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Reflections

Magazine of the Avondale College Alumni Association for Friend of Avondale

Autumn

Vol 18

No 1



AVONDALE
COLLEGE
CHRISTIAN
HIGHER
EDUCATION

since

1897

Spiritual DNA

The evidence of the influence
of Avondale graduates

Graduation largest in 20 years

End of aviation in Cooranbong

The rain man

Alumna receives OAM

Reflections is the magazine of the Avondale College Alumni Association for Friends of Avondale

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Sydney Adventist Hospital CEO Dr Leon Clark presents the keynote address during Avondale College's opening convocation.

Photo by Ann Stafford

The spiritual experience

Brenton Stacey

My introduction to Avondale College surprised and impressed me. I had been employed as public relations officer for three months when chaplain Pastor Wayne French invited me to cover a 24-hour week of prayer and a prayer walk around the Lake Macquarie campus.

College Church and student leaders were encouraging staff members and students to pray for 24 hours a day for seven days, that's 168 continuous hours of prayer. The church set aside a room in which to pray. We could reserve a one-hour block of time on a roster that circulated around the campus. I planned to reserve a block, but I had left it too late and expected all of the nine-to-fives to be taken. Not so. The first blocks reserved, and, as it turned out, the most popular, were those between midnight and dawn. And those reserving the blocks were predominately students.

My wife, Kylie, and I arrived at our designated time and found we didn't have to spend all the time on our knees. We wrote a prayer on a graffiti wall and left a prayer request for others. We read what church pioneer Ellen G White wrote about prayer, and we listened to music on a CD. We could have listened to the Bible on CD, or written God a letter or poetry. We could have even played our own music on a piano.

I spoke to Madelyne Hodges, the prayer ministries leader for the student club, Student Associated Ministries. She said she wanted to create a room where you immediately felt the presence of God—"a little sanctuary, if you like." It worked. Kylie and I took what little time we felt we had free in the week and spent it with our Creator. The hour went too quickly. We left feeling closer to God and to each other. The prayer room is now permanent.

About 150 of the same students who reserved the mid-dawn blocks joined staff members on a prayer walk around the campus during the same week. Pastor French led the group to each of the main buildings to pray for those who work and who live and study in the buildings. A staff member prayed for students and a student prayed for staff members at each building. Many even stayed and sang worship songs after the walk ended. The group prayed at Bethel Hall, where my office is located, which means they prayed for me. For me!

This week set the spiritual tone for the year and encouraged me, as an Avondale employee, to make my faith a more integral part of my working life.

A presentation by Dr John Hammond, the director of the education system for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia, surprised and impressed me, too. Dr Hammond spoke at a pre-session for Avondale staff members in February. He had conducted an informal survey of the college's shareholders—that's you, Friends of Avondale and other Adventist Church members—asking about their general perceptions of Avondale. I feared the usual "standards-are-slipping" responses. Not so. The perception is students are excited about Jesus. I want to tell you, this is the reality.

And it has other benefits. Students re-introduced non-compulsory morning worships last year. Young adult church members introduced a worship program on Saturday's for their non-churched friends. Avondale students help organise the program.

From my perspective, the Avondale experience is more and more about the spiritual than the emotional, mental and physical. Yes, affordability is one of the reasons for our record enrolment this year, but we can't consider this factor in isolation. The equation's simple: Avondale is becoming the place of preference for students because it offers quality education and promotes spiritual growth. This may come as no surprise to you, a Friend of Avondale. It's coming as less of a surprise to me.

Talent search builds strength

Brenton Stacey

The science of positive psychology seems simple: pleasure, engagement and meaning lead to a happy, satisfied life, with pleasure the least consequential. Why, then, do so many of us build our lives around pursuing pleasure? asked Dr Leon Clark during Avondale College's opening convocation on March 1.

Dr Clark is chief executive officer of Sydney Adventist Hospital (the San), the largest not-for-profit private hospital in New South Wales. He spoke of attending a seminar conducted by Dr Martin Seligman, professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, a self-confessed "walking nimbus cloud in a household radiant with sunshine." However, Dr Seligman resolved to change after a conversation with his five-year-old daughter. "If I can stop whining, you can stop being a grouch," she told him.

Dr Clark then shared his story. "My early life was characterised by much talk of the San," he said. His father and mother graduated from the hospital's nursing course. "I grew up with [Paul White's] Jungle

Doctor books, and when I expressed the thought that I might become a doctor, it was heavily reinforced." He eventually qualified as an obstetrician and gynaecologist. However, 10 "busy" years later, and having acquired several luxury cars (and three children), Dr Clark and his wife separated. "I discovered happiness was not to be found in money or possessions."

His new philosophy builds on Dr Seligman's by focusing on identifying talents and developing strengths.

Dr Clark used the biblical story of Samuel to urge students to discover their calling. "That calling does not come from God's voice thundering from above. It comes from His whispers deep within you." He spoke of others in the Bible whom God called according to their talents. "You are no different. When you discover your talents and link those talents with your passion, there is no telling what God can accomplish through you."

New Master's degree

Avondale College now offers a Master of Nursing by research.

The degree's final approval comes from the Higher Education Directorate of the Department of Education, which received a recommendation from a panel of academics from universities in New South Wales.

