pastoral team

and helpers from across Lilydale and Burwood churches, as well as Edinburgh College and Nunawading Christian College, created a space for our kids to enjoy learning and exploring God. You'll see in the photos how creative this team was and how much fun the kids had!

Kinder was partying it up with Jesus! There were so many fantastic activities, such as painting, egg races, crafts, and sing-along, as well as playing in the sandpit and playground setup. So many helpers made this division vibrant, fun, and loud as the kids enjoyed themselves. Oh, did I say the balloons were a hit? They were, alongside the painting apparel. Thank you for this great team!

Our beginners team created a family-friendly space where parents and children could connect with other families. They took our children on a journey into God's creation week, ending the weekend by giving away plants parents could bring home as a reminder. The space was filled with toys and a mini inflatable jumping castle!

A big thank you to our four age group divisions led by a group of pastors and supported by a great team of helpers/volunteers. You served our kids well and did fantastic work helping them see a clearer picture of God. We look forward to Big Camp 2025.

SO, WHAT DID WORSHIP LOOK LIKE AT A CHRIST-CENTRED CAMP?

It looked like unifying our voices to give glory to God in song and dedicating our time to Him by listening and learning from the daily programs. It also looked like a boot camp honouring our bodies as God's creation, and arts and crafts sessions praising God's creativity and imagination. But more often than not, it looked like working together to set up a tent and then being thankful to God for the people around you.

Following Paul's advice to the Colossians, every part of camp—from planning to packing up—was dedicated to the Lord. So, if worship was prominent in so many aspects of a one-weekend away, what more would worship look like when you put Jesus at the core of everything you do?

As we count down the days till the next camp, challenge yourself to answer the call and put Jesus at the centre of it all.

Naomi Janmaat
Communications Co-ordinator

BACK TO THE HEART OF WORSHIP

BIG CAMP 2024



FOR MORE PHOTOS AND FOOTAGE, FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

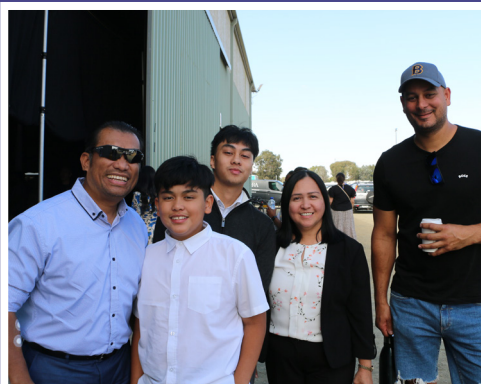
INSTAGRAM: @victorianadventists FACEBOOK: Victorian Adventists

YOUTUBE: Victorian Adventist Communications

(Photo Credits: Kalan Howse, Reuben Holman, Jonathas Newlands, Pauline Escano, Naomi Janmaat)







LOCAL NEWS PT.1

Ascot Vale hosts an Inspiring Afternoon Concert

On the afternoon of March 20, Ascot Vale Church hosted a combined gospel concert that featured performances from:

- Members of Ascot Vale
- Castlemaine Wantok Youth
- Fijian Youth
- The Living Testimony
- Vanuatu gospel group "The Commissioners".

The concert titled "Sing-spiration" was run to promote music ministry not only as a form of inspiring praise and testimony but as a way of creating and nurturing community.

With a combination of solo acts and group performances, a variety of songs were sung – ranging from timeless hymns like "Blessed Assurance" and "Power in the Blood", to modern classics like "Goodness of God" and "Reckless Love".

The event was free so it was no surprise the church ended up with a nearly full house! Those who attended were indeed inspired as they either enthusiastically sang along or listened intently to each item. The event ended with refreshments in the upper hall and buzzing conversation.

Many blessings and appreciation to those who organised and attended.

Cheryl Janmaat
Ascot Vale SDA Church



The Australian Bible Museum Travels to Tynong

Since mid-2023, there has been a group of young people meeting at a home in Tynong undertaking Bible studies with Pastor Luis Bermudez and Elder Ray Borg.

