



Service motivates Avondale's largest faculty

Peter Beamish and John Cox

Avondale's Faculty of Education aspires to "a greater vision of world needs." Service to others is central to its program. The Faculty promotes service to the profession, the church and the community, and seeks to create challenging and life-transforming service opportunities for its students, many of whom feel called to teaching because they want to make a difference.

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Service to the teaching profession

The Faculty of Education has established the Ministry of Teaching website to affirm and inform practicing teachers and to encourage people considering teaching as a career. The *TEACH Journal of Christian Education*, published biannually by Avondale Academic Press, contains refereed research articles on teaching and other aspects of education, as well as reflections and experiences of Christian educators. Several Christian education organisations regard *TEACH* as one of Australia's most significant Christian education journals.

A new initiative in 2010 is the provision of professional development short courses for teachers. The New South Wales Institute of Teachers requires all teachers to complete 100 hours of professional development every five years to maintain their accreditation. In 2010 Avondale is offering twenty-four short courses endorsed by the Institute to satisfy this requirement. The Faculty of Education regularly provides workshops and other professional support for Adventist Schools Australia.

Lecturer Bev Christian is directing a study, supported by a \$10,000 grant from the Australian Union Conference, to assess the impact of the Encounter Bible Curriculum newly implemented by Adventist Schools Australia. Other research by the Faculty will seek to define more precisely the special character of Adventist education, and to develop processes to help schools assess their effectiveness in transmitting Adventist Christian culture and ethos. Senior lecturer Barbara Fisher, together with contributing authors Bev Christian, Sandra Ludlow and Dr Jean Carter, has just published a book entitled *Developing a faith-based education: a teacher's manual* (David Barlow Publishing, 2010).

Service to the community

All teacher education students are expected to complete ten days' community service related to the teaching profession.

In 2009 two staff members and nineteen students provided technical expertise and support for seventy Gilson College students and staff



Students from Gilson College, Victoria, face the challenge of the Tasmanian wilderness. Staff and students of Avondale's Faculty of Education assisted with the expedition.

on an expedition through the Tasmanian wilderness. Outdoor Education lecturer David Low is currently doing PhD research on the value of outdoor activities in building resilience and other positive qualities in teenagers. Jason Hinze, coordinator of Avondale's secondary teaching program, is also doing PhD research on the values of service learning. Both are enrolled in Avondale's PhD program

International service opportunities



Children at the AoZora School in northern India respond to teaching by Avondale students

In 2009 lecturers Andy Matthes and Lyndon Darko accompanied eleven teacher education students for a three-week teaching practicum at a remote rural school in the north of India. The Avondale students taught in 45-degree heat while their lecturers provided professional development to the local teachers. After school the Avondale group painted the school buildings. During the past three years Avondale students and the student organisation One Mission have raised over \$30,000 to assist the school. The student teachers described their service at the school as a life-changing experience. "We go with the idea of giving, but we get so much in return."

In 2009 the Dean of Education, Dr Peter Beamish, and lecturer Jason Hinze accompanied twenty teacher education students on an equally challenging teaching practicum assignment at the Wat Pheah Yesu orphanage and school in Cambodia. Thirty-five of the 350 students at the school are HIV-positive. In the mornings the Avondale lecturers ran professional development programs for the local teachers. In the afternoons the local teachers observed creative classroom practices by watching Avondale's student teachers in action. After school the Avondale students interacted with the Khmer students and repaired school facilities.

Challenging experiences such as these give Avondale students greater resilience and a larger world view. Research shows that students who participate in service activities are less likely to engage in high-risk behaviours and are more likely to stay in church and contribute to their church community. One student teacher said, "This trip has shown me the great value of Christian education to the world. The world needs me."

Quality assurance report of Avondale

Avondale has received a positive audit report from the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA), the Commonwealth body responsible for mandatory five-year quality audits of Australian higher education institutions. AUQA visited Avondale late in 2008 and published its report in January 2009.

AUQA acknowledged “the long-standing reputation of the College” in the community, having “received numerous comments from stakeholders of their high regard for the College and its students and for Avondale graduates.” AUQA commended “the College’s holistic approach to education,” acknowledging “the respect and affection which students, staff and community hold for the ‘Avondale experience.’” The Panel also commended the College “for its attention to

the needs of individual students,” including “the availability of alternative pathways and support for students.”

“In general,” the report continued, “staff believe that their teaching is enhanced by their life experience, faith and commitment to Christian service. Students interviewed by the Panel invariably referred to these qualities as part of the attraction of Avondale as a place to study.”

AUQA commended the high quality of Avondale’s marketing activities, the library, and the College’s approach to staff development.

This is the first publicly available external audit of Avondale College. The full report is published on the AUQA website: www.auqa.edu.au.

Hope for a better world

Paul Race and John Cox

Sharing a message of hope with others is alive and well among Avondale’s nursing students.

In 2006 a Bachelor of Nursing graduate, Sarah Jantos, developed the student organisation One Mission, dedicated to inspire students for service and provide opportunities for mission in developing countries. One Mission operates in association with Adventist Volunteer Services of the South Pacific Division. Groups of nursing students have engaged in service projects in Kenya, the Philippines, Vanuatu, Thailand and Cambodia, taking a spiritual message and making improvements to the recipients’ quality of life that last long beyond the time of the visits.

Students on the Sydney campus have also sent a practical message of hope by sponsoring an Indian student, Rajan Vinobha, to study nursing at the Adventist operated Metas College of Nursing in Surat, India. Rajan has now graduated and is helping others through her work in nursing. The support the students gave has the potential to spread far wider. Rajan said, “If I get a chance to help anyone in the future, I will surely do so.”

Avondale’s nursing staff and students are now working in conjunction with Adventist Health Ministries of the South Pacific Division to develop a relationship with Atoifi Adventist Hospital in the Solomon Islands. The vision is to extend students’ spiritual growth and provide opportunities for cultural and professional interchange. “Nursing is an increasingly global profession with a great need for multicultural



Rajan Vinobha, sponsored by Avondale nursing students to study nursing in India.

understanding,” said Dr Paul Race, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Health. “The project will support one of the Bachelor of Nursing course goals by developing graduates with these attributes,” he said. The relationship with Atoifi will also facilitate extension of the Faculty’s research activities as staff investigate best practice methods of operating such projects and identify the benefits more precisely than previously. The research has the potential to enhance similar activities across other faculties at Avondale.