The new Master of Nursing is the second full research degree at Avondale—the other is the Master of Theology. "These are for postgraduate students who wish to develop rigorous research skills in the context of an issue or problem of significance to their professions," says associate vice-president for academic administration Harwood Lockton.

Contact Gwen Wilkinson (phone +61 2 4980 2223 or email gwen.wilkinson@avondale.edu.au) for more information about the Master of Nursing by research. Ms Wilkinson is the coordinator of postgraduate studies in nursing.



Planes from Avondale College's School of Aviation make their final fly past during the Cooranbong Airport closing ceremony. Photo by Ann Stafford

Fly past marks end of aviation in Cooranbong

Brenton Stacey

A fly past of planes from Avondale College's School of Aviation has marked the end of aviation in Cooranbong. The symbolic farewell featured as part of the Cooranbong Airport closing ceremony on February 5.

The School of Aviation is in the process of moving to Cessnock Airport and is now referred to as the Hunter Valley campus. The school's reputation is one of the best in New South Wales, with pass rates two to three times higher than the national average. Manager and chief flying instructor Garry Fraser spoke of the loyalty of former staff members and students. More than 100 are employed in the aviation industry, "but they like to check up, often visiting in person, years after they've left," said Mr Fraser. "In that sense, today is somewhat like a funeral."

Research fellow Dr Arthur Patrick spent his childhood living almost next to the airport, in Avondale Road. He paid tribute to local residents who "determined to defy gravity, sometimes in vulnerable-looking, homemade flying machines." The story of the airport—which began on June 26, 1946—is part of a narrative about people whose dreams of human flight for recreation, for sharing the Good News and for training pilots involved hard work, ingenuity and energetic fundraising," said Dr Patrick. "Today, we are seeing an initiative towards wise stewardship of land that Avondale's pioneers sacrificed to buy in the 1890s."

The Seventh-day Adventist Church originally purchased 250 hectares of land about two kilometres north of the Avondale Estate for the

benefit of the college. The airport occupies only a part of the land—much of it remains unused. Avondale plans to develop the land to create an endowment fund, the income from which will secure the future growth and operation of the college. Avondale will release the land in stages over 10 to 20 years, preserving one third of it as natural bushland.

"We've conducted 18 studies to ensure a high-quality development that is sensitive to the environment and to the social and infrastructure needs of the community," said president Dr John Cox in his speech. "Avondale College is a resident of Cooranbong. It is in our interest for Cooranbong to continue to be a desirable place."

The relationship between Adventist Aviation Association (AAA) and the airport dates back to 1973, the year AAA began using the *Andrew Stewart* for flights to towns such as Mungindi, Walgett and Bourke. Pilots such as Pastor Len Barnard, who is now patron of AAA in northern New South Wales, served as ministers and evangelists. "The airport would be abuzz every Sunday with planes taking off to fly westward with the gospel," said Pastor Barnard. "It was a thrilling time." AAA now uses other forms of transport to continue its ministry.

The families of airport pioneers Albert Harris and Franklyn Wainman attended the ceremony and received from Dr Cox a plaque originally presented to commemorate the work of their husbands and father. The plaque will form part of a memorial in the development.

A kaleidoscope of memories

Arthur Patrick

The ceremony marking the closure of the Cooranbong Airport flashed vivid memories on the screen of my mind.

I've just read, again, Milton Hook's graphic account of the long search to find and buy the Avondale Estate during the 1890s. Our pioneers were determined to secure the best land for a Christian, co-educational college. They struggled to gather enough money just to inspect the various options near Melbourne and Sydney.

During the ceremony, I was remembering the persistence and sacrifice that gave Avondale College what is now a very valuable tract of land.

I was also recalling stories of intrepid men in primitive flying machines who defied gravity with calico and ingenuity, and how hard they worked to make the airstrip.

I was also thinking of the graphic story of Adventist mission aviation: men such as Len Barnard and Colin Winch utilising rough airstrips in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere.

At the ceremony, all these people were represented, plus those (such as Barry Lawrence) who have invested countless hours in the airstrip and Adventist Aviation Association.

Capping all the memories were Glynn Lock, and Garry Fraser in his crisp uniform, reminding us all of the successes achieved by the School of Aviation in the past three decades.

Memories like those offer glowing prospects for the future.

Those magnificent men

Avondale College president Dr John Cox presented the following speech during the Cooranbong Airport closing ceremony commemorating the work of pioneers Albert Harris and Franklyn Wainman.

"Franklyn Wainman worked in Cooranbong as a garage proprietor. His galvanised iron building on the corner of Alton Road and Freemans Drive served as one of the local landmarks. But what was Frank, really?"

"He would contrive to drive to Newcastle, purchase the spare parts he needed for his business, then fly them back to Cooranbong.

"And he died as he would have wanted . . . flying. His obituary in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's weekly newsmagazine, *Record*, of July 19, 1971, reads as follows:

"The news of the sudden death of Franklyn Arthur Wainman came as a sudden shock to his loved ones who waited for his plane to return from the runway . . . He landed his aeroplane safely . . . on Sunday, May 30, but collapsed after bringing the machine to a stop. He was 60 years old. His old flying friend, Albert (Shad) Harris, was with him on his last flight."