The group meets weekly and is comprised predominantly of non-Adventists seeking the truth through these studies. It has been encouraging to watch these young people from 18-22 grow in their walk and share in their excitement for the gospel truth.

As part of their journey and to also include their families and friends, they were invited to The Australian Bible Museum to hear “The Story of the Book” which was held in a hall in Tynong on the Sabbath afternoon on the 6th of April. This was an opportunity for the young people to bring their families and friends to see the amazing display and also to meet with Pastor Luis who has been mentoring these young people over the past six months.

The day was well attended and a great success with the Pastor sharing the amazing wonders of the different Bibles and their history, followed by people walking around and having a closer look at the Bibles and artefacts with the opportunity to ask any questions.

The day included a lovely afternoon tea whereby people were able to mingle, share stories and get to know one another.

I strongly encourage that if you have not had the privilege of seeing this exhibition, or want your local church to hold such an event, to contact Pastor Luis via his email: luisbermudez@adventist.org.au



Rob Scali
Tynong Church Plant

YOUTH NEWS

Global Youth Day sees Youth "Show Up in the Cities"

With past themes of "Go and do likewise" and "Be the Sermon" the goal of Global Youth Day (GYD) is to demonstrate to Adventist Youth that our impact is at its best when our actions match our words. And so, this year's theme of "Show up in the Cities" is yet another way to encourage Adventist youth to live out the practical part of Jesus's teachings, for just as Jesus went out to meet people in the marketplaces, we too are urged to go out and meet people where they are.

On March 15, over 30 youth from across the state showed up at Queen Victoria Market – an iconic location in the heart of the City - to serve the community. Pairing up with ADRA Community Care - Carrum Downs Samoan, youth from Gilson College Community Church, North Melbourne Samoan SDA Church, and Wantok Adventist Group provided for the physical and social needs of those doing it rough on the streets of Melbourne.

After taking what they needed from the tables full of food, water bottles, and other essentials, many stayed to be served a hot meal and enjoy the excellent singing from the Vanuatu gospel group "The Commissioners".

Outside of this partnership with ADRA, on March 16, other Adventist youth took part in their own GYD initiatives. One example is Ascot Vale youth handing out Encouragement Cards to those going on lovely afternoon strolls near the Yarra River, inspired by Proverbs 16:24: "Kind words are like honey— sweet to the soul and healthy for the body."

Global Youth Day provided a practical start to the Youth Week of Prayer of the same theme.

We look forward to seeing what the youth of Victoria do next year!

Naomi Janmaat
Communications Co-ordinator



Converge camp inspires hundreds of Young Adults

More than 800 young adults from across Australia gathered for four days of worship from February 9 to 12 at Yarra Holiday Park (former Stuarts Point Convention Centre), NSW.

Converge is an annual 18+ youth camp organised by the Australian Union Conference (AUC), featuring workshops, worship and social activities.

Guest speakers Southern Californian Conference associate youth director Pastor Meshach Soli and AUC women's, family and children's ministry director Pastor Sylvia Mendez provided two themes emphasised throughout the weekend. Pastor Soli encouraged listeners to have a real relationship with Jesus, and on Saturday night, hundreds of young adults came to the front, requesting prayer for specific issues in their lives.

Pastor Mendez spoke about worship and challenged the young adults to think about what worship is, how to worship and why they worship. During the second workshop on Sunday morning, Pastor Mendez launched the Worship Box, an initiative of the Worship Project (TWP) by the AUC, which encourages individuals and families at all stages of life to make worship a priority. The Worship Box contains several resources and materials that can be used to facilitate worship, such as a Bible study guide, notebooks, sticky notes and more.

AUC youth director Pastor Jeffrey Parker said, "It is fantastic to see so many young adults from every conference of Australia at Converge." The event has been run by the AUC youth ministries for eight years and according to Pastor Parker, "this year's has been by far the largest".

