



Music for royal occasions
New nursing building
Research by senior scholars
Students' vision for service

New Faculty of Nursing and Health building

A new teaching facility for the Faculty of Nursing and Health is under construction on the Sydney campus, with an expected completion date of June 2013.

The new building, located in the Sydney Adventist Hospital grounds west of the former Wahroonga Adventist Primary School, will have a floor area of 3500 square metres on three levels. It will contain two lecture theatres seating 200 students each, with a dividing wall that can be opened to provide a venue seating 400. A clinical training lab, twice the size of the present lab, will replicate two hospital wards. A simulation centre will replicate an operating theatre and a critical care unit. There will also be clinical skills classrooms, tutorial rooms and rooms for small-group problem-based learning.

The complex will house Avondale's Sydney campus library, as well as a student common room, staff offices and meeting rooms. Technology will maximize information sharing, interdisciplinary teaching and inter-institutional teaching and document access. The \$17-million complex is being constructed with funding from federal and state governments.

The new building will cater for Avondale's growing enrolment of nursing students – 335 in first semester 2012. Because the Sydney Adventist Hospital is a teaching hospital of the University of Sydney, the new building will also be used by medical and allied health students from the University. Avondale students and University of Sydney students will meet together for some clinical learning experiences. Dr Paul Race, dean of Avondale's Faculty of Nursing and Health, says the resulting interaction should "improve students' understanding of different health service roles, making it easier for nurses, doctors and allied health professionals to work as a team."

Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek described this learning model as "the way of the future" in her speech during the groundbreak-

ing ceremony in June 2012. Also present were NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner and local federal and state members Paul Fletcher and Barry O'Farrell, the NSW State Premier.

Avondale president Dr Ray Roennfeldt invited attendees to "imagine the potential of a partnership between a private hospital that models Christianity in action, a university that focuses on the power of the mind, and a private higher education provider inspiring its students with a greater vision of world needs."



Architects' models of the new building

Alumni Association elects new president

At the 2012 Homecoming, the Avondale Alumni Association elected as its new president Cornelius Szeszeran, a local business person and a former school principal. Cornelius replaces Pastor Desmond Hills, who has served as Association president for the past three years.

The Association also elected two new vice presidents: Janet Rieger, former director of children's ministries for the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; and Allyson Allen, a former nurse and flight attendant.

Purposes of the Alumni Association

- To maintain contact with Avondale alumni;
- To facilitate interaction among alumni;
- To engage alumni in supporting Avondale, its students and its mission;
- To involve alumni as ambassadors for Avondale.

The Association helps alumni maintain contact with Avondale and with one another via *Reflections* magazine and the annual Homecoming weekend. The Association also seeks to foster a spirit of service and philanthropy towards Avondale. This year's appeal, for example, has been for donations to renovate and refurbish the historic music hall and Greer Building.

A new initiative developed this year is a plan to form regional chapters to advance the aims of the Association in local areas. The regional chapters will engage alumni to be ambassadors for Avondale, promoting and supporting the College, its students and its mission.

Who are Avondale alumni?

- All past students of Avondale (not just graduates)
- Present and past staff members of Avondale
- Present and past Avondale Council members

Benefits available to Avondale alumni

- Avondale alumni may borrow books from the Avondale Library.
- A database purchased by the Library gives Avondale alumni free online access to more than 205 religion and theology journals. ATLASerials for Alum features the full text of more than 370,000 articles and book reviews on archaeology, the Bible, ecumenism, ethics, missions, pastoral ministry, philosophy, religion, society and theology. Access to the database is available on and off campus,

but requires a username and password supplied by the Library.

- Alumni have access to the resources of the Ellen G White Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre and the Adventist Heritage Centre on the Lake Macquarie campus.
- *Reflections* magazine is mailed to alumni who register their contact details with the Association. Past issues of *Reflections* may be accessed by clicking the **Reflections** button on the home page of the Avondale website (www.avondale.edu.au).

Please notify the Alumni Association secretary if your address has changed, so that we can continue to send you *Reflections* magazine. Tel. 02 4980 2252. Email: alumni@avondale.edu.au.



Retiring Alumni Association president Pastor Desmond Hills (L) chats with newly elected president Cornelius Szeszeran. Photo: Ann Stafford

Increased options for Bachelor of Arts students

Avondale's Bachelor of Arts students now have virtually unlimited options from which to choose their major field(s) of study. They may now select any major offered at Avondale or any other higher education institution accessible by online, distance, or face-to-face learning. A major studied via another institution can be credited to the student's Avondale program.

These provisions extend the choice of majors already available in Avondale's Bachelor of Arts degree: Communication, Chaplaincy, English, Geography, History, International Poverty and Development Studies, Music, Photomedia, Psychology, Religious Studies, Visual Arts, and Visual Communication (includes Graphic Design).

Concert crowns 2012 Homecoming



1992 students enjoy their class reunion, with Joseteki Talemaitoga the centre of attention. Photo: Ann Stafford

A concert of music for royal occasions crowned a series of outstanding programs at the 2012 Avondale Homecoming in August. The concert, marking the diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, featured music composed for royal events, music relating to royal occasions in the Bible, and music adoring the King of Kings. The program showcased the Avondale Chamber Orchestra, the Avondale Singers, the Promise ensemble, the College's wind and jazz ensembles, and local soloists and guest performers.

Emotions soared as Avondale's music director, Aleta King, brought Alan Thrift to the podium to conduct the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah as the concert finale. Alan Thrift, whose choral work has been widely acclaimed, was director of music at Avondale from 1957 to 1990.

Homecoming honourees

Dr Mary Wong, a graduate of 1962, was honoured as Alumna of the Year. Mary is a representative of the 50 students from Asia who made up 11 per cent of Avondale's enrolment in 1962. After graduating from Avondale, she gained a masters degree in English from Andrews University, Michigan, USA, and a PhD from Michigan State University. She has devoted most of her working life to Adventist educa-



1962 honouree Dr Mary Wong (L) with Merryl Smith, who presented the award. Photo: Ann Stafford

tion, including positions as chair of the English departments at Southeast Asia College, Singapore (1971-1976, 1980 and 1987-1994) and Taiwan Adventist College (1981-1986). She also held positions as a department director for the Adventist Church's Northern Asia Pacific Division (1997-2002) and as a lecturer at San Jose State University, California (2003-2007).

Pastor Desmond Hills was honoured as Alumnus of the Year for his 41 years of ministry at all levels of the church. His career included positions as youth director at conference, union conference, division and General Conference levels; and as president of the North New Zealand Conference and the Trans-Australia Union Conference. In his retirement he has been a tireless volunteer promoting *Signs of the Times* throughout Australia and the South Pacific. He has also volunteered as a church pastor in Los Angeles (four times), Esperance and Broken Hill. For the past seven years he has been a committee member of the Avondale Alumni Association, the last three as Association president.

Dr Owen Hughes was honoured as an Adventist educator of distinction. His career included positions as a school principal in Samoa, head of Avondale's Faculty of Education, associate director of education for the South Pacific Division, and vice-chancellor of Pacific Adventist University. One of his most significant scholarly contributions was his work on the design and implementation of the first Valuegenesis study in the South Pacific Division, which gave the church a more accurate understanding than previously of the faith development and value formation of its young adults. The publication of the study in 1993 led to significant additional research by others.

Eight other alumni, one from each honour year, also received awards: retired church administrator Keith Irvine (1942),

retired engineer Ray Masters (1952), retired primary teacher Hazel Eaton (1962), business people and founders of Sonship Trevor and Helen Oliver (1972), outdoor recreation lecturer David Low (1982), founders of Captivating International Foundation Andrew and Julie Colquhoun (1987), primary teacher Joyanne Walsh (1992), and Walkley Award-winning journalist Kristina Kukolja (2002).