"Albert Harris was the first of the two to fly. He and three friends built *Sky Baby Too* over five years, completing the plane in 1937 and launching it from the top of the rise behind the houses in Alton Road. *Sky Baby Too* became a familiar sight in Cooranbong that year. Albert even chose the site of the north-south runway on one of his flights in the plane.

"After the war, Albert initiated an agreement with the then Australasian Missionary College to build the strip. He worked in his spare time, mostly with an axe, pick and shovel, and some gelignite he purchased from Franklyn Wainman. Frank—and his truck—joined the project about five years later.

"On September 27, 1981, Albert joined fellow pilots Len Barnard and Colin Winch in the rededication of the *Andrew Stewart*. Len unveiled a brass plaque during that ceremony. The plaque commemorates the work of the pioneers of Cooranbong Airport, Albert Harris and Franklyn Wainman.

"It is my privilege to present this plaque to Albert's wife, Lyla Harris, and to Franklyn's wife and daughter, Coralee Wainman and Judy Jackson."



Avondale College president Dr John Cox presents a plaque bearing the names Albert Harris and Franklyn Wainman to the families of the Cooranbong Airport pioneers. Pictured from left are Franklyn's wife, Coralee Wainman, his daughter, Judy Jackson, and Albert's wife, Lyla Harris.

Photo by Ann Stafford



Wind in sales of French Pilot

Brenton Stacey

Strong sales will see Signs Publishing Company reprint a book by Avondale College senior lecturer Dr Allen Steele.

Signs initially printed 4000 copies of *The French Pilot*, which Dr Steele launched only in November last year. It has since sold 3000 to Pacific Press Publishing Association in the United States and 800 to Adventist Book Centres in the South Pacific.

The French Pilot is about a boy who dreams of adventures beyond his rural community in 17th century France. He also has questions about the church dominating his town. These two impulses chart the direction of his family's life as they seek religious freedom halfway around the world.

Dr Steele, a direct descendant of Huguenot refugees André and Suzanne Lamoureaux, tells their story in the book.

"And what a story it is," writes Robert Nash, secretary of the Huguenot Society of Australia. "Persecution, a secret escape across the Channel, settling into a new life (first in England and then in America) and a brush with pirates. Dr Steele has combined careful historical research with the dedication that comes from his own justifiable

pride in his descent from these resourceful and steadfast people."

Senior history lecturer Dr Daniel Reynaud describes the book as a combination of fact and fiction, or "faction." "The book is being promoted as 'a seafaring tale of adventure and faith,' but it's more than a tale," he said during the launch. "Its feet are in history, but it imaginatively reconstructs history."

Dr Steele had only two pages of information from family historians about Mr Lamoureaux before writing the book. "I basically had to make up 22 chapters," he says, although the majority of its characters and action are true according to historical research.

He wrote the book to keep the stories of the French Protestants alive. "André and Suzanne were courageous and dedicated," says Dr Steele. "They lived at a time that called out the best in people—their faith was challenged, their loyalty was challenged. Their story inspires me to hold up that same standard."

All royalties from the sale of the book will fund an academic award in history at Avondale.

The French Pilot is Dr Steele's second book. His first, *Loud Let It Ring*, celebrated the first 25 years of Adventist World Radio.

Above: Dr Allen Steele (right) signs a copy of *The French Pilot* for Avondale College lecturer Brad Watson at the launch of the book.

Photo by Andrew Johnson

Rain man takes Met's measure

Makushla Kontaxis

Avondale College's Lake Macquarie campus has been the official location of rain measurement in Cooranbong for the past 20 or so years. Dr Howard Fisher, dean of the Faculty of Arts and a lecturer in geography, is responsible for recording the levels each day.

What does this mean in practice?

We have two recording sites on the Lake Macquarie campus. We measure rainfall manually at one of the sites at 9 am each day then send the results to the Bureau of Meteorology [the Met] each month. The second site contains a non-standard rain gauge that transmits a signal via satellite to the Met whenever it's raining. The gauge is part of a countrywide system that provides accurate flood warnings. [Visit www.bom.gov.au/hydro/flood/nsw and follow the links.]

Who measured rain in Cooranbong before you?

Tony Voigt measured the rain a lot longer than I have been doing here. The postmaster at the old Cooranbong Post Office [opposite the Adventist Book Centre on Freemans Drive] measured the rain before Tony.

Why the postmaster?

You have to keep a strict timing procedure to maintain accurate rain records, and the postmaster always begins work at 9 am. You'll find most rural towns have their rainfall measured by the local postmaster.

Dr Fisher is also chair of the Dora Creek Catchment Group, which has received \$100,000 in grants for environmental education and documentation. The group

won an award from the Lake Macquarie City Council last year for exceptional involvement in natural resource management.

You monitored the water in the Dora for two years between 2001 and 2003. Can we swim in the creek?

You can if you like, but the nickname, "dirty Dora," is probably appropriate. The creek contains high levels of bacteria and nitrogen, among other things.

Do you see care of the environment as integral to your faith?