News in brief

Avondale College has just received government approval to offer a **Master of Arts by research**. The course is available in any of the Faculty of Arts disciplines: English, geography, history, international development studies, music, visual arts, visual communication.

The College now offers masters degrees by research in arts, education, nursing and theology. Avondale also offers the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Associate Professor Kevin de Berg has been liaising with Professor Marcel Maeder of the University of Newcastle on a student project in chemometrics. One of Avondale’s chemistry students has also been involved. The New South Wales Board of Studies has invited Associate Professor de Berg to participate in discussions towards a national curriculum in science.

Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud won a prestigious award in 2009 from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council in recognition of his outstanding contribution to student learning. The award carries a prize of \$10,000, to be used for the further advancement of learning and teaching. This is the second such award achieved by an Avondale staff member. Dr Darren Morton, senior lecturer in physical education, was a recipient in 2009.

Brad Watson, coordinator of Avondale’s international development studies program, has published a novel for teenagers entitled *Finding David*, designed to strengthen young people’s resilience in the face of difficulties. The book is supported by a teacher resource partly funded by a \$2,000 grant from the Australian Union Conference. Brad also published in 2009 a children’s book entitled *Fat Mouse Gets Clean*, as part of a health education project sponsored by ADRA Laos.

Practical theology program declared 'best practice'

Avondale's theology program balances biblical and pastoral studies with practical field ministry under the guidance of senior pastors. Each student is assigned to a local church for a minimum of fifty hours per semester, developing a variety of skills in pastoral and evangelistic ministry. In addition, students undertake a continuous ministry practicum of at least ten days of in-depth ministry experience. Students are required to reflect theologically on their ministry, engage in peer review, and participate in review and assessment by their supervising pastor.

In 2008 a visiting audit team from the International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education of the General Confer-

intelligent and compassionate understanding of scripture, and has strongly affirmed my Adventist faith." Justin is now a ministerial intern in the Victorian Conference.

Michael Chapman, a 2009 ministerial graduate, conducted youth ministry in the Toronto (NSW) church, leading two people to baptism. Before coming to Avondale he served for eighteen months as a youth volunteer in his local church, coordinating an evangelistic series, giving Bible studies and preparing a person for baptism. He also ministered to the indigenous community in his local region. Michael now serves as a ministerial intern at Kempsey, NSW.

Stephen Ward, a final-year theology student, has undertaken practical ministry experience at the Wahroonga and Lakeside churches (NSW). At Lakeside he led one of the church's two senior Sabbath School programs, building its regular attendance from nine to forty people. Stephen has been studying the Bible with a couple from the community who now attend the church regularly. To anyone who feels a call to ministry, Stephen's advice is "Don't hold back. There is no limit to what God will do if he has called you."

Love for ministry

Love for ministry motivates some students far beyond the minimum requirements of the course. While studying at Avondale, Josh Woods serves as a volunteer youth pastor at the Epping (NSW) church, where he has assisted in preparing seven

young people for baptism.

Talai Mohr conducted by telephone from Cooranbong a series of thirty-four Bible studies with a couple he contacted in his home town of Griffith, NSW. The two were baptised in July 2009. Talai also gave thirty-five telephone studies to a family of five in Griffith, who are preparing for baptism. While at Avondale, Talai telephones religious radio programs that are broadcast every Sunday evening and some Thursday evenings on Griffith local radio. "I love sharing Bible studies and devotions via telephone ministry," Talai said. "It is effective in leading people to the Lord."

In 2009 William Moala conducted a 3-week evangelistic series in the main Adventist Church in Nuku'alofa, the capital of Tonga, resulting in sixteen baptisms. The baptismal service was broadcast on Tongan national television.

In 2009 Adam Cinzio conducted a 15-night evangelistic program in the Philippines, resulting in sixteen baptisms. The program was part of a major youth evangelistic thrust in twenty locations on the island of Palawan, resulting altogether in 650



Baptism in the Philippines. The baptism included sixteen people from Adam Cinzio's evangelistic meetings.

ence declared Avondale's practical ministry training best practice in the denomination. Avondale's Ministry Practicum Handbook was peer reviewed by leaders in the field at the 2009 international conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Field Educators in Atlanta, Georgia. Those who examined Avondale's manual said it sets a benchmark for the integration of theory and practice in ministerial training. In recognition of Avondale's strength in practical ministry training, Dr Doug Robertson and Dr Murray House, co-directors of Avondale's ministry practicum program, were invited to organise the 2009 Sydney conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association.

Impressive results

The practical components of Avondale's ministerial courses give students opportunity to develop ministry projects aligned with their own giftedness, often with impressive results.

Justin Bone, a 2009 ministerial graduate, coordinated a youth evangelism program resulting in sixteen decisions for baptism. "Avondale's theology course," he said, "has given me a more

baptisms. The programs were jointly sponsored by Europe 4 Jesus and the Mission College of Evangelism (USA). Adam now serves as a ministerial intern at Woy Woy, NSW.

In 2009 Billy Otto and Joel Slade ran a series of evangelistic meetings in another location in the Philippines, resulting in eight baptisms and a revival among the Adventist young people of the area. This was part of an evangelistic series sponsored by Europe 4 Jesus in eight locations, resulting altogether in 107 baptisms.

In 2008 Billy Otto conducted two evangelistic series of seven nights each in Kenya, resulting in twenty decisions for baptism. He also conducts motivational and inspirational meetings in schools, sharing his story as a Christian witness. He uses music extensively as a means of witness, and also witnesses via a website, "Eternal Heart."

Billy Otto and two other ministerial students, Daniel Kewley and Joel Slade, serve as volunteers in the "My House" church plant in Newcastle, NSW.

Education student presents evangelistic series at Avondale

Avondale student Alisha Fenwick ran a five-week evangelistic series on the Lake Macquarie campus during second semester 2009. Entitled "Why Believe?", the twelve-meeting series challenged students and community young people to accept Christ and his way of life as the source of true fulfillment. "I aimed," Alisha said, "to give a fresh approach to our key beliefs focused on the cross and the gospel, and to demonstrate what the teachings of the Bible reveal about the character of God."

