[ATSIM]
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FOR ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

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Education and Knowledge

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Hosea was God's prophet in Israel at a time when His people rejected Him and instead trusted in and worshipped idols. His message through Hosea, was given in the hope His people would return to Him.

One striking thing God said is, "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge" (NIV). It also says that the people rejected knowledge and ignored God's law (Hosea 4:6).

God was not pleased by this because He knew the people misrepresented Him and disadvantaged themselves. He attempted to educate His people in the truth, for it was His will that they be blessed through a knowledge of His love and His law.

The same is true today. God wants us to be blessed through "...the development of [our] body, mind and soul... This is the object of education, the great object of life." (Ellen White, Ed 15.2)

Knowledge comes through education, which happens not only when sitting at a desk in a classroom. Education has been happening throughout history through spoken and written words, pictures, songs, dance and by listening to and watching others.

Good education benefits our health, mind, relationships, homes and community. As more people know how to better care for themselves and their families, and how to positively interact with others, their society is greatly benefited; lives are uplifted, and healing can be brought to where there is hurt.

Practicing the right and good education we receive means we are being a good example, or good role model.

We celebrate our people who, having added to the education they received at a young age, have become, (some even excel at being) builders, writers, pilots, doctors, dentists, educators, accountants, surgeons, nurses, pastors, managers, Bible workers, mechanics, directors, health professionals, researchers, scientists, CEO's, chefs, inventors, rangers, and many other occupations. Many have achieved this despite obstacles and with good supporters alongside them.

We can encourage and support the young, and mature aged, to go into further study because there is more opportunity for this now than in previous years.

As Christians, we understand what the best form of education is from God. He develops and strengthens our minds, intellect and character as we daily read and prayerfully reflect on His word and the wonders of nature. The true education we learn from Him is a blessing to ourselves which we can in turn share with others, for His glory.

Connie Toga I Ministry Coordinator Mamarapha College



Connie Toga is the Ministry Coordinator at Mamarapha College. She continued her education as a mature aged student at Mamarapha College. She encourages others to further their education and walk and talk with Jesus daily.

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about goodnews

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DIRECTOR | EDITOR
Darren Garlett

acknowledgement

This magazine comes to you from the beautiful land of the Wurundjeri people in Naarm. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that that goodnews may contain images, and names of people who have passed away.

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Mamarapha College Graduation

Mamarapha College celebrated its 2024 graduation on November 16, recognising the achievements of 18 students under the theme "More Than Enough." The event marked a year of record attendance at the college and highlighted the students' hard work and commitment.

"We are proud of our students at Mamarapha College and are glad they can see how much we appreciate all they have done and achieved this year," said James London, Mamarapha College principal.



Among the graduates were Henry Dunn, who completed an Advanced Diploma in Pastoral Ministry, and Dion Williams, who earned an Advanced Diploma in Indigenous Ministry. Speakers at the ceremony encouraged graduates to embrace their calling and trust in God's guidance. Pastor Brad Thomas, Western Australian Conference secretary, urged the students to allow God to use them in His work, while Pastor Ken Vogel, founder of Mamarapha College, reminded them in his graduation charge to worship, trust and serve God because "He is more than enough."

Mr Dunn shared how his time at Mamarapha College shaped his journey. Originally attending to deepen his understanding of the Bible, he felt called to pursue church ministry and has worked for the Greater Sydney Conference for six years. "This place moulded me into the person I am today," said Mr Dunn. "It has become a part of my identity."

Students described Mamarapha College as a place of healing and community, where many find a second family among their peers and teachers.

To support Mamarapha College's ministry, visit egiving.org.au.











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National Reconciliation Week

Prescott College Southern



Prescott College Southern, had a special focus on National Reconciliation Week from 27 May to 3 June, with the theme, *Bridging Now to Next*. Throughout the week, students reflected on their journey at the school and what it means to them through memories and challenges. Ideas and themes from this reflection will be passed onto Phillip Allen, an Aboriginal artist who will have students paint a mural depicting their student's journey from Reception to Year 12.