It's more than that. I see caring for the environment as part of my responsibility as a Christian. I think sometimes we worship the Creator but neglect the creation. The message of the three angels in Revelation 14 begins, "Fear God . . . and worship him who made . . ." We proclaim this message on one hand and run around with a chainsaw in the other.



Lecturer Dr Howard Fisher has recorded rain levels in Cooranbong on behalf of the Bureau of Meteorology for the past year, continuing a 20-year Avondale College tradition. Photo by Gilmore Tanabose

Staff update

Bev Christian has returned on a two-year secondment as a lecturer in education. She will return to the classroom as a Year 5 teacher at Avondale Schools after this time.

Michelle Crawford has been appointed human resource manager. She has served in various human resource roles with non-government organisations.

Accounting lecturer **Lyn Daff** worked previously in the same role at Monash University in Victoria for 10 years.

Head librarian **Marilyn Gane** has, for the past seven years, served as head of periodicals and coordinator of off-campus library services for the James White Library at Andrews University (Michigan, USA).

Dr Murray House returns for the fourth consecutive decade. He studied at Avondale in the 1970s and 80s before serving as senior minister of College Church in the 90s. He is now a lecturer in the Faculty of Theology.

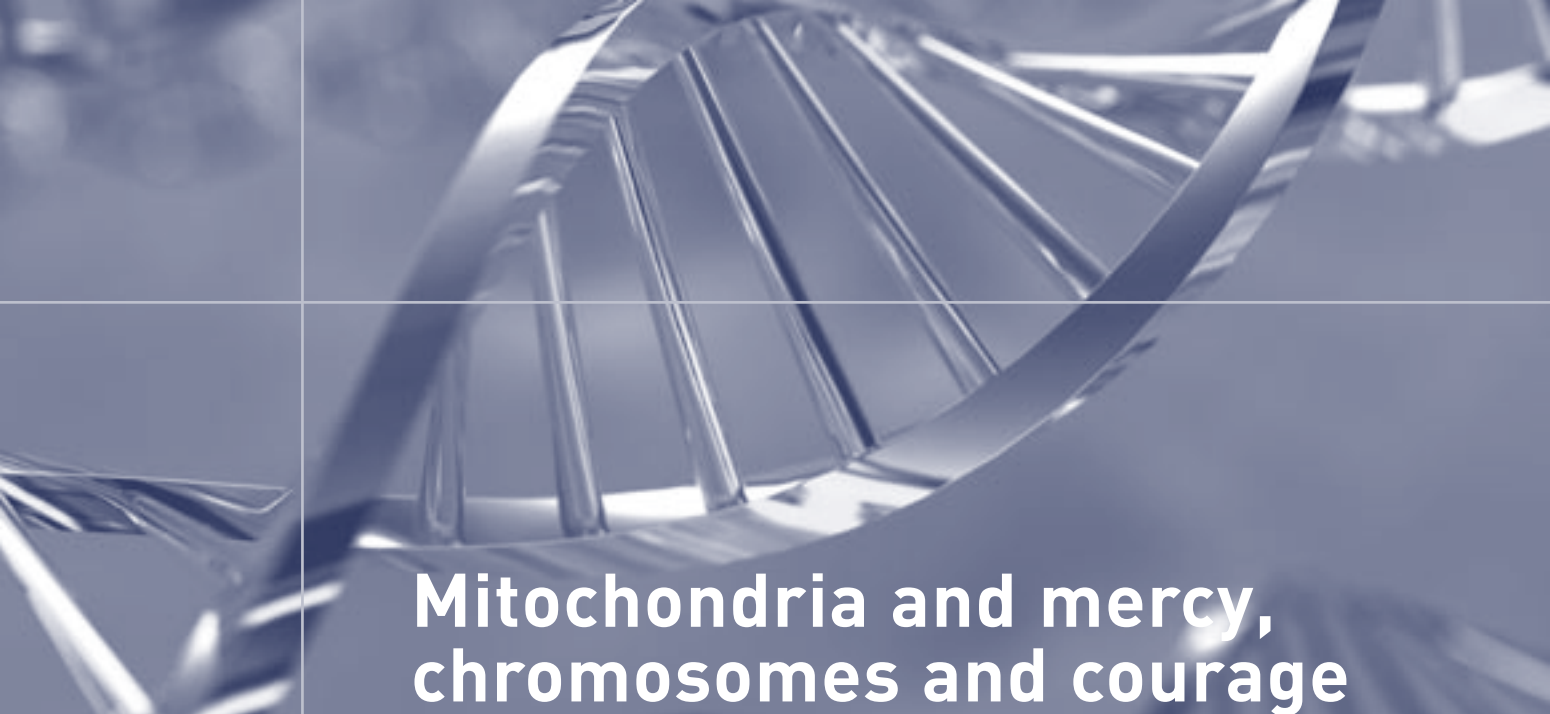
Leah Howard comes as the new bookshop supervisor with four year's experience as assistant to the sales supervisor at the Adventist Book Centre in Auckland, New Zealand.

Francois Keet is the new vice-president (finance). Mr Keet served previously as senior staff auditor for

the Seventh-day Adventist Church at its South Pacific Division office in Wairoa.

Donna Pinter, director of design agency satellite ink, is a new lecturer in the Faculty of Lifestyle Education and Visual Communication. Prior to joining satellite ink, Donna served as senior art director at Creative Partnership.