Students responded with comments such as "I hadn't heard that perspective before"; "it gave me renewed confidence in my beliefs"; "it was the clearest presentation of the topic I have heard."

Alisha is a third-year secondary teaching student majoring in Religious Studies and English. "I have a passion," she said, "to help people understand the Bible and its relevance for today, and develop a personal, dynamic relationship with Jesus."

During 2005 Alisha completed four months' training in evangelism at Doug Batchelor's

Amazing Facts institute in the United States. She was then employed for two years (2006-2007) as a Bible worker in the North New South Wales Conference, studying the Bible with a number of interested people, one of whom was baptised. She ran a week of prayer at the Kempsey Adventist School followed by Bible studies, resulting in a number of decisions for Christ. She is a member of the It Is Written Institute of Youth Evangelism, which promotes and supports evangelism by young people.



Alisha Fenwick

Andrea Shrotter

While studying at Avondale, Alisha also works part-time for the New South Wales Department of Community Services running support programs for disadvantaged children.

News in brief continued

Trudy Adams, Avondale graduate of 2007, published her first book last year. Another book of hers has now been accepted for publication, a Christian story for teenagers set in the Great Depression, to be published in November by a division of Wombat Books. Wombat is also considering a third book by Trudy. She is already working on her fourth.



Two of the four Avondale graduates of 2009 appointed as ministerial interns to the North New South Wales Conference have **wives** already **servicing as ministers** in the Conference. Stephen Magaitis, appointed to the "My House" church plant in Newcastle, is married to Susan Magaitis, pastor of the Charlestown Church. Michael Chapman, newly appointed to the Kempsey district, is married to Bethany Chapman (nee Holland-Lillehagen), associate pastor at Port Macquarie. The other ministerial graduates appointed to North New South Wales are Darryl Groves (Murwillumbah) and Rick Hergenhan (Wallsend and Raymond Terrace).

Research activity gathers pace

Research by Avondale staff is gathering momentum, resulting in a growing output of scholarly books, journal articles and conference presentations. A number of staff have developed projects in partnership with researchers in universities – collaborative activity strongly encouraged by the Australian government. Several of these projects have been successful in winning external competitive grant funding. Staff are also engaging with the community in areas of their academic and professional expertise. The following examples are selected from the research output of Avondale staff in 2009-2010. It is significant how many of the research projects have practical applications to education, health, society and ministry in areas relevant to Avondale's mission and the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Associate Professor Robert McIver, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, has teamed with a group of researchers selected by the Council of Deans of Theology to investigate theological education in Australia. The group has won research grants totalling \$250,000 from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. Robert McIver has an impressive publication record of books and refereed articles. His latest publication is an article co-authored with Dr Ray Roennfeldt, President of Avondale College, on Christian understandings of authoritative texts. The article was published in the journal *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*.

Dr Athena Sheehan, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Nursing and Health, has teamed with researchers at the University of Western Sydney and elsewhere to study aspects of women's breastfeeding experience. The research team recently won an Australian Research Council grant of \$78,000 to study family, social and cultural influences on first-time mothers' decisions about infant feeding and early parenting practices. During the past year Dr Sheehan published four co-authored papers in refereed journals and presented several papers at conferences in Britain and Australia.

Dr Malcolm Anderson, postgraduate studies coordinator of the Faculty of Nursing and Health, partners with researchers at the Brain Injury Unit of the Liverpool Health Service and the Centre for Assessment, Research and Development, Hong Kong Institute of Education, to research the effects on family when a family member suffers a traumatic brain injury. Dr Anderson has published a number of refereed papers in this field, the latest co-authored with Dr Peter Morey and Tamera Gosling of Avondale College and three researchers from other institutions.

Carolyn Rickett, coordinator of Avondale's academic program in communication, is researching the therapeutic value of creative writing workshops for people with a life-threatening illness such as cancer. Ms Rickett partnered with eminent Australian poet Judith Beveridge of the University of Sydney to conduct poetry writing workshops with patients at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Participants deeply appreciated the opportunity to share feelings and experiences with others struggling with similar issues, expressing their thoughts and emotions in poems of impressive quality. Carolyn Rickett and



A *New Leaves* writing workshop in progress.

Carolyn Rickett

Judith Beveridge published a selection of these poems in a volume entitled *New Leaves Anthology* (Darlington Press, University of Sydney). Last year Ms Rickett presented scholarly papers relating to this project at the Association for Medical Humanities Conference, Durham, UK, and at the Arts and Health Conference, University of Newcastle. The papers were co-authored with Dr Cedric Greive of Avondale College and Associate Professor Jill Gordon of the University of Sydney Medical School.

Dr Jason Morton, a marine biologist in the Faculty of Science and Mathematics, has partnered with researchers from the University of Newcastle to study fish assemblages in Lake Macquarie, assisted by a grant of \$6,900 from the Lake Macquarie City Council. Dr Morton is also extending his research on the social organization, habitats and patterns of movement of the crimson-banded wrasse fish. This work is sponsored by Australian Geographic and assisted by research funding from the Avondale Foundation. Dr Morton is about to start a collaborative project with the University of Newcastle on fish surveys using Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations (BRUVS). In 2008 and 2009 he assisted Cardno Ecology Lab, a specialist consultancy laboratory in Sydney, to research grey nurse shark populations, including photographing grey nurse sharks on SCUBA at the Pinnacles, near Laurieton, NSW. Dr Morton has published a number of research papers and has reviewed scientific papers for international journals.

Recent scholarly books by Avondale staff

Dr Jane Fernandez-Goldborough, senior lecturer in English, has authored a book on the work of K.S. Maniam, a writer of the Indian diaspora. The book was published in early 2010 by Lambert Academic Press, Germany. In 2009 she edited an e-book entitled *Diasporas: critical and interdisciplinary perspectives* (Inter-Disciplinary Press, Oxford). In 2009-2010 she presented conference papers in London and at the University of Sydney.

