

THE WAY

JOHN 14:6

JULY EDITION 2024 NNSW SDA SCHOOLS

GENERAL MANAGER OF MISSION

Pr. Ashley Smith

Some things just seem to go well together. Contrary to popular belief, pineapple goes great on pizza, summer and cricket are a perfect match, and camping isn't camping without a fire. These combinations don't just work—they become great when coupled together.

Often, we separate what God never intended us to separate. Ellen G. White, in the book *Education*, states:

“*In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one.* 🍌🍌 (ED 30)

This profound statement clearly demonstrates that education and redemption belong together. They are complementary, not competing, interests. In other words, the 'highest' education is the education that seeks to redeem. It doesn't have a spiritual program as one of many programs; rather, the spiritual program is the substance of its entire framework. Education, in its truest sense, is redemptive.

Insisting that redemption be the key purpose of Adventist education is not to the detriment of academic advancement. Redemption is elevating in nature; it strengthens the learning experience rather than weakens it. Redemption educates the whole person. It transforms the heart, cultivates the character, and expands the intellect. Such an education makes the academic soil far more fertile. This is why Adventist education is founded upon and furthered by redemption.

When education and redemption are one, it communicates that Jesus is invited on campus. This is because redemption, by nature, is the domain of the Redeemer. We cannot redeem; that is His specialty. We are merely instruments in His hand in this great enterprise. Therefore, when redemption is the central pillar of Adventist education, it places Jesus in His

rightful position within our educational model. Ellen White rightly states:

“*In the Teacher sent from God, all true educational work finds its center.* 🍌🍌 (ED 83)

Our methodology is more than dry theory. It is relational, and because it is relational, it is transformational. True education is not merely the education of the mind; it is also the restoration of the heart. We invite our students to know Jesus for themselves, to meet the Jesus we have met, and to live for Him as we live for Him. It is to invite them not only to experience His goodness as Saviour but also to give their lives, abilities, and time for His service. This is what makes Adventist education an education of a lifetime, where the ripples of one's influence can only be measured in eternity.

Some things just seem to go well together, and perhaps the best of these things are education and redemption. There will always be a temptation to separate what God never intended us to separate, but we must continue to prioritise keeping Jesus at the center of our educational work. For without Him, we have nothing.



NEWS

Lego Robotics League Competition

Macquarie College, July 2, despite the rainy weather, Macquarie College was excited as it hosted its inaugural *Lego Robotics League Competition*. Teams from Avondale School and Central Coast Adventist School arrived early, eager to showcase their programming and robotic skills.

The day began with students diving straight into coding and testing their robots, demonstrating the core values of Lego robotics: programming, teamwork, innovative practices, and cooperation. The atmosphere was charged with nervous energy and determination as participants faced their first competitive test.

Throughout the event, teams made significant progress. While initial scores were modest, perseverance paid off, with some teams achieving impressive 60-point gains. By the end of the day, the competition had transformed into a celebration of learning and achievement.

Three prestigious trophies were awarded, with Avondale School and Central Coast Adventist School each taking home honours. The awards recognized excellence in teamwork, innovation, and scoring. Lunch was created and served by the amazing MC Eats for the teams and teachers.

The competition concluded with a sense of accomplishment and anticipation for future events. All participants left inspired and eager for the next match, set to be hosted by one of the visiting schools. The day was a resounding success, highlighting Lego robotics' educational value and excitement.



Macquarie College Focus Week

The professional learning week to launch Semester 2 at MC provided staff with an intentionally designed balance of individual preparation and collaborative planning time, together with the opportunity to participate in a range of opt-in courses across the week. External guests from across Australia joined with several MC staff in attending a three-day Design Bootcamp co-facilitated by Stanford University Design School faculty member Louie Montoya and MC Director of Design, Louise Whitaker. This three-day bootcamp included a design dinner catered by MC Eats - MC's unique wholefoods, plant-based food services program.

The highlight of MC's Focus Week program was the daily staff worship program led by Pr Ashley Smith (General Manager of Mission - NNSW Schools) where the topic of The Unknown Jesus was explored through several of the lesser-known aspects of His ministry. The week, which included staff gathering for pizza, which was prepared by Ashley and the MC chaplains, with Steve Andrews, MC Business Manager, overseeing the pizza oven, was closed out with a final staff worship highlighting the Sabbath providing a sanctuary of time to spend with Him.

MC staff step into Semester 2 refreshed from the break and with shared commitment to MC's learning and missional goals - to be an aspirational future-focused learning community where the pursuit of excellence is nurtured in an inclusive, Christ-centred environment.