Mitochondria and mercy, chromosomes and courage

Lyell Heise

Some 259 people graduated from Avondale College in 2005. They had a marvellous weekend, celebrating with their family and friends, enduring a set of sermons, including this one, grasping their testamurs in perspiring hands and heading off to nearly every continent for a life of adventure.

But if I came by their church, their hospital, their office or their school in 35 years, what would be the signs that they had been there?

Bryan Sykes is a professor of medical genetics at Oxford University who has perfected a way of extracting DNA from bones and fossils. He has discovered a critical part of the DNA of women is present in every cell, passed unchanged to all of a woman's offspring but taken only to the next generation by a woman's daughters. It's DNA not from the nucleus of the cell, but from the mitochondria. By taking samples from living people all over Europe then grouping and comparing them with DNA from bones and fossils, Sykes has clustered this group of people in seven clans leading back through their mothers to seven women. He has documented his discovery in a book called *The Seven Daughters of Eve*.

Sykes has conducted similar research in the Pacific, tracing migration from Asia through Melanesia to Tahiti, Hawaii and New Zealand. He followed the DNA maps carried originally in the cells of the women in the canoes, but left now in living people, their descendents in countries all along the path they travelled. Sykes tells of being hospitalised in the Cook Islands—he fell off his motorbike and

broke his leg. With permission, he analysed the DNA from blood samples in the hospital's archives and found it often matched the DNA from people in mountain villages in Taiwan.

When a Russian scientist found the remains of nine bodies in a shallow grave near Ekaterinberg in 1991, he thought he might have found the bodies of Czar Nicholas, his wife, Alexandra, and three of their children—all gunned down during the Russian Revolution in 1918. Sykes analysed the DNA to help identify the bodies in the grave.

According to Sykes, anyone descended from Czar Nicolas's mother, through an unbroken line of women, would have the identical mitochondrial DNA to the Czar. Sykes took samples from the bones of the male body and compared them with DNA from a living but ageing Russian count, descended from Nicholas's mother. The DNA matched exactly. Then he took DNA from the bones of the female body. Is there anyone alive today, descended through a line of mothers, from Alexandra's mother? There is. His name is Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Sykes says we can narrow the number of clans worldwide clustered by female ancestry to 31. And men? Sykes's latest book, *Adam's Curse*, examines the Y chromosome. It never combines with any female DNA, so men pass it on exclusively from father to son. Sykes has narrowed the number of male clans to 18, which feature a disproportionate number of warlords.

Genghis Khan has an estimated 16 million male descendents in central Asia. Sixteen million

men share his Y chromosome, which they have passed unchanged from father to son. So, it's clear how we can tell Genghis Khan came by. No, I am not proposing that as the way we can tell an Avondale graduate came by.

I propose the power of something different from mitochondrial DNA, even though every person, should they chose, could have a scientist in Oxford tell them which of the 31 clan mothers worldwide is their great-great-great-great- . . . grandmother. I am interested in discovering and defining the Avondale experience because I propose I could tell, 35 years later, if you as an Avondale graduate had come by. I could tell by examining the spiritual DNA you had left behind.

This spiritual DNA, passed on through mitochondria of mercy and chromosomes of courage, has its origins in Jesus Christ of Nazareth. But in the miracle of Christian conversion and in the power of Christian community, it is transmitted, dynamic and unchanged, from one generation to the next.

That spiritual DNA has in its journey down time's corridor, had a major impact on a cluster of people we call Avondale's staff members. Although less than 200 in number, less than the number of people graduating in 2005, this group has become the bearers of the most potent kind of spiritual DNA.

I don't know a more fascinating and engaging collection of God's sons and daughters. Avondale staff members come from such diverse backgrounds, but they are convinced about the importance of passing on Christian values. They are talented and willing to work against the odds, often with limited resources. They have brought a small college of one of Australia's small Christian denominations to the brink of becoming a university.

You can observe this spiritual DNA transmission in the classroom, in the cafeteria, in the church, in the auditorium. You could trace it in 35 years in two ways.

You might find superficial evidence—computing habits reminiscent of Nina Hearn, for instance, or Greek pronunciation tinged with Rob McIver and Norm Young. You might find some Keith Howson auditing tricks, Sharon Tolhurst harmonisations or Don Hansen perspectives on society and faith. Or what about Robyn Pearce insights into home culture, some Malcolm Coulson and Jean Carter tricks on classroom control, or some Bob Drewer chemistry keeping medication on track. There could also be Michael Steed patient management strategies, Peter Vaughan techniques on canoe control, Andy Collis brush strokes and Darren Morton exercises.

But the deep and lasting evidence would be to find in

a church, a hospital, an office, a school: people who refused to give up on the awkward and the lonely, who lived counter cultural lives, and who made it clear what they believed but tolerated and respected other beliefs. That would be the answer to the question. That's how you would know that an Avondale graduate had come by.

A pile of stones sits on the bank of the Jordan River to remind ongoing generations of people that God had come by. Tell your children and your children's children, the prophet had said. Tell them that out of the most desperate circumstances God forged a story of salvation, of triumph, of victory. Tell them the stones came from the bottom of the river. Tell them we walked across the river on the dry riverbed. Tell them we picked up the stones on the way over.

