

REFLECTIONS

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF AVONDALE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

WINTER 2019 | Vol 31 No 1



AVONDALE AND DES FORD

REFLECTIONS FROM THE LIFE OF
A FORMER HEAD OF THEOLOGY



TELLING HANDS, TEACHING FEET

Graduate's embodied-living-in-Bible
research now a book

2018 DONOR REPORT

Your response to Think&Do,
the invitation to journey through giving
with Avondale

JOY'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE CRUSADE

Alumna a leader of worldwide
women's movement

AVONDALE HOMECOMING

AUGUST 23-24, 2019

WHO WILL YOU MEET?



Reconnect with former classmates at honour year reunions.
Honour years: 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969, 1959 and 1949.

REGISTER: www.avondale.edu.au/homecoming



ALUMNI

2009 | 1999 | 1989 | 1979 | 1969 | 1959 | 1949

HOMECOMING 2019

Avondale: here for good

I've never been more clear about our mission: we are a Seventh-day Adventist higher education learning community dedicated to serving world needs. The new branding of giving and research offers a sharper summary: we think and do . . . for good.

Think&Do from Ellen White's book *Education* (p.17) encourages us to explore the sciences and the Scriptures, and then to engage—to act. That's what we do at Avondale. Giving to Avondale demonstrates your support for our founder's philosophy.

**If our research is here for good,
it is especially here for the cause of good.**

Here for Good aligns our mission with our research agenda. As my colleague Dr Carolyn Rickett notes, we research not for individual scholarly pursuit but "to embrace a larger, more altruistic concern of improving the world around and within us." The framework and focus of our research supports the mission of the church by increasing our understanding of fields of significance—society and culture, Christian education and health—for Adventists. One of our vice-presidents, Professor Jane Fernandez, describes research at Avondale as never an end in itself. "If our research is here for good, it is especially here for the cause of good."

This is why students choose an Avondale education: because they see it as giving them a greater vision. That's our motto and I saw it in action during our bi-annual Festival of Faith. Speaker Pr Brock Goodall found the gospel of grace in Leviticus, a book emphasising ritual, legal and moral practices. Now, 10 students want to take their relationship with Jesus further—we baptised the first three just before Easter. About the same number want Bible studies. Three times as many want to serve on campus.

And it's a campus that continues to modernise. The Clinical Education Centre (Sydney) is a state-of-the-art learning centre for nursing students. And the Administration Building and College Hall (Lake Macquarie) are now contemporary student hubs.

But the best evidence that we think and do for good is our graduates. Look for them in your churches and schools. I'm very proud of them.

> **Professor Ray Roennfeldt**, President,
Avondale College of Higher Education

GIVING RESEARCH A VOICE

Podcasts help scholars share mission motivation

A new podcast series is reinforcing a brand that aligns the mission of Avondale with its research agenda.

The series, called *Here For Good*, will feature researchers at Avondale College of Higher Education in conversation with Associate Dean (Research) Dr Carolyn Rickett and guest presenters.

Each 15-minute episode will "communicate our individual and institutional purpose for research; that we are here for good," says Rickett.

Rickett consulted with Avondale's administrators and research centre directors to develop the Avondale Researchers: Here For Good brand. "Research can often be perceived as an activity that's abstract, individualised and impractical," she says. "But our narrative highlights the kind of research designed to connect with real-world issues, challenges and possibilities. Many of our academic staff members bring their professional experience in schools, hospitals, churches, not-for-profits and corporate industries to the projects on which they're working."

The brand supports the philosophical framework and practical focus of Avondale's key research fields—society and culture, education and health—and the motivation and scope of its four research centres.



Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud talks about his latest book *Anzac Spirituality* on the first episode of *Here For Good*.

Photo: Brenton Stacey

"Our research addresses issues and needs so that we can make positive changes," says Professor Stephen Currow, Vice-President (Academic).

Informing best practice, enhancing mission, improving the world: "we're proud our research touches the peak points of quality," says Professor Jane Fernandez, Vice-President (Quality and Strategy). "That quality is evident by the impact of our research and the intent of our research to serve the greater good." In this sense, she adds, the Here For Good brand sends a strong message about Avondale's reason for being. "We have sought and continue to seek through the benevolence of knowledge the higher moral purpose for learning and being."

New *Here For Good* episodes will be released on Avondale's news blog and Apple's iTunes Store each month. Sound engineer Dale Willis (2002), an award-winning alumnus of Avondale, is producing the series.—*Brenton Stacey*

> wp.avondale.edu.au/news/podcast



Photo: Brenton Stacey

DENIZENS OF THE DORA

Scientists publish decade-long study of Lake Macquarie fauna

A 10-year study at Avondale will help others measure the impact of climate change and urbanisation on fauna in Lake Macquarie's largest catchment.

Denizens of the Dora (Avondale Academic Press, 2018) is an inventory of beasts, birds and bugs in the 230-square-kilometre Dora Creek catchment. It documents about 1600 species that Drs Terry Annable, Howard Fisher, Maurice Ashton and Jason Morton either personally observed or located valid records of observations by others. Original colour photographs illustrate 56 vertebrate and 131 invertebrate species.

