



Reflections

Magazine of the Avondale College Alumni Association for Friends of Avondale

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AVONDALE
COLLEGE
CHRISTIAN
HIGHER
EDUCATION

since 1897

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Avondale Foundation's record year

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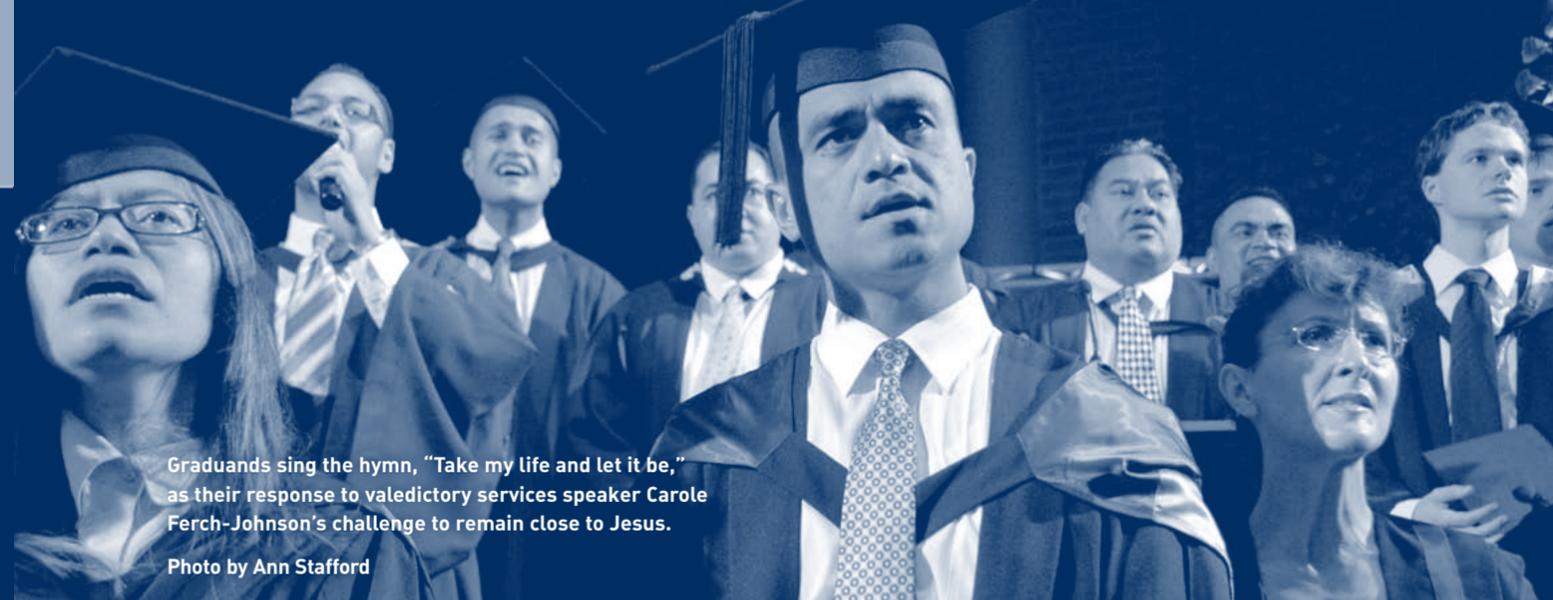
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Graduands sing the hymn, "Take my life and let it be," as their response to valedictory services speaker Carole Ferch-Johnson's challenge to remain close to Jesus.

Photo by Ann Stafford

First place for the last word

Carole Ferch-Johnson

It is time. Graduation has arrived. The valedictory service begins. The students have finished their course and are as ready as any to succeed. The teacher delivers his farewell discourse. What will be important enough to claim first place as the last word?

Though it hails from antiquity, it's fortunate the record of the teacher's last word is well preserved—most of us own a copy.

The Bible writer, John, introduces Jesus' valediction in chapter 13 of his gospel with the words: "Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love" (1*). What follows describes and elucidates the nature and meaning of this love.

Jesus stoops to wash the feet of His disciples. The touch of His hand on the lowest and lowliest extremities of their bodies expresses a quality of love that generates humble service.

Love is often a painful pleasure. Despite the conviviality and fellowship of the occasion, Jesus becomes "troubled in spirit" (21). Love is beginning to bite. Jesus' pain intensifies as He struggles with the approaching permanent separation from one of His students—Judas.

Judas of Kerioth in Judea is bound to Jesus by family ties. Both are descended from Judah, son of Jacob, and both are born about the same time in the province of their ancestor—a place of privilege for this is the province where the holy city of Jerusalem is located and where Judaism is at its purest. Judas is bright, talented, sophisticated and skilled in financial management, if just a little bent. He is cautious about Jesus. The highest respect he ever pays to Him is to call Him "rabbi." Judas arrives with the others at the valedictory service, but John tells us he leaves early.

A second student also lays a love burden on Jesus—Peter of Bethsaida in Galilee where distance from

Jerusalem dilutes Judaism, but where hearts are more open to new ideas. Peter is a fisherman—big, strong, enthusiastic and literate, if a little rustic. Jesus knows fear will soon drive Peter to forget success and to set his sights on simply surviving. In the face of opposition, he will have one goal in mind—to avoid pain. Since pain is connected to Jesus, he will deny he knows Him or ever had anything to do with Him. Like Judas, Peter arrives with the others at the valedictory service, but he does not leave early. The highest respect he ever pays Jesus is to call Him "Lord."

Once Judas leaves, Jesus tells His disciples to love one another and to trust in Him—He will give them peace. Then He opens a window for them on the nature of His love and shows it is not all rational choice and steely principle, but is bound in emotion and in a sense of belonging. For Jesus' love is holistic. It applies to every facet of our being.