Like mitochondrial DNA, like the fragile Y chromosome, the stones are there to tell their story. God came by.

I believe that God has been coming by Avondale since 1897. We as staff members have been doing our best to tell you, your children and your children's children, about pioneers living in tents on the grass beside Bethel Hall, clearing the land of gums trees by day, studying by kerosene lantern at night, telling stories, stone by stone, about the transmitters of the DNA. The Stewarts, the Rosendahls, the Whites, the McDowells, the Jorgensens, the Magnussons. And the testamur you will hold on Sunday has as its main message to you, that God has come by.

So, how would we, as travellers 35 years hence looking in your church, your hospital, your office, your school, determine if an Avondale graduate had been by? As telltale signs in the DNA, we would see mitochondria of mercy, chromosomes of courage.

Sixteen million men carry Genghis Khan's Y chromosome. But just think: what if there were 16 million people carrying Avondale's spiritual values because you came by, 16 million merciful, gracious, passionate, courageous Christians? What if there were 16 million ministers fired by the message of the cross. Sixteen million teachers motivated to help their students realise their potential. Sixteen million nurses staring down the destructive lifestyles of their patients. Sixteen million office administrators who know the real bottom line is not profit, but people, transformed, reborn.

I wish you God's speed, and I wish for 16 million more, just like you.

Pastor Lyell Heise (BA theology, 1969) is the director of the Institute of Worship for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific. He presented this sermon during the valedictory services over the graduation weekend at Avondale College last year.



Avondale graduation largest in 20 years

Brenton Stacey

Members of the second largest class to graduate from Avondale College received their testamurs on December 4 last year.

Some 259 graduands were eligible to march during the ceremony, held in the Chan Shun Auditorium on the Lake Macquarie campus. These included the first with Master of Ministry degrees in family and youth ministries.

Former lecturer Pastor Alfred Jorgensen, 94, received the honorary award of Master of the College. "His teaching was noted for its academic rigour, his love of language, and occasional ironic edge," reads Pastor Jorgensen's citation. "His preaching . . . had richness and depth." This is only the third time Avondale has conferred the award.

Pastor Laurie Evans, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific, referred to vision as "a white feather" in his address. "We can either dip it in permanent ink or do nothing and see it turn to dust," he told the graduands.

Friday's consecration service on the Lake Macquarie campus featured a drama written by communication graduate Makushla Kontaxis. Initially set at Homecoming in 2045, the drama showed how vision shapes action. "The kingdom of heaven is at hand—that's the grand vision that informs our personal

vision," said speaker Pastor Gilbert Cangy.

Jenny Dixon encouraged nurses on the Sydney campus to be proud of their profession. "Hold true to the values you have embraced as an Avondale graduate, she said."

Anita Allen, Yanina Nunez, Lati Ratu and Jacqueline Thompson were baptised on Sabbath morning. Valedictory service speaker Pastor Lyell Heise challenged their classmates to pass on "spiritual DNA—the mitochondria of mercy, the chromosomes of courage." The baptisms brought to nine the number of Avondale College students joining the church last year.

President Dr John Cox says Avondale is committed to its mission of delivering quality education in the context of an Adventist worldview. "The high take-up of graduates demonstrates the value the community places on people with high ethical standards, a well-balanced lifestyle and a commitment to faith, integrity, justice and service."

1. The first graduands—including Alwin Hilton, centre—with Master of Ministry degrees in family and youth ministries marched during the graduation ceremony.

2. Former lecturer Pastor Alfred Jorgensen becomes only the third person to receive the honorary award of Master of the College.

3. Communication and marketing major Lynden Rochford, one of the 259 graduates of Avondale College last year, the second largest class in 20 years.

4. Arts and teaching major Lati Ratu joined the Adventist Church through baptism over the graduation weekend.
Photo by Ann Stafford

5. Nursing student Amanda Olsen and dean Dr Paul Race from Avondale College's Sydney campus participate in the traditional lamp lighting recessional during the consecration service at the Adventist church in Wahroonga.
Photo by Graham Evans

6. Pastor Laurie Evans, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific, presented the address during the graduation ceremony.
Photos 1-3 and 6 by D & V Photography

Foundation donations exceed \$5 million

Avondale Foundation's gift of \$200,000, presented during the graduation ceremony, brings its total donations to Avondale College to more than \$5 million.

President Dr Norman Young said the gift would benefit two of the college's vital assets—students and staff.

Some \$75,000 would provide 15 Academic Excellence Scholarships valued at \$5000 each per year for the duration of a student's course. This is in addition to the \$16,000 the foundation gives annually to students through awards and scholarships. The foundation allocated a further \$55,000 for staff research, \$40,000 to purchase a minibus and \$30,000 for video conferencing.

The foundation funds its donations from the profits of several commercial enterprises. Dr Young praised the business leaders—many are Avondale graduates—who organised the enterprises and who now run them.



Avondale Foundation president Dr Norman Young presents a \$200,000 cheque to Avondale College president Dr John Cox during the graduation ceremony.
Photograph by Gilmore Tanabose



Alumna honoured for mission work

Brenton Stacey/Mark Kellner

An Avondale College alumnus who runs a school for Karen refugees in Thailand has received the Medal of the Order of Australia.