Avondale School PD Week

Avondale School campus ministries team ran special staff worships to begin each day of PD week. Great worship music, quizzes with the Chappos and guest speaker, Pastor Cristian Copaceanu provided the perfect start to each day. We were delighted to welcome staff from our ELC, The Heights and Toronto for some of the week also.

With a focus on building an inclusive culture where students and staff can belong and be supported to succeed, we engaged in professional learning on topics including Building Confidence with Indigenous Perspectives, Proactive and Responsive Approaches to Behaviour, and Wellbeing at Work.

Highlights for staff were lunches together, time spent in conversation and the team challenge of taking Olympic style photos or videos.



MISSIONAL NEWS CCAS Mission Trip Fundraiser

In June, 47 students and 9 staff spent 4 days at Avondale University immersing in the creative arts and preparing for a showcase performed last Thursday night. Beginning with an outdoor festival complete with food trucks, a dessert fundraising stall for the MAD trip and live music performed by our students, attendees were in for a special night. The MAD trip is a mission project for senior students that takes place at the end of each school year.

The showcase performance shone a spotlight on what it means

to really be The Alive through dance, drama, and song. Students performed to a high level and should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

These dynamic learning opportunities grounded in the love of Jesus are part of the abundant educational experience we aim to provide here at CCAS. We love to see our students thrive in their learning, both in and outside the classroom.



STORM CO CCAS

Thirty-seven Year 10 and 11 students, along with 10 volunteer CCAS staff pulled out of Karalta Road on July 5, heading for an adventure in *Service To Others Really Matters*. Our teams invested in community engagement, ranging from facilitating face-paints, balloons, and BBQ at the footy grounds (Brewarrina vs. Goodooga), through to making Johnny Cakes with Aunty Linda and sharing stories and Creation with Uncle Darkie. The answer to our annual questions, "What do you need? How can we help?" are a resounding emphasis on "please play with and build relationships with our children". Both teams in Lightning Ridge and Brewarrina engaged with students, while showing our school student and staff teams the rich meaning of engagement in purpose, meaning through a life of service. Being the hands and feet of Jesus is a dynamic way for our schools to be the bridge in our world. Many discover Jesus in this process, because 6 out of 10 CCAS students are unchurched or post-church Christians.

STORM CO AS

Students from Avondale School recently set out to run STORMCo in Cobar for the 26th year running. Avondale has an incredible legacy in Cobar and has built strong relationships in the community. Our team of 31 students plus an incredible group of staff was welcomed back for 2024 with enthusiasm and excitement. The students who attend this trip give up a portion of their school holidays and contribute financially to the trip, they also sign up knowing they will be asked to stretch themselves and do hard things. This year our senior students really showed their capacity for leadership, growth, and new challenges. Each morning students ran a kids club at Cobar Public School including craft, face paint, balloons, singing and games. In the afternoons students rolled up their sleeves and worked hard on community service jobs around Cobar. This year's trip featured so much singing that people lost their voices, a fun visit to local emergency services and some meaningful relationships built with community kids.



NICE TO MEET YOU KIEREN JACKSON [SCHOOL CHAPLAIN]

To foster a sense of community across our Conference, we will spotlight one employee each month.

What is your name and where did you grow up? Kieren Jackson. I spent my childhood on Norfolk Island and Tasmania. My teen and young adult years were spent in Newcastle, NSW.

Can you share a bit about your family? My wife is Shonel Jackson, she is the Wellbeing co-ordinator at KAS. Our boys, Kaden and Malakai are 12 and 9 years old. We love going on outdoor adventures together as a family.

Which school are you working at? Kempsey Adventist School.

How long have you been there? This is my 16th year working at KAS.

What's your role? School Chaplain.

What made you want to join us? After giving my heart to Jesus and accepting the Holy Spirit as a teenager I was convicted to work with God in facilitating opportunities for others to experience His love and power. This

led me on a road into School Chaplaincy.

How does your faith affect your work? Faith influences every part of my work as a School Chaplain. Allowing God to work in me, through me and around me every day is very important to me.

What do you do for fun outside of work? I love being in nature. From surfing a wave, snowboarding down a mountain, casting a fishing line, watching a sunset, sitting around a fire, looking at the stars, snorkelling amongst colourful fish, the list goes on. Anything in the beauty of God's creation is both rejuvenating and exciting at the same time.