Alumni Lecture

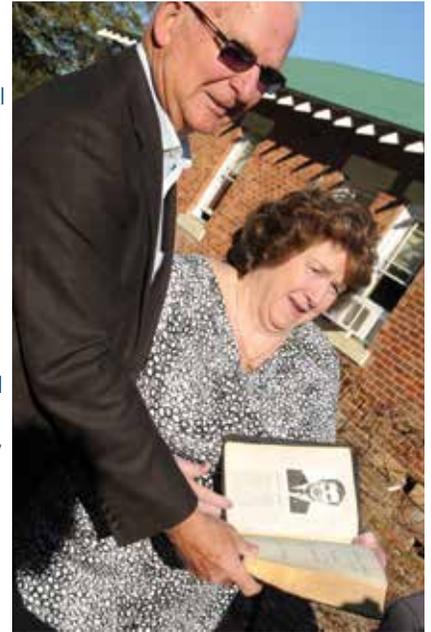
The 2012 Alumni Lecture was delivered by Dr Cedric Greive, a senior lecturer in Avondale's School of Education, who retired this year after a career of 48 years. Dr Greive spoke on the intricate functioning of memory in the human brain as evidence that we are indeed "wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).



Outstanding educators: Dr Cedric Greive (L) and Dr Owen Hughes (R). Photo: Ann Stafford

Dedication of the Alumni Memorial Prayer Garden

The Avondale Alumni Association has established a prayer garden on the Lake Macquarie campus memorialising those who died while studying or working at Avondale. The garden and memorial were funded by the Ray Wilson family in memory of son Raymond Wilson Jr., who drowned in the surf during an Avondale picnic at Caves Beach, south of Newcastle, in April 1963. During the dedication ceremony Robert Hansford, Raymond's former roommate, described Raymond as a man of prayer who maintained an enviable academic record, worked to pay his fees, enjoyed



Robert Hansford and Marilyn Schriever, sister of the late Raymond Wilson Jr., hold Raymond's Bible at the dedication of the Alumni Memorial Prayer Garden. Photo: Ann Stafford

sport and had a sense of humour. The ceremony featured Raymond's Bible, which his parents had given to Robert with an inscription challenging him to "use the Bible as we had hoped [Raymond] would." Robert said that Raymond would have used the Bible "to assist him and others to grow with his friend Jesus." When the plants and trees mature, the garden will provide an enclosed space where students and staff may meditate and pray, and where people may reflect on the lives of staff and students who have passed on.

Innovative learning in creative arts

Industry experience is a component of many of today's higher education programs, but Avondale's visual communication program has gone one step further: a state-of-the-art design studio operating as a commercial business.

Avondale's "That Design" studio was established to give final-year visual communication students first-hand experience in operating a graphic design business under the guidance of staff who are themselves proprietors of highly successful graphic design enterprises. In the years preceding the final-year studio work, students are trained in design principles, computer generated design, photography, publication and multimedia design, and commercial graphic design practice. The studio provides experience in interacting with clients and exposes students to the business aspects of running a design studio. By the end of the year, graduating students have a portfolio of commercial work that they can present to potential employers.

Clients have included Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing, Asian Aid, the Adventist Heritage Centre, Avondale College Church, Avondale College of Higher Education, and a number of small businesses. One of the largest commercial jobs each year is the production of Avondale's pictorial annual *Jacaranda*.

The studio experience means that graduating students are highly employable. Employers have included design businesses in Sydney and other major cities, as well as the Adventist Media Network, the Signs Publishing Company and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). A number of graduates have set up their own design businesses.

Avondale's design studio is a profitable business. Some of the income is used each year to sponsor the final-year design class to attend the prestigious 'agIdeas' Conference in Melbourne, featuring some 40 international speakers and attended by 3000-4000 people. Attendance gives opportunities

for students to demonstrate their work, and on four occasions Avondale students have been shortlisted for awards at the conference.



Anne Little with self-portrait. Photo: Ann Stafford

Visual Communication

The visual communication specialisation is an innovative program in which students choose a combination of studies in visual arts, graphic design and communication. The program is flexible, enabling students to weight their studies towards visual arts or graphic design. The visual arts component includes studies in painting and drawing, photography, ceramics, sculpture, 3D studies and the history of art. Communication options include writing and journalism, public relations and film/ television/video production. One of the art history units includes an international tour to study masterpieces in Europe or North America.

Visual arts graduates find employment in teaching, commercial and fine art, in their own ceramics or photography businesses, and in other careers that require visual arts skills, such as advertising, marketing, photojournalism, and television and video production. The visual communication program has developed strong links with the University of Newcastle, including mutual external moderation and examining.

New major in photomedia

This year a major in photomedia was added to enable students to develop the skills needed to excel in the photography and design industries. The major includes studies in photography and photojournalism; computer generated design; multimedia design; development of portfolio websites; communication project photography; photography for studio, research and exhibition work; and a professional internship providing workplace experience with a photography emphasis.

Practising artists

The visual arts lecturers are themselves practising artists. Program convenor Andrew Collis is researching one-on-one communication via portraiture and the question of what constitutes a human touch in contemporary portraiture. This year he has been working on a portrait of Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton for submission to the Archibald Prize competition. In 2011 he submitted a portrait of Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud. He has also exhibited at the University of Newcastle's Central Coast campus and in the Gosford Art Prize. Dr Richard Morris presents exhibitions of his paintings in Sydney galleries and elsewhere. Tony Martin, who has produced fine ceramic work for many years, is preparing a book on early ceramic techniques still practised in communities in various parts of the world. Aaron Bellette has presented several exhibitions of his photography. Avondale's Joanne Felk Gallery (named after a former staff member tragically killed in a car accident) presents exhibitions by guest artists and by Avondale staff and students. At the end of each year the final-year visual arts and graphic design students present a "Creative Collective" exhibition of their work.



Jerad Kew with an example of his creative design. Photo: Ann Stafford

Dr Cedric Greive retires after notable career in education

In mid-2012 Dr Cedric Greive retired from full-time teaching and research at Avondale after a career of 48 years, including 27 years in Avondale's School of Education. Dr Greive has made an outstanding contribution to education both in Australia and overseas. He is highly respected for his stimulating and innovative teaching, his research and scholarship, his concern for the marginalised, and his wisdom and compassion in interacting with students.

Dr Greive began his career as a secondary teacher of mathematics and science. In his fourth year of teaching he received a call to an Adventist secondary school in Sierra Leone, where he and his wife Joy served for the next three years (1969-1971).

Sierra Leone

The school was located in an isolated region 260 km inland from the capital Freetown. In 1969 the school had no electricity or laid-on water. Boarding students washed in the river, and one of Cedric's jobs was to deliver water to staff houses in 44-gallon drums.

Cedric and Joy's transition to the new environment was greatly assisted by the friendship of a local African pastor, who shared with them an understanding of the local culture and much human wisdom besides. A third of the school students were Muslim, and at the pastor's suggestion Cedric negotiated for school to finish at 11.30 am on Fridays so that the Muslim students could attend Friday prayers at the mosque. In return, the local imam, who valued the school for its clean lifestyle, agreed to allow the Muslim students to worship with the school community on Sabbaths.

Cedric showed his capacity for innovation, developing a program in agricultural science, a student work program, and a thriving school farm growing vegetables, pineapples, bananas, peanuts and rice.

Avondale High School, Samoa, Fiji

After two years at the Avondale high school as a science teacher and then as deputy principal, Cedric was appointed to Samoa as principal of the Lalovaea Central School (1974-1977), and later as principal of Kosena College (1978-1980). Under his leadership Kosena developed an impressive reputation for academic excellence, and enrolment grew by 75 per cent. Here too, Cedric introduced an agricultural science program and associated farm, with teachers training the students to grow bananas, passionfruit, coconuts, breadfruit, mangoes, eggplant, taro and vegetables. Around the boundaries of the property he planted teak and eucalyptus trees to provide the school with a future income from the sale of timber for furniture manufacture. In 1981 he was appointed head of science at Fulton College, Fiji, a position he held for two years.

Avondale College of Higher Education

After a period of study and part-time lecturing, Dr Greive was appointed to Avondale in 1986. Here he established a long-standing reputation for excellence in teaching, including a special gift for helping teacher education students make

science exciting in the classroom. The exceptional quality of his teaching received formal recognition in 2008 with the Avondale College Learning and Teaching Award of Excellence, the citation referring to his innovative work in reshaping the science and science education curricula for students in Avondale's primary education program. Dr Greive has contributed significantly to the in-service professional development of teachers in the Adventist education system. He has also mentored numerous international students in Avondale's Master of Education program.