Helen Hall (primary teaching, 1959), founder and volunteer principal of Eden Valley Academy, is recognised "for service to international relations, particularly in the establishment of educational facilities in Thailand." "Receiving the medal is lovely, but it's due to the people who have supported me over the years," says Ms Hall.

Now in its 20th year, Eden Valley has an enrolment of more than 800. According to a report by the Association of Adventist Women, Ms Hall "has built schools eight times. The original has been burned down twice, and dismantled and moved several times." It is now located permanently further away from the border with Myanmar, where there has been tension with the army.

Ms Hall volunteers as the school administrator, government liaison officer, principal, representative to other non-government organisations, transport officer and welfare officer. Her work is funded almost exclusively by donations. "Helen's lived her life as a frontier missionary," says Dr Mel Lemke, director of Adventist Volunteer Service for the church in the South Pacific. "She's given 25 years of continuous service to the Karen. Her commitment to the task is without question."

That task became clear to Ms Hall in her childhood, but "Avondale continued to keep that vision in front of me," she says.

A third of a million Karen people are tribal and live in the foothills of the Dauna in northwestern Thailand. As refugees, the government keeps them confined to camps and restricts their education to the primary level. However, Ms Hall and her staff continue to prepare high school students for exams. "I came for one year 25 years ago, and it just sort

of grew," says Ms Hall, who teaches up to 36 periods a week.

Joy Butler, women's ministries director for the church in the South Pacific, visited Ms Hall in January. "Eden Valley is set among bamboo houses and shops," writes Mrs Butler. "In a long building with a thatched but leaking roof, more than 500 high school students are sitting exams. Blue sheets separate the classrooms, but these are pushed aside to make the room larger. The desks are crude wood with benches that sit up to five.

"The primary school is down a dusty, rocky track, across a muddy river and up another track. Here another 260 students sit at similar desks but without the separating blue curtains.

"The computers at the school work, occasionally. They are protected by blue plastic pinned above to keep the thatch from falling onto the keyboards. . . . [Helen] and her students are completely dependent on the kindness of those more fortunate than themselves."

Ms Hall notes the school needs new roofing, and that "when it rains, we all go home for the day," because conditions are so difficult. During the summer, when it is too hot for classes, Ms Hall dismantles the school and places it in storage to guard against theft or destruction.

Ms Hall says she does not plan to return permanently to Australia any time soon. Instead, she speaks of being "drawn" by the resilience of the Karen people. "I retired five years ago, but I'd be bored if I wasn't challenged."

More than 1500 students from the school have been baptised as Adventists. "Their greatest need is security, and that can be found only in Jesus," says Ms Hall.—with *Adventist News Network/Record*

Above: Helen Hall has received the Medal of the Order of Australia for her 25 years of service to Karen refugees in Thailand. Photo by Hedley Anderson

Your Homecoming Committee

Remember your classmates?

Your representative on the committee planning

Homecoming 2006 invites you to attend if your final year at Avondale was 1936, 1946, 1956, 1966, 1976, 1981, 1986 or 1996.

Plan now to meet with your fellow students at Homecoming, August 25-27.

1946

Barbara (Butler) Were (not pictured)

Clive Barritt (not pictured)

1956

Rob Dixon, Joan (Howse) Patrick

1966

Eric Winter, Leon Miller (not pictured)

1976

Murray House, Jennifer (Butcher) Schur
Corinne (Robinson) Knopper (not pictured)

1981

Peter Beamish (not pictured)

Ruth-Ann (Rosevear) Wells (not pictured)

1986

Robert Sonter, Catherine Moodie (not pictured)

1996

Terry Kosmeier, Neroli Devine (not pictured)



Ministry of people carers missed

Arthur Patrick

Dr Ralph Ludowici was the cherished family medico of Wee Waa on the Namoi River of New South Wales. Dr Ludowici's son, Tom, graduated from Avondale College (accountancy, 1953) and began his third year of theology in February 1956. That month, as a driver of the college truck, Tom met Pam Ion at Morisset, as she arrived by train from the north of Western Australia.

It wasn't love at first sight, but Pam (primary teaching) and Tom graduated together in 1957, married on February 3, 1958 and completed 92 years of combined ministry before retiring in Cooranbong last year.

At Andrews University (Michigan, USA) from 1973 to 1978, Tom earned Master of Divinity, Master of Arts and Doctor of Ministry degrees. From 1978 to 2005, he served as senior chaplain at Sydney Adventist Hospital (the San), then director of support services and finally, director of mission. Tom instigated many changes and founded the Christian Bioethics Centre.

Pam's ministry as the wife of an evangelist and pastor in New Zealand, Australia and the United States was

unpaid, of course. She earned a Bachelor of Science (art education, 1977) from Andrews, began a Master of Arts in counselling and completed a Master of Arts (family life education, 1992) from Loma Linda University (California, USA). At the San, Pam served as a chaplain, created the Cancer Support Centre and Jacaranda Lodge and initiated the Volunteer Help Team.

Tom and Pam's ministry has supported more dying and bereaved persons than that of any other Australian Seventh-day Adventist couple and has helped the church deliver more effective pastoral care and counselling.