Jesus' love settles once and for all the question of our identity and self-worth by telling us whose we are. Jesus' love satisfies our hunger for attachment and security because it makes us His. Jesus' love gives us good feelings because it is an unending source of soundness and wellbeing at the deepest level of our person and it offers added promises for a glorious future with Him. Jesus' love is the close and intimate kind. Listen to His farewell speech as He declares His love for you: "I will . . . take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (14:3). "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (14:18). "He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him" (14:21). "If anyone loves me . . . my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (14:23). "I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you" (14:20).

Jesus' declaration of closeness is one thing; He is also looking for reciprocity. Realising their weakness and inadequacy in this, Jesus' listeners lean forward intent on catching the high point of His final speech. It is His last word. He gives it first place. "Remain in me" (15:4).

Carole preached this sermon during the valedictory services over the graduation weekend at Avondale College.

* All Bible verses from the New International Version.

Avondale graduates charged to serve

Brenton Stacey

Graduation at Avondale College (November 30-December 2) reminded students of their responsibility to use education not for self-interest but in service to the community.

Faculty of Education dean Dr Peter Beamish encouraged graduands attending the consecration service on the Lake Macquarie campus to live life meaningfully. "Remember, it's not about you, it's about them," he said.

Lecturer Katherine Cooper acknowledged, during the consecration service on the Sydney campus, the spirit of service demonstrated by the graduating nursing class—students served in Kenya, Mozambique, the Philippines and Romania this year. "This class exhibits mission in action in the commitment and care they have demonstrated to others in need," she said.

The theme of both services reflected the graduation class motto, based on a text from the biblical parable of the sheep and goats. The text, "Because you did it for the least of them . . . you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40), appears on a plaque attached to the back of a decorative key ring the graduands received as a gift from the class.

President Dr John Cox spoke during his graduation service speech of the benefit of service. "[It] not only makes a difference in the lives of the people the students serve, but in the lives of the students themselves," he said.

Speaker Desley Scott, the state member for Woodridge in Queensland, assured graduands, "Your stand for principle, for openly and honestly revealing your values of faith and your authentic and genuine interest in others and their issues, will open up many doors of opportunity." Expect adventure on this journey with God, she said, "but always remember everything is possible with God and no-one is beyond His reach."

Service also featured prominently in the charge given by the pro-chair of the Avondale College Council, Dr Barry Oliver. "As graduates of Avondale, you have the unique privilege of going from this place not merely to serve self-interest, but to follow the example of Jesus and serve the community with compassion and concern," he said.

Carole Ferch-Johnson described the "close and intimate" nature of the love of Jesus during the valedictory services on Saturday. "[His] declaration of closeness is one thing; He is also looking for reciprocity." She noted the simplicity of Jesus' valediction. "It is His last word. He gives it first place. 'Remain in me.'"

The presentation by Avondale Foundation of a letter of guarantee for \$300,000 highlighted its role in serving the college. The money is for new scholarships (\$75,000), continuing scholarships (\$170,000) and staff research (\$55,000). In his graduation service speech, president Dr Norman Young referred to graduation not so much as a celebration but as a relief. "The college is relieved because graduands have now paid their fees in full, parents are relieved because they can finally plan an overseas holiday, and the government is relieved because 90 per cent of these graduands will soon be working to pay off their debt. However, students who receive an Avondale Foundation Academic Excellence Scholarship are relieved from the beginning of the year. They don't have to pay back anything to anyone."

Some 266 graduands—the most since 1985—were eligible to march during the service, held in the Chan Shun Auditorium on the Lake Macquarie campus. These included an equal record number of honours students (6), the first students with an Associate Degree in Theological Studies and the first with a Certificate IV in Transport and Distribution (aviation flight operations).



Luke Doyle holds a decorative key ring given to each graduate by the graduation class. The class motto, "Because you did it for the least of them . . . you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40), appears on a plaque attached to the back of the ring.

Photo by Ann Stafford



Photo by Ann Stafford

Aviation at Avondale to end

Brenton Stacey/Andrew Opis

Concerns over long-term financial sustainability will see the closure after 30 years of the Avondale College School of Aviation.

The aviation program has made a significant contribution to the college, the regional community and Seventh-day Adventist mission work. The teaching program of the School of Aviation has been recognised as one of the best in New South Wales.

However, the School of Aviation has experienced a pattern of financial losses over many years. It is an expensive program to operate, and the college's governing body has had to ask whether continuing losses can be sustained.

The decision to close the School of Aviation during 2008 took into account not only financial considerations, but also the current strategic significance of the aviation program to the college and to the church, as well as the human cost of closing the operation.

"It has not been an easy decision," says president Dr John Cox. "I am acutely aware of the human cost, and I know the aviation staff members, who have given so much of themselves to the program, are experiencing bereavement at this time."

During the past 10 years, a number of plans have been developed to improve the financial performance of the School of Aviation. An advertising campaign this past summer contributed to a record enrolment of 20 students in the full-time program. This reduced the loss. However, significant overheads such as rising insurance costs continue to make a substantial impact.

The college will ensure students enrolled in the vocational education courses offered by the School of Aviation will be able to complete their studies.

Chief pilot Garry Fraser acknowledges the challenges of operating the School of Aviation but says meeting them with "integrity and dignity" ranks as one of his proudest

achievements. "I am so pleased to be part of the passion and professionalism that is aviation at Avondale," says Garry. "It has been a super team of people associating together to produce super outcomes."

Avondale established the School of Aviation in 1977. "Our students used the skills they acquired to bring glad tidings to remote fields in the South Pacific," says Pastor Colin Winch, the first chief pilot. "The school really did serve a greater purpose." It continues to do so. All of the four pilots working for Adventist Aviation Services in Papua New Guinea studied at Avondale. Two have also worked for the School of Aviation.

Sandrak Nawipa, a former science student at Cendrawasih University in Jayapura, Indonesia, and one of the 44 boat people who came to Australia in 2006, wanted an aviation qualification from Avondale "because the college is the only tertiary institution offering aviation studies with a Christian focus." Mathew Bawden shares similar sentiments. "The course is well structured and the instructors highly qualified."