Dr Cedric Greive delivering the Alumni lecture at the 2012 Avondale Homecoming. Photo: Ann Stafford

Research and scholarship

Dr Greive's impressive research output has included both individual research and collaborative work with Avondale and university personnel. He has also been involved in three indigenous studies for the Commonwealth government. His supervision of postgraduate and honours theses has led to several refereed publications by the students concerned.

Dr Greive has warm memories of his Avondale experience. "Avondale staff and students are great people to work with," he says. "Most Avondale students achieve well academically, and are motivated to make a difference in the communities where they will serve." We wish Dr Greive a satisfying and fruitful experience in the next phase of his varied and fulfilled life.

Senior scholars contribute to Avondale's research output

Avondale College of Higher Education from time to time confers the status of Honorary Senior Research Fellow on active researchers who have retired from full-time employment. The arrangement maintains their association with the College and encourages continued publication, contributing to Avondale's research profile. This article surveys some highlights of the scholarly careers of three of Avondale's most published Honorary Senior Research Fellows.

Dr Bryan Ball

Dr Bryan Ball, principal of Avondale from 1984 to 1990, has published prolifically in the fields of ecclesiastical history and theological thought. His first book, *A Great Expectation: Eschatological Thought in English Protestantism to 1660* (E.J. Brill, Leiden, 1975) documents the thinking of Protestant English writers on themes associated with the second coming of Christ, demonstrating that belief in Christ's return was in the mainstream of English Reformation thought.

The English Connection: The Puritan Roots of Seventh-day Adventist Belief (James Clarke & Co., Cambridge, 1981), traces the influence of English Puritanism on later religious movements, particularly Seventh-day Adventism, investigating Puritan thinking on such matters as Scripture, salvation by faith in Christ, baptism, gospel obedience, Christ as our high priest, the seventh-day Sabbath, prophecy, the second coming and the new earth.

The Seventh-day Men: Sabbatarians and Sabbatarianism in England and Wales, 1600-1800 (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1994) shows that observance of the seventh day was a significant minority practice in English Nonconformity, and that many Sabbatarians exercised considerable influence on the religious life of the period. A revised and expanded edition was published in 2009 (James Clarke & Co., Cambridge).

The Soul Sleepers: Christian Mortalism from Wycliffe to Priestley (James Clarke & Co, Cambridge, 2008) studies the rise and development of the doctrine of conditional immortality in England during the Reformation and post-Reformation periods, demonstrating that this view of humankind's essential nature and ultimate destiny was held across a wide theological spectrum in English thought for at least three centuries.

Dr Bryan Ball contributed articles on six Puritan and Nonconformist preachers and writers to *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 2004). He is also a contributor to the online edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

His scholarly works for a more popular readership include *The Essential Jesus: the Man, His Message, His Mission*, co-edited with William Johnsson (Pacific Press, Boise ID, 2002); and *Can We Still Believe the Bible? And Does It Really Matter?* (Signs Publishing Co., Warburton, 2007), a book subsequently published in Latvian and Spanish. A revised and enlarged edition appeared in 2011.

Bryan Ball's latest book, *In the Beginning* (Pacific Press, Nampa ID, 2012) is an edited collection of scholarly essays exploring issues relating to origins. Eleven chapters discuss origins from biblical and theological perspectives, six from scientific viewpoints, and one is a critique of social Darwinism. The book contains significant essays on the origin and reliability of Genesis, its theological themes, its importance in the rest of scripture, and its utilisation by Christ and New Testament writers. The discussions about design and the limits of neo-Darwinian evolutionary mechanisms are offered at greater depth than in most previous Adventist books.

Dr Arthur Patrick

With degrees in history, biblical studies, theology and ministry, Dr Arthur Patrick brings a broad spectrum of knowledge to his scholarship. While he has published in all the above fields, he has developed a special interest in the history of religion and in Adventist studies, writing on Adventist history in relation to its broader historical and cultural contexts.

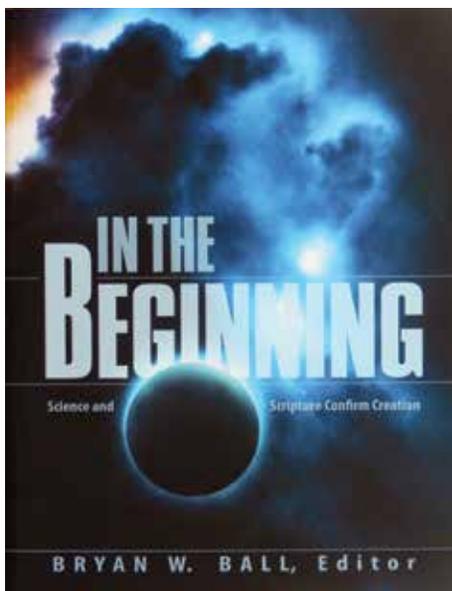
Dr Arthur Patrick

Patrick's Master of Letters (MLitt) thesis was entitled "Ellen Gould White and the Australian Woman, 1891-1900" (University of New England, 1984). His PhD thesis expanded the scope further: "Christianity and Culture in Colonial Australia: Selected Catholic, Anglican, Wesleyan and Adventist Perspectives, 1891-1900" (University of Newcastle, 1992).

Patrick's mastery of Adventist studies is evident from his bibliographical survey of the published literature in this field, which he prepared in 2006 as a guide for doctoral students. See http://www.avondale.edu.au/Departments::Main::Courses::Adventist_studies.pdf. He had previously published a review of sources on Adventist history in the South Pacific in the refereed *Journal of Religious History* (1987).

Patrick's extensive publications include articles in refereed journals and in publications such as *Ministry, Adventist Review, Spectrum and Adventist Today*. A number of his papers have also been published online at www.sdanet.org/atissue and on the Avondale website under ResearchOnline@Avondale.

Since retiring from full-time employment he has continued to write prolifically. In 2003 he authored the centenary history of the Sydney Adventist Hospital (*The San: 100 Years of Christian Caring 1903-2003*); and in 2004 he wrote a chapter on the history of Adventists in Australia for the electronic re-



source *Australia's Religious Communities* (Christian Research Association, Nunawading, Victoria).

His 2009 paper "The Re-parenting of Seventh-day Adventists? Reflections on the Historical Development, Substance and Potential of Ellen G White Studies" (ResearchOnline@Avondale) surveys the historical development of Ellen G White studies, documents literature published on Ellen White, and provides insights into White's authorial methods. A refereed article in the *Journal of Religious History* (2010) contextualises the struggles of recent decades between continuity and change in Adventism, documenting three possible stances in relation to traditional Adventist thought: reversion, alienation and transformation. The article urges the importance of effective internal and external dialogue. A refereed article in *Lucas: an Evangelical History Review*, co-authored with Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud, traces the maturation of Seventh-day Adventist historiography from the early days of the movement to the era of professionally trained historians, and evaluates the significance of that development for the church's view of its own history.

Patrick has presented numerous papers at scholarly conferences, many of which have been published. These include "Re-visioning the Role of Ellen White for Seventh-day Adventists Beyond 2000" (Adventist Society for Religious Studies, San Francisco, 1997, published at www.sdanet.org/atissue); "Learning from Ellen White's Perception and Use of Scripture: Toward an Adventist Hermeneutic for the 21st Century" (South Pacific Division Theological Conference, 2003, published at sdanet.org/atissue); and a paper at the 2007 conference at Andrews University marking the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the controversial book *Questions on Doctrine*. Patrick's paper analyses the historical context of the publication of *Questions of Doctrine* in 1957, the conflicting subsequent perceptions of the book, and the impact of this controversy on the church. The paper, which was published in the Conference Proceedings, seeks to provide an interpretative framework to help the church move constructively beyond these tensions.

