

**New Brandstater Amphitheatre  
Research grows strongly  
Avondale's ANZACs  
Inspired to serve**

## Brandstater Amphitheatre lifts campus image

The Brandstater Amphitheatre has transformed the space between the Auditorium and College Hall (formerly the Chapel) on the Lake Macquarie campus, providing an ideal venue for outdoor music, drama and worship events, and an attractive place for students to relax.

The idea developed in discussions with Dr Bernard Brandstater, Professor and former Chair of Anesthesiology at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, California. The Brandstater family provided generous funding for the project.

The amphitheatre, designed by David Stafford, was officially opened during graduation weekend in December 2010. Dr Murray Brandstater, Chair of Physical Medicine at Loma Linda, was also present, along with other members of the extended Brandstater family.

The Brandstater Amphitheatre replaces a baptismal font and informal amphitheatre constructed in 1955 under the supervision of Geoffrey Richardson, the designer and builder of the original Auditorium (1954). For many years Avondale used this font for baptisms conducted over graduation weekend. Since 1986 the campus baptismal font has been in the Avondale College Church.

The Brandstater family migrated from Germany in the nineteenth century, settling in the Collinsvale district of Tasma-

nia, where they became Seventh-day Adventists. They were among the pioneer members of the Collinsvale SDA Church, established in 1888. Doctors Bernard and Murray Brandstater are sons of Pastor Roy Brandstater, a prominent Australian pastor and evangelist. Both are graduates of Australian universities.



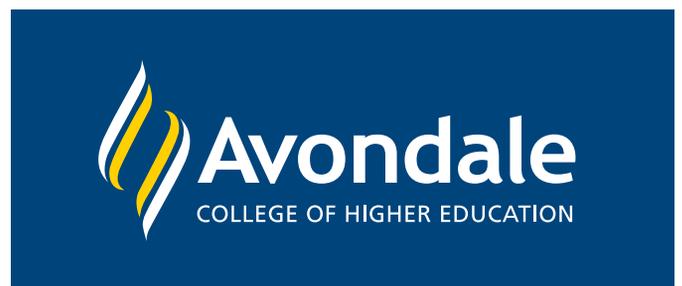
Dr Barry Oliver, Dr Ray Roenfeldt, Dr Bernard Brandstater and Dr Murray Brandstater at the opening of the Brandstater Amphitheatre. Photo credit: Ann Stafford.



## Avondale expands its name

Avondale's governing body, the Avondale College Council, voted in December 2010 to expand Avondale's name to **Avondale College of Higher Education**.

The purpose of the new name is to avoid confusion. A variety of educational institutions use the word 'college' to identify themselves, including secondary schools, vocational education and training institutions, higher education providers, and residences on university campuses. The new name clearly places Avondale in the higher education sector.



# Senior researchers join Avondale staff

The appointment of two senior researchers in 2011 further strengthens Avondale's academic staff.

**Associate Professor Phil Fitzsimmons** joined Avondale's School of Education from a previous position as Director of Research, San Roque Research Institute, Santa Barbara, California. For over eighteen years he held positions as lecturer/senior lecturer specialising in language and literacy education in the Faculty of Education, University of Wollongong. He holds the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Education (Honours), Master of Studies in Education, and Bachelor of Education. He has produced or co-produced more than sixty publications, including five books and three edited collections; and has been a member of research teams that have won almost \$500,000 in Australian Research Council Discovery grants. He has also supervised a number of PhD students to completion. His research interests have included literacy education, children's and adolescent literature, visual literacy, authentic learning, and creativity. His current classroom-based research foci include the links between emotion, creativity and writing; visual literacy; and spiritual intelligence/awareness. His role at Avondale includes research, research training, and teaching research methods and literacy education.



**Dr Barry Gane** has been appointed to a research position at Avondale from his previous role as Director of Leadership and Development for the Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Pacific Division). From 1999 to 2005 he was Professor of Youth Ministry at Andrews University, Michigan, USA, directing the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Arts programs in youth ministry. He holds the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy (Leadership), Doctor of Ministry, Master of Arts (Religion) and Bachelor of Arts (Theology). His publications include five books (one co-authored), six book chapters, nine resource manuals for youth ministry, and numerous magazine articles. He has supervised eleven Doctor of Ministry projects to completion and other DMin projects in progress as he continues his role as an adjunct of Andrews University. Dr Gane has been involved in collaborative research on North American research teams in projects totalling more than \$1 million. At Avondale he will undertake, foster and supervise research in youth ministry, initially researching data to help understand the roles of family, church and school in the transmission of beliefs and values.

## OTHER ACADEMIC STAFF APPOINTMENTS

**Lachlan Rogers** joined the **School of Science and Mathematics** from PhD research in physics at the Australian National University, Canberra. His research used lasers to explore the physics of electrons in atomic defects in diamond

crystals. This research has been in the broader context of quantum computing or quantum information processing. Lachlan expects to submit his thesis in the first half of 2011. He previously completed a Bachelor of Science at Avondale and honours in physics (first class) at the University of Newcastle. He has co-authored ten refereed publications and presented papers at three international conferences.



**Aaron Bellette** has joined the **School of Humanities and Creative Arts**, where he will teach photography, photojournalism and multimedia design. He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts (Avondale), Bachelor of Fine Art (1st class honours) (Newcastle), and Master of Philosophy (Fine Art Photomedia) (Newcastle). He has presented a number of solo and group exhibitions, is experienced in freelance photography, graphic design and consultancy, and has taught sessionally at the University of Newcastle and at Avondale.

**Lorinda Bruce** joined the **School of Education** after seven years' teaching English and creative writing to students aged eleven to sixteen. She holds the degrees of Bachelor of Education (Avondale) and Master of Education (Information Technology) (Charles Sturt). She will teach curriculum studies, literacy, numeracy and information & communication technologies.



Three new academic staff have joined the **Faculty of Nursing and Health**. **Linda Cloete** has Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in nursing and diplomas in intensive care nursing and nursing education. Before coming to Australia she taught nursing part-time at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. Recently she has been a clinical nurse specialist at Sydney Adventist Hospital. **Kerry Miller** has worked mainly in mental health. She has a Bachelor of Nursing degree (Avondale) and is completing a Master of Health Science (Nursing) in mental health at Charles Sturt University. She also has experience in youth ministry and adolescent health. **Linda Pope** has wide nursing experience, including clinical nurse educator (anaesthetics and recovery) (Sydney Adventist Hospital), pain management (Liverpool Hospital, Sydney), and sessional teaching in Avondale's nursing program. She has a Master of Health Sciences (Education) degree; graduate certificates in neurological nursing, pain management, and anaesthetics & recovery room nursing; and Certificate IV qualifications in business (frontline management) and assessment & workplace training.

## Pathways program to degree studies cited as 'good practice'

The Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) has showcased Avondale's Diploma of General Studies on its 'good practice' database as an example of an effective alternate pathway to degree studies. The recognition is significant at a time when the Commonwealth government is seeking ways to improve access to higher education.

Avondale's Diploma of General Studies (DGS), itself a higher education award, provides an alternate route for three groups of students: school leavers whose entry score does not give them admission to the degree program of their choice; mature-aged students who do not hold an entry score; and overseas students who may not qualify for normal entry to degree studies.

Individualised study programs are developed for students according to their needs. Students typically study some units from the degree of their choice along with tuition in the skills needed to succeed in higher education, such as critical thinking and reading, essay writing and assignment presentation skills, and IT skills. Students with entry scores close to the cut-off point for their chosen degree may take as many as three or four units from that degree program in their first semester.

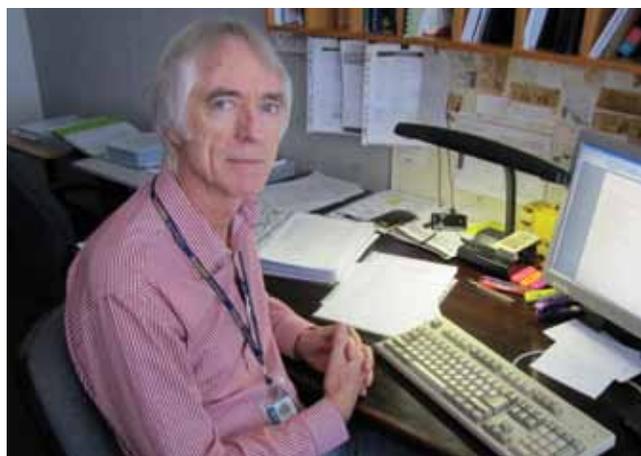
After one semester of successful study in the DGS, students may apply to transfer to the degree program of their choice. Higher education units completed in the DGS are credited to the student's degree program.