The School of Aviation has earned the respect of those within the industry, with peak bodies, government regulators and even other tertiary institutions seeking advice when developing syllabuses. Pass rates in theory examinations are two to three times above national averages. More than 100 former staff members and students are currently employed in airline and other flying positions—the list includes the first female Qantas captain.

Former students Belinda Thompson (2002) and Hayley Wilson (2004) both received the Sir Donald Anderson Trophy for being Australia's best performing female pilots in professional air transport licencing exams. Current student Cameron Powell achieved a perfect score in his professional theory exam in September.

The School of Aviation moved from its original base at Cooranbong when the local airport closed on December 31, 2006. It has operated at Cessnock Airport since this date.

New places put Avondale head of class

Avondale College received 20 federal government-funded teaching places in the latest top-up round of allocations to higher education providers. This is in addition to the 468 Commonwealth supported, or HECS, places—more than at any other Christian college—currently available at Avondale. The new allocation shows the benefit of offering accredited courses in an area of national priority. According to a formula the government calls the "pipeline," the newly allocated places will increase during the first four years and then remain constant, unless the government allocates new places. This means Avondale's 20 new places will increase to 55 by 2011. It will give Avondale 567 places—354 in teaching and 213 in nursing—in 2008.

This means almost all Australian citizens accepted into nursing and about three quarters accepted into teaching courses at Avondale next year are likely to receive Commonwealth supported places. Students receiving places can defer all or part of their tuition until they earn more than \$38,148 per year.

AVONDALE STILL A FIVE-STAR EXPERIENCE

Avondale graduates rate the quality of their education more highly than the graduates of 80 per cent of Australian universities.



Photo by Colin Chuang

This is according to the 2008 edition of *The good universities guide*, which gives Avondale top five-star ratings for quality of teaching, employable generic skills and overall student satisfaction. These ratings are based on surveys of higher education graduates conducted by a federal government agency, Graduate Careers Australia.

Avondale has consistently received five-star ratings in these categories for the past 10 years. It also received five stars this year for the proportion of its staff members who hold higher degrees by research or coursework.



Theology student Lili Radziszewski holds her Graham Miller Memorial Award, presented to her by Dr Rob McIver.

Photo by Ann Stafford

Award winners familiar and mostly female

Previous award winners and females featured prominently during the academic awards forum on Avondale College's Lake Macquarie campus, November 7. Braden Blyde and Danielle Weiler each received the largest monetary award, the \$2000 Avondale Foundation Award of Excellence. Both are arts and teaching graduates and both have served as president of the Avondale Student and Faculty Association. Braden also won an excellence award in education to add to a similar award in arts in 2005.

Theology student Lili Radziszewski and graduate Peter Watts added to an award they shared this past year. Lili receives \$1000 for winning the Graham Miller Memorial Award. Peter not only receives \$1000 for winning the Bill Marr Institute of Public Evangelism Award, he becomes, for the first time in the award's history, an honorary member of the institute.

Graduate Sharyn Brady received two awards, the Bachelor of Arts Award of Excellence (\$500) and the Award of Excellence in Journalism (\$1000). Graduate Holly O'Grady is also a multiple award winner. The \$1000 she received for winning the Bachelor of Business Award of Excellence comes on top of the \$4000 she received earlier in the year for winning the Patterson Avondale Foundation Award of Excellence in Marketing and Management. Graduate Stacey Hetherington bounded onto the stage to receive the Avondale Alumni Association's Community Service Award (\$1000). Twenty-three of the 33 award winners were female.



Male bonding makes ordination memorable

Kristin Thiele

Whoops and cheers upstaged formalities during the ordination of assistant men's residence director Shane Roberts in the Avondale College Seventh-day Adventist Church, November 9.

The outgoing president of the church in the South Pacific, Pastor Laurie Evans, opened the vespers worship service with prayer. Dr Ray Roennfeldt, dean of the Faculty of Theology, presented the homily.

The students of Watson Hall, who formed an 80-voice choir, sang "Amazing grace" as senior minister Dr Bruce Manners invited ordained ministers and those touched by Shane's ministry to pray over Shane. As the choir finished singing, Dr

Dr Barry Oliver congratulates Pastor Shane Roberts following his ordination.
Photo by Ann Stafford

Barry Oliver, the incoming president of the church in the South Pacific, offered the ordination prayer. Friend Gaylene Heise then prayed over Shane's wife, Debbie (Wilkins). The Roberts, who met at Avondale, celebrate 20 years of marriage next year.

As the prayer ended, the church erupted with whoops and cheers. The students broke into a chant of "Shane, Shane, Shane, number one, number one, number one" as they lifted him onto their shoulders.

"There are times in your ministry when you question your calling; this worship service was not one of those times," says Shane. "The affirmation overwhelmed me."

Shane began his ministerial career as an assistant minister at Avondale Memorial Adventist Church while studying theology at Avondale from 1995 to 1998. He had earlier served in a variety of clerical and treasury roles for Sanitarium Health Food Company and the church in the South Pacific, South Australia and northern New South Wales. Calls to Lord Howe Island (1999), Parramatta (2000-2002), Toongabbie (2002) and Stanmore (2003) followed before Shane returned to Avondale in 2004. He also served during this time as chaplain at Sydney Adventist College (2000 and 2003) and Auburn Adventist Primary School (2001, 2002).

Long-serving science lecturers hang up lab coats

The Faculty of Science and Mathematics has acknowledged the contribution of two lecturers retiring after a combined 63 years of service to Avondale College.

Senior chemistry lecturer Dr Bob Drewer has served 42 of these years. He began lecturing long before any of his current students were born. He even taught the current dean of the faculty, Dr Lynden Rogers.

