



THE WAY

JOHN 14:6

MARCH EDITION 2025 **NNSW** SDA SCHOOLS

‘TUNE IN’

Marty Benard, NNSW GM: Mission

In a world filled with constant noise, tuning in to God’s voice can feel like an impossible task. The pressures of work, the demands of family, and the endless stream of notifications and emails create a cluttered mental space, drowning out the still, small voice of God. We often wonder why we struggle to discern His guidance, yet we rarely pause to consider what might be causing the interference.

This was the theme presented by the Year 12 class at Avondale School’s Week of Worship this term—‘Tune In’. The students preached and shared testimonies as they encouraged their peers to tune in to God’s presence in their lives. As I listened to their message, it reminded me of a profound illustration from Mark Batterson’s book *Whisper*.

Dr Alfred Tomatis, a renowned ear specialist, once worked with an opera singer who had mysteriously lost the ability to sing certain notes in the higher frequencies. After extensive testing, he discovered that the issue was not with the singer’s vocal cords, but with her hearing. Over an extended period of time, she had become deafened by the sheer volume of her own voice, making it impossible to reproduce sounds she could no longer hear. This phenomenon, now known as the Tomatis Effect, has significant spiritual implications.

“Like the singer, we can become deaf to God’s voice—not because He isn’t speaking, but because our own thoughts, ambitions and distractions create white noise or ‘spiritual deafness’ making it harder to hear the gentle promptings of the Holy Spirit.”

Yet, just as Dr Tomatis discovered that hearing can be retrained, so too can our hearts. When we intentionally carve out time for prayer, stillness, and Scripture, we create space for God to speak. In *Whisper*, Mark Batterson highlights one of the most powerful prayers we can pray: “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:9).

May we learn to silence the noise, lean into His presence, and attune our hearts to the divine melody of His voice.



MISSIONAL NEWS

Macquarie College Student Baptisms

Term 1, 2025 has been an exciting time for Macquarie College, with 17 students making the life-changing decision to be baptised and commit their lives to Jesus! It is incredibly encouraging to see young people boldly stand for God and show a strong willingness to serve in both their church and school communities.

Pr Brad Rae shared the inspiring story of Brayden, a recent graduate, who also made this significant commitment. During his time as a student, Brayden studied the Bible, explored the church's fundamental beliefs, and engaged with the Secrets of Prophecy series. The chaplaincy team was overjoyed to see Brayden, now an alumni, request baptism. It's a powerful reminder of how God continues to work in the hearts and lives of our young people, shaping their futures and faith.

Pr Brad Rae, Macquarie College Chaplain & Marty Benard, NSW GM: Mission



Tweed Valley Adventist College Testimonies

Click the video link below to hear the inspiring story of how two students, who didn't believe in God, were introduced to Jesus through the ministry of intentional school camps and the strong connections between church and school at TVAC in Murwillumbah.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lIGfYCu8Es&t=4s>

Avondale School Secondary Week Of Worship

Recently Avondale Secondary campus came together for an incredible Week of Worship with the theme 'Tune In'. Their Year 12 class rallied together and created an amazing week for our students. Each day they encouraged students and staff to tune in to God's voice, His presence, and His purpose for their lives. The week was filled with powerful testimonies from students, sharing how God has worked in their lives. The band led students in worship and the Year 12's formed a choir for a special item. Through spiritual messages, music, and personal stories, students and staff were reminded that amidst life's noise, God is always speaking—we just need to tune in. At the end of the week the chaplains invited students to engage in a bible reading plan so they can continue to tune into God through His word.

Great work Avondale team! May God continue to bless the decisions that were made during this week.

Avondale School Newsletter & Marty Benard





PMAS Dedication and Prayer Walk

On Saturday, 15th March, Port Macquarie Adventist School and members of the Port Macquarie Adventist Church gathered together to celebrate God's love in worship. Pr Jay Pulelisi dedicated the staff through prayer, while Principal Peter Lindsay shared a thought-provoking message on the various ways people perceive God and His immense love for us.



After the service, staff and church members enjoyed a shared lunch before participating in a prayer walk around the school. Together, we prayed over the playgrounds, classrooms, and desks, leaving behind messages and small reminders of God's love for both students and staff.