"It was great to see our young adults worshipping God together and allowing the Holy Spirit to impact their lives. There were many amazing stories of commitment and re-commitment. Our team of youth directors from each conference are heavily involved in making Converge the success that it is," Pastor Parker said.

Kymerley McMurray
AUC Communications Officer

Originally published in the Adventist Record

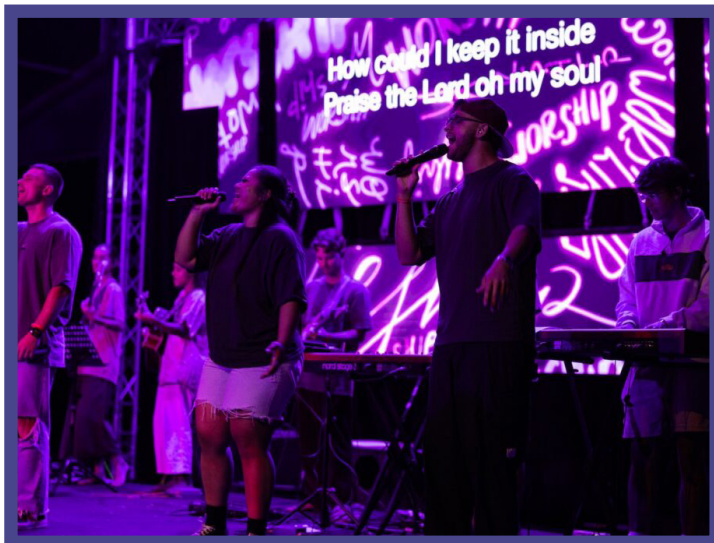


Photo Credit: Kalan Howse, Adventist Record

PAVILIONS STAGE TWO

GRAND OPENING

Attended by nearly 200 guests, Stage 2 of Pavilions Blackburn Lake Retirement Village was officially opened on the 11th of April 2024.

Beginning 16 years ago, and nearly two years to the day of the Stage 2 sod-turn, the project milestone was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Hon. Michael Sukkar MP (Member for Deakin), Cr. Denise Massoud (Mayor of Whitehorse Council), Pr. Graeme Christian (Victorian Conference President), Galen Gan (Pavilions Project Lead), and other Conference Officers and Project Team Members.

Stage 2 is Pavilions' largest stage, adding 66 new apartments and a 'Wellness Zone' that includes a pool, spa, state-of-the-art gymnasium, pilates studio, day spa with allied health treatment room, children's playground, edible orchard, and herb garden.

The event capped off a very busy two years for Pavilions, which along with the construction, the Project won four big industry awards:

- **Best Architectural Design (Good Design Australia 2023)**
- **Best Seniors Living Development (The Urban Developer Awards 2023)**
- **Best Luxury Retirement Village (Property Council of Australia 2023)**
- **Best Retirement Village in Australia (Property Council of Australia 2023)**

"With Stage 1, you got a taste of what Pavilions is about - beautiful dwellings, social connection, living the best years of your life your way. With Stage 2, you will truly understand what is at the core of Pavilions - healthy, holistic retirement living that matches the Seventh-day Adventist Church's deep experience in promoting wellness and encouraging a holistic, healthy lifestyle, with the active and fiercely independent spirit of our future residents," Pavilions Project Lead, says Galen Gan.

"But what I believe really makes Pavilions special is its people," says Mr Gan.

Thanks were expressed to the Pavilions concierge team, project consultants and partners, the builder 'Ironsides Construction', Conference and Executive Committee members, and the amazing residents who have made Pavilions their home. "I'm so proud of what we have done so far and appreciative of everyone who has contributed to our success."

Stage 2 only has two apartments remaining for sale. Such a success has seen the project debt fully repaid.

The project team wasted no time advancing to Stage 3, with nearly 20,000 cubic metres of soil excavated to create the basement car parking area. Stage 3 is now completely sold out, adding 20 apartments and a 320-seat multi-purpose auditorium building.