"Chemistry students soon learned it didn't matter what went wrong, classes would proceed regardless and they had better be there," says Lynden. He remembers Bob injuring his back and lecturing from a hospital bed, which the students wheeled around the lab. "The gesticulations and chemical excitement continued unabated."

Bob has twice been the subject of a dedication in *Jacaranda*. Perhaps it had something to do with the number of birthday cards dispensed with clockwork regularity and reliability to students, graduates and friends.

Senior applied biology lecturer Dr Terry Annable, who retires after 21 years of service, began his career as a nurse working in the United Kingdom. However, qualifications in radiotherapy, physiology and

technical education soon pointed toward a career in tertiary education. He taught at Harrow College of Technology in London and later, after immigrating to Australia, at what is now Charles Sturt University.

Terry joined the Faculty of Science and Mathematics at Avondale in 1986, caring particularly for subjects in human physiology. A master's and a PhD, the latter studying the reproductive physiology of geckos, reflected a keen interest in herpetology (the study of reptiles).

Terry plans to conduct further research in natural history during his retirement. He and Bob will continue to share their knowledge with students as sessional lecturers.



Bob Drewer shows Terry Annable how to mend his broken heart.

Photo by Ann Stafford

Lecturer first to study celluloid Anzacs

Brenton Stacey

An Avondale College lecturer has published the first study of how Australian film and television have portrayed the Anzac legend over 80 years.

Dr Daniel Reynaud's study, published as a book called *Celluloid Anzacs* (Australian Scholarly Publishing), traces the evolving image of Anzac from pro-British city boy to anti-British bushman.

A senior lecturer in the Faculty of Arts, Daniel has also restored Australia's first Gallipoli movie, *The hero of the Dardanelles*, a 20-minute silent film made in 1915. His interest in the box office hit came out of the research for his thesis, *Celluloid Anzacs: representations of the Great War in Australian cinema and television drama*.

What were the characteristics of the early Anzac legend?

The Anzac began as a derivative of

British military myths. Ideal Anzacs were pro-British city boys who were of officer material.

How has the legend changed?

The pro-British city boys became lean and comical anti-British bush soldiers. The change came in the early days of the Anzac's Australian identity in the interwar years. The nationalistic fervour of the 1980s gave the Anzac its anti-British edge.

What led to the changes?

Two factors: changes in society, with a move away from White Australia and an increasing self-reliance from Britain; and the de-glorification of war.

What has remained the same?

The Anzac represents what is best about Australia. It has always represented the true Aussie, whether he was a pro-British city boy or an anti-British bushman.

Why is it important to understand how the legend developed?

We need to know where we've come from. An awareness of change in our history helps prevent arrogance and prejudice, and it encourages further cultural maturity.

Which films and actors helped create the Anzac legend?

Diggers (1931) is arguably Australia's first all-talkie movie. A comedy set on the Western Front, it was the first Australian sound film to receive

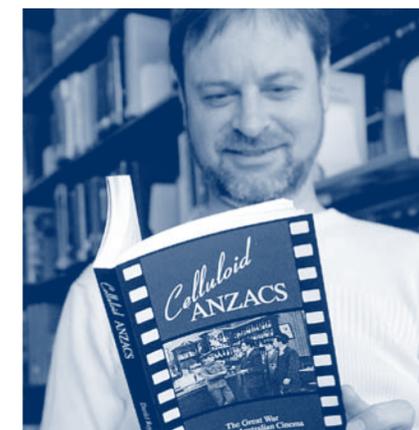
widespread distribution and box office success

The first ideal Anzac in film was actor Guy Hastings, who portrayed the upper class city volunteer in *The hero of the Dardanelles*. In *Diggers*, he portrayed the stereotypical English sergeant-major, plump and stupid.

Arthur Tauchert typified the stout city larrikin in the 1920s, Pat Hanna, a New Zealander, created the lean, comic bushman in the 1930s, Chips Rafferty perfected Hanna's image in the 1940s, and Mel Gibson and Paul Hogan were the 1980s incarnations of the anti-British bushman hero.

What can movies tell us about Anzac and about our own past in general?

The Anzac summarises key Australian values such as equality, mateship, courage, ingenuity and our own distinctive identity.