In 2009 Patrick delivered a paper on Ellen White as author at a conference in Portland, Maine, USA, which Patrick considers one of the most significant events in the history of Ellen White scholarship. The conference, organised by Professor Gary Land of Andrews University and others, brought together 66 scholars, one-third of non-Adventist background, to discuss the life, work and significance of Ellen White in the context of nineteenth-century America. Many of the participants were well-known authors in the field of American religious history. Two scholars, one Adventist, the other non-Adventist, were invited to present responses to each paper. Patrick saw the conference as "a fresh opportunity to foster a mature, sustainable understanding of Ellen White amongst believers and the wider community."

Dr Norman Young

Dr Norman Young has established an international reputation for research and scholarship in New Testament studies, publishing an impressive array of articles in refereed scholarly journals, and presenting many papers at national and international conferences and other scholarly meetings.



His publications include the book *Rebuke and Challenge: the Point of Jesus' Parables* (Review and Herald, Washington DC, 1985), and a supplement to John Wenham's widely used *Elements of New Testament Greek* (revised edition, Cambridge University Press, 2001). He has also published a significant book documenting the fight to free Lindy Chamberlain (*Innocence Regained*, Federation Press, 1989). His scholarly publications include articles in leading international journals such as the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *New Testament Studies*, *Novum Testamentum*, *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, and *Biblical Archaeologist*. He has also published extensively in Seventh-day Adventist literature.

Since his retirement from full-time employment Young has continued to present papers at scholarly conferences and to publish in peer-reviewed journals. His conference paper "The Founding Fathers and the Fledgling Church According to the Epistle of Hebrews" (Macquarie University, Sydney, 2004) was published in the *Society for the Study of Early Christianity Newsletter* (2005). His paper at the Chamberlain Case Symposium (Macquarie University, 2005) was published in *The Chamberlain Case: Nation, Law, Memory* (Australian Scholarly Press, Melbourne, 2009). In 2008 he presented a paper investigating passages from Romans and Colossians in their social context at the 63rd General Meeting of the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*, Lund, Sweden. In 2009 he presented an analysis of Romans 14:5-6 at the New Perspectives on Christianity Conference at Avondale, a paper subsequently published in *The International Journal of New Perspectives on Christianity*. In 2011 he contributed a paper on irony in the writings of the apostle John at the 66th *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* Conference in New York.

In retirement Young has also written book reviews in the fields of New Testament studies and theology for the peer reviewed journals *Biblical Interpretation* (2005) and *Pacifica* (2007). In 2008 he published an article in *Wartime*, the peer reviewed journal of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, on his father's involvement in the Second World War in New Guinea.

Avondale greatly appreciates the continuing contribution of its honorary senior research fellows to the College's research profile.

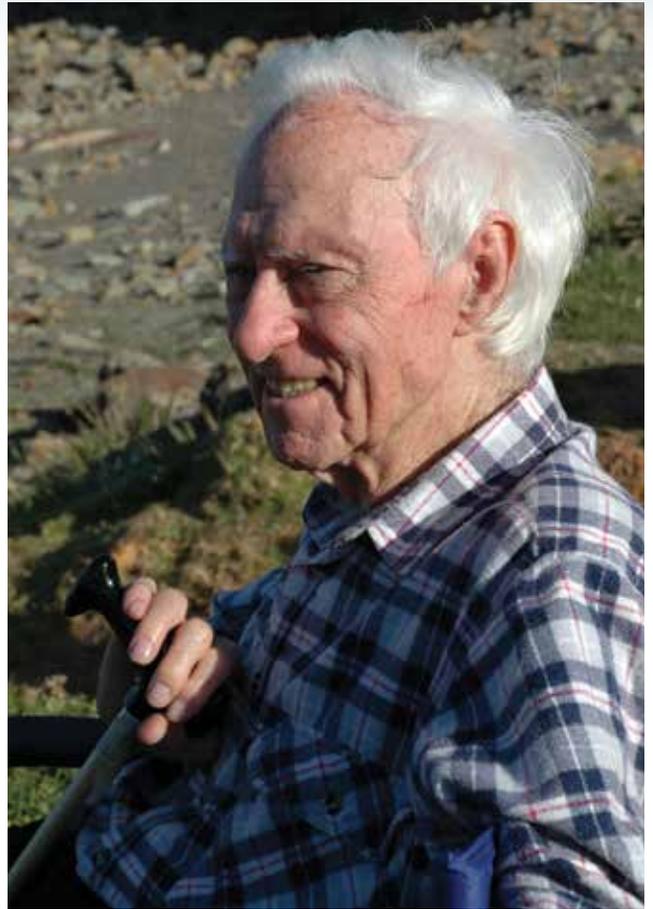
A remarkable life: Dr John Reynaud (1925-2011) Daniel Reynaud

Dr John Reynaud, who passed away last year, left a lasting impact on his students during his thirteen years at Avondale College, 1966-1978. He was a one-man department, championing French language, literature and history studies to a generation of students who then taught French in Adventist schools across the South Pacific Division for many years. A passionate advocate of French culture, he was ahead of his time in advocating the benefits of studying other cultures, especially through learning the language. He remains to date the only specialist modern language teacher at Avondale in the last fifty years, and the lack of modern languages at Avondale since his departure is being felt.

The renewed emphasis on language teaching in the Australian school curriculum in recent times has not only found many Adventist schools struggling to find appropriate language teachers, but also vindicates his pioneering vision of making language and culture education a fundamental part of a well-rounded Christian education. He saw languages as central to the mission of the church, noting that the French-speaking world, encompassing a third of Africa as well as territories in the Pacific, Canada and Europe, was desperately short of gospel workers, and he hoped to help the church address this critical imbalance. He was fond of noting that Joseph, Moses, Daniel, and Paul were well educated in a foreign language and culture and three of them did their most important work in a second language.

Jean Pierre Louis Reynaud was born in Hanoi, French Indo-China (now Vietnam), the son of French colonialists and eldest of four brothers. His early years were spent on remote primitive pioneering coffee plantations, mostly in the highlands of the interior. His father hunted man-eating tigers, whose skins adorned the family home. At a tender age he went to boarding schools a long way from home, with only limited times of reunion with his family. His loneliness reinforced his natural shyness and contributed to his self-sufficiency and intellectual tendencies. He was a successful scholar, but developed a lasting aversion to having his achievements celebrated. To his dying day, he was glad that he never had to march in a graduation in his own honour. At school he found acceptance among his peers by writing serial stories that had his classmates begging him for the next instalment each week.

The Second World War interrupted his studies, and he spent the time under the Japanese occupation of French Indo-China, the last few months in a civilian concentration camp, though the conditions were not extreme. At the end of the war, Jean did his military service in the French army, fighting the Vietcong independence forces. After this, in partnership with his best friend, he ran a transport business, a dangerous occupation subject to frequent guerrilla attacks. On multiple occasions his life was spared by the barest margin from enemy bullets and bombs. Once, a sniper's bullet creased his forehead, raising beads of blood, missing only because he 'happened' to be changing gears at that moment, slowing the truck by the barest of margins. He was the only man that that particular sniper missed all day. Despite the



Dr John Reynaud

great adventure of this time, he tended to insist that it was not particularly exciting, and that adventure was really a state of mind.

A voracious reader, he devoured history, literature and philosophy books by the score. His school nickname was 'Dictionary', and photos of his time in Vietnam show his truck-driving friends socialising and drinking while he had his head in a book. His natural interest in spiritual things led him to read in all the major world religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. He discovered the non-violent philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, and with characteristic integrity gave away all his weapons despite driving the most perforated truck on the line. Fully expecting to be killed, he was never fired at again, which later he understood to be God's response to his principled stand. In fact his biggest fear was that he would be unable to help his friends in an ambush.

In 1952, at the age of 27, his parents sent him to France for a six-month furlough, hoping he would marry. After five uneventful months there, he was introduced to a friend's sister, Paulette Robillart. Surprising everyone, this shy man who never looked at girls wooed and married her in the four weeks remaining, returning to Vietnam immediately afterwards. He continued his risky transport career, but the family, now with two children, Gabriel (Gabe) and Francine, was forced to leave Vietnam in 1955 after French military defeats.

Jean took his family to France, buying a small vineyard.