It is impressive that students entering degree programs via the DGS tend to do just as well as those entering degree studies on the basis of their school leaving scores. About forty per cent of students finishing one semester of General Studies go on to complete a degree, some of them performing excep-

tionally well. Up to seventeen per cent of students completing undergraduate degrees have entered their degree program via the DGS.

'A significant amount of individual tutoring contributes to the high level of student success in the program,' said General Studies coordinator David Potter. 'The program provides lifelong opportunities to many whose options would otherwise be limited,' he said.

Listing on AUQA's 'good practice' database has sparked interest in Avondale's pathways program from other higher education institutions. A presentation at a meeting of the Council of Private Higher Education has led to other invitations to David Potter to present and discuss his work. Academics from an Australian university have also visited Avondale to inquire about the program.



David Potter, coordinator, Diploma of General Studies

## Avondale graduate wins prestigious journalism award

**Kristina Kukulja**, an Avondale Bachelor of Arts graduate of 2002, has won a prestigious Walkley Award for her 2010 SBS radio feature 'Echoes of Srebrenica'.

The Walkley National Awards for Australian Journalism recognise and reward the highest achievements in journalism each year. Kristina won the category for a radio feature, documentary or broadcast special.

Her radio feature 'Echoes of Srebrenica' marked the fifteenth anniversary of the notorious Srebrenica massacre of July 1995, when more than 7000 Bosnian Muslims were rounded up and executed by Bosnian Serb forces. The United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia sentenced seven in 2010 for their roles in what has been deemed the worst mass murder in Europe since the Second World War.

Kukulja's 'Echoes of Srebrenica' is a story of the strength of the human spirit and the importance of justice and truth in the pursuit of reconciliation. It features the voices of survivors now living in Australia – some speaking for the very first time about their experiences, despite fears of unleashing a past too horrific for words.

The Walkley judges said Kukulja's work "uncovered new information, brought a story of global significance up to date and managed to personalise the trauma of people through the voices of a few. 'Echoes of Srebrenica' displayed detailed research, effective interviewing techniques and subdued production values to reflect the harrowing stories of loss, separation and despair. A powerful and evocative piece of radio journalism."

Kristina Kukulja was born in Zagreb, Croatia. She migrated to Australia in 1994, studied English and communication at Avondale, and joined SBS in 2008 as a broadcaster with the Croatian language program. She now also produces features for SBS Radio's flagship news and current affairs program, SBS World News Australia.



# Remembering Avondale's ANZACs Ken Thomson

*Dr Ken Thomson graduated from Avondale in 1954, taught physics for many years at Avondale and at Pacific Union College, California, and is now retired in Cooranbong.*

At least seven sons of Cooranbong families served with the armed forces in the First World War. The local population was proud of them, presenting them with medals honouring their commitment when they left for the war in 1915 and after their return in 1919.<sup>1</sup> Fortunately they did return, though some bore scars.



Medal presented to the author's father, K E Thomson, on his return from the war. Photo credit: Ken Thomson

Not so fortunate was Henry (Harry) Stout, who to my knowledge was the only former Avondale student killed in action at Gallipoli. Stout, who came from Victoria, was at Avondale during 1906-1908, 1910 and 1911. He studied a variety of literary and practical units at Avondale, but did not graduate. As with most students of that era, he earned his living and fees doing local manual labour. An extract from the 1907 diary of Chris Thomson (a fellow student improving his own block of land) gives an insight:

*12 Apr 1907: Worked on logs for Rouse with Alf and Neil also Harry Stout. We drew them from the swamp in Daves below my land. It was quite interesting and lively. Old Bob was stuck in the mud. Howard's acre was ploughed today by Harry. I am to have my land ploughed soon. I got a gate post out of the work — which was gratis. (p.25)*

*17 Apr 1907: Harry did not plough all day, it was too rough with stumps. I worked on them this afternoon. (p.26)*

*30 Apr 1907: H. Stout did some ploughing on my land today. (p.29)*

Harry also displayed ability in writing, as shown by a poem of his published with other student contributions in a special Avondale issue of the *Australasian Record*, 15 May 1911. The first and last stanzas of the poem are reproduced below.

## Derelict

*Adrift on ocean's trackless waste,  
The plaything of its waves,  
Tossed in their grasp to reeling heights  
Or prostrate in their caves;  
Sport of the winds that howling sweep*

*Through crippled spar and sail,  
There floats a hulk - a battered hulk,  
Abandoned to the gale.*

*On life's broad sea how many wrecks  
Go drifting, drifting past,  
That yesterday had hope-filled sails  
And courage on the mast!  
Now with torn sheets, with pennon gone,  
Nor rising to the wave,  
On aimless course they lurch along,  
Their destiny a grave.*

Harry Stout was born in 1886, son of William Henry and Margaret (Williamson) Stout, immigrants from England. The family had lived at Goldsborough, Victoria, in the goldfields between Bendigo and St Arnaud. By the time Harry enlisted for the war both his parents had died, and he gave the name of his uncle as next-of-kin: John Williamson of Richmond, Victoria. After leaving Avondale Harry lived in South Australia for two years, enlisting for the war at Morphettville in September 1914, aged 28.



Lance-Corporal H. Stout <sup>2</sup>

Stout was evidently a man of strong principle. A biographical article in the *Adelaide Advertiser* (23 September 1915, p.8) stated that at the time of his enlistment he was secretary and organiser of the South Australian branch of the Australian Freedom League – an organisation agitating for the repeal of compulsory conscription to the armed forces, which it saw as a threat to civil rights and religious liberties. The League was not, however, opposed to a defence force enrolled on a voluntary basis. This was also Stout's view.

The *Adelaide Advertiser* article continued: 'While opposed to the compulsory clauses of the Defence Act, he [Stout] always recognised the need of a system of defence, and advocated the voluntary method, and, like a number of fellow members of the league, offered his services to the army when the occasion called for them.' The article also noted that 'Mr Stout was an effective platform speaker and a writer of considerable ability. Many mourn the loss of this good friend and genial companion.'

While Stout opposed conscription, he also saw the need to serve his country, and did not hesitate to voluntarily join the Medical Corps. He was assigned to the 4th Field Ambulance Unit, which landed with the 4th Brigade of the New Zealand and Australian Division at Gallipoli on 28 April 1915.



Gallipoli 1915. A stretcher bearer of the 4th Australian field ambulance sitting in front of a dugout reinforced with sandbags.<sup>3</sup>

Harry had plenty of work as a stretcher bearer in B section, 4th Field Ambulance, immediately after landing. The casualties on the three previous days had been heavy, and continued unabated until the evacuation in December 1915.

However, Harry did not see the end of 1915, losing his life on 21 August. A letter written by Lance-Corporal Dowling describes how Lance-Corporal Stout died.

*Before you receive this note you will have read of the death of your friend Harry Stout. We being the best of chums, I thought I would write to his friends and tell them about his death. On August 21 we received orders to go to the firing line to look after the wounded. We had just finished a first aid station when the shrapnel began to fall, and Harry just moved as one broke close to us. One of the bullets entered his head and lodged just above the eye. He never spoke, and only lived for about ten minutes. He was promoted to the rank of lance-corporal a few days before his death. We buried him next morning in a pretty little spot on the edge of a corn field. One of my friends is going to take a photograph of the grave, and I will send one to you. The following was written on the cross: 'In memory of 1092 Lance-Corporal H. Stout, B Section, 4th Field Ambulance. Killed in action, August 21, 1915.'*<sup>4</sup>

Here, probably, is the photo Dowling refers to:



Alfred Dowling at the grave of Henry Stout, 4th Field Ambulance, killed in action, 21 August 1915.<sup>5</sup>

The action in which Harry Stout was killed was the assault on Hill 60, north of Anzac Cove.

*On 21 August, for the Australians of the 4th Brigade—men of the 13th and 14th Battalions—the initial assault on Hill 60 was a costly failure. They attacked across a shallow valley where dozens of them were hit by Turkish machine guns. Those who reached the comparative safety of the slope on the far side looked back to see their wounded comrades and soldiers of the Hampshire Regiment caught in a bushfire started by Turkish shells. As uniforms caught fire, grenades and ammunition carried by individual soldiers exploded. However, the smoke allowed Captain H G Loughran, the Regimental Medical Officer of the 14th Battalion, assisted by his stretcher-bearers, and Battalion Chaplain Andrew Gillison, a Presbyterian minister from East St Kilda, Melbourne, to drag away some of the wounded.*<sup>6</sup>

In October 1916 Lance Corporal Francis Catchlove, 4th Field Ambulance, recuperating in England, gave an account of Stout's death to the Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau:

*I knew him well. He was buried at Australia Valley, Gallipoli, the next day. The Chaplain was from our 4th Brigade but I do not remember his name. . . . I have seen Stout's grave. There was a small wooden cross erected with his name and number. His relatives have been told. One of the chaps who had been wounded and was over in England went to the Isle of Man to see them.*<sup>7</sup>

Stout's remains were later transferred to the 'Norfolk' cemetery, and finally to the 7th Field Ambulance Cemetery established by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission after the war.