This "significant advance" in knowledge of the catchment's animal life has identified many smaller invertebrates not yet scientifically described, which is important when considering Australia's high extinction rates, says Annable, a biologist and former senior lecturer in the School of Science and Mathematics at Avondale College of Higher Education.

The inventory lists more than 500 vertebrates including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish and more than 1000 invertebrates

including arthropods, worms, molluscs and other species representing 12 different phyla. Some have never been recorded in the catchment before. The iridescent blue Ulysses butterfly, for example, normally found north of Mackay in Queensland, appears to be moving south. "I've recorded it for several seasons now," says Annable. "I didn't think it would survive the sharp frosts last winter, but it has."

Denizens of the Dora is not only a reference tool for scientists and naturalists but also for assessing the impact on the environment of changes in climate and of expanding human activities. The changes can be good and bad, though, says Annable. "The drought last year reduced significantly the number of forest leeches and mosquitoes, which is good news for us but bad news for the fish, birds and spiders that feed on them."

Fisher credits publication of *Denizens* to a "convenient coming together." A biologist and a former colleague of Annable's who served as chair of the now defunct Dora Creek Catchment Group, he and Annable co-authored an earlier companion volume, *The Valley of a Thousand Plants*, "partly to satisfy

my interest and partly to satisfy the objectives of the catchment group." Annable and Fisher received grants from the Australian Plants Society (Newcastle Group) and the Dora Creek Catchment Group for the floral inventory, which the School of Science and Mathematics published in 2014.

Of the contributions to *Denizens* of the two other academics, Ashton's knowledge of the bird fauna and his photographs enhanced the inventory, while Morton, a marine biologist, added his knowledge of the local fish and his underwater photographs.

Containing about 50 ecological communities, the Dora Creek catchment has a high biodiversity. Much of the catchment is, according to Fisher, classified as relatively unmodified natural vegetation, which is significant given its proximity to the cities of Lake Macquarie and to Newcastle. "It's not quite a biodiversity hotspot but we're getting close," says Annable. "So, conservation of our local habitats is extremely important."—
Brenton Stacey

> *Denizens of the Dora* is available from Amazon.



ALUMNI GIVE STUDENT HUB A FRESH MAKEOVER

Supporters of Avondale have helped refurbish an iconic student life and learning space on the Lake Macquarie campus. Most of the money for the College Hall makeover came courtesy of an almost \$60,000 donation from a charitable trust established by a longtime Friend of Avondale. Almost \$5000 came from the Alumni Heritage Walk, which honours all alumni while raising money to preserve and restore heritage features on campus. The former Chapel now has new carpet, a fresh coat of paint, a new academic regalia desk and refurbished service desk, and a contemporary study pod with new furniture behind a glass partition. The refurbishment promotes peer interaction and encourages closer working relationships—the placement of furniture, for example, creates opportunity for face-to-face contact. “We hope the pod will help off-campus students make better use of time by motivating them to stay and study during gaps in their timetable,” says Director of Student Life Services Jennifer Petrie. “It may also provide a sense of ‘home’ and build a stronger sense of cohesive community.” The donor, who Vice-President (Finance, Infrastructure and Risk) Kelvin Peuser says has “a real heart for Avondale,” asked simply, “What can I do to help?”

Photo: **Brenton Stacey**

> Learn more about the Alumni Heritage Walk at avondale.edu.au/giving

TELLING HANDS, TEACHING FEET

GRADUATE'S EMBODIED-LIVING-IN-BIBLE RESEARCH NOW A BOOK

An Avondale graduate's research about how the early church used human hands and feet to fulfil the mission of Jesus is now a book.

Telling Hands and Teaching Feet: Nonverbal Communication in Two of the Narratives of Acts comes from a thesis Dr Carole Ferch-Johnson completed for her PhD through Avondale College of Higher Education in 2016. Peter Lang has now published the thesis as Volume 61 of its Religions and Discourse series.

Editor James Francis describes the book as a "fresh trajectory in scholarly exploration." In an email to Ferch-Johnson, he writes, "You have done something to restore [the connection between metaphor and embodied living in the task of theology]. . . . Clergy ordination courses badly need to recover the vision you have grasped."

Ferch-Johnson examined the healing by Peter and John of the lame beggar at the temple (Acts 3) and the conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). She wanted to understand how nonverbal communication functioned in the narratives, whether it transmitted meaning, what role it played in forming relationships, and whether it helped fulfil the mission of Jesus.



Photo: Brenton Stacey

Little secondary literature about nonverbal communication in the New Testament meant Ferch-Johnson had to seek other sources, including the use of hands and feet in Luke and Acts and in: the Greek works from Second Temple Judaism; the works of Greek authors quoted by Luke in Acts; and, because the narratives address healing, the medical works of Hippocrates and Soranus.