The auditorium building is a response to the original 2009 Constituency Meeting action that requested that a church building be included in the development plans. As a nod to the site's historical use, the auditorium has been placed over the former 'big tent' location; it will be an enduring Church asset that can be used for various Pavilions, Victorian Conference, school, and community uses.

We want to thank all the members who have prayed for this project. Please continue praying for its success and the advancement of the Kingdom and Mission in Victoria.

Galen Gan
Pavilions Project Lead

Naomi Janmaat
Communications Co-ordinator



60 YEARS OF ADVENTIST SCHOOLS

EDINBURGH COLLEGE AND NUNAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND EXCELLENCE AT EDINBURGH COLLEGE

Written by Tracey Reid

Celebrating 60 years of Edinburgh College is more than just marking time; it's a journey through faith, dedication, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. From its humble beginnings as Lilydale Adventist Academy in 1964 to its evolution into Edinburgh College in 2016, the weekend's festivities served as a poignant reminder of our roots and the remarkable growth we've achieved.

The weekend of April 19-21, 2024 kicked off with a heartwarming alumni reunion, echoing laughter and memories within the walls that once housed dreams and aspirations, the Language Centre, formerly the first dormitory, utilised on-site. Our After Hours worship team led the opening of the Sabbath with a song and devotional. It was a testament to the enduring spirit of community that defines Edinburgh College.

Saturday saw a congregation of over 400 souls united in faith and gratitude for the journey that brought us here. From musical medleys spanning the decades to heartfelt interviews with alumni, each moment was a tribute to the rich tapestry of our history. This led to a band and choir session conducted by Mr Woody and his son Clinton.

"It was great to see the Alumni community worship together on the Sabbath. The spirit of Jesus was lifted high through praise and worship and the stories of the Alumni guests highlighted the unique legacy of the school and its contribution to Christian service, both locally and abroad." - Pastor Jamie Stanley (Edinburgh College Chaplain)

The Alumni Gala Dinner shimmered with charisma and camaraderie as we honoured the legacy of Edinburgh College with speeches that resonated with pride and plans that pointed towards a promising future. Reynold Gilson shared his memories and dedicated his Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) to his Grandfather, WJ Gilson, Founder of LAA/ Edinburgh College & Bruce Gilson. The current school captains, William Hopkins and Tiarey Croft, shared their positive experiences at Edinburgh College and

thanked the Alumni for their legacy, which remains a blessing to this day.

Sunday's Open Day welcomed over a thousand visitors, offering a glimpse into our vibrant learning environment. As fireworks illuminated the night sky, it served as a fitting climax to a weekend imbued with gratitude and grace.

As we reflect on 60 years of Edinburgh College, we're reminded of God's guiding hand in shaping our journey. From the vision of our founders to the dedication of generations past and present, our school stands as a testament to the power of faith and community. Here's to the next 60 years, where we'll continue to shine brightly as a beacon of knowledge, compassion, and faith.



1964



2024

Edinburgh College

— Celebrating 60 Years —



60 INCREDIBLE YEARS OF NUNAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Written by Dianne Cotter

Last year's 60th anniversary at Nunawading Christian College was a vibrant celebration of community, passion and nostalgia. With events spread over the whole weekend, the 60th Diamond Celebration brought together our past and current students and staff with many shared stories and memories of their time at the school.

In 2023, the spiritual theme for our school was Connect23. Our student leaders came to this theme after craving a much-needed sense of connection after times spent in isolation during the pandemic.

And our weekend celebrations were a wonderful way to bring this theme to life.

Our current students led the way by hosting a mega Re:Vibe event on Friday night. This included praise and worship with our current staff and testimonials from our past and current students. The event ended with a Q&A with Travis Garly and Jacques Calais, past Primary and Secondary principals.

On Sabbath, our whole school family came together for a church service hosted by Alumni Bryan Roberts and Bianca Maggs. They did a wonderful job presenting the past six decades, including special items from the Early Learning children, Primary and Secondary students.