While there, Catherine (Cat) was born, but the farm was a failure and Jean longed for life with more freedom. His best friend from Vietnam invited him to come to Australia. Jean needed no second invitation. However, just before he left, he met an Adventist who offered him Bible studies. His interest in religion made this an attractive offer, and he was soon persuaded by his own knowledge of history that the man's explanations of the Bible prophecies were reliable. Typical of his tendency to stand on principle rather than emotion, he was baptised just before leaving France, even though he did not find either the man who gave him studies or the local Adventist church particularly welcoming or warm.

The family arrived in Australia in 1958, share farming a tiny sheep farm west of Armidale, NSW, where Daniel was born. Living conditions were primitive with no electricity or running water, and times were hard. Unfortunately, a wool price bust made the farm uneconomic as well, forcing the family off the land. He anglicised his name to John to avoid gender confusion. Having discovered Adventism just before he left France, he made contact with the Seventh-day Adventist church, and took up work as a colporteur in Armidale and in Ipswich, Queensland. He was not a gifted salesman, but credited the work with teaching him good English. He took up labouring jobs to keep the family alive, including scrubbing the roofs at Amberley Air Force base and working in an iron foundry. He turned down one job because he could not get home on a Friday in time for Sabbath. Some of his friends despaired of his principled stand, but the family never starved. In 1965, he stumbled into French teaching when a grammar school in Toowoomba offered him a position. He had no teaching experience but had started a BA degree, one subject at a time as he could afford it. Again, with hindsight, he saw this as God's leading, giving him the necessary experience for the Avondale position. Marilyn was born while in Ipswich.

In 1966 John was offered the opportunity to start a French department at Avondale College, a task which made the most of all his talents. This began the happiest thirteen years of his life. A born teacher and scholar, he revelled in the task of inspiring young people with the French language, literature, history and culture, and he made a profound impression on his students. While at Avondale, he completed a PhD on an

unknown French existentialist novelist, Jean Giono, who has since been recognised as a major literary figure. His doctorate was a genuine labour of love. He built the French department up year by year until he taught a full major on his own. He was later told that his was the only course at college during that time which received the unqualified approval of external accrediting bodies. Unfortunately, his vision was not shared by senior education administrators in the church at the time, who shut down French teaching in all Adventist schools and then pointed out that his job at Avondale was therefore redundant.

In 1979, devastated by the decision to cut French from the College curriculum, he and Paulette moved to Tahiti where his task was to found a church high school. With his typical commitment, he made it the best school he could, introducing practical subjects adapted to the Tahitian economy and specialising in taking rejects from other schools and turning out successful graduates. The school was located on a rural mountainside and a successful garden attracted the surprised attention of local authorities who had been convinced that agriculture was an impossible occupation in Tahiti. He also became something of a local identity through his widely followed and appreciated Voice of Hope radio broadcasts on many practical life issues. Nothing surprised this modest man more than discovering he had become a Tahitian celebrity. In his spare time, he was education director for the mission and a church pastor. However, it would be difficult to find a less suitable place for him: Tahiti's tropical attractions failed to appeal to his mind and the tangled family politics of the church tested his principles. After seven years, he and Paulette moved to Aore Adventist School in Vanuatu for three years. Despite the more primitive conditions, John enjoyed his work as headmaster.

John retired in 1989 to Cooranbong, where he undertook translation work for the South Pacific Division, and guest lectured at Avondale College in history and philosophy. His retirement was distressed by the death of Gabe in 2000, and by illnesses in later years. However, he revelled in the company of his family, now enlarged through marriage, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also took joy in his name, John, which means 'God is gracious,' which he felt was a most appropriate description of his life.

Careers expo engages with community

The careers expo hosted by Avondale in June attracted 6000 senior high school students from about 30 public and private schools in the region. Some 480 exhibitors set up in the Chan Shun Auditorium. This is the second year Avondale has hosted the event. Director of Marketing and Advancement, Colin Crabtree, said, "Students and teachers told me they loved our facilities. Last year forty per cent of enquiries about study at Avondale came from this event."



Student service for developing countries

Avondale students' enthusiasm for service keeps on growing, as they catch a vision of needs in the world that they can help address. During the past half year:

- Avondale's One Mission teams engaged in service projects in Mongolia, Cambodia, Zambia, Botswana and Fiji. One Mission is a student organisation at Avondale dedicated to service in and for developing countries.
- A lecturer and nursing students from the Sydney campus assisted at Atoifi Hospital in the Solomon Islands.
- International Poverty and Development Studies (IDPS) students promoted the need for safe drinking water and improved sanitation in developing countries and raised funds to provide a well for a rural village in Nepal.
- IDPS students and Avondale's COSMOS club raised funds for a school in India.
- Teacher education students and lecturers worked in schools in Cambodia, Nepal and India.

One Mission Mongolia

In July 2012 eight One Mission students visited co-operative farms in central Mongolia, contributing to an Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) program to improve food security for local communities. ADRA is empowering people to grow food more productively in a harsh region of rocky soils, low rainfall, constant winds that blow away topsoil, and temperatures that range from 40 degrees Celsius in summer to minus 40 in winter. The students raised \$20,000 for timber and barbed wire to enable a community to fence up to four hectares of farmland to protect their vegetable gardens against wild animals and nomadic herds. The students helped the community to build the fence, and were impressed with the energy and quality workmanship of the local people. "Even elderly women were carrying heavy poles and rolls of barbed wire," one student said.



Clayton Hill (L) and Luke Ferry (R) unrolling wire for the fence in Mongolia. Photo: Lara Campbell

One Mission Cambodia

One Mission co-leader Megan Townend led a group of 13 students to work on ADRA projects in Cambodia. The team raised funds and worked with the local people to build toilet blocks, dig wells and install water pumps in a region where ADRA is working to improve sanitation and water quality. "It was great to see the people's joy when the water started flowing," Megan said. The students also constructed a shelter and toilet block at an adventure learning centre at Jombok Haos.



Water flows from a well newly installed in Cambodia. Photo: Sharon Trindall

One Mission Zambia and Botswana

PhD student Harvey Henderson, from Botswana, led a team of eight to Zambia and Botswana for a month. The team conducted an evangelistic program, kids' clubs, life skills training for young people, health seminars, and HIV/AIDS education programs. The team also visited children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which is rampant in these countries. The evangelistic program in Zambia drew audiences of up to 3,000, resulting in 162 baptisms. "I saw God work in a way I had never seen before," said team member David Roberts.



Miranda Leijser (L), Unia Juma (C), Krystal Lord (top R) and Sarah Ryan (bottom R) enjoy a fun time with children at the Chainda Basic School in Lusaka, Zambia.

One Mission Fiji

In October a team of ten students built a toilet block for an evacuation centre in a village on the island of Viti Levu. Previously the village, in a typhoid-prone area, had only two toilets for a population of 100 people. During natural disasters the population swells as people flock to the evacuation centre. The new toilet block, with six toilets and four showers, can meet the sanitation needs of more than 1000 people.

Atoifi Hospital, Solomon Islands

For the third successive year a group of nursing students from the Sydney campus and one of their lecturers, Sonja Frischknecht, engaged in medical mission work at the Atoifi Adventist Hospital in a remote region of Malaita. The group took as many medical supplies as they could carry to supplement the hospital's limited stock: alcohol wipes, catheters, dressings, paediatric wall stickers, shower curtains, wall clocks and many other items. "Nursing at Atoifi is a challenge," said one group member. Equipment is basic, and the hospital's only doctor can perform surgery only during the six hours per day when the village generator is operating. At other times nursing procedures are carried out near windows or by torchlight. The experience at Atoifi extended the students' skills and ingenuity, as they treated patients who had fallen out of coconut trees, contracted malaria or tuberculosis, or given birth in primitive conditions. "Atoifi survives on prayer," said nursing student Erin Raethel. "We witnessed how true healing comes from God."



Avondale nursing students Natasha Roskovich (L) and Lisa Peek (R) with local trainee nurses at Atoifi Hospital

International Poverty and Development Studies initiatives

Bachelor of Arts students majoring in International Poverty and Development Studies (IPDS) organised in September a Social Justice Week to promote the need for safe drinking water and improved sanitation in developing countries, and to raise funds to provide a well for a village in rural Nepal. IPDS student Chelsea Mitchell, who has visited Nepal and has friends who have visited the village, reports that the nearest water supply is six hours away by foot. "Women walk the distance carrying 20 litres of water," she says. "The well will free up the women's time for income-generating work that will improve their health, give their children education and give the women a voice."