Harry's death was marked by his Avondale friends. A fellow student, Alice Higgins, who attended Avondale for several years while Harry was also there, requested information about his death from the War Department, and received a letter in response.<sup>8</sup> A year after his death, the following obituary notice appeared in the *Australasian Record* (11 September 1916):

*STOUT. On August 21, 1915, Brother H. Stout, of Gippsland, Victoria, passed to his rest. Many Australian soldiers, in writing of the evacuation of Gallipoli, mentioned with what deep sorrow they deserted the graves of their brave, sleeping comrades. Among the rest, picturesquely situated on the edge of a field of corn, and marked by a white cross, is the last resting place of Lance-Corporal H. Stout, of the South Australian Field Ambulance. Exactly a week before his death Brother Stout wrote to a friend, expressing implicit confidence in all the fundamental principles of the truth, referring especially to some points that had previously troubled him. He spoke of having spent much time in carefully reviewing the prophecies of Daniel. Early in the morning of August 21, while engaged in his work for the wounded, he was struck in the forehead by shrapnel, and lived only about ten minutes. A large circle*

*of friends mourn their loss, but look forward with confidence to the time when they shall meet him on the other side of sorrow. —A FRIEND.*

There is an oral tradition that the two large Bunya pines that once stood in front of Preston Hall were planted as memorials to Harry and to a second former Avondale student, Frank Richard Dawkins, who survived the Gallipoli fighting, but was killed at Poziers on the Western Front. I have been unsuccessful in locating any written reference to the memorial significance of the Bunyas, but it fits the apparent age of these trees.<sup>9</sup>

Another memorial to the two former students, in the form of a commemorative brass tablet, was approved for a suitable position in the College Chapel. It was donated in 1920 by Mr Peet, a Cooranbong resident who had two sons attending College.<sup>10</sup>



Memorial plaque in the 7th Field Ambulance Cemetery, Gallipoli. Photo credit: Ken Thomson

Unfortunately, the years have now obliterated these memorials, and all we have are second-hand memories. As with many who fell in the fog of war, even the exact location of Harry Stout's remains is uncertain. Wherever his final resting place may be, his sacrifice is referenced by a memorial plaque in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's 7th Field Ambulance Cemetery at Gallipoli.

- 1 *Gosford Times*, 26 Jun 1919.
- 2 Picture, *Adelaide Advertiser*, 23 September 1915, p.8.
- 3 Australian War Memorial, Canberra. A.D. Hood Collection, Donor J. Borstel. Used with permission. <http://cas.awm.gov.au/item/P01116.001>
- 4 *Adelaide Advertiser*, 14 October 1915, p.10.
- 5 Australian War Memorial, Canberra. Image C00662. Used with permission. [http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/2visiting/graves/images\\_graves/7th09.jpg](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/2visiting/graves/images_graves/7th09.jpg)
- 6 Richard Reid (2000), *A 'duty clear before us'*. Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs, Canberra, p.46.
- 7 Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau File 2650106, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
- 8 H. Stout, No.1092, NAA Digital record, pp. 26, 27.
- 9 A rough count of the tree rings yields ~90 years of life ending in 2008.
- 10 Australasian Missionary College Board Minutes, 23 June 1920.

#### Acknowledgements

The following have been helpful in finding material for this article:

C.H. Schowe, 'Development and Growth of Australasian Missionary College' (unpublished manuscript).

Milton Hook (1998), *Avondale: Experiment on the Dora*. Avondale Academic Press.

Michael Chamberlain (1997), *Cooranbong, first town in Lake Macquarie*.

Kim Phillips, editor, 'Spirits of Gallipoli' Project ([www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com](http://www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com))

Rose-lee Power, Curator, Adventist Heritage Centre, Cooranbong.

## New Vice President (Finance)

Paul Hattingh joined Avondale's staff as Vice President (Finance) at the beginning of 2011, replacing Francois Keet, who has transferred to Fiji as chief financial officer for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Trans-Pacific.

Paul Hattingh was previously Assistant Chief Financial Officer for the Adventist Church's South Queensland Conference. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree (accounting major) and postgraduate diplomas in taxation and corporate governance. He is a chartered accountant and chartered secretary.

Paul is married to Sherry, who gave up her role as Deputy Principal (Primary) at Brisbane Adventist College so that Paul could come to Avondale. She is currently finishing her Doctor of Education thesis. They have two children, Stephanie and Joseph, who are attending Avondale School. The family enjoys camping, walking, canoeing and other sporting activities, and is looking forward to the recreational opportunities in the country around Avondale.



Paul Hattingh. Photo credit: Colin Chuang

# Strong growth in staff research

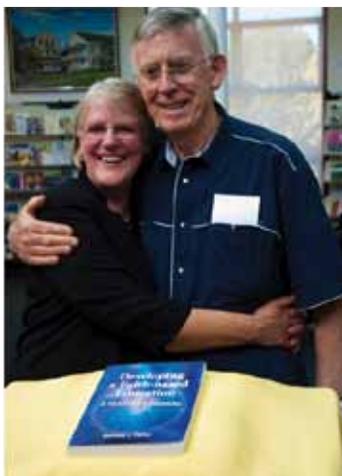
Research and creative output by Avondale staff grew strongly in 2010, generating understandings and practical outcomes of benefit to society and church.

Research at Avondale is focused mainly in three areas of strength: education, health, and society and culture (a field which includes humanities and religious studies). Interdisciplinary research also contributes to these fields; for example, research in science education, business education, science and health, creative writing and health. Numerous projects involve collaboration with university researchers.

This article features a selection of Avondale's 2010 research and creative output.

## BOOKS

**Barbara Fisher, *Developing a Faith-based Education: A Teacher's Manual*** (David Barlow Publishing), with contributions by Beverly Christian, Dr Jean Carter and Sandra Ludlow. This book, intended for early childhood and primary teachers, develops an understanding of faith-based education and provides curriculum resources for sharing faith development with students. The book will also be published in Spanish for teachers in Latin America.



Barbara Fisher and husband Colin with Barbara's book on faith-based education. Photo credit: Trent McCrow

**Carolyn Rickett**, coordinator of Avondale's communication program, co-edited the poetry anthology ***Wording the World*** with Judith Beveridge (University of Sydney), author of four award-winning books of poetry and editor of the literary journal *Meanjin*. The publisher was Puncher and Wattman. The collection features poems by twenty-four prominent Australian poets and fifteen of Avondale's creative writing students. It also contains poems by Avondale staff members Dr Jane Fernandez, Bruna Tawake and Carolyn Rickett, and one by Avondale alumna Althea Halliday, a senior English teacher at Barker College, Sydney. Six Australian poets represented in the anthology attended the book launch at Avondale last October.



Poetry anthology *Wording the World*, and co-editor Carolyn Rickett.

**Jane Fernandez-Goldborough, *The Second Skin: a Critique of Violence. The Search for Scapegoats in the Fiction of K.S. Maniam***

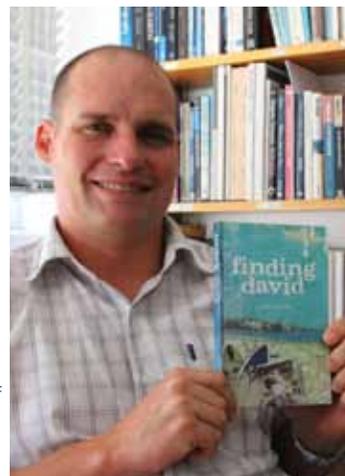
(Saarbrücken, Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing). The explosions of violence around the world in the last half-century have called for ongoing assessments of the character and psychology of violence. Dr Fernandez-Goldborough, senior lecturer in English, explores in this book the psychological screens behind which violence is performed in the writings of K. S. Maniam, a novelist of the Indian diaspora in Malaysia.



Dr Jane Fernandez and her book *The Second Skin*.

**Jane Fernandez-Goldborough (ed.), *Making Sense of Pain: Critical and Interdisciplinary Perspectives*** (Oxford: Interdisciplinary Press e-book). A collection of essays originally presented as papers at an international conference in Sydney in February 2010. In addition to editing the collection, Dr Fernandez-Goldborough contributed the introductory essay and the final chapter.