Our afternoon included an open school and live music event. This allowed our past staff and students to walk through the school grounds and see how much has changed and reminisce about those memories that have stood the test of time. The highlight was seeing past students look for themselves in the photos placed in rooms across the campuses!

As Sabbath came to a close, the Upper Primary Students took to the stage for their production of "Wanted by God" to an audience of more than 800. It was an excellent way for our current families to be part of our weekend celebrations and remind ourselves that our school has an incredibly bright future. The night concluded with a spectacular fireworks display on our school oval.

Sunday featured a 3X3 Basketball competition showcasing our Sports Excellence Program and our Sentinels Athletes. The teams demonstrated grit,

determination, and sportsmanship, and everyone loved finishing the weekend celebrations with some old-fashioned competition.

As we watched our alumni reconnect over the weekend, sharing memories, laughs and a hot drink, it became increasingly evident that reconnecting with our alumni community should become a focus for 2024 and beyond.



We invite our past and present NCC families to join our Alumni Community: Then, Now and Always.

Scan the QR code to join and become part of a lasting legacy!



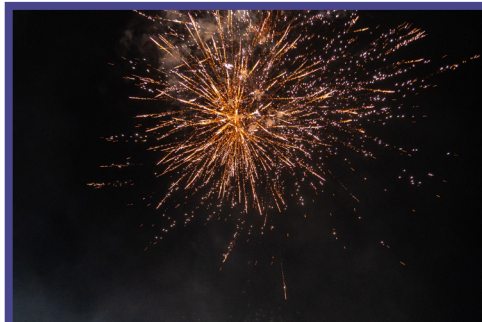


60 YEARS OF



**Nunawading
Christian College**

1963–2023



LOCAL NEWS PT.2

\$127,000 raised for ADRA Bairnsdale Disaster Ready Food Warehouse

I will never forget the thick black smoke. It was January 1, New Year's Day 2020, and ADRA Bairnsdale had been activated to support survivors of the East Gippsland fires.

When I arrived at the centre based at the Bairnsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, I saw a sea of orange ADRA vests – all running around, loading trucks and utes; the manager at the time, Marilyn Beveridge, was busy talking on the phone to the police and other emergency services. Yes, the disaster response had begun, and the team from the community and the Adventist church were ready to help.

We supported hundreds of families from Bairnsdale all the way north to Omeo, Gelantipy, and east to Cann River with food, cash grants, generators, livestock feed, fencing, and other material aid as required. We couldn't have done this without the generosity of church members across Victoria, ADRA Op Shops, and even ADRA International, who gave funds for the cause.

Every morning, we prayed for all the families and livestock affected. So many farmers had lost everything, and sadly, many of these farmers we had already helped during the drought. Four weeks later, we were still responding – then COVID hit. From one disaster to another, we didn't think we would have the energy to keep going – but God gave us the energy and the little miracles along the way that would help us to see past the smoke and realise that we were his vessels to the broken, to those who were going through hardship.

One of the people we helped drove over 100kms to see an ADRA volunteer whom she connected with the week before; it was these connections that we prayed for each and every day.

Since the tragedies of the 2019/20 fires, we never stopped supporting people every week

with emergency relief, and during the fires, we knew we needed more storage. So, we are very grateful that our prayers have been answered.

Over the past six months, ADRA Bairnsdale has actively applied for grants. Praise God that we have raised \$127,000 to build a 12 x 32m food warehouse. Our goal is \$150,000, and we know He will provide as He has always done.

I will never forget the generosity of our church members and the community of East Gippsland, who came together to support one another during a tough time. I am privileged to be part of the Adventist church family, a family led by God to help others know and experience His love, grace and great hope.

Rebecca Auriant
ADRA Victoria Director



I'mPossible: An Invitation to the BOLD Conference

Bear Grylls once said, "Life is an adventure that's best lived boldly!" If you want to seize your life potential and fulfil the call God has placed on your life, you need boldness.