Raising awareness of sanitation needs in developing countries. Tracy Hamilton (L) and Cathy Young (R) atop the giant toilet on the Lake Macquarie campus. Photo: Chelsea Mitchell

The Social Justice Week featured a giant two-metre high toilet that is touring Australia as an initiative of the international Christian organisation Micah Challenge, which speaks out globally against poverty and injustice. Micah Challenge, in partnership with Water Aid, is lobbying the Australian government to provide \$500 million a year for water, sanitation and hygiene in developing countries by 2015. The United Nations aims to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015. "We can't be satisfied when 773 million people still live without access to safe drinking water and 2.6 billion people still don't have access to decent sanitation," said the national coordinator of Micah Aid, John Beckett, during Avondale's Social Justice Week. Three thousand children die each day from water, sanitation and hygiene related causes, and Avondale students have caught the vision to help.

Tonea School, India

In 2011 five of Avondale's IPDS students travelled internationally with lecturer Brad Watson. During this development experience they visited Tonea, a remote Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in India's Jharkhand State. After a warm welcome the Avondale group discovered that children were sleeping four to a bed or on the concrete floors of classrooms and verandas. The washroom for female students was a canopy of tattered tarpaulins with little privacy. The rapidly growing school had a lean-to kitchen, no dining hall, no dormitory for boys and inadequate facilities for girls. One group of girls shared a room with the school's generator.

Impressed with the hospitality they were offered and the

needs of the school, the Avondale students determined to raise funds to improve conditions. In association with Avondale's mission club COSMOS, they raised \$20,000 in 2011 and aim for a further \$20,000 in 2012. A concert in May dedicated to the memory of long-time COSMOS supporter, the late Charles Pointon, raised approximately \$4,000 towards the project. Asian Aid Australia is delighted to partner with Avondale students and Jharkhand Seventh-day Adventist church leaders to build two dormitories, washing facilities and a kitchen with dining facilities.

Teacher education initiatives in developing countries

Avondale's School of Education has pioneered an initiative known as Ministry of Teaching Overseas, giving senior students the opportunity to gain professional experience in schools in developing countries. While the students teach in the schools, the Avondale lecturers accompanying the students provide professional development for the local teachers, who then observe the Avondale students demonstrating the teaching methods discussed in the professional development sessions. The program also involves a component of community service.

In July this year 46 Avondale students and their lecturers visited schools in Cambodia, Nepal and India. The India group, led by Dr Andrew Matthes, worked for the second year in succession at the AoZora Adventist Academy in Bihar, one of the poorest states in India. The lease on the current school premises is only short-term, so the Avondale students determined to raise funds to construct a new school building. They raised \$40,000 towards the first six classrooms in 2011, and

are now progressing towards a second \$40,000 for the next stage of the building, comprising a further six classrooms. The final stage envisages new student dormitories. Progress at the school has empowered it to the place where it is now able to apply for government funding.

During their visit in July 2012, Avondale students supplemented their teaching by helping the local people construct the new school building. The group also ran an evangelistic program in the evenings, using DVDs produced by the Adventist Media Network for Hindu people in Fiji. A teacher and a senior student of the school were baptised as a result. "This part of India has had no previous Christian presence," said Dr Matthes. "Pilgrims come to the area to visit the birthplace of Buddha nearby. It is rewarding to be able to introduce Christianity tactfully in this context," he said.



Baptism of a teacher at AoZora School, India. Avondale's Dr Andrew Matthes at right. Photo: Jill Ennever

Raising a child with extreme disability: a story of heartache and love **John Cox**

Life is too often unfair. Louise Inglis (nee Greenfield) graduated from Avondale in 1992 with a Bachelor of Education, majoring in biological science. She was one of Avondale's brightest and most promising students, with a sunny personality, talent in music, and enthusiasm for the outdoors. Louise began her career as a secondary school teacher, then studied and practised physiotherapy for several years. She and her husband Michael have two sons: Matthew, 11 and Kevin, 8.

Kevin has severe autism, profound intellectual disability, and frightening and unpredictable epileptic seizures. He is fortunate indeed to have loving and capable parents and is often happy in their loving care. But it's hard to imagine the strain and fatigue of daily living with an eight-year old who, despite prolonged and patient efforts by his parents and other carers, can't talk at all, has minimal understanding, can't dress himself, has not responded to toilet training, is physically strong, and is prone to leave a path of destruction if not constantly supervised. Kevin's crises often shatter the family's daily plans, and Louise and Michael often suffer prolonged sleep deprivation from his demands at night.

"Thrown into a life I did not want, I struggled enormously

to adjust," Louise wrote. "I began to keep a journal and in due course friends prompted me to write a book to encourage others struggling with similar difficulties." Louise has entitled her book *Happiness in his Eyes: a Story of Love and Disability* (AM Publishing, Auckland, 2012). It is a deeply moving story. One can only begin to imagine the struggle of writing it while trying to cope with the challenges of daily living with Kevin. Louise has received numerous messages from readers who have been helped and encouraged by her story.

Kevin's autism and intellectual disability were diagnosed definitively when he was 13 months old. "Kevin will probably never speak and may never walk," said the consultant paediatrician. Then he added, "Children like this exact a huge toll on relationships. Go home and look after your marriage. Remember you have another child who also needs your love and time. And don't martyr yourself to the cause." (How difficult for a loving and caring mother to follow that last advice!). "Mothers with children as severely disabled as Kevin typically burn out after a year," he said. "Fathers typically bury themselves in work, and relationships suffer."

Louise and Michael were devastated. "Michael wrapped



Louise Inglis with Matthew and baby Kevin

his arms around me, bewildered,” she wrote. “We stood quietly together, Michael stunned, and I broken.”

Louise and Michael proceeded to do everything possible to try to improve Kevin’s condition, giving much time to his development needs, researching remedial programs, and implementing numerous therapies that others claimed to be beneficial. Louise even went to California to participate in a parent-training program for autism called Relationship Development Intervention, based on the idea that social connection can be developed through specific structured activities. Friends there arranged a visit to a clinical neuropsychologist who, after watching a lengthy video of Kevin, spoke empathetically, but disturbingly, of ‘very severe mental retardation’, ‘very low arousal’, ‘profound motor and speech delay’, and ‘lack of social reciprocity’. Shortly after her return to Auckland a developmental paediatrician further confirmed these diagnoses.

In time the strain of the efforts to help Kevin and the discouragement of seeing so little progress began to tell on Louise. She was finding sleep difficult, and in spite of herself began to lapse into depression – a condition she was reluctant to recognise until her doctor insisted on treatment. “I was accustomed to success in life,” she wrote. “I felt demoralised from striving with such determination yet making so little progress.”

Despite Kevin’s disability, for much of the time he was a happy child. At 20 months “he chuckled often,” Louise wrote, “but seldom did we know what caused his laughter. He was happiest when moving. Being spun around or thrown in the air, or pushed fast in the buggy, triggered ripples of laughter. . . . He liked being cuddled, sometimes many times a day.

But happiness was not always in Kevin’s eyes. Sometimes they were fearful, other times confused.”

Louise and Michael were delighted that on Kevin’s second birthday he finally began to walk. He now walks well, though this also creates problems. To Kevin’s frustration, various parts of the house have had to be partitioned off with gates to prevent chaos spreading everywhere. Kevin especially enjoys visits to the local swimming pool, where Louise takes him often. He also enjoys splashing in the water at the beach.

At age 8 he still can’t talk, and despite prolonged mentoring and encouragement, can’t understand or use sign language. However, Louise has used photographic visuals successfully to communicate with him. She has photographed people, places, food and objects familiar to Kevin, and in time he began to realise their meaning. In the car she shows Kevin pictures to let him know where they are going, who they are going to see, and what they are going to do, attaching the appropriate photographs to the interior lining of the car roof with Velcro. Louise has made countless laminated photographic books as learning tools for Kevin. There are photo books for swimming lessons, toileting routines, dressing, identifying family members, walking routes, and favourite activities. Louise now has an iPad set up with all Kevin’s photos so that she can quickly find the visual needed for any activity.