During their chapels on the Wednesday, they were honoured to have Harper and Kailee Thompson share a Welcome to Country. Primary students heard from Pastor Maciej Kuberek, who shared that by staying true to who he was, Daniel was able to bring people together. While secondary students heard from Pastor Roland Talamaivao, who spoke about his Samoan heritage and the hurt that has had to be reconciled. He also challenged the students by talking about how focusing on our oneness in God unites us.

On Monday, 2 June, Pastor Darren Garlett spoke to both students and staff, sharing where his mob come from and showing artefacts to the students to look at and guess what they were. When asked what reconciliation means to him, he said, "It's about crossing the room; if we can get to know people, we will realise that we have more in common with people than our differences."

This was a time for Pastor Garlett to share with the students what National Reconciliation Week is and why it is important for all Australians to reconcile. After school, Pr Garlett met with staff and challenged them to think beyond what has affected them individually and look at the bigger picture. He reminded them that all children want a meaningful relationship with teachers and that taking time to listen and help them feel valued is key.

To close off National Reconciliation Week, students reflected on what they can do in the steps to bridging from now to next.

"Participating in National Reconciliation Week is important to us at Prescott College Southern, as it gives us a chance to share the Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander story with our students, staff and community," explained Isabelle Millien, Deputy Principal of the High School, "We focus on restoration conversations all year round, helping to mend relationships, whether between students or staff and students. It's important to hear each other perspectives, forgive, heal and move forward together."

"Our school theme this year is "Belonging" and National Reconciliation Week reminds us to focus on our similarities to create an environment where we all feel apart of God's family."

















Karalundi College

Karalundi College, a beacon of hope and education in the community, proudly celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2024 with two significant events that brought together alumni and current students under the uplifting theme: *"Inspiring Hope, Transforming Lives."*

First Celebration: A Reunion of Alumni



The first celebration took place on September 22, 2024, coinciding with the ATSIM camp weekend. This gathering was a heartfelt reunion for former Karalundi students and staff, marking a significant milestone in the college's history. The atmosphere was exciting as alumni reminisced about their experiences and the impact Karalundi had on their lives.

Many attendees expressed their gratitude, sharing testimonies that highlighted the college's role in their spiritual journeys. Among those was Gladys Ashwin, one of the original students, who reflected on her enduring faith in Jesus after seven decades. Her story resonated with many, underscoring the college's mission of encouraging a deep connection with faith and community.

Pastor Don articulated the essence of the celebration with his poignant statement, "Karalundi is God's place because it was there that many Aboriginal people over the 70 years learned about Jesus and decided to follow Him. It was heartwarming to hear the testimonies of appreciation by some of the original students such as Gladys Ashwin—still trusting in Jesus after 70 years! It was an honour to be there."





The event also featured a baptism ceremony on the Sabbath, where several individuals, including former students, took the significant step of committing their lives to Jesus. This moment was a testament to the lasting influence of Karalundi College on its alumni, reinforcing the college's mission of transforming lives through faith.















Second Celebration: Graduation and Reflection

The second celebration occurred later in the year, focusing on current students and their achievements as they graduated in 2024. This event was not only a celebration of academic success but also a continuation of the college's legacy of inspiring hope among its students.

Current students had the opportunity to reflect on their journeys, sharing stories of personal growth and transformation during their time at Karalundi. The celebration was filled with joy, pride, and a sense of community as students prepared to embark on new adventures, carrying with them the values and teachings instilled during their education.

A Year to Remember

The dual celebrations of Karalundi College's 70th anniversary serve as a powerful reminder of the institution's enduring impact on countless lives. With a rich history of nurturing faith and hope, Karalundi continues to be a place where individuals are inspired to transform their lives and the lives of those around them.

As 2024 unfolds, the college looks forward to continuing its mission, empowering the next generation of students while cherishing the memories and legacies of those who have walked its halls before. The spirit of Karalundi lives on, inspiring hope and transforming lives for many years to come.