Barbara Fisher, with contributing authors Dr Jean Carter, Bev Christian and Sandra Ludlow, this year published a book entitled *Developing a faith-based education: a teacher's manual* (David Barlow Publishing). A request has been received for the book to be published in Spanish.

Further research output

Associate Professor Kevin de Berg (Faculty of Science and Mathematics) has a prolific publication record, especially in the field of science education. In 2009 he published an article in the *Australian Journal of Education in Chemistry* and presented a paper at an international conference in Indiana, USA. Dr de Berg has been researching the history of the production and understanding of the chemistry of tin oxide from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century for possible clues for enhancing students' understanding of the way chemistry knowledge has been produced and validated in its approach to nature. Dr de Berg edits the journal *Christian Spirituality and Science*, published by Avondale Academic Press.

Dr Darren Morton (Faculty of Education) has published extensively in the field of exercise and sports physiology, including work in collaboration with Associate Professor Robin Callister of the Faculty of Health, University of Newcastle. He currently has two refereed articles in press. In 2009 he presented two papers, including a keynote address, at the Global Conference on Health and Lifestyle in Geneva, Switzerland. One of the papers was co-authored with Jonathan Duffy, CEO of ADRA Australia.

A number of Avondale staff have authored refereed articles in the *TEACH Journal of Christian Education*, published by Avondale Academic Press.

Dr Ewan Ward (Faculty of Science and Mathematics) has written a paper on problem-based learning, shortly to appear in the series *Christ in the Classroom* published by the Education Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

In 2009 Dr Keith Howson, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Information Technology, presented a paper to the British Accounting Association Special Interest Group on Accounting Education (University of Essex, UK) and two papers at the Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand (AFAANZ) Conference in Adelaide. One of the papers was co-authored with Lisa Barnes of the University of New-

castle, another with Jill Philips of Southern Cross University. Lyn Daff (Faculty of Business and Information Technology) presented papers on accounting education at the European Accounting Association Conference in Finland and the AFAANZ Conference in Adelaide.

Brad Watson, coordinator of Avondale's International Development Studies program, presented a paper at the International Consortium for Social Development Conference, Mexico, on the impact of an Asian Aid supported program to provide hysterectomies for Nepalese women with severe uterine prolapse. Dr Peter Beamish and David Low (Faculty of Education) with Tony Robinson (Gilson College, Victoria) presented a paper at the International Outdoor Education Research Conference, La Trobe University, Victoria. Dr Murray House (Faculty of Theology) presented a paper at the Sydney conference of the Australia and New Zealand Association for Theological Field Education. A number of staff presented papers at the New Perspectives on Christianity Conference and the South Pacific Division Faith and Science Conference, both held at Avondale in 2009.



Dr Jason Morton photographing a crimson-banded wrasse.

Alumni notes

Pastor Cyril Brown, Avondale graduate of 1949, has received the Outstanding Citizen Award of the Shoalhaven City Council, Nowra, NSW. According to the Mayor, only four such awards have been conferred in the history of the Shoalhaven. Pr Brown served as President of the Shoalhaven Meals on Wheels service for over twenty years, and at the age of eighty-eight still spends much of his time in community welfare service. He preaches regularly and still conducts Bible studies.

Pastor H R Martin, graduate of 1906, fathered four more generations of Avondale graduates: daughter Grace (Business 1932), grandson Martin Ward (BA Education 1959), great-

grandson Shayne Ward (Nursing 1986), great-great granddaughter **Jessica Ward** (BA Communication 2009).

Jessica Ward has a number of other Avondale graduates among her forbears: her mother Kim (nee Mitchell) (General Studies 1977); grandmother Olga Ward (nee Hill) (Primary Teaching 1958); great grandparents Walter and Marie Hill (nee Brabant) (Primary Teaching 1936 and 1935 respectively). Her great-great grandparents Frederick (Fritz) Ludwig and Ethel Ludwig (nee Hodgkinson) attended Avondale in 1930-1931 and 1929-1932 respectively.

External review commends Avondale's spiritual emphasis

A General Conference review of Avondale in August 2009 commended the College for its strong spiritual emphasis and the integration of faith and learning in the academic program.

The review report commended the pastoral staff, chaplains and student services staff for their "carefully planned program to provide for the personal and spiritual needs of the students", "fostering an atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth." The report also commended the College for "the effective development and delivery" of "Christian Studies core units which are relevant to the students as well as strongly grounded in the Bible and Adventist theology."

The staff were commended for "strong commitment to the mission of the College," support for the mission of the Adventist Church, and "excellent teacher-student interaction." The review team noted that students frequently cited the staff's care and valuing of students "as contributing to the distinctive Adventist ethos of the institution."

The report praised the "high quality academic culture" of the College, "sound financial management", and the emphasis of the marketing program on "spirituality as the distinctive feature that characterises the institution."

Avondale forms research linkage with industry partner headed by former student

Cedric Greive

Duane Vickery (Avondale alumnus of 1993) is the founder and managing director of ETM Perspectives Pty Ltd, a business that provides advice, training and research in relation to indigenous affairs in Australia. Following his graduation from Avondale with a Bachelor of Education, Duane completed a Master of Education at the University of New England and worked for the Federal Government in Indigenous Affairs. He founded his business in 2002.

were Dr Cedric Greive (both projects) and Dr Keith Howson and Dr Peter Morey (second project).

Work on the second report involved a community whose traditional land has provided rich resources to the Australian Commonwealth for more than fifty years. Yet it has only been in very recent years that the community has received financial benefits. This community is exemplary in the way it has engaged with the broader Australian community. It is cohesive with a fully documented language and strong and positive leadership provided by a mix of traditional eldership and democratically elected officers. More than one-third of adults have undertaken some form of post-secondary education. Approximately one-fifth of households own their own homes and toward two-thirds of adults are in permanent work. The business entity of the community has proved itself to be a good steward of the money it has received, using it to create bank investments, obtain tangible assets and spread benefits over the whole community. There is an optimism within the community – a belief that the community and its members have a future, and a confidence that community members have a contribution to make to the cities and towns in which they reside.



Duane Vickery conducting business from his mobile "office" in the Australian desert.