Kevin likes looking at the family photo albums, and especially enjoys home videos starring himself. He now has his own DVD player and screen on a little table with wheels. At mealtimes this is wheeled to the table and Kevin watches DVDs of himself as he eats, enabling the rest of the family to have their meal with less disturbance than before. Food is still thrown, he still requires feeding, and he makes noises and bangs the wooden table of his high chair; but at least there are fewer meals now with Kevin crying.

Kevin attends a special school where he receives excellent care, and carers also assist each week in the home. From time to time Kevin goes into respite care briefly to give the family a break. Even so, the strain on the family is enormous. There have been numerous episodes where Kevin fills his nappy while Louise’s attention is distracted by something essential, and he smears faeces over everything in reach. For several years Louise dressed Kevin in overalls to make it difficult for him to access his nappy. There have been periods when Kevin has awakened night after night crying loudly for several hours, despite all efforts to calm him.

Since age five Kevin has suffered severe and unpredictable epileptic seizures, despite preventive medication. Sometimes there have been several seizures in a day, accompanied by vomiting over carpets, car seats, clothing, or whatever is nearby at the time. At such times the constant stress, cleaning up and family disruption leaves Louise utterly exhausted. Matthew assists in the emergencies with commendable maturity, but from time to time has wished that the family didn’t have Kevin. For a boy who recently came first in New Zealand in a national exam in computer science, it is difficult to have a brother who is so limited and limiting.

For Louise one of the hardest decisions has been giving

up her physiotherapy career to care for Kevin. He needs such constant care and consistent routine that the family has rarely been able to have holidays together. One or other parent typically takes Matthew for a brief holiday while the other stays home with Kevin.

"Dear God," Louise confided to her diary in June 2010, "I'm feeling so low tonight. Must this be so hard? Caring for Kevin feels relentless and antisocial. We didn't go to church today because I just didn't feel up to it. Instead Kevin and I went to the doctor, and now we're both on antibiotics. I was on antibiotics just a month ago. It's frustrating to be back in the same position. All the disturbed nights have left me run down."

Louise is profoundly grateful for friends at church who have helped and supported the family through all the traumatic times. "Without my faith in God and the support of my church friends, I don't know how I could cope," she says.

A well known consultant paediatrician in New Zealand, Dr Paul Taylor, wrote the following words in his foreword to her book: "You cannot read this wonderful and intensely personal story . . . without ending up with a profound admiration and respect for Louise. She is a person of epically heroic personal qualities. Louise would find it difficult to accept this heartfelt accolade. She is human, after all, and intensely aware that, like the rest of us, she has flaws. In this lies the beauty of



Kevin is much loved, but often difficult

her motherhood. Her commitment, her stamina, her internal strength and her spiritual convictions shine through everything. And in all this, Louise makes a statement for all the other parents and all the other families of all the other people in our world who go through life with a disability like Kevin's."

Louise concludes her book with gratitude that in spite of everything, her family is still together and her faith in God strong. "Perhaps I will always wish that life could be different for us," she writes, "but despite the days when I feel utterly wrung out, I know through it all that God has been with us and will continue to lead us in the future. I cling to the promise 'I will never leave you nor forsake you' (Deuteronomy 31:6). I continue only in God's strength."

Further information about the book and the family's experiences with Kevin can be found on Louise's website: www.louiseinglis.com. Her book is available at Adventist Book Centres in Cooranbong and Auckland, and may be ordered from other outlets.

Sacrificial service of two early Avondale graduates **Leonard Tolhurst**

In April 2012, Pastor Leonard Tolhurst presented to the Adventist Heritage Centre at Avondale the graduation diplomas of his father, Hubert Tolhurst and of Hubert's first wife, Pearl Philips. The presentation was made by agreement with Leonard's two surviving siblings, Pastor Athal Tolhurst of Bowral, New South Wales, and Mrs Desmyrna Taylor of Loma Linda, California.

Hubert Tolhurst and Pearl Philips graduated from the Missionary Course at the then Australasian Missionary College in October 1914. They married three months later on 6 January 1915, and on 2 February 1915 set sail for Tonga to work as missionaries in the Ha'apai group of islands.

They made their home in the little village of Faleoa on the island of Foa, where Hubert taught in a small mission school. The school at first took in only boys, and as he taught them English, they taught him Tongan. He picked up the language so well that he preached his first sermon in the Tongan language in less than a year. Pearl had a real burden that the girls should also be educated, and was delighted when girls were also able to attend the school.

After working there for four years both Hubert and Pearl were struck down with the Spanish influenza that swept the world after the end of World War I. This epidemic was one of the worst in modern times, and millions died around the world. In Tonga alone over 1200 died, about 10-15 per cent of the population at that time. As there was no doctor or nurse on the island where they were located they nursed each other as best they could. They hoped that a boat would come and

take them to where they could get help, but no ship turned up. After a long illness Pearl died on 14 March 1920, and though Hubert was still weak himself, he had to conduct the funeral service for his own wife, as there was no-one else to officiate. Pearl thus became the first Avondale graduate to die in mission service in the South Pacific Islands. Norman Wiles, who graduated in the same class as Hubert and Pearl, was probably the second. He died in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) on 5 May 1920.

After a short rest Hubert reopened the school, and about three months later when a replacement arrived to take over his work he returned to Australia and worked for some time as a minister in the Victorian Conference. There he courted Elsmar, a younger sister of Pearl, and after their wedding they embarked for Tonga. This time he was to work in Vavau, further north than Ha'apai. However, Hubert again had to leave Tonga for medical help, as he developed a serious infection from the bite of a diseased kitten.

He and Elsmar moved to North New Zealand and when his health recovered he worked there as a minister. After five years he again returned to Tonga and in all spent close to 20 years there. He served for many years as president of the mission, and at one time while awaiting the arrival of another missionary to look after Beulah College, he doubled as its principal as well.

During those years five of his seven children were born in Tonga. Eventually the children's education required the family to transfer to North New Zealand, where Hubert worked first



Pastor Leonard Tolhurst presents the 1914 graduation certificates of Hubert Tolhurst and Pearl Philips to Rose-lee Power, curator of the Adventist Heritage Centre on Avondale's Lake Macquarie campus.

for the Maori people in the Bay of Plenty area, and then as a church pastor. His last posting before retirement was as a departmental director in the Conference.

In retirement Hubert took up painting and poetry writing. The short poem below expresses the sacrifices he made in accepting the call to work in Tonga.

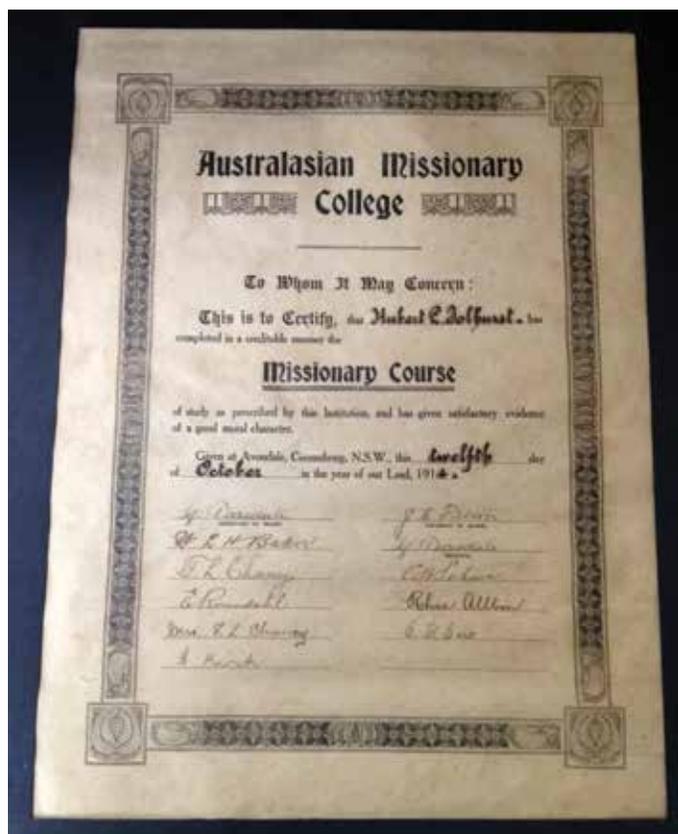
LAST FAREWELLS

"I'm called to Tonga Mother dear,
But loath am I so far to go,
As you grow old, I'd fain be near,
To aid you when your step is slow."