BOLD was launched by a team from Bundoora and Broadford Church Plants in 2023 to inspire and equip people to change their world for Christ. Whatever church you come from, you are part of the same story as we work together to impact our local communities.

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) Terry will share his incredible story of fighting severe dyslexia and other impossible challenges to reach the White House and beyond!

Dr. Kara Johnsson will inspire you to dream impossible dreams through her story of being raised in Victoria, moving to the USA, marrying Terry, and becoming the first female leader in the Oregon Conference.

Julian Archer will share his jaw-dropping story of experiencing incredible material success as the former owner of Olive Leaf Australia while dealing with spiritual bankruptcy and how he overcame that.

Michaela Jones will share how Destiny Rescue has stretched the limits to rescue children from sex trafficking and give them a second chance at life.

In 2024, the BOLD team will work with VicYouth to run the Youth Rally from Oct 11-13. Music will be led by the soulful voices of the Commissioners.

Information such as registrations, venue, and schedule details will be available soon through VicYouth. But for now, Save the Date! We'll see you there.

Pr. Vikram Panchal
Bundoora SDA Church

BOLD CONFERENCE

i'mPOSSIBLE
IMPOSSIBLE LIVES MADE POSSIBLE BY GOD

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 11-13, 2024

DR. TERRY JOHNSSON
Former Honor Guard,
President of USA

DR. KARA JOHNSSON
VP for Admin, Oregon
Conference, USA

JULIAN ARCHER
SPD Stewardship Director,
Former owner of Olive
Leaf Australia

MICHAELA JONES
Former Destiny Rescue,
Child Trafficking Rescue
Team

Hear the thrilling story of Dr. Terry as he overcame severe dyslexia and other challenges to reach the White House - and beyond



vic kids

KINDNESS RIPPLES!

ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY FOLLOWERS IF YOU LOVE EACH OTHER.

- JOHN 13:35
(International Children's Bible)

Sammy held his lunch bag tightly. He was so hungry! He couldn't wait to eat Mom's delicious bread and the little fish that he caught with Dad yesterday. But he was listening to Jesus, and he was learning about God's love and about being kind to each other...Sammy looked around. Nobody else had a lunch bag. Everyone must be hungry.

He looked at Jesus. He didn't have any food either. One of Jesus' friends asked Sammy if he had any food to share. His stomach rumbled, but he took a deep breath, smiled, and gave him his precious lunch. He watched the disciple take the food to Jesus. Jesus smiled, looked up to heaven, and blessed the bread and fish.

Then He gave some food to His disciples, and they gave it to other people...Soon, everyone on the hillside was eating bread and fish, including Jesus and Sammy!

"Wow!" thought Sammy! "I gave my lunch to Jesus, and now everyone has food to eat. They are even collecting all the leftovers!" Sammy took home more bread and fish than Mommy put in his lunch bag in the morning!

Sammy discovered that kindness makes lovely, happy ripples. His shared lunch had rippled out to feed Jesus and more than 5,000 people, and the leftovers were taken to feed other people! Then all those people told the story of Jesus' love, and the miracle was multiplied!

Whenever we do something kind, we have no idea how God will use our kindness to make ripples that will bless others with His love!

LET'S PRAY!

Dear Father God, I love You and praise You for Your loving-kindness!

I want to keep learning more about Your love throughout eternity! Thank You, God, for showing Your love to me. I'm Sorry, God, that I struggle to be kind sometimes.

Please fill my heart with Your love so that I can share it with others. I pray that everyone who knows you will learn how to share your love with others by being kind and loving too.

Amen!