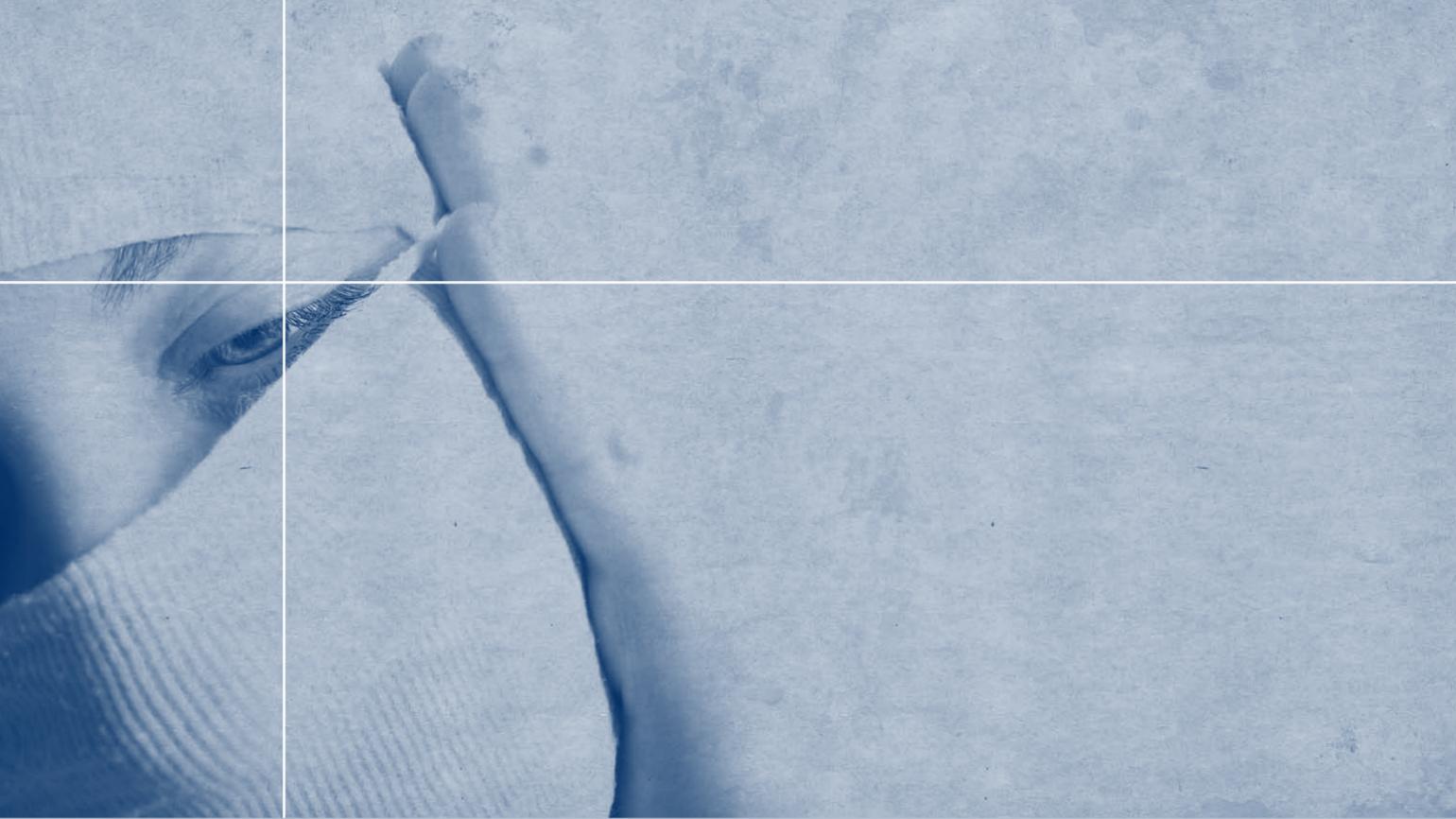


Richard's paintings on display

Paintings in a Sydney gallery by an Avondale College staff member were the subject of a review published by the city's broadsheet newspaper.

Visual arts lecturer Richard Morris (pictured) doorknocked galleries but the size of his painting proved problematic. Richard carried the painting on his roof-rack rather than under his arm. He eventually found a willing suitor in the Robin Gibson Gallery and an admiring critic.

The review by Kerry Coleman of *The Sydney morning herald* read as follows: "Richard Morris's paintings in wild bright colours or more sombre muted hues are cut into smaller pieces and reassembled. The result is a contrasting collage of shapes and colours . . . best viewed from afar, where the viewer can appreciate the interaction between the fragments. Observing them, it's tempting to restore the jigsaw puzzle. . . . This is impossible but you soon find yourself admiring the pleasing fit of the new configuration."



The psychological distress of brain injury

Dr Malcolm I Anderson

The following article is adapted from a paper called, "The effects of neurobehavioural impairments of severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) on family functioning and psychological distress in relatives supporting family members with TBI."

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) occurs unexpectedly and can affect people from all walks of life from any age group. The incidence of TBI in Australia is estimated at 100 per 100,000 new cases per year (Tate, McDonald and Lulham, 1998). TBI may be caused by a blow to the head or by the head being jostled rapidly in a forward and backward motion, usually with some alteration in consciousness. As a result of this blow or rapid movement, brain tissue may be damaged, which can lead to varying degrees of disability and psychosocial problems.

Typically, people with severe TBI experience physical or motor-sensory, cognitive and

behavioural impairments. Common motor sensory impairments include visual problems, poor balance, incoordination, paralysis or restricted range of movement in the arms or legs, difficulties producing intelligible speech, and changes in taste and smell. Cognitive impairments include problems with memory, attention, speed of information processing, planning and organising, problem solving, poor mental flexibility and communication difficulties, both in understanding what other people say and communicating (ie. receptive and expressive aphasia). Finally, behavioural impairments can include increased impulsivity, reduced levels of control of emotions, self-centredness, lack of insight, irritability and temper control problems including verbal and physical aggression.

Often people with TBI will have a normal life expectancy but may be left with continuing disabilities as a result of these neurobehavioural

impairments that involve profound economic, social and personal costs for decades to come. Not surprisingly, people with TBI can experience a range of differing psychological problems to the injury and consequent changes in their lives. This can include depression, anxiety, low self-esteem and some people do attempt suicide.

The impact of TBI is wider than just the individual who is injured. Relatives of the person with TBI are also directly involved and are themselves "casualties," and many will be profoundly affected by the changes that occur when a family member is injured. Subsequently, the topic of psychological distress in relatives has received considerable attention by researchers. In the past, studies on the impact of TBI lacked a unified theoretical approach for understanding psychological distress in relatives. We have addressed this shortfall by using a contemporary model of stress based on Conservation of Resources theory (Hobfoll and Spielberger, 1992) and the McMaster Model of Family Functioning (Epstein, Bishop and Levin, 1978) for understanding psychological distress in spouses who have partners with TBI and parents of adult children with TBI. Using the model as a framework, we examined the effects of neurobehavioural impairments on family functioning and psychological distress in spouses and parents caring for relatives with TBI.

Our findings indicated cognitive, behavioural and personality changes disrupted family functioning and increased psychological distress in spouses of partners with TBI. For example, we found spouses who were supporting their injured partners had difficulties coming to terms with changes in role functions and subsequently high levels of burden were frequently reported. Spouses had difficulties managing family finances because their partner could no longer work. These families became increasingly isolated from friends and acquaintances; participation in leisure activities and taking a vacation became increasingly difficult. Subsequently, feelings of anxiety and depression were evident in these carers.