**Brad Watson, *Finding David*** (Signs Publishing Company) is a story for teens addressing from a Christian perspective issues such as relationships, resilience and faith. The book is listed as a resource for Encounter, the new Bible curriculum for Adventist secondary schools. Adventist Schools Australia provided a grant of \$2000 to produce teachers' resources and activity sheets for the book.



Brad Watson with his book *Finding David*. Photo credit: Colin Chuang

## JOURNALS

The Avondale Academic Press publishes three refereed journals: *Teach Journal of Christian Education*, *Christian Spirituality and Science*, and *The International Journal of New Perspectives on Christianity*.

## RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

**Dr Maria Northcote, Dr Peter Beamish, Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud and Tony Martin**, in association with Dr Kevin Gosselin of Texas Tech University, USA, researched key ('threshold') concepts in relation to Avondale

staff development programs in online learning and teaching. The study resulted in two conference papers and two conference poster presentations with refereed abstracts. Dr Northcote has been in discussion with a senior academic interested in applying the research methodology in an Australian university. Dr Northcote also co-authored with three university researchers a journal article on the use of interactive whiteboards.

**Associate Professor Kevin de Berg** authored a refereed article and an international conference paper on aspects of the history of chemistry and their implications for learning and teaching. A further article is forthcoming. He co-authored with Rebecca Carruthers, an Avondale Bachelor of Education (Primary) honours student, a refereed article on the use of magnets to teach properties of forces to primary school students. He presented a conference paper on student understandings of solution concentration; and co-authored with Kerry Boddey a conference paper on the impact of Avondale's chemistry bridging course on nursing students' confidence in basic chemistry.

**Dr Cedric Greive** co-authored with **Associate Professor de Berg and Dr Peter Morey** a paper on the teaching of environmental issues in primary schools, presented at the 41st Australian Science Education Research Association Conference. He also presented a paper at the Sixth International Conference in Science, Mathematics and Technology Education in Taiwan.

**Beverly Christian** published a refereed article in the *Journal of Christian Education* on developing in pre-service teachers a nexus between a Christian worldview and the social sciences.

**Dr Keith Howson** presented a paper on the teaching of business ethics at the 22nd Asia-Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues, and also at the SDA Business Teachers' Conference at Andrews University, Michigan, USA. He presented a paper on the application of current technologies in teaching accounting at the 11th World Congress of Accounting Educators and Researchers in Singapore. At the same conference **Lyn Daff** presented a paper on lessons for accounting educators from the medical world.

Several Avondale staff members published refereed articles in Avondale's **Teach Journal of Christian Education**.

## RESEARCH IN HEALTH

**Dr Terry Butler** co-authored with international research teams five refereed articles in 2009 and 2010, including two papers related to the Adventist Health Study-2, one on religion and health, and one on relationships between vegetarian diet, body weight and type-2 diabetes. Dr Butler also presented a paper on health and Christian faith at the Christian Research National Roundtable, Melbourne.

**Dr Athena Sheehan's** collaborative research in midwifery, breastfeeding and neonatal intensive care produced five refereed articles, a book chapter and three conference presentations, two in the United Kingdom and one in South Africa. Dr Sheehan was also invited to participate in a multidisciplinary research workshop in Maryland USA, exploring contextual influences on women's breastfeeding decisions.

**Dr Alison Smedley** published three refereed articles in the field of nursing and health education, including one co-authored with **Dr Peter Morey**, and another co-authored with **Dr Morey and Dr Paul Race**, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Health. **Tonia Crawford**, a lecturer in the Faculty of Nursing and Health, also authored a refereed article on nurse education.

**Dr Darren Morton** published two refereed articles in the field of exercise science, including one co-authored with Professor Robin Callister of the University of Newcastle. He also co-authored a paper presented at the 4th Exercise and Sports Science Australia Conference in 2010.

**Dr Robyn Pearce** co-authored with a team of researchers a refereed article on under-nutrition in adolescent girls. She gave a poster presentation with refereed abstract at the National Conference of the Dietitians Association of Australia, Melbourne, pointing out the high sodium content in selected cheese products. She also co-authored the refereed abstract of a poster presentation at the Australian Health and Medical Conference, Melbourne, reporting the findings of a research team on polyunsaturated fatty acid levels in a cohort of Australian adolescents.

**Dr Ewan Ward** co-authored with four undergraduate science students a refereed article resulting from a student project on the biological and pathophysiological effects of alcohol consumption - a significant achievement for the students involved: Jodie Beecroft, Amanda Kemp, Sophie Lassila and Daniel Sheedy.

## RESEARCH IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

**Associate Professor Robert McIver** authored a chapter on the content and setting of the gospel tradition in the book *Archaeology in Galilee* (Eerdmans Publishing), co-edited by Dr Mark Harding, Dean of the Australian College of Theology, and Professor Alana Nobbs, Head of the Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University. McIver also presented a paper on the gospels at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

**Dr Steve Thompson** published in the *Journal of Religious History* an article contributing to the debate about which language Jesus spoke, by revealing the impact on the debate of anti-Semitism in nineteenth-century Germany. The article evoked considerable interest among scholars, the journal editor listing it as one of the five most-accessed articles published by the journal in 2010. Dr Thompson also authored two refereed articles on attitudes to alcohol use in the Greco-Roman world.

**Dr John Skrzypaszek and Dr Richard Ferret** contributed by invitation a well-received chapter on Ellen White, 'a visionary Seventh-day Adventist,' in the book *In the Land of Larks and Heroes. Australian Reflections on St Mary McKillop* (AFT Press). **Dr Ross Cole** published in a leading journal a review of a recent book about the prophecies of Israel's restoration in Ezekiel 36-39.

In addition to her books listed above, **Dr Jane Fernandez-Goldborough** authored a book chapter on the Australian author Richard Flanagan's best-selling work *The Sound of One Hand Clapping* (about Slovenian immigrants to Australia).

lia); delivered four conference presentations, including one in London and one in Cyprus; had a paper published in full in refereed conference proceedings; and published in a refereed journal a review of Carol Leon's literary monograph *Movement and Belonging* (Peter Lang, 2009).

**Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud's** research on Australian military history and the Anzac legend in Australian films produced a book chapter and two review articles. He also authored the chapter on Australian and New Zealand war cinema in *The Directory of World Cinema*, Vol. 3 (Intellect Press, Bristol, and Chicago University Press).

**Carolyn Rickett's** research on the therapeutic value of poetry writing workshops for patients with life-threatening illnesses informed a conference presentation co-authored with Associate Professor Jill Gordon (University of Sydney) at the 2nd International Arts and Health Conference, University of Melbourne. Carolyn Rickett also co-authored a conference presentation with Dr Sue Joseph (University of Technology Sydney), interrogating some of the ethical concerns that arise from students drawing on personal trauma in creative writing that is to be formally supervised and examined in educational institutions. The paper was presented at the Australian Association of Writing Programs Conference at RMIT University, Melbourne. A refereed abstract was published in the conference proceedings.

**Lyn Daff** published a refereed article on communication in the accounting profession and presented two conference papers on Christians in conversation, including one co-authored with marketing lecturer **Don Dickins**.

**Brad Watson** co-authored a refereed article on a program to treat uterine prolapse in Nepali women, and delivered a refereed conference paper on Adventist medical missionaries and development in Papua New Guinea.

**Dr Drene Somasundram**, chaplain on the Sydney campus, presented a conference paper on theological education viewed through the lifeworlds of clergy women.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

**Associate Professor Robert McIver** won a grant to fund accommodation and resources for three months' research in Tübingen, Germany, enabling him to complete two book manuscripts. The grant was awarded by Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst. McIver is also a member of a six-person team appointed by the Council of Deans of Theology, that was awarded an Australian Learning and Teaching Council grant of \$150,000 for research in 2010-2012 on the curriculum design and planning of undergraduate theological degrees.

**Dr Darren Morton** is a member of a four-person research team awarded a \$60,000 grant by the Counties Manukau District Health Board, New Zealand, to research Maori obesity.