And what did she find? The use of hands and feet in the two narratives from Acts do communicate meaning—trust and confidence between healer and healed grows, solidarity follows. And they do fulfil the mission of Jesus—the lame man is noticed, helped, healed and qualified to worship; Saul is humbled, helped, forgiven, converted, healed, commissioned and baptised.

THE PEOPLE'S SCHOLAR

PASTORAL COMMITMENT KEY TO CAROLE'S PHD

A career in the people-helping professions, including pastoral counselling and hospital chaplaincy, drew **Dr Carole Ferch-Johnson** to a study of people in the Bible. We asked:

Your lifework and years of postgraduate study, all contained in one book. Is that how it feels?

Not entirely, but I would not have been able to write this book without the background in specialised ministry I am fortunate to have, and the life experience that's been mine.

Even if readers of this article don't read

your book, what is the one thing they should remember to make their ministry more effective?

Nonverbal communication is more authentic than verbal and more likely to accurately convey meaning in interpersonal interaction.

You've said emotional connection between people always costs. From your experience in the people-helping professions, what's the pay-off?

A sense of purpose in dealing with people. Satisfaction from having helped another. Enriched relationships with others in general.

Given we have the potential to communicate more information nonverbally than verbally, President Professor Ray Roennfeldt is surprised nonverbal communication is not given greater attention in biblical interpretation and application. "[Are we] losing the ability to see beyond the bare words of emails and tweets to real people?" he asks in the foreword.

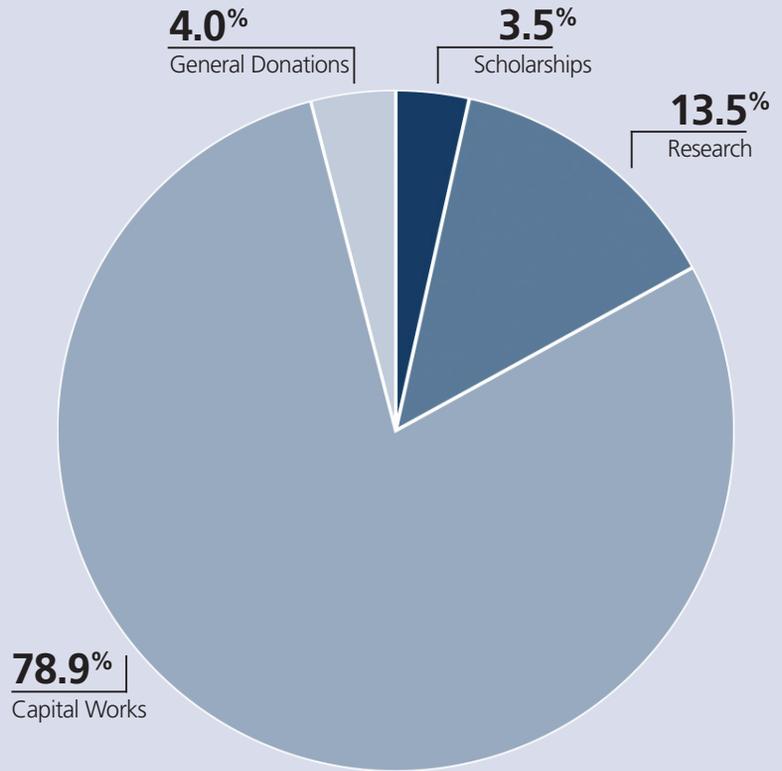
The focus on hands and feet comes from Luke 24:39-40, which describes a resurrected Jesus revealing His identity to the disciples by inviting them to look at His hands and His feet. Both are central to meaning and mission because they are at the heart of effective human interaction, says Ferch-Johnson. They are also at the extremities of the body and so "offer the first point of contact between people. Any sharing of Christ and His mission typically begins with hands and feet."—*Brenton Stacey*

2018 DONOR REPORT

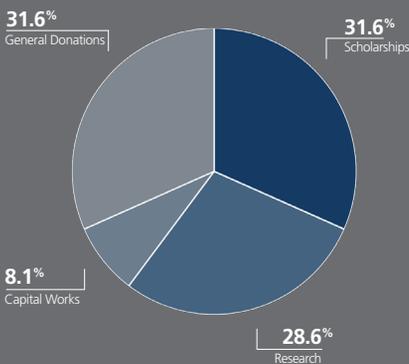
Your generous response in 2018 to Think&Do raised almost \$250,000* for three of Avondale's research centres (see bar graph). The Centre for Advancement of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, the Christian Education Research Centre and the Spirituality and Worship Research Centre are using the money to invest in projects exploring the practice of teaching and learning, benefiting Seventh-day Adventist schools and supporting research with practical applications for church and community.

Thank you for beginning the journey with us as we accept the challenge of learning and discovery (research), educating leaders (scholarships) and developing quality infrastructure (capital works). And as we use this knowledge and these resources to improve lives.