On the other hand, we found cognitive and behavioural impairments did not significantly disrupt family functioning when parents were supporting an adult child with TBI, which suggests other factors may be influencing family dynamics in this group. Furthermore, the parent couples had a similar perspective on the distress they were experiencing. A plausible explanation for this finding is the couples we surveyed largely

shared the responsibility of caring for their child, which exposes both parents to the challenges of everyday living and support required by the child with TBI. Further interviews with parents are currently being conducted to shed more light on the complex nature of parenting following TBI.

The findings and recommendations from our recent publications related to this study have been adopted by trainers at the Brain Injury Association of New South Wales to help families cope with the changes in family dynamics following TBI. In the future, we plan to extend this study into Hong Kong.

This research is partly funded by the Australasian Research Institute (ARI) and the Avondale Foundation.—with *Grahame Simpson (Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, Liverpool Health Service)*, *Magdalena Mok (The Hong Kong Institute of Education)*, *Tamera Gosling (Faculty of Nursing and Health, Avondale College)* and *Peter Morey (Faculty of Business and Information Technology, Avondale College)*

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Alumni's surprise Homecoming

The Idea of North received a standing ovation during the Homecoming concert. The quality and range of music, which included gospel, hymn, jazz, pop and soul, and the a cappella quartet's sense of humour—it played a Bach fugue using kazoos—entertained a 600-strong audience.

Photo by Ann Stafford

Brenton Stacey

The Avondale College Alumni Association surprised the recipients of its highest award by keeping their names secret until the official presentation at Homecoming (August 24-26).

Members of the association's committee voted in April to present the Outstanding Alumni Award to Dr Barry and Desmryna Taylor. However, they revealed the names only during the Sabbath worship service in the Avondale College Seventh-day Adventist Church. The award recognises the Taylor's contribution to medical research—in physical therapy and biochemistry—their dedication to Adventist tertiary education—at Loma Linda University (California, USA)—and their contribution to the local community.

Barry reviewed the history of Loma Linda during the inaugural Alumni Lecture on Friday. The institution's reorganisation as a health sciences university brought focus to its mission—research had a greater emphasis.



Barry and Desmryna Taylor did not know they were to receive the Avondale College Alumni Association's Outstanding Alumni Award until re-elected president Roger Nixon announced their names.

Photo by Ann Stafford

Loma Linda formalised this new mission in 2000, appointing Barry as the first vice-president for research affairs. The next six years saw a doubling—to USD40 million a year—of external funding for research. "Research is no longer a luxury of privileged faculty but an affirmed mission for all," said Barry.

Desmryna attended Homecoming as a member of the 1957 honour year. She spoke during the association's luncheon about the 100,000 kilograms of food she has collected and distributed over the past two decades for people who are homeless and for victims of domestic violence.

Nine other alumni joined the Taylors as award recipients.

Eight were members of each honour year. Receiving citations from their classmates were: retired minister Wal Hammond (1937); caretaker and custodian of "Sunnyside" and South Sea Islands Museum Keith Frauenfelder (1947); retired lecturer and teacher Beverley Reye (1957); director of choirs



Tom Ludowici (1957) helped present a posthumous award to Dr Alwyn Salom, an honorary senior research fellow at Avondale who died in February this year. Alwyn's wife, Audrey, accepted it on his behalf.

Photo by Ann Stafford



Rodney Cooke and Elwyn Cherry, class of 1967.

Photo by Ann Stafford



Esther Lane and Anthea (Collett) Hughes, class of 1957.

Photo by Ann Stafford

and chair of the Music Department at Columbia Union College James Bingham (1967); minister and president of Rivers Community Church and Rock Community Care Jenny Spyve (1977); minister of Southside Community Church and president and executive director of The Spot Community Services Ken Houlston (1982); creative director of Rocfish Karyn Fua (1987); and businesswoman Charmaine Bazley (1997).

Arthur Patrick and Tom Ludowici presented a posthumous award to the ninth, Dr Alwyn Salom, an honorary senior research fellow at Avondale. Alwyn died in February this year. The award recognised the "initial impulse and continuing guidance" of the "quiet, scholarly little man" when the class of 1957 "envisioned *Jacaranda* as the first Avondale annual."

Jean Carter—"if there was no history at the cross [and] no mystery of Christ rising from the dead . . . there would be no victory"—and David Lawson—"through the waters of the fire you and I must go . . . but God is with us all the

time. . . . That's the source of strength and stay for our trembling hearts"—members of the 1982 and 1957 honour years, preached the vespers and the worship service sermons. Three returned to Avondale to perform during vespers on Friday evening. Harry Halliday, Karen Thrift (1977) and Heather Ferguson (1977) formed the folk trio sitting around a fire on a secondary teachers' club camp while studying at college.

A change from Saturday this past year to Sunday this year, and warm and sunny weather, doubled the number of people at the Sanitarium Health Food Company brunch. More than 100 people visited the Land of the Pharaohs exhibition in Avondale Library.

And 23 competitors, including eight students, entered the golf classic at the Toronto Country Club, also on Sunday. Students Jonathan Roennfeldt and Adrian Timmermans won the Ambrose format tournament with a one over par 73.

Past memories brought back to life by 1987 honour year class members including (from left) Garnet Dale, John Skrzypaszek and Gilbert Cangy.

Photo by Ann Stafford





Rex Moe: Broken Hill miner, church leader

Arthur Patrick

Early in 1954, more than 20 students registered as the first cohort to begin a Bachelor of Arts (theology) at the Australasian Missionary College (renamed Avondale College in 1964). For the first time in the South Pacific, students could study Seventh-day Adventist ministerial education at degree level, under an affiliation with Pacific Union College in California, USA. When the jacarandas flowered in 1957, 89 students graduated, but only eight were from theology. Most of the cohort that started so optimistically four years earlier found the course either too demanding or too long.