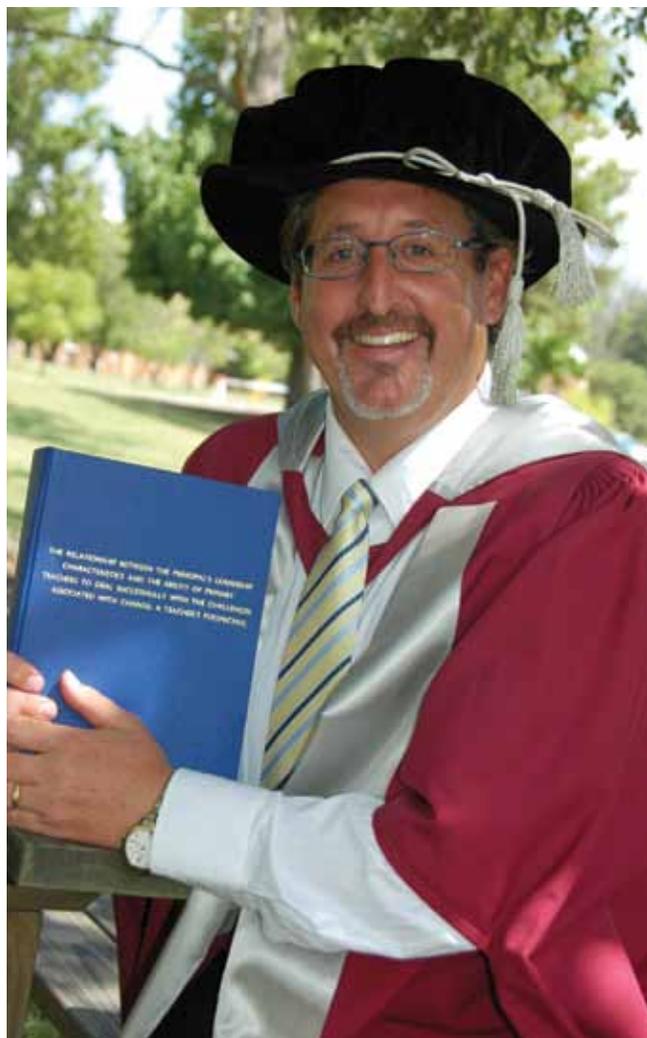
**Dr Jason Morton**, in association with **Associate Professor Kevin de Berg** and **Dr Ewan Ward**, has been awarded a Lake Macquarie City Council grant of \$13,000 to research the effects of beach cleaning on microfauna, macrofauna, microbial activity and nitrogen chemistry on beaches in the Lake Macquarie region.

**Brad Watson** has been awarded an Australasian Research Institute grant of \$5000 to research the treatment of uterine prolapse among Nepali women. He has also gained an Asian Aid grant of \$10,000 to review Asian Aid's child sponsorship program, in association with Helping Hand India.

## PHD COMPLETIONS

**Dr Andrew Matthes** of the Faculty of Education and Science completed doctoral research at the University of Newcastle on the relationship between principals' leadership characteristics and the ability of primary teachers to deal successfully with change. The research showed that teachers deal better with change when principals' leadership style is people oriented more than task oriented.

**Dr Kayle de Waal** of the Faculty of Arts and Theology completed doctoral research at the University of Auckland with a thesis entitled 'Trumpeting God's mercy: a socio-rhetorical interpretation of the seven trumpets [in Revelation].' The research will be published as a book by Edwin Mellen Press.



Dr Andrew Matthes with his PhD thesis. Photo credit: Ann Stafford

# Australasian Research Institute fosters collaboration in health research

In 2004 Avondale College of Higher Education, Sydney Adventist Hospital, and Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing jointly established the Australasian Research Institute (ARI) to coordinate health-related research in partnership with researchers in universities and other research organisations.

The ARI operates from offices in Avondale's Faculty of Nursing and Health at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, and Avondale staff have made a significant contribution to ARI's research projects.

'We seek to contribute via research to health and wellbeing in the community,' said ARI's Executive Director, Dr Ross Grant.

One collaborative project involving Avondale staff has been the ARI-sponsored research on teen health, investigating relationships between nutrition and teen lifestyle behaviours, including the possible impact of a vegetable-rich diet on adolescent health. The researchers found that cognitive function tends to be higher in adolescents who regularly eat a vegetarian diet.<sup>1</sup> The contribution of differences in socioeconomic status to these observed differences in cognitive function is being investigated. The study also compared the use of brain-power supplements by vegetarian and non-vegetarian adolescents. Significantly more of the vegetarian adolescents used vitamin B12 supplements. There were no significant differences between the vegetarians and non-vegetarians in regular use of a range of other nutrients and herbs promoted by health food shops to enhance cognitive function.

At a time when adolescent obesity is an increasing problem, the research on teen health showed that students on a vegetable-rich diet also had lower body mass index. One surprising finding was that regular consumption of nuts (irrespective of vegetarian status) is linked to lower body mass index, possibly through promotion of the osmotin receptor signalling (though this proposed mechanism needs to be verified).

Further research on adolescent females only showed that girls who routinely diet develop a biochemical profile indicative of chronic under-nutrition.<sup>2</sup> These young dieters had lower blood haemoglobin and lower calcium and alkaline phosphatase levels, suggesting lower bone mineralisation and risk of osteoporosis in older age. Results of these teen health studies have been published in refereed journals and reported in conference presentations.

Avondale staff are currently involved in collaborative research sponsored by the ARI exploring possible relationships between brain biology, food and adolescents' moods. The study is seeking to identify neurobiological correlates to depression in adolescents. One preliminary finding is that levels of the omega-3 fats for many of the adolescents are lower than is desirable. Low omega-3 is a known risk factor for the development of depression and other psycho-neural disorders.

Avondale staff are also involved with ARI investigating the use of caffeine and energy drinks in over 3000 adolescents. The study is significant because caffeine intake tends to



Ms Yvonne Chua, honours research student at the Australasian Research Institute.

heighten stress and anxiety, which in turn tends to promote depression.

Avondale staff are involved in two ARI-sponsored research projects relating to diabetes. One study is investigating levels in vegetarian and non-vegetarian adults of the protein molecule adipocytokine, high levels of which tend to protect against diabetes. A second study is researching relationships between insulin resistance and childhood diabetes.

A team including three Avondale staff members has published research assisted by an ARI grant on levels of psychological distress suffered by spouses and parents of people with severe traumatic brain injury. An Avondale project on the therapeutic value of creative writing workshops for cancer patients (see the autumn 2010 issue of *Reflections*) was also assisted by an ARI grant, as were all the research projects described in this article.

Grants are approved and projects monitored by a research advisory committee of twelve members, comprising six university researchers, two directors of centres for medical research, and four researchers from Avondale College of Higher Education and Sydney Adventist Hospital.

ARI is able to assist researchers by facilitating access to the healthcare, social development, and nutrition resources of Adventist universities and healthcare institutions internationally. ARI also conducts research for commercial bodies, including clinical efficacy studies and clinical therapeutic trials.

1 Grant R, Bilgin A, Zeuschner C, Guy T, Pearce R, Hokin B, Ashton J. The Relative Impact of a Vegetable-Rich Diet on Key Markers of Health in a Cohort of Australian Adolescents. *Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 2008;17(1):107-115.

2 Guest J, Bilgin A, Pearce R, Baines S, Zeuschner C, Morris M, Grant C, Grant R. Evidence for Under Nutrition in Adolescent Females using Routine Dieting Practices. *Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 2010;19(4): 526-533.

# Introducing nursing lecturer Sonja Frischknecht

Sonja Frischknecht joined the staff on Avondale's Sydney campus in 2008. She came with a passion for mission, having spent twelve years on the west coast of Africa with Mercy Ships – an international organisation of volunteers, developmental workers and health professionals who offered medical, surgical and relief aid, using ships to mobilise resources and workers to needy nations.

'I had always been an idealist with a passion for justice,' Sonja wrote in a recent blog. 'I had wanted to stand up for the weak, speak for those who have no voice, and express kindness and respect to those who'd been beaten down, whether through poverty, disease or war. Suddenly in West Africa I discovered a field for service.'

The first three months in Africa left an indelible impression on her mind. 'I quickly discovered,' she wrote, 'that the commonplace things I had blithely taken for granted in Australia – access to clean water, health care, education, resources – set me massive distances apart from the majority of the world's population – particularly as a woman.'

'As a charge nurse on a 40-bed ward in a hospital ship, my responsibilities at times felt overwhelming. I was exposed to desperation and need beyond my saddest imaginings. Yet daily we tasted the rewards: a child who'd been blind, now able to see his parents; life-stealing tumours removed; clinics built; local health workers trained; water and sanitation projects; lives changed by the compassionate action of others and the amazing, unconditional love of God. I saw each aspect of our work making vibrant difference in people's lives.'

In time, Sonja came to lead a staff of ninety in the Health Care Services Department and served on the ship's leadership and management team. Her role included assessing the needs of villages and liaising with ministers of health in various countries before the ship's arrival in order to offer the most appropriate services.