Dr Arthur Patrick is a research fellow at Avondale College, and a friend of the Ludowicis.



Foundation ups support for students

The Avondale Foundation will grant, for the first time, Academic Excellence Scholarships to students studying degree courses at Avondale College from this year.

The initiative, voted at the foundation's 27th annual general meeting in October last year, will see the foundation awarding 15 scholarships valued at up to \$27,500 each for a four-year course. The foundation also donated a further \$125,000 to the college, with the scholarships making up the remainder of the foundation's annual \$200,000 donation (see "Foundation donations exceed \$5 million," page 11).

The foundation funds its donations from the profits of several commercial enterprises.

Former theology lecturer Dr Norman Young is the new president of the foundation for 2005-6. He has been associated with the foundation since its formation in 1978. "My role will be largely a matter

of encouraging the talented group of volunteers and executives that run the foundation businesses," he said in response to his election.

Other officers elected include Jim Williams as secretary and Chris Akroyd as treasurer. Vice-presidents include Gavin Currie, Rodney Long and Todd Saunders.

A former president, Lyn Knight, announced his retirement at the meeting after a 27-year association with the foundation. Dr Young describes Mr Knight as the "driving force" behind the formation of the foundation. "We express our appreciation to Lyn and [wife] Audrey's immeasurable contribution and wish them both good health in their retirement years."

100 years ago

Avondale College 100 years ago was called the Avondale School for Christian Workers. It had nine teachers who taught Bible, business, missionary and teaching courses.

The academic year

The academic year began on January 9, 1906, and finished on October 8, 1906. It was, according to the handbook, open "to all worthy persons of both sexes. The moral influence of the school is carefully guarded, and no one who uses indecent or profane language, or who indulges in the use of tobacco or alcoholic drinks, or who is vicious or immoral, will knowingly be admitted or retained. . . . Incurable children and youth are not received into the school."

What to bring

The 1906 handbook asked boarding students to bring: "own tumbler, toilet soap, boot blacking, brushes, combs, three serviettes, six towels, three pillow cases, three sheets, laundry bag, sufficient blankets and a quilt for single bed." It was also suggested "they bring such other articles for furnishing the room . . . such as a pair of curtains,

one or two small rugs or strips of carpet, and a table cover about four by six feet."

Getting to college

Students could book passages by boat to Sydney, where they transferred to Redfern railway station, about one mile from the wharf. From there, they took a train to Dora Creek, leaving at either 9.05 am or 3.40 pm and arriving at 12 pm or 6.50 pm respectively. If they remembered to advise the school of their arrival at Dora Creek, someone would pick them up, otherwise they walked.

Compiled by Adventist Heritage Centre curator Rose-lee Power.



The Avondale School for Christian Workers was open "to all worthy persons of both sexes."

Photo by Adventist Heritage Centre

Calendar

April 29

The Promise
9.30 am, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Wahroonga, NSW
11 am, Fox Valley Community Centre, Wahroonga, NSW
Concert, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Wahroonga, NSW

The Promise is a vocal ensemble directed by **Dr Robb Dennis**, the head of music at Avondale College. The group is dedicated to musical excellence, with a repertoire ranging from the classics to jazz and contemporary gospel. See **The Promise** perform as part of the adult Bible study at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Wahroonga and as part of the worship service at the church in Fox Valley. The group will then perform an afternoon concert at Wahroonga church. All performances are free.

Praise Hymn

4 pm, College Church

Join **Pastor Lyell Heise**, director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Institute of Worship, on stage in College Church for this celebration of hymns and hymn culture. Free

May 6

Fine Arts Series 2006—Evensong
4.30 pm, College Church
Avondale Advent Brass Band*

May 20

Memorial Hymnfest 2006
7 pm, Avondale Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, Cooranbong, NSW

Avondale Singers will perform two individual and three combined items. The **Avondale Orchestra** will perform three items, and **The Promise** will perform two items. Free.

May 27

Praise Hymn
4 pm, College Church

June 3

The Promise
11 am, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Coffs Harbour, NSW

Fine Arts Series 2006—Evensong
4.30 pm, College Church
Avondale Singers*

The Promise
Concert, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Port Macquarie, NSW

June 10

Avondale Orchestra
Avondale Singers
11 am, College Church

The **Avondale Orchestra** will perform the prelude, offertory and postlude during the Second Church worship service at College Church. **Avondale Singers** will perform the call to worship and two items.

August 25-27

Homecoming

Features: Murdoch Lecture (Friday, 11 am); Avondale College Alumni Association annual general meeting (12.15 pm); Avondale College Alumni Association luncheon (12.45 pm); Vespers (7.30 pm); Sabbath school (Saturday, 9.20 am); Worship service (11 am); President's reception (5.30 pm); Concert (7.30 pm); Golf classic (Sunday, 7 am); and Back to Avondale festival (10 am).

December 1-3

Graduation

Features: Consecration services (Friday, 7.30 pm); Valedictory services (Saturday, 8.40 and 11.30 am); Sabbath school (10 am); Sounds of Praise concert (4 pm); President's reception (5.30 pm); and Graduation ceremony (Sunday, 10 am)

* Performers subject to change.

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