All of the eight graduates began service as ministers. Death cut short the career of one, John Slade. Fifty years after his graduation, I asked Pastor Rex Moe, as one of the seven still living, to reflect on his experience.

It was easy for Rex to list the geographical areas where he ministered: southern Queensland, northern New South Wales, northern Queensland, Western Australia and the Solomon Islands. He served as an evangelist and minister from 1958 until September 1971 when he "received the most devastating phone call" that caused "the most sleepless night" of his life.

On the line, Pastor Claude Judd relaying the news of the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference's vote to call Rex as president. From then until his retirement, at the end of January 1996, Rex would be either a conference or a union mission president.

Rex often fostered building programs. He recalls new churches in Dalby, Chinchilla, Maitland and Port Macquarie. The conference offices in Perth and Newcastle relocated during his terms of leadership. Schools formed, including the one in Hamilton, New South Wales (which relocated and became Macquarie College), as did the now-cherished campground at Stuarts Point.

On three occasions, Rex received unusual honours. In Western Australia, when Australia celebrated the Queen's Silver Jubilee (QSJ), he received the QSJ medal. When he lived in Honiara, the area of his responsibility included the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Nauru, Kiribati and Tuvalu. The government of the Solomons recommended him for the British Empire Medal; Queen Elizabeth II authorised it. During his second term as NNSW president, Rex received an invitation to apply for membership of the Australian Institute of Management; the institute awarded him the status of fellow.

However, such highlights ministry hardly intimate the former Broken Hill miner's deepest satisfaction: from inviting people into fellowship with God and nurturing their relationship with Him.

Aurthur is a Senior honorary research fellow at Avondale College.

A sharp eye for art

Kristin Thiele

Daisy Sharp did not grow up in Cooranbong, but she's made a big impact in the community in the time she's spent there. As a former Avondale College staff member and a current resident of the community, she's taken it upon herself to be the ambassador for the creative spirit. Since her retirement at the age of 65, she's been instrumental in beginning community art classes. Her goal is to get people interested and excited about painting. "I don't want the classes to be about the money it makes; I want it to be about the painting," she says.

She began a painting class on a veranda with only a handful of people. The class grew to 24 students in only a few weeks. As numbers continued to increase, Daisy's class could no longer fit onto the veranda, so a search for a larger venue began. The class formed a committee that would help decide on venues and supplies. This committee became The Art Lovers. Today, the group has 90 permanent members with several teachers and different forms of art classes.

The Art Lovers group continues to demonstrate its unique nature for teachers and students. The students range in age from the young to those who have already retired. A proportion of the current students have been with the group for many years. This allows the teachers to grow in their abilities along with their students.

Today, Daisy teaches a painting class of only five or six students at a time, but she no longer considers many of

her students as students. "They don't need my help any more," she says. "It's more like a painting group than a class."

Royce Dickins is a regular member of Daisy's class. "I go to the class because I like to paint and I like the people," he says.

In October this year, The Art Lovers held an exhibition in the Morisset Multi-Purpose Centre. Most of the students attended and displayed their artwork for show as well as for sale.

Daisy says, "We now have some wonderful artists in our group and more coming every month, so I feel all my work has been helpful." She adds with a hint of sarcasm, "[but now] I think I must retire."

Daisy continues to reach out to her community through art. She loves what she does and will continue, with her amazing energy, to bring her unique light to the community.

Photo by Ann Stafford



Alumni notes

Gaylene Heise, course coordinator for business studies at Avondale College, writes of meeting Cherie Bowman (2001) after climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge. "She greeted [husband] Lyell and I as we exited into the shop where the photographs and tourist commodities are displayed." Cherie (pictured, right, with Gaylene) served as BridgeClimb Sydney's acting public relations coordinator at the time. "We had friends from the United States with us and they were amazed we'd met an Avondale graduate in the corner of the bridge's southern pylon," says Gaylene. Cherie has served in a variety of roles

since graduation. These have included a publicist for Universal Pictures Australia, a tour guide for Contiki Holidays, which saw her travelling around Australia with high school students from the United States representing the People to People Student Ambassador Program, and a warden at Buckingham Palace. "I felt proud," says Gaylene. "Cherie had done so well in her career. She mentioned how easy it had been to get the jobs she wanted because of the training she received at Avondale."

Moe Ioane (2003) is the new director of Adventist youth ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Victoria. She tells the church's newsletter, *Intravic*, "my prayer is to



Photo by Ann Stafford

see a movement of youth that will be unstoppable for God. . . . Jesus . . . loved teamwork, so do I."

Nalissa Maberly (2005) expected to find a "regular" job after receiving her Graduate Diploma of Theology. Instead, she now finds herself serving as "a volunteer in a land of endless rolling, green hills, craggy coastlines, one pound airfares and rather regular rain"—England. Nalissa has been leading a church regeneration project called No. 19 in St Austell, Cornwall, for the past year. Creative, relational ministry forms the core of the project with Nalissa and her team of young adults organising regular camps, movie nights, sports programs and trips to London. A modified STORM Co service project drew more than 20 children who had no previous connection to the church. "We make lots of friends," says Nalissa.