'My first three months on the mercy ship ignited a flame in me that I doubt will ever wane,' she said. After many years of front-line mission work, she has a vision to inspire Avondale nursing students with a passion for mission service in



Sonja Frischknecht reassures a child in Benin, West Africa, after resuscitating the girl's sister who had suffered a cardiac arrest on the roadside.

developing countries. To this end, she recently took a group of senior nursing students from Avondale's Sydney campus to Atoifi Adventist Hospital in the Solomon Islands for a two-week program of clinical experience and health education service (see page 14).

From now on Sonja intends to provide an annual opportunity for senior nursing students to catch the inspiration for mission service and to develop their personal and professional skills in a learning project in the South Pacific.

## God's call still moves

God has amazing ways of leading people into his service.

**Michael Lilikakis** was a professional footballer with international experience before being called to Avondale. In 1990 he received a contract to play soccer for South Melbourne Hellas – every Greek kid's dream! After five years with the club he moved to Greece, where he played professional football for a year. After returning to Australia he moved to the Northern Territory, in time becoming head of the then Central Australian Soccer Association.

His professional football career ended with a knee injury from a motorbike accident in Alice Springs. While living in The Alice Michael joined the local Adventist Church, becoming active in youth ministry. But a personal crisis led in time to a decline in his spiritual life.

Then he met an English girl who was backpacking in Australia. They fell in love, began living together, and had a baby girl. Michael had stopped attending church and was embarrassed to go back because he felt that after leaving the church, he wouldn't be accepted. However, his partner Joanne began asking questions about the Adventist books he was reading. She also observed him praying. In response to her questions about Christianity, he started reading Bible stories to her from his books.

After moving to Melbourne they decided to attend church, Joanne taking Bible lessons from the church pastor. The church members were warm and receptive, and Michael and Joanne grew in faith, becoming active in church life. They married in 2007.

In Melbourne Michael started a successful goalkeeper academy with thirty-five kids from various football clubs in training. He was good at it, like everything else he had worked for, but somehow felt empty doing it. He had often talked about going to Avondale, but had never been able to make up his mind. One night Joanne said with some vehemence, 'Why don't you do it!' At first he thought of the difficulties – until God stepped in.

One day while Michael was driving his car a voice said unmistakably: 'I want you to go to Avondale.' After wavering for some time, he asked God for an incontrovertible sign. Within minutes an SMS message appeared on his mobile phone from a person who had invited him to preach the previous week. 'I don't know why I'm writing this,' he said, 'but I had a sudden urge to tell you that you need to go to Avondale.' Soon afterwards Michael and Joanne were baptised and decided to go to Avondale.

Michael is now in his third year of ministerial training. 'Avondale has been a wonderful experience,' he said. 'The course of study, while challenging, has been a real eye-opener.' His practical ministry training has involved him in a nearby church as assistant youth pastor and as a member of the personal ministry team. After graduating Michael would love to take up youth ministry.



Michael Liikakis with football trophy.

**Gustav Hoffman** left a career in the music industry to study for the ministry at Avondale. With exceptional talent in piano and voice, Michael had made music the all-consuming centre of his life – until one day a stranger called at his door with a leaflet advertising a series of seminars on prophecy. Gustav had grown up in a new age environment and was fascinated by the idea of predicting the future; so he went to the seminars in the Galston Adventist Church, Sydney.

From his early childhood his father had spoken of the need to discover God, and as the seminars progressed, Gustav realised Christ was the One he had been searching for all his life. One evening as the seminar speaker told of the love of Christ, Gustav responded, 'I accept the consciousness of Christ into my mind and heart.' He felt a physical sensation of peace pouring into his heart and mind, which he described as 'like warm water melting a block of ice.' At home that night he reaffirmed his decision, and experienced again the sensation of warmth and peace he had felt during the seminar. He started reading the Bible every day, looking for flaws at first, but with growing conviction.

In time he began to feel vaguely unsatisfied in the music industry, questioning the direction his life was taking. The Galston minister suggested that God might have other plans for his life. About this time he attended some seminars by Louis Torres, a pastor, evangelist, and vice-president of the Institute of Mission, California, who had himself left the music industry for the ministry. Before his conversion, Torres had skyrocketed to fame as lead bass player of the rock bands 'The Vampires' and 'Bill Haley and the Comets.' After hearing Gustav's story, Torres astounded him with the words, 'You too should become a minister!' – a call that later came with increasing conviction.

For some time Gustav resisted. Sony-BMG had offered him a song-writing contract that seemed too good an opportunity to forego. But one day someone in the studio said to him, 'What would you do if you had a million dollars?' Gustav surprised himself and astonished his questioner with the answer that came out: 'I'd go to Avondale and study for the ministry.' In July 2008 he applied to Avondale and was accepted.

Now in the third year of his studies, Gustav performs music as part of his ministry. For practical ministry training he was assigned to the Toronto Adventist Church, where he became teen leader, coordinating weekend teen programs and conducting baptismal studies. He is now at the Central Coast Community Church.

# Atoifi project inspires nursing students for mission service

In October 2010 a group of final-year nursing students from Avondale's Sydney campus caught a fresh vision of humanitarian service during a two-week clinical placement at the Atoifi Adventist Hospital in the Solomon Islands. The group, led by nursing lecturer Sonja Frischknecht, included seven final-year nursing students and the husband of one of the students, himself a registered nurse.

The objectives of the trip were to apply students' knowledge and clinical skills under very different conditions from their previous clinical education, to develop flexibility in adapting to a challenging clinical environment, to gain experience in cross-cultural relationships, and to catch an enlarged vision of human need and a passion for making a difference.

Atoifi Hospital is situated on a remote inlet on the east coast of Malaita. There is currently no access by road; supplies are flown to a grass airstrip about 1.5 km from the hospital. Patients arrive by dugout canoe or by foot over the mountains. The region includes a people group (the Kwaio) who are still devil worshippers. In the past forty years two expatriate staff of the hospital have lost their lives to violence from this group of people, who resented the presence of Christianity in their area. In recent times several hospital staff have learned the Kwaio language and regularly walk up the mountain to conduct health clinics and evangelistic meetings among these people.

Atoifi is one of only five hospitals in the Solomons. Serving a population of 80,000, the hospital has ninety beds (fifty occupied during the students' visit), a school of nursing, and an outpatient clinic; it also operates clinics in surrounding villages. It is staffed by a doctor, a pharmacist, a director of nursing and two registered nurses who are assisted on the wards by student nurses. The hospital's school of nursing, with about forty students, offers a three-year diploma that provides half the nursing graduates in the Solomons. Atoifi graduates are highly regarded.

Four hours after leaving Sydney the Avondale students found themselves in an environment where life expectancy at birth is a little over 60 and childhood mortality is 66 in every 1000. Major health issues include malaria, tropical ulcers, burns, respiratory infections, common childhood diseases, and diarrhoeal diseases (the leading cause of death in children under five). Wounds are common in an area where even children carry machetes.

The Avondale group engaged in clinical work, patient care, nurse training, community health education, and health screening and vaccinations in local schools. Students were involved in cannulation, wound care, treatment of burns, lancing/draining of abscesses, injecting local anaesthetic, dispensing medicines, triage diagnosis of outpatients, and assisting with childbirth deliveries. The group had many opportunities to share their faith in Jesus.



Treating burns patient: (L to R) Fiona Watkins, Michelle Chalcker, Lynelle King, Sonja Frischknecht, Peter Demol.

The students learned to cope with very significant challenges in conditions radically different from what they were used to in Australia. Atoifi depends on donated medical supplies, and a serious shortage of basic resources impedes clinical practice. There was little diagnostic equipment, X-ray equipment was not functioning, the autoclave operated on only two days per week, and aseptic treatment and infection control are difficult. Power outages often make the wards very dark, and late at night babies are delivered by torchlight. Students and staff worked in 35-degree temperatures and near 100 per cent humidity. In this climate tape will not stick to sweaty skin, wounds do not heal easily, and infections spread rapidly.

Students had to use their ingenuity to devise alternative ways of doing things when methods they were used to were not available, and they learned to function more autonomously than they would expect to do in an Australian hospital. They were also thrust into roles they would not normally have encountered as nurses in Australia. They adapted to the challenges with flexibility and maturity, applying their classroom learning to the new conditions quickly and effectively.

Among the more serious cases treated by the group was an epileptic woman who had fallen face down into a fire, and who arrived at the hospital by canoe eight hours later with extensive burns to the face, respiratory tract and upper body. Amazingly, she lived. Another day a woman in labour was brought in by canoe and gave birth at the wharf before help could arrive from the hospital. The baby was suffering severe oxygen deprivation, so Sonja Frischknecht ran with the baby 500 metres up the hill to the hospital's oxygen equipment while Avondale students assisted in delivering the placenta. The group saw miraculous recoveries of people who would not normally have survived; but they were also saddened



Arrival in Atoifi.