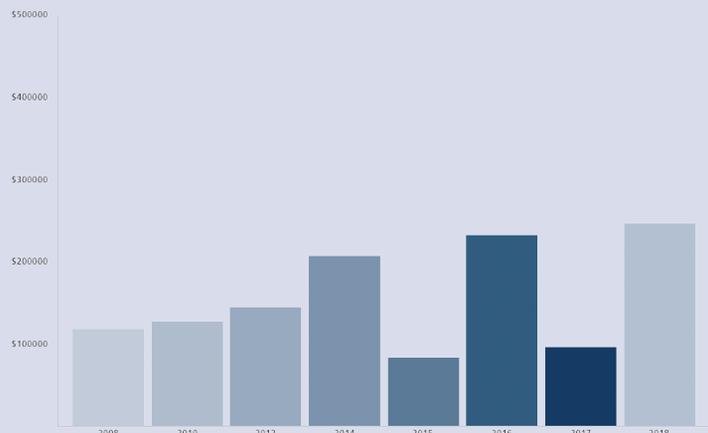
*** Donations to Think&Do in 2015 and 2017 are lower because Avondale receives a bi-annual offering from Seventh-day Adventist churches across the South Pacific in even years.**



DONATIONS 2017



DONATIONS TO THINK&DO



DONOR LIST 2018

Avondale College of Higher Education gratefully acknowledges those who journey with us as we accept the challenge of learning and discovery, of educating leaders, of developing quality infrastructure and of fostering creativity. Thank you for demonstrating this through giving. Your donations help us use this knowledge and these resources to improve lives.

TOTAL DONATIONS
\$1,818,893
 FOR THE YEAR 2018

BEQUESTS

Avondale College of Higher Education received one bequest totalling \$1.35 million.

BENEFACTORS (\$10,000-)

Anonymous (2)
Dr Jason Morton

PATRONS: FELLOWS (\$5000-\$9999)

Anonymous (4)
Peter and Valerie Duncan

Duncan-Kranz Choral Scholarship (8)

Awarded in memory of Peter and Valerie Duncan's parents—Charles and Sue Duncan and Alfred and Ethel Kranz mentored people with promise—to encourage and recognise worthy students with demonstrated aptitude in and commitment to music.

Dr Peter Kilgour
Ian and Nerida Miller
Graham Wright

PATRONS: PARTNERS (\$1000-\$4999)

Anonymous (3)
Adventist Aged Care (Greater Sydney)
Adventist Aged Care Sydney Aged Care Excellence Prize

Adventist Media
Adventist Media Journalism Prize

Adventist World Radio
Adventist World Radio Prize in Radio Writing and Public Relations

Beverly Christian

Clifford Anderson Fund
 Established in 1967 according to the terms of alumnus Dr Clifford Anderson's will to support Avondale Seminary students.
Clifford Anderson Ministry Prize (3)

Douglas Eliot Fund
 Established by alumna Dr Elizabeth Ostring (2009, 2015) in 2014 to honour father Douglas Eliot, a former Chief Financial Officer of Avondale College (1966-1975).
Douglas Eliot Church Planting/Ministry Memorial Prize

Edna and Vern Heise Memorial Fund

Established in 2006 by the Heise family to honour the life and work of alumna Edna (1922-2006) and then Vern (1921-2014) Heise, in memory of their outstanding support of women in ministry and Christian communication through preaching, writing and speaking.
Edna and Vern Heise Prize for Excellence in Communication

Ferch family
Arthur Ferch Prize for Greek Studies
Arthur Ferch Prize for Hebrew Studies

Graham Miller Memorial Fund
 Established by Zita Miller in 1976 to honour husband and alumnus Pr Graham Miller's (1926-1976) contribution to Seventh-day Adventist young adult ministry in the South Pacific.
Graham Miller Memorial Prize for Youth Ministry

Dr Jason Hinze
Peter and Ursula Johannsen
Willabee Floors Bachelor of Arts Prize

Angela and Robert Kalaf family
Angela and Robert Kalaf Family Marketing Excellence Prize
Angela and Robert Kalaf Family Marketing Internship Prize

Brian and Barbara King*King Family Scholarship (2)*

Awarded to honour the King family's musical endeavours by recognising students who have a passion for music and a desire to sing with vocal ensembles Avondale Singers and The Promise.