ETM Perspectives has twice collaborated with Avondale staff in submitting successful applications for research projects totalling more than a quarter of a million dollars. These external funds were provided by the Federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and resulted in confidential reports to different indigenous communities. The Avondale senior lecturers who worked with ETM Perspectives

The research collaborations between Avondale College and ETM Perspectives Pty Ltd benefit the institution on a number of levels. First, they fit the criteria of industry-based external funding. Second, the nature of the research fits within the scope of Avondale College's mission. Third, these projects contribute to Avondale's growing track record of success in obtaining external grants and in forming collaborative research partnerships with external agencies to the benefit of Avondale and the partner organisation.

New light on the Anzacs

Daniel Reynaud

The Anzac story has acquired for many Australians a legendary and almost sacred mystique. Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud, Dean of Avondale's Faculty of Arts, is researching an aspect of the Anzac legend that has previously received little attention—the Anzacs and religion, beginning with World War One. Daniel here outlines some of his findings.

One of the key elements of the Anzac legend is its secular status. The Anzacs are generally held not to have been interested in religion, and the Anzac legend itself has become a kind of national secular religion, with its own dogmas, sacred places and rituals. There has been some scholarly research on the topic, but very little in the last twenty years. Scholars have noted the paucity of information, as the soldiers left little evidence of an interest in religion.

I began my research by examining the diaries and letters of the chaplains, as being the most likely source of such information, and then moved on to the papers of soldiers. While the absolute proportion of soldiers writing about spiritual matters is relatively small, my research indicates that this in itself should not be taken as a characteristically Australian lack of interest in spiritual matters. Even a chaplain like Andrew Gillison, whose life was noted by many to be saintly and was almost universally revered by his battalion, left a Gallipoli diary with remarkably few religious references. In fact, a book on British and American Great War soldiers and religion revealed that overt religious comments are equally rare; hence the first conclusion I came to was that the Australian soldier was not less religious than his British or American counterpart.

The impact of particular chaplains was very strong. Some men like Father Michael Bergin, Andrew Gillison, T.P. Bennett, and even YMCA worker Oswald Chambers (still influential today through his posthumous books) had a huge influence on Australian soldiers and won their deep affection. The larger-than-life Salvation Army chaplain William McKenzie developed a popularity almost unrivalled, being considered by some well-placed observers to have been the most popular man in the AIF, with the

possible exception of General Birdwood or Prime Minister Billy Hughes. His story has been published, but with frequent errors of fact, and I am aiming to develop a full biography of this fascinating and influential man.

In the course of my research I stumbled across a reference to a Seventh-day Adventist soldier in Egypt prior to the Gallipoli campaign. This triggered a search for who he might be, but although I have located about fifty-five Seventh-day Adventist soldiers, I have still not been able to identify any SDA soldier who was in Egypt or on Gallipoli at that time. It also highlighted some other interesting anomalies: Seventh-day Adventists were encouraged not to get involved in the war, but even more interesting are the thirty-two Quakers who enlisted, despite the strongly pacifist nature of their faith. Other religions of interest include two Buddhists, three Sikhs, three Muslims and four Hindus.

This material is being developed into a number of scholarly articles, and eventually a book or two.

It Is Written Oceania has produced six television episodes based on Associate Professor Reynaud's research. Daniel Reynaud wrote the scripts, served as historical consultant, and was interviewed on camera for all six episodes.



Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud (left) and It Is Written Oceania speaker and director Pr Gary Kent being filmed on location at The Neck, Gallipoli.

Students inspired to make a difference

Today's Avondale students are strongly motivated by the vision of a needy world and the opportunities they have to make a difference.

The student organisation One Mission mobilises Avondale College volunteers to undertake community development and mission projects in developing countries. "Service projects are our chance to help change the world, but they also change us," said Jessica Parsons, an international development studies student and co-director of One Mission.

"My passion changed on my first One Mission trip," said Sandro Bastos, a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Teaching student and co-director of One Mission. "Going on a mission trip is only half the blessing you receive; the other is inviting your friends on a mission trip so they might get to know God in a more personal, practical way." Student participants come back different people.

During the past summer One Mission sent teams of student volunteers to the Philippines and the Solomon Islands. Jessica Parsons and Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Business student Reuben Ennor spent three and half months on a mission project in Rwanda. One Mission has also sponsored mission trips from the Lake Macquarie campus to Mozambique and Fiji, and from the Sydney campus to Kenya, the Philippines, Vanuatu, Thailand and Cambodia.

Students engage in these projects during their mid-year and



Avondale students work with local volunteers to add a classroom to an Adventist school in the Philippines.

Sandro Bastos

summer breaks, foregoing opportunities to earn money. Service for these students takes priority over materialistic goals.

The recent Philippines mission

In January 2010 sixteen student volunteers went to the Philippines led by Sandro Bastos and Neil Bustos, a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching student. The students ran an evangelistic campaign and a kids' club, built an extra classroom for a local Adventist school, ran a service project at the local high school and a feeding ministry for poor children in surrounding towns, working every day from 7 am to 10 pm.

The Adventist Church in the Philippines assigned the students to a poor area where communities were often disrupted by

violence, teenage gangs, and alcohol and drug abuse. However, the group's community service work, especially with the children, won the confidence, respect and friendship of the people, and there was no violence or tension during the students' stay. So much did the students win the hearts of the community that forty men from a nearby village formed a security cordon each evening around the meeting place, and took turns to guard all night while the students slept.

To the astonishment of the local Adventist pastors, more than 600 people attended the evangelistic meetings every night, including many teenagers involved in gangs. Three students conducted the preaching: Neil Bustos, Joel Heise (a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching student), and Ray Moaga (a theology student). They delivered gospel-centred messages covering the major Adventist beliefs, and the Holy Spirit empowered the preaching.



One Mission kids' club in the Philippines.

Sandro Bastos

One factor contributing to success was that the kids' club ran from 5.30 to 7.30 pm each evening, followed immediately by the evangelistic program. The parents came to collect their children from the kids' club and stayed for the preaching.

The meetings climaxed with a baptism of 25 people, including one of the Avondale students. Many others are preparing for baptism under the guidance of the local pastors. Many former churchgoers made a commitment to return to the Lord and are now attending church.