Sonja Frischknecht with the baby born at the wharf.

by others who slipped away because necessary supplies or technology were unavailable.

During their stay in Atoifi the students' experiences led to group discussions with their lecturer about life and death, disease and suffering, poverty and injustice, and the love and grace of God. Sonja Frischknecht reported that each of the students grew in their knowledge of God, their love for Jesus and their excitement for involvement in mission. 'The satisfaction of making such a difference to people's lives outweighed the difficulties and challenges, and the students' passion for mission service grew noticeably as the time went on,' she said. One of the satisfying things about the trip, she said, was 'the encouragement it brought to the small group of faithful (and somewhat forgotten) staff at Atoifi who offer health care in the name of Jesus.'

The students' comments on returning to Sydney included the following: 'We have all grown; it was a life-changing experience.' 'We learned to adapt to the situation and the need

to provide the best care with what you have.' 'I learned how much strength I have and how much knowledge I possess that is not routinely used.' 'I learned to increase my faith.' 'I came back hungry for more mission work; I developed so much in my spirituality.'

Commenting on the students' experience at Atoifi, Avondale's President, Dr Ray Roennfeldt, said: 'Living for oneself is not enough; living to be the hands of God in the world is so important. This is the kind of experience Avondale wants to foster.'

The trip has led to various media opportunities, including a half-hour interview on radio Rhema FM and an Adventist Media Network interview. In 2010 Sonja Frischknecht completed a Master of Nursing thesis analysing the project, its educational significance, and students' responses to the experience. Examiners have recently assessed the thesis to be of first class honours standard.



Group worship: (L to R) Michelle Chalker, Loring Kwon, Peter Demol, Lauren Demol, Lynelle King, Sonja Frischknecht.

## Inspired to serve

Service opportunities inspire Avondale students, many of whom are strongly motivated by the vision of a needy world and the desire to make a difference.

### PHILIPPINES

Last summer the Avondale student organisation One Mission sent twenty-three volunteers to the Philippines. They ran a kids' club with 200-300 children and an evangelistic program each evening attended by 300-400 adults and up to 150 children. They also built a children's playground at a local Adventist school, commenced work on a multi-purpose covered outdoor learning area for the school, ran feeding programs for school children in six surrounding villages, renovated a public high school library, and ran a children's Christmas program at an orphanage. The students raised over \$30,000 for these projects in addition to their airfares. The evangelistic series, with three students sharing the preaching, climaxed with a baptism of thirty people. The students' work made a significant impact. A tearful grandmother said, 'You gave our community hope; where would our children be if you hadn't come?'



Kids' club in the Philippines. Photo credit: Colin Chuang



Jasmine Lynch with Philippine children. Photo credit: Colin Chuang

### SOLOMON ISLANDS

Fifteen One Mission volunteers spent three weeks in the Solomons constructing a nurses' residence for a health clinic in a remote village on Guadalcanal. The clinic was completed eight years ago, but was not yet operational because there was no residence for nursing staff. An Avondale One Mission team commenced the residence last year, and this year's team completed the roof, exterior walls, flooring and interior walls. The group is now fundraising for the \$25,000 still needed to provide electrical and plumbing work, interior fixtures and fittings, and solar power. (Contact the chaplain on the Lake Macquarie campus for details). When operational, the clinic will greatly benefit the local people, who now have to walk for hours to reach the nearest hospital.

In the evenings the group conducted an evangelistic program attended by up to 250 people, and group members shared their experience of Christ on a one-to-one basis. A team member with paramedic experience provided education in health and hygiene as well as treatments within the scope of his expertise. The group grew spiritually as they prayed about the challenges of their project and talked together about spiritual things.



Solomons project: start of work in 2011.

### ZIMBABWE

In July 2010 six Avondale students conducted evangelistic programs in separate locations in and around Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe. The result was a total of 261 baptisms. Joseph Mapuur, studying International Development Studies at Avondale, initiated the trip, managing the financial and other arrangements. Most of the six students had never run an evangelistic campaign before. Second-year theology student Adam Tonkin said, 'I was blown away by the response. I felt the Lord had given me this experience so that I could see him work. I learned more reliance on God and less on self.' Bekezela Sibanda was overjoyed to bring people to Christ in the country of his birth. Joseph Mapuur said, 'It was inspiring to see people committing their lives to Jesus.' Gideon Kang described it as 'a life-changing experience. I will accept every invitation to participate in evangelism from now on,' he said. Laufili Ah You said, 'I saw the Holy Spirit move far beyond my previous imagining. I came, I saw, I'm on fire!'



Joseph Mapuur (R) preaching in Zimbabwe

### INDONESIA

Seven students spent part of their summer vacation teaching English in Indonesian high schools. They also had opportunity to discuss with religious leaders in the schools some of the common ground between Muslim and Adventist lifestyle and beliefs, and to dialogue with school students about spirituality. They were well received in the community.

### STORMCO MINISTRY

In July 2010 about fifty students conducted StormCo projects (Service to Others Really Matters) in three remote towns in the north-west of New South Wales: Moree, Gwabegar and Goodooga. The groups ran a children's program each morning and community projects for the towns in the afternoons. The Moree group, for example, ran with the theme 'Jesus is our lifesaver.' The three towns have a significant indigenous population that especially appreciated the work done for their children.

# Undergraduates showcase their research

Thirty-one undergraduate students showcased their research at a one-day conference at Avondale last November entitled **Critical Issues in the 21st Century**. The conference was a new initiative highlighting the importance Avondale places on developing research capability right from undergraduate level.

The conference was the brain-child of **Dr Jane Fernandez-Goldborough**, senior lecturer in English in the Faculty of Arts and Theology. In her opening remarks, she observed that the conference was intended to further Avondale's objectives to build a research culture, to develop the nexus between teaching and research, and to build a community that makes learning cooperative and innovative.

Students and teachers at Avondale are encouraged to consider how to turn their learning/teaching into research items, how to extend their research skills, and how to benefit the community through research. Research topics are developed in discussion between staff and students, and students are encouraged to produce publishable products. **Kiel Winch**, a student presenter and member of the organising committee, described the conference as 'a historic event in the life of Avondale – a chance to step into the higher world.'

The conference presentations, some of which are summarised below, focused on a range of key contemporary issues, including the environment, gender, education, and issues in society, culture and religion. Many of the findings have significance for the Christian church.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

**Miranda Leijser** explored the role Christians can play in modelling ecological awareness. **Sarah-Jo Huber** challenged some less than satisfactory Christian attitudes to climate change, suggesting alternative approaches compatible with scientific findings and biblical admonition. **Kirsten Bolinger** discussed environmental problems in the event industry, proposing sustainable solutions for event management. **Lee Hancock** explored ways in which teachers can contribute to the development of ecologically literate students by engaging with nature outside the classroom. Environmental sustainability is one of the Australian government's National Research Priorities.

## GENDER

**Ben Reynolds** examined the identity of Junia (or Junias?), described in Romans 16:7 as 'prominent among the apostles.' The Greek form of the name is ambiguous, with the result that some English versions of the Bible translate it as the feminine Junia, others as the masculine Junias. Reynolds showed that linguistic and historical evidence strongly favours the feminine Junia. Historical evidence also supports Junia's identity as an apostle.

**Bethany Turner** examined the passage in Deuteronomy 21:10-14 about the treatment of brides captured in war, arguing that in a culture where women typically had few rights, this law was compassionate in its concern for the welfare and rights of the woman.

**Daniel Mateo** examined in their biblical and cultural contexts Paul's instructions about women in 1 Corinthians 11

and 1 Timothy 2. He argued that Paul's advice that women should cover their heads (1 Corinthians 11:5, 6) was understandable in a culture where the women who went uncovered were typically prostitutes or elderly. Mateo pointed out that Paul's advice about women in this chapter must be read in the context of his pivotal statement about the equality of the sexes in verses 11 and 12. Mateo argued further that Paul's advice that women should not teach (1 Timothy 2:12) must be read in the light of Paul's commendation of Phoebe as deacon (Romans 16:1) – a role which in the early church included preaching, evangelism and pastoral care.

**Nikkari Parker** researched the pressures that church expectations place on ministers, their spouses and children, exploring pathways to facilitate support and pastoral care for ministers' families.