Dr Allan Laughlin**Magnusson, Draper, Thomson and Rogers families***Magnusson, Draper and Thomson Science Prize***Derek and Jenny Rippingale***Professional Advantage Bachelor of Business Prize***Professor Ray and Carmel Roennfeldt****Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing***Avondale Prize for Excellence (3)***Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia****Adventist Schools Australia***Ministry of Teaching (Secondary) Prize***Seventh-day Adventist Church in the New Zealand Pacific****Education Department***Ministry of Teaching (Primary) Prize***Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific****Education Department***Ministry of Teaching (Early Childhood) Prize***Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific Ministerial Association***Bill Marr Institute of Public Evangelism Prize***Dr Marion Shields****Dr Graham and Rosanne Stacey****Dr Allen and Andrea Steele***Allen and Andrea Steele Huguenot History Prize***Sydney Adventist Hospital***Discipline of Nursing Prize for Consistent Effort and Accomplishment**Sydney Adventist Hospital Academic Excellence Prize**Sydney Adventist Hospital Clinical Excellence Prize**Sydney Adventist Hospital Medical Nursing Excellence Prize**Sydney Adventist Hospital Mental Health Excellence Prize**Sydney Adventist Hospital Surgical Nursing Excellence Prize***Drs David and Carol Tasker****Teachers Mutual Bank***Teachers Mutual Bank Excellence Prize***Viatek***Viatek/Fuji Xerox Bachelor of Business (Accounting) Prize***Professor Colin and Venita Waters****DONORS: AMBASSADORS (\$600-\$999)****Brisbane Waters Private Hospital***Brisbane Waters Private Hospital Clinical Practice Excellence Prize***Dr John and Wendy Cox****Dr Graeme J Humble****David Potter****Laurel Raethel****Townend family***W A Townend Christian Journalism Prize***DONORS: PRINCIPALS (\$300-\$599)****Anonymous (2)****Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia***Adventist Development and Relief Agency Social Justice Prize***Barritt family***Barritt Primary Teacher's Literacy Prize***Tony Dance****Fit Life Health Club***Health and Physical Education Prize***Gail Valentine Memorial Fund**

Established in 2009 to honour the life and work of alumna Gail Valentine (1949-2009) in memory of her contribution to best practice in human resource management.

*Gail Valentine Memorial Prize for Human Resource Management***Dr Timothy Gorle****Audrey Jackson****Lynnette Lounsbury****Lavinia Ontanu****Michelle Ward****DONORS: ASSOCIATES (\$100-\$299)****Anonymous (4)****Pr Kevin Amos****Denver Annable****Doug Cloete****Linda Cloete****Community Environment Network****Bevan and Cybéle Craig****Robert Fairfoul****Marleta Fong****Yasmin Green****Dr Barry and Valmai Hill****Laura Hutchinson****Linda Klinger***in honour of Drs David and**Carol Tasker's contribution to**Christian education***Pr Kevin and Sue Price****Philomine Yeo****DONORS: FRIENDS (\$0-\$99)****Devon Deppeler****Doreen Dunlop****Lynette Felix****Priya Govett****Merlene Jaensch****Sue Kuip****Dr Trevor Lloyd****Ronald McGrath****Dr Richard Morris****Richard Todd****Andrew Wanke****Vernon Wood**



Photo: Brenton Stacey

EVIDENCE IN FOR TAKING UTI DOWN

ANTISEPTIC KEY TO REDUCING
ONE THE MOST COMMON
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED
INFECTIONS

The evidence has been inconclusive until now: using an antiseptic instead of saline when inserting catheters reduces the risk of urinary tract infection.

The findings, published in the journal *Lancet Infectious Disease*, will inform clinical practice worldwide, says chief investigator Professor Brett Mitchell from the School of Nursing at Avondale College of Higher Education. “They will hopefully reduce the burden of urinary tract infections for thousands of patients.”

Mitchell and his team’s 32-week stepped-

wedge randomised controlled trial measured a 94 per cent reduction in the risk of urinary tract infection at three Australian hospitals when the hospitals used chlorhexidine as part of urinary catheter insertion practices. “This suggests a significant decrease in the rate of urinary tract infection in the seven days following catheter insertion,” says Mitchell.

The nursing implications are considerable, says co-author and registered nurse Dr Anne Gardner, at the time of the study an adjunct professor from the School of Public Health and Social Work at Queensland University of

Technology. “Nurses are justifiably reluctant to use antiseptics without good evidence of their efficacy,” but the trial “will help in clinical decision-making.” As she notes, the findings need to be replicated in other studies but “go some way to providing a definite answer about whether there is any advantage in using chlorhexidine over normal saline.”

More research to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of using chlorhexidine is ongoing but, according to Mitchell, the interim results indicate the antiseptic is not only cost-effective but potentially cost-saving.

International guidelines differ in their recommendations about the choice of agent for meatal cleaning. The United Kingdom’s epic3 guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections in National Health Service hospitals recommends the use of saline. While the United States Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee provides no recommendation, stating instead that the issue remains unresolved.

This lack of cohesiveness—stemming from a lack of rigorously designed trials and conclusive evidence—means clinical practice varies and is probably not best practice.

Mitchell believes the stepped-wedge randomised controlled trial—which introduced the intervention slowly across different hospitals, effectively ensuring each hospital acted as its own control—heeds the call for good evidence. “There have been other studies, but they either didn’t get enough participants or didn’t design with enough rigour to make strong conclusions. This trial has both: plenty of participants and a good design.”

Urinary tract infections are one of the most common infections patient acquire in hospital, with previous research indicating about 71,000 urinary tract infections occurring in Australia each year. These infections are often associated with the use of urinary catheters.