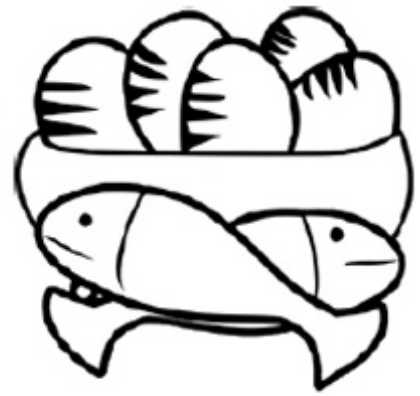
Content Originally published by:
Adventist Children's Ministries

Source:
10 Days of Prayer 2024

Jesus Feeds the 5000

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. John 6:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 6:1-14



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

JESUS	BASKETFULS	SATISFIED	CROWDS	LOAVES
THANKS	LEFT	FOLLOWED	PEOPLE	TOWNS
TWELVE	HEALED	FISH	BOAT	SICK

UPCOMING EVENTS



VicYouth
PATHFINDER
EXPEDITION

ALL HEART

There is no greater way to love than to give your life for your friends.
John 15:13

JUNE 7-10: PATHFINDER EXPEDITION

Pathfinders, are you ready for an epic expedition? On the weekend of June 7-10, we'll be in Fosterville exploring the theme of "All Heart" (based on John 15:13). We're excited to see you there!

For more information, please contact your local Pathfinder Club Director.

FOR MORE EVENTS, CHECK OUT OUR 2024 CALENDARS AT VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU

UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

HOST A YOUTH VESPER NIGHT

Is your Youth group keen to run a Friday night program? Here are some things that will help get you started:

- 1. Reach out to VicYouth with a few dates that suit you!** We'll confirm that there's no accidental clashes.
- 2. Delegate!** Effective delegating will lift the burden of organising and get more people involved! If there's any areas of your night that you're having trouble with, don't hesitate to reach out to us.
- 3. Plan a Program!** How you run the night is up to you and the needs of the youth in your area. However some common elements to consider are: a speaker and theme, a band or music, hosts and any preliminaries, refreshments/ snacks.
- 4. Budget!** VicYouth will reimburse you for any costs up to \$250 (approx. what you'll want to set aside for snacks and refreshments).
- 5. Safety!** Make sure that your event is set up to keep all minors and vulnerable safe, just like you do for a church service. Pay extra attention if you're running a teen event. Talk to your local pastor or Phil Hyland for specific requirements and advice.
- 6. Advertise!** Send us your flyer or ask us to make one for you. We'd love to help promote your event! Be sure to invite everyone you know who might like to come and also those you haven't seen in a while.

EMAIL: vicyouth@adventist.org.au

PHONE: (03) 9264 7777

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!

FOR CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE GO TO:

<https://adventistemployment.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

WHERE TO FIND US:

Facebook & Instagram
[@Victorian Adventists](#)

Website:
vic.adventist.org.au

INTRAVIC STAFF

EDITOR:
Graeme Christian

ASSISTANT EDITOR:
Naomi Janmaat

naomijanmaat@adventist.org.au
PO Box 215 Nunawading, 3131
Phone: 03 9264 7750

Vector Images from:
Adobe Stock

The Editor reserves the right to edit and include or exclude all articles submitted. Those not included or heavily edited due to lack of space may be posted on Facebook and the Conference news website. The Editor also reserves the right to restrict advertising – generally commercial advertising is not accepted and accommodation notices must be accompanied by a reference from the local Pastor. If accepted, notices will appear on Facebook and the Conference website. Neither the Editor nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of the services advertised and posting of them does not indicate endorsement. Photographs of minors must be accompanied by parental/guardian permission to use the photos in print, social media and on the web. Bible verses are from various versions which may include NIV, NKJV and Clear Word.

ADVENTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES VICTORIA

6TH-8TH, SEPTEMBER 2024

RENEW

Conference

Guest speaker

BRENDA WALSH

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW:
IF YOU'D LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO
OUR EMAIL LIST FOR UPDATES
PLEASE CONTACT SHONET ON
SHONETHEATH@ADVENTIST.ORG.AU

OR LIKE AND FOLLOW OUR
FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM!