After one of the meetings two gangster kids aged seventeen and eighteen came to Joel Heise in tears, saying they wanted to be baptised. Another evening a crying blind man asked Sandro, "Are you one of the missionaries from Australia? I am so blessed that I could hear the message of God tonight."

Participation in the project powerfully affirmed students' commitment to Christ and to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "It changed those who went," said Neil Bustos. "We went with our plans, but God had much bigger plans, and bigger results."

After paying for their own air fares and food, the students raised an additional \$20,000 for the project. They returned with a vision to continue supporting the community where they ministered and to raise funds to sponsor at least one child to attend the local Adventist school (\$60 will sponsor a child for a year).

The Solomon Islands mission

Twelve students went to the Solomon Islands, led by Jared Martin, an Avondale graduate now practising as a digital artist and photographer. The group worked with local villagers on the island of Guadalcanal constructing a nurses' residence in association with a new health clinic. They also ran a kids' club and conducted worship services in nearby villages. The local people were overjoyed to have the visitors with them, the

students' presence motivating the villagers to participate in the building project.

The Rwanda mission

Jessica Parsons and Reuben Ennor participated in two Christian humanitarian projects in association with the Transformational Development Agency (TDA) in Rwanda. The first project was a support program for deeply traumatised young people whose families had been murdered in the genocide. The program, operating

in the capital, Kigali, and also in a village in the mountains, included a photo voice project in which participants were taught photography and encouraged to talk about the symbolism in their images. In the rural district almost every image evoked horrific stories of the murders the participants had witnessed. The program helped the young people work out some of their trauma and develop trust. It also opened opportunities for the program leaders to talk about issues of identity, betrayal and forgiveness in the context of God's love. The youth deeply appreciated the program, some in the mountain area walking up to two hours to participate.

The second project was a transformational ministry for sex



Jessica Parsons talks with young people orphaned in the Rwanda genocide.

workers in Kigali. Every Friday night Jessica and Reuben accompanied the TDA director for prayer and dialogue with the women in the group. The three helped reclaim one young woman who had also been orphaned in the genocide. She had borne seven children, four of whom had died, and she also has AIDS. A year before the development agency workers met her, a pastor had been impressed to tell her that three people would come to help her. Jessica, Reuben and the TDA director were able to persuade her of God's love and acceptance (she thought she wasn't good enough to be accepted by anyone). She has now left her former way of life and is attending church. The three development agency workers were able to set her up in a small business selling vegetables, charcoal and oil (see picture). Her business is growing, she is able to support herself, and her children are now attending school.

One Mission works in association with the Adventist Volunteer Service of the South Pacific Division. Leadership training is provided for mission projects. Students are encouraged to dream big and trust God's leading, so that they can go out in confidence to reach a world in need. In God's strength and with good leadership, young people are able to accomplish things that many older people would not dare.

One Mission is grateful to the donors who resource its projects.

See www.onemission.org.au for more information.



Reuben Ennor fits out a bicycle trailer to enable the woman pictured to carry goods for sale to support herself and her children.

From medical career to theology lecturer

Dr Wendy Jackson joined Avondale's Faculty of Theology this year following a career change from medicine to ministry.

After completing degrees in human biology and medicine at the University of Auckland, Dr Jackson became a specialist paediatrician. She is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians in Paediatrics and has completed a Pediatric Endocrine Fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre, USA. She has researched and published extensively in paediatrics, especially in the field of child endocrinology and diabetes.

Over time Dr Jackson sensed a growing call to ministry as a career. She at first resisted, but as the conviction strengthened she realised she needed to respond. This led to a radical career change that took her to Andrews University, Michigan, where she completed a Master of Divinity degree, the recognised route to employment as a Seventh-day Adventist minister in the United States.

Avondale then encouraged her to proceed to a PhD at

Andrews, with joint sponsorship from Avondale, the South Pacific Division and Women in Ministry. She has now almost completed her PhD in theology, with cognate studies in Old Testament. Her doctoral dissertation explores the unity of the church in the writings of Ellen G White and Alexander Campbell (a leader in the nineteenth-century religious awakening from which the Churches of Christ emerged).



Dr Wendy Jackson

Ann Stafford

Dr Jackson has been deeply involved in church ministry as an elder/senior elder and in small group ministry, prayer ministry, teaching and Bible studies. When asked about her vision for teaching, she said, "I want each student to experience God's love in the contours of theology, to understand God's passion for them. It is imperative that theology be linked to a personal experience with Christ, and that it impacts the life of the individual and the church."

Senior appointments advance Avondale's development

The appointment of senior academic staff with a track record in research and teaching is important to Avondale's strategic development as a higher education institution. Avondale's strategic plan also envisages increased use of contemporary technologies for learning and teaching.

The 2010 appointment of **Dr Maria Northcote** to the Faculties of Education and Arts advances both these objectives. Dr Northcote has an impressive research record, including fifty-two publications, thirty-eight of them refereed. She brings particular strength in the development and use of multimedia and online resources for education. In previous academic positions she received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching at Edith Cowan University, and the Post-graduate Students' Association Teacher of the Year Award at the University of Newcastle.

This semester she is working with lecturers in the Faculties of Arts and Education to develop and teach online units in distance education. An important aspect of her role will be to develop and extend research opportunities at Avondale and in collaboration with other institutions. She is currently researching concepts in professional development and the use of present and emerging technologies in education.

Dr Peter Kilgour joined the Faculty of Education in 2010, bringing senior experience in classroom teaching and education administration. He was previously Executive Director of Seventh-day Adventist education, Greater Sydney. Dr Kilgour is a specialist in mathematics education, has authored several publications in this field, and is keen to produce further research. **Carola Parker**, seconded from the Seventh-day Adventist school system in 2010, also brings extensive experience in teaching and school administration.

Dr Philip Brown, appointed as Vice President (Learning and Teaching) in 2009, brought to Avondale an extensive background in education administration, curriculum and assessment. He was previously Executive Principal, University of Western Sydney College. **Dr Richard Ferret** joined the Faculty of Theology in 2009 with a background in nursing and ministry. He is the author of a scholarly book entitled *Charisma and routinisation in a millennialist community: Seventh-day Adventist identity* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2008), and is engaged in ongoing research. In 2009 **Pr Kayle de Waal** joined the Faculty of Theology with broad experience in ministry. He is a New Testament specialist, currently finishing a PhD with the University of Auckland.