He is an icon of student mission club COSMOS and now, at 97 years of age, a published author. Charles Pointon's *A friend in high places* is about adventure with God, angels and prayer. Avondale College president Dr John Cox states

Alumni notes continued

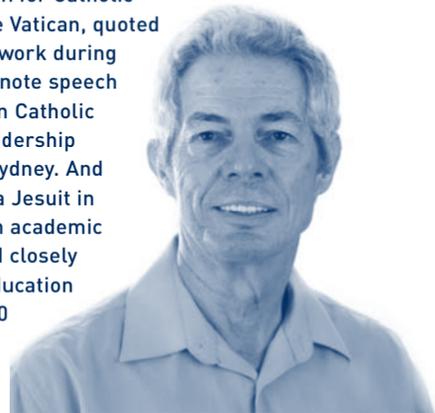
in the foreword, "Charles' book, so aptly titled, is a heart-warming account of a rewarding and fulfilled life, infused with an extraordinary spirit of enthusiasm and godliness." Friend Peter Dixon (1985) initially encouraged Charles (pictured) to document his life and helped fund the publication of the book. "Charles is a remarkable person, and his life is a source of inspiration that prompted me to tell him to write a book," says Peter. "I have always wanted to serve the Lord and other people in need around the world," says Charles. "And I still want to raise funds for COSMOS." *A friend in high places* costs \$10 and is available from Avondale Music in Cooranbong (+61 2 4977 1394). Profits from sales will go to COSMOS. —Andrew Opis

Carl Voigt (1977) led a team of Master of Business Administration students in making a presentation at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which concluded in Sydney in September. Carl received his PhD in strategy and organisation with an emphasis in entrepreneurship from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1996. He is widely known for his research in management and organisation, particularly in the areas of global strategy and international management. Carl is a recipient of a Golden Apple Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr John Watts (pictured), a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education at Avondale College, presented a paper with former doctoral student

Dr Jim Hanley at the Fifth National Symposium on Religious Education and Ministry in Brisbane in June. The paper, entitled "A hermeneutic case study approach to exploring continuing ethos in religious institutions," has since appeared in *Catholic school studies*. "A related paper, Continuing the Catholic ethos and identity of a Catholic institution when disengaged from its foundational religious founders or traditions: an Australian case study," has also appeared in *The Australasian Catholic record*. John and Jim are currently writing two manuscripts relating to values in Catholic religious institutions, and a revised conceptualisation of catholicity. Archbishop John Michael Miller, secretary for the Congregation for Catholic Education at the Vatican, quoted John and Jim's work during the opening keynote speech at the Australian Catholic University's Leadership Conference in Sydney. And no, John is not a Jesuit in disguise, just an academic who has worked closely with Catholic education for more than 20 years.

Photo by
Aaron Bellette



New appeal to donors

Avondale College is seeking advice from donors as heritage and rezoning issues delay the building of a new student residential complex near the former dairy.

President Dr John Cox notes in a letter to supporters of last year's Annual Appeal how "remarkable" enrolment growth—more than 30 per cent in three years—"requires immediate action to provide extra accommodation."

This action, he explains, is an interim plan to extend women's residence Andre Hall and men's residence Watson Hall. A new wing extending east from Andre to Ella Boyd Hall and a new wing on the south side of Watson will accommodate 135 extra students. The wings will feature single rooms with a bathroom to each two rooms. Building will begin as soon as the college receives development approval.

"I am writing to seek your advice on how you wish your donation to be used in view of these

changed circumstances," says John in the letter. "Many donors will be happy for their gift to assist in building new wings on the existing residences, providing for students' immediate accommodation needs."

Donors wishing Avondale to use their donation this way need not do anything. Those wishing to reserve their donation for the new residential complex should write to:

Sallyanne Dehn
Advancement Office
Avondale College
PO Box 19
Cooranbong NSW 2265

John ends his letter by assuring donors, "Whichever of these options you choose, your donation will provide additional accommodation to enable students to access the spiritual and educational values of Avondale, as they prepare for future leadership in the church's mission."

Avondale Foundation's record year

The year 2006-07 has been, in financial terms, the best ever for Avondale Foundation. Treasurer Chris Akroyd made the announcement during the foundation's annual general meeting on Avondale College's Lake Macquarie campus, October 21.

The foundation has now grown the equity in its businesses to \$5 million. This endowment will underwrite the foundation's gifts to the college in the future, regardless of the profitability of the businesses the foundation operates.

Chris specifically thanked all those who deposit funds with ACF Investments, as this business is the main source of the foundation's income. He concluded his report by saying it was "a pleasure to have a small part in advancing the cause of Avondale College."

Though the college's needs are beyond the capacity of any single body to fulfil, the president of the college, Dr John Cox, responded by thanking the foundation for the role it plays in helping the college and its students.

The foundation's announcement during the graduation service, December 2, of its continuing support highlights the significance of this role.

President Dr Norman Young referred in his speech to graduation not so much as a celebration but as a relief. "The college is relieved because graduands have now paid their fees in full, parents are relieved because they can finally plan an overseas holiday, and the government is relieved because 90 per cent of these graduands will soon be working to pay off their debt. However, students who receive an Avondale Foundation Academic Excellence Scholarship are relieved from the beginning of the year. They don't have to pay back anything to anyone."

At the conclusion of his speech, Norman (pictured, right) presented a letter of guarantee to John (left) for \$300,000. Some \$75,000 of this is for 15 scholarships for 2008, \$170,000 for continuing scholarships and \$55,000 for staff research.



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Adopt a Room: extend the Andree experience...

AVONDALE COLLEGE IS EXTENDING WOMEN'S RESIDENCE ANDRE HALL AND NEEDS YOUR HELP.



Andre Hall

Andre is a sanctuary for women of Avondale, and the first "home away from home" for many. The current generation of students in Andre need your help.

What are the issues?

Andre's 21 double and 27 single rooms, built in 1952, have little storage space, deteriorating chipboard fittings, old furniture and poor lighting.

What we want to do?

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

What you can do to help?

You can now sponsor the renovation of a room, possibly the room in which you stayed. Whether you have been an Avondale staff member or student, or admire Avondale's commitment to Christian education, rich history and impact on the community, you can help make the Avondale experience for the next generation of students even better by joining the Adopt a Room project. This allows you, a group of friends or your church community to fund the renovation of a room. We will place a plaque in the room to honour your contribution.

What does it cost?

Tax-deductible payment options include:

- Donation (\$2500)
- Monthly recurring gift (\$105 over 24 months)
- Cheque, credit cards and direct debit welcome

Contact the director of advancement, Lorin Bradford (02 4980 2294, advancement@avondale.edu.au), for more information about Adopt a Room.

Avondale