"No son; you must the call obey;
When you left home, I knew 'twould be;
And you'll return again some day,
And then, perhaps be nearer me."

So off we sailed, my Pearl and I,
And never saw our parents more;
Within three months did Mother die,
And Pearl sleeps on a coral shore.

Elsmer died in 1967, aged 69; Hubert in 1981, aged 91. Both are buried in the Avondale cemetery.



Hubert Tolhurst's graduation certificate.

US researcher partners with Avondale

In October 2012 Dr Kevin Gosselin, a specialist in online teaching and course design at the University of Texas, visited Australia for the specific purpose of facilitating research collaboration with Avondale. The visit was funded by grant monies from the University of Texas. Since 2010 Dr Maria Northcote, a senior lecturer in Avondale's School of Education and a specialist in the use of technologies in the delivery of education, has worked together with Dr Gosselin in researching online teaching and learning. Other Avondale staff members have also contributed to the research: Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud, dean of Avondale's Faculty of Arts and Theology; Dr Peter Beamish, dean of the Faculty of Education and Science; Dr Peter Kilgour, senior lecturer in the School of Education; and Dr Malcolm Anderson, senior lecturer in the Faculty of Nursing and Health. During the visit Dr Gosselin and Dr Northcote were invited to present a seminar on their research at the University of Sydney. They also presented staff seminars at Avondale.

Workshops at Newbold College, UK

In July 2012 Dr Maria Northcote was invited to conduct workshops in online learning to assist staff at Newbold College, Avondale's sister college in the UK. Dr Northcote ran the



Jack Seddon, Dr Maria Northcote and Dr Philip Brown at Newbold College in July.

workshops together with her husband, Jack Seddon, who is experienced in online learning and is currently working on his PhD through Edith Cowan University, Perth. The principal of Newbold College, Dr Philip Brown, who was previously Vice President (Learning and Teaching) at Avondale, invited them to conduct the workshops as a follow-up to a refereed paper on online teaching that Dr Northcote, Jack Seddon and Philip Brown jointly published in 2011.

Ministry and theology students witness in Fiji

Two evangelistic series in Fiji presented by Avondale's ministry and theology students and one of their lecturers have resulted in 168 baptisms. The two-week programs were the capstone of the students' education in practical ministry.

The gospel-centred programs in two locations attracted total audiences of up to 1400 people. The students, who preached with confidence and conviction, saw the experience as a highlight of their ministry formation. One student felt the call to evangelism as a life work. Another wrote: "It was unbelievable to see the way God works. The experience taught me that God is always ahead of us working at people's hearts; we just have to be willing to serve Him and share the everlasting Gospel." "Not only did it affirm God's calling on my life," one student said, "but I also fell in love with God all over again."

"The experience showed the students how to put beliefs into context and frame the message around the core values of the culture within which they are preaching," said Dr Murray House, senior lecturer in ministry, who also preached at one of the two venues.

The students were impressed and challenged by the prayer commitment of the local Adventist young people, who had been praying and witnessing for eight months in preparation for the series, and who maintained a 24-hour prayer vigil during the meetings.

The School of Ministry and Theology is planning a similar program in the Solomon Islands in 2013 and in Malaysia in 2014.



Avondale student Abel Iorgulescu preaching in Fiji. Photo: Christos Spero

Rescued by grace

Beside his bed was a lethal batch of drugs he had acquired to take his own life.

He had come to Australia from Tonga several years earlier, after his parents' divorce. On arriving in Sydney he attended church for a while, having been brought up as a Seventh-day Adventist, but was soon overwhelmed by the material prosperity and hedonistic lifestyle all around him in the city. His goal was now to make money as fast as possible – and to do so he turned to drug dealing in Kings Cross. In time he became hooked on the drugs he was selling, until he was using \$2,000 to \$3,000 worth of heroin every day, introducing his wife to the habit also. He eventually landed in gaol.

He had once shared his parents' dream that he might become a minister, but now he had no time for God. Why, he asked, would a loving God have allowed his family to split up? He had also come to hate the church, especially because no-one from the church ever came to see him in prison. While in gaol he and his friends attended Anglican services in the prison chapel, not to worship God, but to enjoy the communion wine that the priest left behind after the service. Officers never came to the chapel on Sundays, so he and his friends had drug parties in the chapel after the priest had left.

When released from gaol, he set out to make even more money than before, but all the money went on his addiction. His life was now spiralling into disintegration. For about six years his only work was picking up recyclable goods. He no longer believed there was a God. "What is the purpose of my life?" he asked his wife, and in despair went to Cabramatta to obtain a concoction of lethal drugs to end it all.

Before taking the lethal dose he thought back over his ruined life and remembered the family worships in his childhood home. He prayed to God: "I'm about to take a batch of drugs that will kill me; but if you wake me in the morning, I'll believe that you exist."

Next morning he woke up with no craving for drugs. When his friends arrived as usual to shoot up, they were astonished to find him "normal" (not under the influence of drugs). He sent them away and told them not to come back any more, because he was finished with drugs. Soon afterwards he went to the local tobacconist's to buy some cigarettes, and was surprised to see on a shelf a mug bearing the words: "Jeremiah 29:11-13". The text reads: "I know the plans I have for



Sau Finau telling his story at Avondale's SALT Conference, 2012.

you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. When you call on me and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me you will find me, if you seek me with all your heart."

He returned to the tobacconist's the next day, but the mug was not there. But its message was burning into his heart, and he prayed that God would take away the heroin addiction forever. That was in 1999. "Since that day," he said, "I have had no relapses, and no withdrawal symptoms."

Some years later the call to ministry that he had felt in his youth returned to him with increasing insistence. "Not Avondale," he prayed, and applied to other theological schools instead. But in time the Lord led him to Avondale, where Sau Finau is now studying for the ministry.

Sau told his story to the SALT Conference at Avondale in March 2012. He finished his testimony with the words: "My wife stayed with me through all the dark times, despite the abuse. If that's not grace, I don't know what is."

Hymnfest extends its community outreach

The Institute of Worship chose the Newcastle Panthers Club as the venue for this year's *Hymns and Songs of Praise* on November 3, attracting the biggest community audience in the eight-year history of the event. The guest compere was media personality Geraldine Doogue, host of the religious program *Compass* on ABC TV and the political program *Saturday Extra* on ABC Radio National. About 1000 people attended the program of traditional and contemporary religious music,

co-produced by Dr Lyell Heise and Valmai Hill of the Institute of Worship on the Lake Macquarie campus. The program featured the 50-piece Institute of Worship Orchestra, Avondale vocal ensembles The Promise, Avondale Singers and Contemporary Choir, and guest soloists. *Hymns and Songs of Praise* seeks to reach out to the community while contributing to the Institute's objective of mentoring the next generation of worship leaders and musicians.



HONoured.

2003 1993 1983 1973 1963 1953 1943

AVONDALE HOMECOMING, 23-25 AUGUST 2013

Reconnect with former classmates at Homecoming honour year reunions. Honour classmates with the presentation of honour year citations and the Alumna and Alumnus of the Year awards.

It just won't be the same without you.

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.AVONDALE.EDU.AU/ALUMNI

ADMISSION ENQUIRY CENTRE



Australian Freecall: 1800 991 392 International Telephone: +61 2 4980 2377
Fax: +61 2 4980 2151 Email: enquiries@avondale.edu.au Web: www.avondale.edu.au
Postal: PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265, AUSTRALIA
ABN 53 108 186 401 CRICOS Provider No: 02731D Avondale College Ltd
Excellence in Christian Higher Education since 1897