Grants from HCF Foundation and the Lifestyle Research Centre at Avondale funded the study. “I’m grateful for the support of the foundation as well as those who donate money for research at Avondale,” says Mitchell. “Without it, this study would not have been possible.”
—Brenton Stacey



AVONDALE REMEMBERS DES FORD

Reflections from the life of a former head of theology

Reflections from colleagues revealed an often humorous human side to former Avondale College theology head Dr Desmond Ford during his memorial service in March.

Former departmental heads **Drs Laurie Draper** (science) and **Trevor Lloyd** (education) joined then Theology Department secretary **Gwen Maharaj** and friend and former Dean of Women **Joan Patrick** on stage in the Griffith Duncan Theatre at The University of Newcastle to share stories about their friend.

Moderator **Dr Lynden Rogers** asked:

Laurie, what are your first memories of Des?

In 1950, the residents of Haskell Hall were rostered to take dormitory worships. Usually they simply read from the daily *Morning Watch* devotional. But one student was different. He presented biblical concepts I'd never heard before, those of salvation assurance and righteousness by faith. As a young adult,

I'd feared the close of probation and the possibility of an unconfessed sin. I thank Des for introducing me to the gospel and, over the next 69 years, extending my love of it.

Gwen, you must be one of few who've been ocean cruising with the Fords.

I boarded the *Arcadia* in Suva on my way to begin the Bible instructor's course at Avondale in January 1961. Who should be on board, in transit back from the United States, but the Ford family. Later, I found myself as the only woman among 10 or so young men in a biblical theology class. Des, the lecturer, helped me manage the rather obvious gender imbalance. We all found his classes inspirational and enlightening—they always ended too soon.

Trevor, you came to Avondale soon after Des. Did you find him easy to get to know?

Yes. In my first year, and within several weeks of lectures beginning, Des invited me to lunch—half way up One-Tree Hill overlooking Cooranbong. He was baching at the time

and I was still a bachelor, but the meal was a banquet I have long remembered—wholegrain gems with prunes from a can, followed by fresh Granny Smith apples. On the strength of it, we walked the mountain trails in animated conversation all afternoon.

Joan, Des invited your late husband Arthur to join the Theology Department, and you all forged a strong friendship.

Picnics up in the Watagan mountains on Sabbaths helped. As the afternoon wore on, Des would invariably set off for a walk and those who were fit enough would join him. It always seemed as the walk gained speed, so did the talk.

Trevor, how would you describe Des' relationship with the student body?

I joined the students on the *Jacaranda* editorial team as faculty adviser in 1965. They were in no doubt about to whom they should dedicate the yearbook. Of Des they wrote, "A life lived amongst us / As one of us / For all of us."

Photos: Bevan Craig



Dr Laurie Draper, Gwen Maharaj, Joan Patrick and Dr Trevor Lloyd with Dr Lynden Rogers during the Reflections segment of the Avondale Remembers Des Ford service.

Laurie, you lived on Sandy Creek near the Fords and remember Des riding to work along the bush track past your house.

It was usually about 5 am on a bicycle with a very rattly mudguard that badly irritated our little dog, who invariably chased him out of range along the track.

Gwen, what did you learn about Des while working for him?

I made appointments for students who wished to speak with Des. I was told to allow just 15

minutes. Often Des would take the students for a walk and talk. They'd complain about getting breathless keeping up. It may have been one of Des' ploys to keep appointments short. Des also used to answer questions in *Signs of the Times* magazine. The editorial team was always asking for an updated photo, and he got sick of the pressure. One day, I was told to cut his photo out of the latest *Jacaranda* and post that to Warburton.

Trevor, how far beyond Bible classes was

Des' influence felt on campus?

Des played a leading part in the encouragement of a vibrant tone across the college. He enriched our lives with his fine scriptural exegesis and life applications. Students would gather for Friday evening vespers after a tiring week and be exhilarated and spiritually refreshed.

Laurie, there were areas of life in which Des was certainly not an expert.

True. He had little interest in motorcars but was eventually forced to purchase a second-hand one to replace his ageing bicycle. Shortly afterwards, he was asked by some staff members what make of car he'd bought. He said, "I'm not sure—a Ford? No, I'm not sure. What are the names of some others?" And I can't recall a time when Des expressed any interest in politics. It was a different matter if you mentioned Cyrus or the King of the North.

How would you describe Des' legacy to Seventh-day Adventism?

There was a real hunger in the church for the "good, glad and merry tidings which make the heart to sing and the feet to dance" and Des' meetings were invariably packed out. His legacy is a church that now enjoys much more salvation assurance.