Dr Maria Northcote



Dr Peter Kilgour



Carola Parker



Dr Philip Brown



Dr Richard Ferret



Pr Kayle de Waal

College Church extends its outreach



Pr Mark Craig challenges Regen members to get involved in service.

Ann Stafford

Regen (short for Regeneration) is a College Church program initiated in 2005 by a group of young adults with a vision for connecting spiritually with people of their generation who were not attending church. Regen is one of several worship options between 9 am and 11 am on Sabbath mornings, and now attracts an average of 200 students and community members each week. The program motivates participants to develop a relationship with Jesus, become involved in the church community, use their spiritual gifts to build God's kingdom, and engage in service and outreach.

The program begins with friendship over breakfast, followed by singing, prayer and a testimony time when participants share their experiences and express how the gospel is interacting with their lives. A prayer journal is circulated, and at the end a prayer team prays with anyone with a special need. The program concludes with a period of teaching and inspiration via a speaker chosen for the day.

Participants are especially enthusiastic about Regen's service and outreach initiatives. The group operates a mountain biking and adventure club called Crankt for about forty youth from the local community, many of them from troubled homes. Teams of volunteers work with the youth on three Sundays per month. On some weeks the groups may do rock climbing, abseiling, canyoning, water skiing or wakeboarding. Group-based mentoring is integral to the program, and individual teenagers will often confide to counsellors about serious issues in their lives. The program opens possibilities for a better way of life by providing positive role models and empowering teenagers to make changes in their lives through positive choices. Three of the teenagers have gone to summer camps at the Yarrahapinni Adventist Youth Centre.

Regen also assists at the Morisset youth drop-in centre, preparing meals, organising sports and games, providing art therapy, and demonstrating basic nutrition and food preparation. Regen leaders work closely with the youth welfare officer

and are developing plans to assist homeless youth in the area.

Regen has operated a "Riskmen" mentoring program for behaviourally troubled year-7 boys at Morisset High School. The program centred on gym and basketball activities at Avondale, with an emphasis on self-discipline and personal development. Teachers were impressed by the improvement in the boys' behaviour.

Regen's "pick-a-street" program has members going from door to door to help people with gardening and other needs, often opening opportunities for spiritual conversations.

Members of Regen have provided the music at weekly evening worships at an alcohol rehabilitation centre operated by the Salvation Army.

Regen also runs StormCo programs that are greatly appreciated by the recipient communities. In one remote town a resident who had received the Order of Australia for his work for ex-service personnel said, "I caught my vision for service from StormCo." He even renovated his house so that the StormCo team could stay there.

Service activities extend well beyond Australia. Regen has sent two teams to Mozambique to train local people to run StormCo programs and has also raised funds for orphanages in Mozambique. A proportion of Regen's offerings go to such projects, which have also included an aid program for former child soldiers in Uganda and a school-building project in Uganda. In six months last year Regen tripled the previous year's offerings. A number of Regen members have given to provide a goat, cow or other animal to enable a person in a developing country to become self-supporting.

"This is a generation that wants to make a difference," said Mark Craig, associate pastor of the College Church, "and Regen's members respond to this challenge with enthusiasm. Service activities also make a difference in the lives of the students involved."

They heard God's call

Tim Whale's first contact with Christianity was through a Seventh-day Adventist girl friend. One day she told him she was going away camping for a week, and he offered to come too. He was shocked to find himself at the South Queensland campmeeting. With dreadlocks down to his waist, he was



Ann Stafford

Tim Whale participates in a church service at Avondale College Church.

painfully conscious of the difference between himself and most of the other campers. But he was also impressed with how happy everyone seemed, and how much people seemed to enjoy communicating with one another. His heart was touched as one of the speakers challenged the young adults to discover Jesus for themselves. Tim resolved to take up the challenge, and two big camps later committed his life to Jesus.

He and Kessa decided to marry soon after. Tim was baptised and in time became a youth leader in his local church, a ministry he found so fulfilling that he began to think of ministry as a career – an idea also encouraged by others in the church. And so he came to Avondale, he and Kessa selling their car to fund their removal expenses.

Tim has a passion for youth ministry. In his first year at Avondale he helped lead the Regen program on Sabbath mornings. Later he led the teen Sabbath School, preparing several youth for baptism. While still a student he accepted invitations to present three series of youth meetings at Adventist summer camps and a series at the West Australian campmeeting. He also preached at a youth rally in New Zealand.

Tim graduated from Avondale in 2009, receiving the Graham Miller Memorial Prize for excellence in youth ministry. The last two years of his study at Avondale were sponsored by the Victorian Conference, where he now serves as a ministerial intern.

Emma Weslake is one of the growing number of women called to ministry. Her initial call was to the ministry of teaching. After graduating from primary teaching at Avondale, she taught for four years in Auckland, and then accepted an appointment to full-time ministry in the Papatoetoe Church.

Here Emma developed a ministry centred on



Emma Weslake leading a Bible study group.

small groups, with friendship leading to prayer, Bible study and outreach to the wider community. In time eighty per cent of the church became active participants in the small groups, with significant spiritual benefit to the church. People invited friends from the community to participate in group fellowship and spirituality, and a number of baptisms resulted.

Emma's growing sense that ministry was the life work to which she was being called received confirmation when the North New Zealand Conference offered to sponsor her to study for the ministry at Avondale. "The biblical and theological studies at Avondale deepened and affirmed my understanding of the Adventist faith," she said. While at Avondale she developed a small-group ministry in the local community, resulting in two baptisms.

Emma graduated at the end of 2009, receiving the Edna Ferris Heise Prize in Communication. She now serves as a ministerial intern at Tauranga, North New Zealand. Her experience in small-group ministry has convinced her of the power of lay people to advance the mission of the church.

While returning to God after a period of partial estrangement, **Orlando Berry** felt convicted that he should pay the tithe he owed. The sum was so large he had no means of repaying it, especially as he was having trouble paying his mortgage. Orlando told God that if he was to repay his debts the Lord would need to find him a new and well-paid job. Soon after this he received a job offer with pay and conditions far beyond what he had thought possible, enabling him to repay the tithe and manage his home loan.