Any hidden talents or hobbies? I can juggle :)

Which Bible character are you most excited to meet and why? Jesus, because I want to thank Him for giving everyone, including me, an opportunity to accept the gift of salvation, a saving relationship with Him.



WOSE/WOW

Kempsey Adventist School

In Week 9 of Term 2, Kempsey Adventist School embarked on a journey we call *Week of Worship*. As a whole school, Primary & Secondary relived the miracles of Jesus through the creative re-enactment of our Primary and Secondary School Drama teams. Our guest speaker, Pr Jonathan Dawson unpacked the reality of Jesus' power to forgive sin, Jesus' power over nature, over evil spirits, over disease and ultimately Jesus' power over death. It was an amazing week for our staff, students and some parents & grandparents who joined us. The Spirit of God convicted many hearts throughout the week resulting in many students wanting to commit their life to Jesus through baptism and participation in small groups and Church.



Tweed Valley Adventist College

In Week 10 of term two, Tweed Valley Adventist College held their Primary WOSE. Its theme was *From Prison to Palace*, based on the VBS kit with the same name. Our Year 6 students were heavily involved in the program. They designed Memory Verse cards for all students on each day of WOSE, acted within a daily play on Joseph's life, hosted all WOSE prelims, and helped on the PA/AV desk. Pr Tema Pologa, a chaplain from Blue Hills College, sacrificed his time to speak to our students. God used him powerfully, as 11 new requests for baptism emerged out of the appeal on the final day. We are very thankful for Pr Tema's willingness to minister to our students, and for the way that God moved within their hearts.

Toronto Adventist School

From June 3-7, Toronto Adventist School held its *Week of Spiritual Emphasis* (WOSE), themed around the Rocky Point Lighthouse. Pr. Brad Rea from Macquarie College shared a daily message dressed as a fisherman, highlighting that God has called us all to be the light of the world. The music program was run by Pr. Phil Bishop, the Toronto chaplain, and saw great involvement from the young people. During the day, the children had the opportunity to build craft lighthouses, reinforcing the theme of God's light in a creative way. At the end of the week, many children made personal commitments to Jesus.



“All are precious in His sight ...”

[EDUCATION P294]

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

ROCHELLE WEISS

Each recipient will receive a \$50 gift card in recognition of their outstanding performance. Congratulations to Rochelle – keep the flame burning!



She has a heart for teaching children and is dedicated to meeting their learning, social, and spiritual needs. She readily builds relationships with her students and then provides the appropriate support for them to grow and learn. Rochelle strongly supports the Adventist ethos and demonstrates the activation of Christian principles and values, not only in her teaching but also in her caring relationships with her

peers. She has a strong background as a teacher, learning centre director, and coordinator. This speaks to her strong leadership ability, as well as her capacity to manage and sustain complex relationships in the school setting.

Before coming to Port Macquarie, Rochelle worked in the business sector and then took up early childhood education. She worked in a Pre-Kindy Centre and then at Hills Adventist College in Castle Hill for 10 years before transferring in 2018 to Port Macquarie. Rochelle is highly regarded by her peers and has worked tirelessly for the

children in her care. She is a strong advocate for children with special needs.

She readily builds relationships with her students and then provides the appropriate support for them to grow and learn.

Rochelle is married to Bruce and has two beautiful girls. Her role as a wife and mother enriches the abilities and talents she brings to the school. This is demonstrated in her strong ability to manage the development and delivery of Independent Education Plans (IEPs) for every special needs child in the school. To this end, Rochelle works tirelessly for students who need extra help takes a passionate approach to holistic learning and development.

Rochelle is an outstanding team player and makes sure the welfare of her peers is well cared for. She demonstrates a high level of emotional intelligence and insight into the needs of students, their parents/carers, and her peers. Her professionalism goes beyond understanding to include strong, Christian action. She is a 'doer' and the school is all the richer because of her influence and involvement in teaching and learning.

SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

The NNSW Education Company has created both a Facebook and Instagram account to capture the stories happening around our wonderful schools. We see the exciting things taking place and would love to have a central location where these stories are shared.



Facebook page:



Adventist Education North New South Wales



Instagram page:



@adventisteducationnsw

Dates to Diarise

3 AUGUST

TAS Visit Lakeside Church

BHC Visit Lismore Church

5-9 AUGUST

MC FLAG Week

12-16 AUGUST

The Heights SHINE Week

24 AUGUST

TVAC Scent Concert

28-29 AUGUST

Principal's Council



Do you have news for the monthly newsletter? We'd love to hear from you! Submit by the last Wednesday of each month.

CONTACT US

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