OUR TRIBUTES TO DES

Friends write to share their stories

Preacher of good news

Des' focus was always on God's love and grace, the good news of the gospel. The only sermon I clearly remember from my childhood was by Des when he was still a theology student. He spoke about the book of Esther in which God's leading and providence pervade the story in dramatic fashion, although God's name is never mentioned. It still seems to me a metaphor for daily living.—*Dr Lyn Behrens, Former President, Loma Linda University*

Disciplined but fun

I first met Des as a student in his theology classes. I was awed by his erudition, rapid-fire discourse and disciplined ways. When I later worked with him, Des always treated me as an equal. And he was fun to be with. Des had an unconfined freedom in laughter—replete with much striking of fist in palm and slapping of knee—making it hard to not succumb. Once I sat opposite him in a suburban train and feigned nonchalance while he munched noisily on a bag of carrots—juice flying! Few could match Des' powers of self-regulation, yet he never made them a rule for others. The grace of God was Des' ruling theme and controlling purpose.—*Pr Ron Allen, Former Pastor, Good News Unlimited*

Teacher who made profound, positive impact

When Des preached the gospel, grace broke through like a burst of sunshine on a bleak winter's day. He was my Bible teacher at Avondale, and subsequently my dear friend for more than 50 years. His teaching on righteous by faith had a profound and positive impact on the thinking of Seventh-day Adventists worldwide. We shall not see his like again.—*Pr John Carter, President, The Carter Report*

Wordsmith

I remember the public banter between Des and Bob Parr, *Adventist Record's* ebullient editor, during much of the 1970s. Once Des wrote in, accusing Bob of having mis-spelt "eschatological." Bob came back next issue in quick riposte. "Well, that will teach Dr Ford not to mumble."—*Dr Lynden Rogers, Head of Science, Avondale College of Higher Education*

Loving friend

Des was my husband John's dearest friend, and Gwen, his first wife, my roommate at Avondale. We shared our early years of ministry and became lifelong friends. Des wrote to John almost every week for the five years of John's nursing home care, and when he visited he would lie on the bed near John, sharing his pain. Des and John had an agreement: whoever died first would be buried by the other. Des preached his last sermon in Cooranbong at John's funeral.—*Dr Mary Trim, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Avondale College of Higher Education*



Seminarian's German voice BRINGS MORE READERS TO MISSION BOOK

An Avondale academic's book describing the local church as the future of Seventh-day Adventism but challenging it to biblically reinvent is now published in German.

Mission Shift—or *Mission Umdenken*—by Avondale Seminary Head Dr Kayle de Waal calls for a reformation in the practice and structure of the church for mission. "It's on point and refreshingly down to earth, motivating to read and easy to understand," says Daniel Wildemann, Book Editor at Advent-Verlag, the Adventist publishing house in Germany, who worked on the translation. "It's a truly biblical study of what mission is all about in the first place and a brief survey of how it became entirely something else in the history of the church."

Citing his German heritage, de Waal is pleased to see the new German edition of *Mission Shift*. "It's humbling to know the book is now helping advance God's kingdom in Europe," he says.

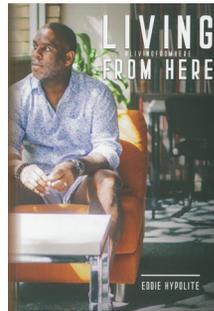
Since the book's launch in English at Avondale in early 2017, de

Waal has received feedback from leaders and members of churches around Australia. He has also "recommended" it to his students. "It's a required textbook, so I'm grateful it's helping shape the missional heart of the next generation of ministers."

But Wildemann wants to bring the book to a wider readership among German-speaking Adventists. "That the future of the church lies in the local community is a claim every reader can understand and apply," he says.

Mission Shift is the first Signs Publishing book by an Avondale staff member to be translated and published internationally. However, *Can We Still Believe the Bible?* by former president Dr Bryan Ball has been translated into a number of languages, and *Manifest*—published in Romanian—and *Do Justice*—in Norwegian—include chapters by a number of Avondale staff members.

Mission Shift is available from Adventist bookstores in Australia and New Zealand. —Nathan Brown, Book Editor, Signs Publishing



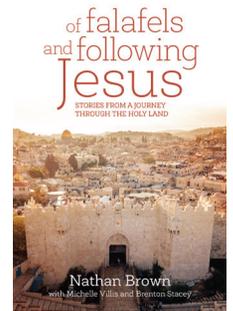
Living From Here Eddie Hypolite

Expected to never amount to anything, Hypolite, former senior minister at Avondale College Seventh-day Adventist Church, overcame a "protracted engagement with the justice system" to become a motivator, mentor, radio announcer, pastor, speaker and, most importantly, husband and father. Not strictly biographical, *Living From Here* gives a rule of life yet draws heavily from Hypolite's journey from the streets of West London. His hard-won wisdom protects the book from descending into the shallow, saccharine whispers of self-help. Tackles topics such as manhood, authenticity, resilience, sex, relationships, truth and struggle using a blend of smarts, Caribbean common sense and spiritual principles from the Good Book. —Jarrod Stackelroth



Burn the Haystack Josh and Jesse

Avondale Seminary alum Josh Stothers (2014) and Jesse Herford (2015) aim to "save the best of our culture and burn the rest of our culture and faith practices" through discussions with Seventh-day Adventist influencers. Their podcast analyses our traditions to find the heart of the practice—the needle in the haystack—and clean out all the outdated language and mindless motions that go along with it. Some of my favourite episodes include "How church must be redesigned if it's going to survive the 21st century," "What's a Zeitgeist?" and "Nimrod Maua gave up being lead pastor." Sometimes funny, a little goofy, always enlightening, *Burn the Haystack* will make you question the world around you and capture a glimpse of church through the eyes of a Millennial. —Laura Hutchinson