Orlando had now become strongly involved in his local church, preaching, teaching Sabbath School lessons and leading in prayer groups. Some months later he seemed to hear a voice in his mind saying, "Orlando, I want you to be a minister." The message came again clearly a few months later. He prayed, "Lord, if this is not just my imagination, let the retired pastor give me the same message at church tomorrow." The next day the retired pastor urged him to think seriously about ministry as a career.

Not yet satisfied, Orlando challenged God to have someone else at church give him the same message. They did. Orlando now prayed, "Lord, if you really mean it, let someone with no church affiliation tell me." Soon after, a person at work said, "Are you really happy with what you are doing? I have a feeling you ought to be doing something else." "Like what?" said Orlando. "I can see you helping people, standing up the front, encouraging people," the man responded, and went on to describe the type of work a minister does." "What made you say those things?" Orlando asked. The man replied, "I'm not a believer, but I just had a feeling I should tell you this."

For some time Orlando put off making a decision. Then one night he had a vivid dream in which his father, a man of prayer, appeared to him and said, "Why aren't you doing what God wants you to do?" Orlando still resisted. Some time later, knowing that his wife was uncertain about selling the house and moving to Avondale, he prayed, "Lord, if you want me to be a minister, you'll have to convince my wife." When he arrived home the next day his wife said, "Did you ask God to tell me something?" "Like what?" he asked. She replied, "Today

I heard a voice in the house so loud it frightened me – I thought an intruder had got in. The voice said, 'I want Orlando to be a minister.'"

They decided to put the house on the market and make plans to go to Avondale. Meanwhile Orlando asked for yet another sign. "If you really want me in full-time ministry," he prayed, "please give me a sign today." That afternoon a relative told him of a conversation with someone at church who said, "Orlando ought to be a full-time minister."



Ann Stafford

Orlando Berry is now in the third year of theology at Avondale, and looks forward to a career in ministry.

Avondale opens new horizons

Charles Muirhead grew up on a farm in central-west New South Wales, leaving school at the end of Year 10 to work on the property. His uncle and aunt, who had attended Avondale, spoke enthusiastically of the College, as did the Avondale students who came each summer to work on the harvest. An Avondale lecturer who paid yearly visits would also tell Charles, "You've got to go to Avondale."

When Charles's younger brother was injured in a car accident and confined to a wheelchair for life, Charles wished he could give professional help. So he decided to go to Avondale to study nursing.

After graduating he worked initially at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, then moved west to help care for his brother, with concurrent employment at the Dubbo Base Hospital. After further studies in intensive care and administration, he rapidly progressed to management, and was then head-hunted as manager of the day surgery unit and operating theatres at the Dubbo Private Hospital, including responsibility for recruiting medical staff.

A turning point in Charles's experience came when his brother passed away in 2003. Charles had previously married, and he and his wife now decided to move to the coast. For some time he had contemplated studying business to extend his professional skills, so in 2007 he enrolled in Avondale's Bachelor of Business, majoring in accounting. He also gained a part-time position at the Gosford Private Hospital with responsibility for managing the eight operating theatres and, when on duty, supervising the entire hospital.

Charles graduated in 2009, receiving prizes for excellence

in accounting and for overall excellence in the Bachelor of Business degree. He also received the Award of Excellence, Avondale's most prestigious prize awarded for high achievement, Christian qualities and leadership potential.

"I am exceedingly grateful to a loving Saviour," Charles said. "Without my Adventist Christian background and my upbringing in a loving family these achievements would not have been possible. I am also grateful for incredible support from the lecturers who minister at Avondale." Charles is now employed as an accountant at the head office of Sanitarium.



Ann Stafford

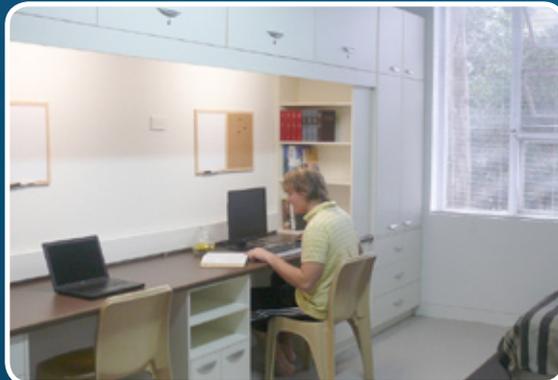
Charles Muirhead receives Avondale's most prestigious prize, the Award of Excellence, from Julie Praestini, Corporate Communications Director, Sanitarium.

ADOPT A ROOM

CARRY ON THE AVONDALE EXPERIENCE



ANDRE HALL



WATSON HALL

Sponsor the renovation of a room, possibly the room in which you stayed.

Help make the Avondale experience for the next generation of students even better by giving to the **Avondale College Offering** or by supporting **Adopt A Room**.

The project allows you, a group of friends or your church community to fund the renovation of a room.

We will place a plaque in the room to honour your contribution.

ANDRE HALL

Andre is a sanctuary for women of Avondale, and the first "home away from home" for many.

What are the issues?

Andre's 42 double rooms have little storage space, deteriorating chipboard fittings, old furniture and poor lighting.

What we want to do?

Rooms in Andre, when renovated, will have new carpet, bedside drawers, better lighting, more power points and lockable storage space. Laminate will replace chipboard. Walls will feature neutral colours to encourage individual decorating flair. The layout of the rooms will also change to make them more suitable for studying.

WATSON HALL

The men of Watson have a proud history of mateship and camaraderie. For many, the friendship has been just as important as the study.

What are the issues?

Watson's remaining 83 rooms have little storage space, deteriorating chipboard fittings and old furniture.

What we want to do?

Rooms in Watson, when renovated, will have bedside tables, bookshelves, new carpet and linoleum, new chairs, corner cupboards, lockable overhead cupboards, computer friendly desks, more drawers, new paint, more power points and a specific space for a fridge. Laminate will replace chipboard.

HOW TO GIVE ...



- > AVONDALE COLLEGE OFFERING, JUNE 5
- > www.avondale.edu.au/adoptaroom