Bronwyn Mison, Chaplain

Macquarie College Secondary WOW

Secondary students at Macquarie College were blessed and encouraged as they journeyed together through their WOW program, titled '*Jesus is the Ultimate Wave*'. Guest speaker Josh Kross invited students to pursue Jesus as the ultimate source of fulfilment, joy, and purpose, encouraging them to ride with Him through both life's successes and challenges.

Throughout the week, students engaged with the program through testimonies, music, prayer, icebreakers, and media. The chaplaincy team led a spirit-filled week, with many student leaders stepping up and using their gifts for God's Kingdom.



Kempsey Adventist School Empowers Students as Spiritual Leaders

Kempsey Adventist School recently embarked on a journey to empower students as spiritual leaders, equipping them to minister across their campus. The chaplains, Principal, staff, and volunteers facilitated a student chaplaincy camp at Yarra. The aim of the camp was to deepen the students' connection with God and each other, while investing in them as young leaders for Christ.

The camp featured fun team games, delicious meals, rainforest and beach walks, worship, and singing. Over the weekend, students explored important leadership themes such as Community, Calling, Commitment, Capacity, and Challenges.

As a result of the camp, students have become more involved in various ministry initiatives at KAS. These include inviting and supporting others to get to know Jesus through Bible reading, preparing and delivering Chapel talks, leading Chapel services, and acting in Bible-based dramas in preparation for the Week of Worship.

We pray that these students continue to live out their faith in the small moments of each day and influence those around them, fostering a Christ-centred culture in our school.



Principals and Chaplains Spiritual Leaders Conference

This month, our NNSW Education team hosted an uplifting spiritual leadership conference for the Principals and chaplains across the 10 schools in NNSW. We were blessed to connect, vision, and pray together, while hearing about the incredible ways God is moving through our schools.

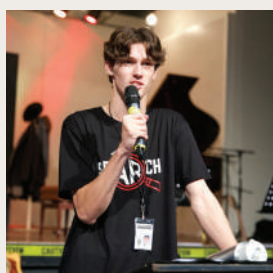
The team was both challenged and equipped through powerful worship sessions and insightful leadership lessons from Leanne Entermann (ASA Leadership Development & Support). It was clear that the Holy Spirit was present among us. We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated group of leaders who love the Lord and are passionate about helping the young people in our schools encounter Jesus.

Marty Benard, NNSW GM: Mission



Tweed Valley Adventist College - WOSE

The students at TVAC were two days into their fantastic WOSE program coordinated by the Year 12 class, when cyclone Alfred interrupted their plans. The students made an excellent start to the week, which will reconvene next term. We pray that God will especially bless all the Year 12's efforts to introduce their peers to Jesus.



The work of education and the work of redemption are one.

ELLEN G WHITE, *EDUCATION* 30.2

NEWS

March has been an action packed month across our schools! Here are some photo highlights!



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Each recipient will receive a \$50 gift card in recognition of their outstanding performance.

Congratulations to Brielle – keep the flame burning!

MRS BRIELLE MCCURLEY [THE HEIGHTS LEARNING COMMUNITY]

Brielle McCurley has taught in Adventist education for over 18 years and recently joined the newly established 'The Heights Learning Community' as its foundational teacher in 2024. Partnering with John Venegas to relaunch the school in the Maitland area, Brielle brings invaluable wisdom, experience, and a depth of knowledge to the design and establishment of The Heights.

Brielle is a dedicated professional deeply committed to her students' success. She inspires and motivates each of them to reach their full potential, fostering an environment where growth is encouraged. Demonstrating exceptional empathy, Brielle listens carefully to her students' needs and concerns, adapting her lessons to ensure all students feel supported. Her patience with both students and staff is truly remarkable, providing a calm and steady presence during challenging situations. As a colleague, Brielle is an invaluable resource—always open to collaboration, offering thoughtful insights, and providing unwavering support. Her incredible intuition and remarkable ability to read the room allow her to build trust and confidence with her learners, their parents, and her close-knit group of colleagues: Bianca, Emily, and John.

Thank you, Brielle, for taking that leap of faith into the unknown, bringing your best to this exciting new adventure, and committing to building God's Kingdom through your gift of teaching at The Heights.



Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

JOHN 14:6



CONTACT US

Do you have news for the monthly newsletter? We'd love to hear from you!

Submit by the last Wednesday of each month.

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