Of Falafels and Following Jesus (Signs Publishing) Nathan Brown

Part travel journal, devotional, history lesson and spiritual reflection, with a little bird-watching. Alum Michelle Villis (1996) and Brenton Stacey (2007) offset Brown's thoughtful but analytical and occasionally cynical voice. But with descriptive yet unpretentious prose that leads the reader through streets and tunnels, temples and tombs with introspection and self-effacing humour, Brown is lead guide. He finds the deeper realities: that holiness exists in moments, not places; that stories can be inhabited, not just told; and that following Jesus means journeying in perpetual paradox, where worship and the sacred are "too much and never enough" and religion "is only ever a mixed blessing." —Dr Lindsay Morton

TAKE 5

WITH JOY BUTLER

Joy Butler (1967) is the 2nd Vice-President of the World Woman's Christian Temperance Union. A former teacher, chaplain and Director of Adventist Women's Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific, she now helps hurting and abused women. A missionary with experience in Africa and in the Pacific islands, *Reflections* asked Joy about what it means to be a "citizen of God's big world."



The Woman's Christian Temperance Union advocates for abstinence from alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Describe the consequences you've seen from abuse of these substances.

Alcoholism in my family has disrupted and ruined lives—one member hung himself after a lifetime of abuse. I have friends whose children or siblings have also died from suicide, overdose, lung cancer. Some of those children wrecked the family home to find money for their addictions. I've seen men in Africa go mad because of abuse of home-brewed alcohol. They're isolated from their wives and children, who live in squalor. Papua New Guinea has one of the world's highest rates of domestic violence; alcohol is a major factor.

You head the union in Australia. How are you helping a 150-year-old organisation remain relevant?

We use social media, produce a newsletter and provide online children's activities, we connect with all Christian churches and partner with organisations, we organise speakers for schools and we continue lobbying governments.

The acronyms TTT for PNG, KGS and FGM are your passion projects. What are you hoping Taps, Toilets, Transformation, Keep Girls Safe and Female Genital Mutilation achieve?

In Papua New Guinea, toilets in schools are nonexistent or disgusting. If girls have access to decent toilets, it will help boost their self-esteem. In partnership with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Thailand, Keep Girls Safe helps prevent scores of girls from being trapped, sold

and forced into sex slavery. Female genital mutilation is illegal in many countries but still thousands of girls suffer excruciating agony when primitively cut and sewn up to prevent promiscuity. I hope these projects encourage others to speak, give, pray and go and help.

What have you found is key to breaking the vicious cycle of inequality, exploitation, gross negligence, and violence?

Women have done and continue to do so much but we need more strong men to speak about and support the same issues and demand accountability from those—mostly men—in authority.

Your relationship with Jesus comes before your allegiance to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Has the ongoing issue of women's ordination strengthened the former and weakened the latter?

It has wearied me. I'm disappointed my church can't agree on such a fundamental issue as equality and hasn't heeded the findings of its scholars. My relationship with Jesus is stronger as I've looked carefully at who He was, what He represented and how He has called and led me. Jesus came to this world at a time of gross inequality and cruelty to show a better way, God's love way. He invited women to be His followers; some even financially supported His ministry. Many would become leaders in the early church.

> **Brenton Stacey**, Public Relations Officer,
Avondale College of Higher Education

APPLY TO STUDY TEACHING

**Have you considered furthering your studies?
Start a postgraduate degree at Avondale in 2019.
Semester 2 applications close end of July.**

- | Enrich your qualifications
- | Change your career
- | Make a difference
- | Study on campus or via distance education

Getting your postgraduate degree at Avondale can provide so many opportunities and give you the refresh you need - with options to study while you work.

POSTGRADUATE DEGREES

- | Master of Teaching (Primary)*
- | Master of Teaching (Secondary)*
- | Master of Education
- | Doctor of Philosophy (PHD)
- | Master of Philosophy

Make the change you need in a space you already know and love.

**CSP available - A Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) is a place at a university or higher education provider where the government pays part of your fees. This part is a subsidy, not a loan, and you don't have to pay it back.*



Think&DO

A JOURNEY THROUGH GIVING WITH AVONDALE

Power to think and do: it's a gift from the Creator. Seventh-day Adventist pioneer Ellen White makes the statement (Education, p. 17) to encourage us to explore and to engage. Giving to Avondale demonstrates your support for her philosophy.

Journey with us as we accept the challenge of learning and discovery. And as we use this knowledge to improve lives. Your gift will help our research centres give us a better understanding of spirituality and worship, Christian education and teaching and learning.



THANK YOU!



Your generous response in 2018 raised almost \$250,000 for our research centres. They are using the money to invest in projects studying the biblical dimensions of worship and the implementation of science, technology, engineering and mathematics integration and exploring the practice of teaching and learning.