## EDUCATION

**Kimberley Sharman** researched student attitudes to interactive white boards in schools and the implications for children's engagement with learning. **Mandi Hill** researched the effectiveness of partnering students of different age levels in a tutor-tutee relationship. She found that most students in the school where the research was conducted enjoyed the tutoring program, which contributed to enhanced self-confidence, self-esteem and self-efficacy among participants. **Kiel Winch** explored the key arguments and positions in debates surrounding the teaching of history in Australia, and investigated the potential for more effective and innovative teaching of the subject. **Brooke Pellegrino** and **Rosanna Laredo** explored ways of integrating spiritual values into teaching in Christian schools.

## SOCIETY AND CULTURE

**Joseph Mapuor** undertook a critical examination of efforts to reduce poverty, hunger and disease within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals. **Rebekah Bamford** and **Jotham Kingston** examined issues relating to cross-cultural prejudice.

## RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

**Kiel Winch** examined various ways in which non-believers have conceived of religious belief, comparing three historical theorists (Freud, Marx, Durkheim) with the views of two contemporary atheists (Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens). **Hannah Bennett** studied spirituality in the work of the Indian poet Kahlil Gibran.

The papers were generally of excellent standard. The conference program included the following note by the external moderator of Avondale's English program, Dr Tony Simoes da Silva, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies in the Faculty of Arts, University of Wollongong: 'Having read many of your English papers over the last eighteen months, I have been very impressed with the quality of the writing, the maturity of the reasoning and the willingness to take risks in your responses to the material.' The same could be said of most of the papers presented at the conference.

# Avondale's practical ministry education interests world church

The international *Ministry* journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church commissioned an article for its July 2010 issue showcasing to the world church Avondale's program of practical ministry education. The article was written by senior lecturers **Dr Doug Robertson** and **Dr Murray House**, co-directors of Avondale's practical ministry program.

Avondale's theology students apply what they have learned in the classroom by engaging in actual ministry experience. Students are assigned to local churches where, under the supervision of seasoned pastors, they develop skills in various ministry roles. They are then helped to reflect on their ministry activities and apply the resulting insights in ongoing ministry activities.

In their first year students are assigned to the Avondale College Church, and thereafter to churches in the Newcastle, Central Coast and Sydney regions. The third year of the course incorporates an externship of at least two weeks, where the student engages in continuous intensive ministry with an experienced pastor.

'I've been able to see what pastors do and how they work,' said 2010 graduate **Kelly Fry**. 'A church placement is really getting a feel for what full-time ministry is all about. Being with a church has kept my sense of calling relevant.'

The education in practical ministry covers six key focus areas: (1) personal development for ministry; (2) relationships with people in family, church and community; (3) proclamation of the gospel through teaching and preaching; (4) pastoral care; (5) evangelism and discipleship; and (6) leadership.

During 2010 Avondale's student ministers gave 880 Bible studies, took 86 evangelistic meetings, preached 549 sermons, and were involved in preparing 114 people for baptism.

The School of Theology has developed an evangelistic partnership with the Avondale Memorial Church in a population growth area on the Central Coast. **Pastor Loren Pratt** contributed to this initiative, training students in door-to-door *Signs* ministry in the area. The Lake Macquarie campus chaplain, **Dr Wayne French**, also guides theology students in mentoring teenagers at the Avondale High School. 'It gives the students experience in building relationships with teenagers, which is a vital part of their future ministry,' says Dr French. Students are also involved in ministry for fellow students, **James London** and **Daniel Roberts**, for example, initiating an early-morning prayer meeting on the Lake Macquarie campus.

Third-year theology student **Brock Goodall** has been learning church planting with Pastor Wayne Krause at the Central Coast Community Church. Brock runs a program for previously unchurched teenagers in the Wyong community. In 2010 the South Australian Conference invited him to be the main speaker at a junior summer camp. He would love to get into church planting.

2010 ministerial graduate **James Moncrieff** was assigned for his externship to the Gateway church, Melbourne, and was excited by Gateway's vibrant ministry for university students. Gateway meets in a lecture theatre at the University of Melbourne, has established a church plant at Swinburne University, and has a presence at Victoria and Monash

Universities. Gateway also runs a training centre in central Melbourne with many people engaged in Bible studies. A high proportion of the church members are actively engaged in outreach.

Commitment to ministry motivates some students far beyond the requirements of their course. In the past two and a half years **William Moala** has conducted three evangelistic campaigns – two in Tonga and one in Auckland, with a total of thirty-three baptisms. In January 2011 **Bekezela Sibanda** ran a two-week evangelistic program in the south of India, resulting in fifteen baptisms. In 2010 he ran an evangelistic program in his home country of Zimbabwe with 78 baptisms. 2009 graduate **Fred Chileshe** commenced ministry while waiting for an internship, conducting a prophecy seminar at the Ryde Church, Sydney that produced four baptisms. He has subsequently received a one-year ministerial contract at Erina Church on the central coast of New South Wales.



Brock Goodall at the Central Coast Community Church



Baptism from Bekezela Sibanda's program in India



William Moala preaching in Tonga

## Meet the high achievers

Each November Avondale honours high achieving students at a ceremony on the Lake Macquarie campus. At the end of 2010 *Reflections* interviewed a number of these students and found them to be of exceptional calibre. In addition to academic and/or professional achievement, most had engaged in service for others and most had embraced student leadership opportunities. They appreciated Avondale's Christian values, the quality of education they had received, and the lifelong friendships they developed. All were on a path to promising careers.

Secondary teaching graduate **Chris Starrett** had given outstanding leadership as head residence assistant (2010). He was strongly involved in community service, including StormCo trips to Mozambique in Africa and to remote NSW towns; leadership in Avondale's Regen[eration] church program; leadership in a mountain biking and adventure club for community youth; and leadership in a program to help needy people in the local area. 'Some of my best memories of Avondale,' he said, 'are of student leadership in spiritual activities, particularly Bible study and prayer groups in the men's residence.' He received prizes for overall excellence and community service.



Chris Starrett (L) and Hannah (Rowe) Barrett (R) received prizes for overall excellence, presented by Dale Williams of Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing (C). Photo credit: Ann Stafford

**Ashlie Biega**, who received the prize for secondary education, joined a service team from her local church to assist at a medical base in Sulawesi, Indonesia, where there was a children's home, a nurse training centre and a leprosy unit. She also participated in Avondale's StormCo programs.

**Justin Fraser**, who received the prize for excellence in primary teaching, thought the best things about Avondale were friendships and opportunities for service. In 2006 he participated in a 5-week service program in Cambodia that he described as 'a life-changing experience.' In 2009-2010 he took a break from study to teach for a term at the Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre in Western Australia and then for six months at the Wat Preah Yesu orphanage in Cambodia. He has also taken leadership roles in the Young Adults Network Sabbath School, StormCo trips, and the 'Tools' program for needy people in the community.

**Michelle Hawke**, who received the prize for early childhood education, appreciated Avondale's small classes and the high level of hands-on professional experience in her course. Her desire to become a teacher was cemented in 2002 by a trip she undertook with her parents to assist in a school in Bali. She was also a leader in the 'Tools' community service program (2008-2010).

**Hannah (Rowe) Barrett**, who received the Bachelor of Business prize and a prize for overall excellence, served in a responsible position in Avondale's Enquiry and Enrolment Centre. 'I loved marketing Avondale by developing a personal relationship with prospective students,' she said.

Theology graduate **Raymond Moaga** has a gift for working with youth. He has a TAFE Diploma in Youth Work, and before coming to Avondale worked with kids in state care. He was strongly involved in youth ministry at the Gateway Church, Cooranbong; hosted the high school tent at the North New South Wales campmeeting in 2007; and was chosen as the speaker for a primary school week of prayer in Adelaide in 2010. He was awarded the Graham Miller Prize for Youth Ministry.

Theology graduate **Paul Kleinmeulan** came to Avondale with a Bachelor of Applied Science degree, having developed his own internet marketing business. 'The theology course affirmed my faith and call to ministry,' he said. He was attracted to evangelism during his ministry practicums and gained a vision for planting a new church. He received the Bill Marr Institute of Public Evangelism Prize.

**Shelley Poole** received the Bachelor of Arts prize, graduating in Visual Communication. She was *Jacaranda* editor in 2010, and in 2011 has remained at Avondale studying for the Master of Arts (Research) degree.

**Amanda Kemp**, who received the Bachelor of Science prize, loved the spiritual atmosphere at Avondale, friendship with other Christians, small classes and friendly, helpful lecturers. She is now studying for a master's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of Wollongong.



Justin Fraser (3rd from R) with 'Tools' community service volunteers.

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Register at [www.avondale.edu.au/homecoming](http://www.avondale.edu.au/homecoming)