Karalundi College Communications



























1 EAST MAITLAND, NSW Cheryl Mackie, Jarrod Mackie, Rose Mackie and Pr Keith Stockwell **2 MAMARAPHA COLLEGE, PERTH WA** James London, Henry Dunn, Teeharnee Robinson and Connie Toga **3 ROCKHOLE, NT** Betty Friday, Esther McCoombe, Pr Simon Gigliotti and Fiona XXX SDA Church **4 TENNANT CREEK, NT** Evangelistic program with Pr Simon Gigliotti and Pr Nick Kross **5 MAMARAPHA COLLEGE, PERTH WA.** Cheyenne Cohen, Wilma Cohen. Haily Dorante and Margaret Winmar **6 MAMARAPHA COLLEGE, PERTH WA** Darryl Buzzacott, Brett Wason-Deshong, Kristoffer Green, Franklen Lawrence and Brayden Redfern **7 HALLS CREEK, WA** Percy Quan, Uncle Des, Tracey Sailor and Doreen Quan

















8 THURSDAY ISLAND, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS Discipleship Training at Thursday Island Church **9 WHYALLA, SA** Martin Tanner, Geraldine Andy and Bernard Campbell **10 HALLS CREEK, WA** Phillipa Tax with friend from Fitzroy Crossing **11 MOREE, SA** SA Group **12 PORT AUGUSTA, SA** Prayer Breakfast **13 WHYALLA, SA** Daniel Austin, Rebecca Doolan and Martin Tanner **14 WILCANNIA, NSW** Duane Johnson, Colleen Roberts, Lorraine Ferguson and Georgelyn Kemp **15 ADELAIDE, SA** Angel Pedersen and Audrey Stewart at the Adelaide Churches Regional February 2025



Strengthening Community Connections *Through Service*

At Cairns Adventist College, the spirit of service and connection is deeply embedded in the school's mission. What began as Bible studies led by Pastor Ray Paletua, both as a church pastor and then ATSIM Director, has evolved into meaningful relationships with school families and the wider Yarrabah community. Over time, these connections have promoted a network of support, care, and outreach that continues to grow.

One of the most impactful initiatives has been the college's partnership with Innisfail Pathfinders in providing food hampers to families in need. For the past few years, this initiative has been a highlight during Christmas, ensuring that families—especially those in Yarrabah—receive much-needed support during the holiday season. In 2024 ATSIM collaborated with Mission Australia in a service project where Cairns Adventist College received a pallet of Lego. The students wrapped the Lego sets and created gift cards which were then given to the Hambledon Community House to distribute to families who were struggling. These simple yet powerful acts of kindness have strengthened bonds within the community, demonstrating the importance of compassion and generosity.

Today, this commitment to service continues with Pastor Taylor Afamasaga and Daniel Gela from Mission Australia at Hambledon House. Together, they distribute food hampers and frozen meals to families across the region. Beyond meeting immediate needs, this initiative has allowed Pastor Taylor, the new chaplain at Cairns Adventist College and Edmonton SDA Church, to build meaningful relationships with parents in their homes. By encouraging trust and understanding, the school is able to provide additional support—whether it be food assistance, a listening ear, or connections to local employment and community resources. With the help of Mission Australia, the Gordonvale Lions Club, and the Benevolent Society, Cairns Adventist College continues to serve as a pillar of strength for families in need, reinforcing its commitment to faith, service, and community.

Kimberley Hunter I Marketing and Communications at Cairns Adventist College











Indigenous Art *Workshop*

A group of students from Avondale School were excited to be a part of an Indigenous Art Workshop held by local artist and Wonnarua woman, Saretta Fielding, in November 2024.





As part of a school initiative, the workshop aimed to teach students about Indigenous art, as well as gather information to create an artwork representing the school's story and connection to its land.

Students from Year 2 to Year 12 were involved in the workshop which gave them an opportunity to create and share their own story with one another.

About 3% of the school's population is either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and the school has chosen to recognise them, first by flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags alongside the Australian flag, and now by having artwork commissioned to be used in their offices and multipurpose centre, and for marketing purposes.



"This is about breaking down barriers," explained Assistant Head of Primary, Michael Hosken, "We want to change the narrative around the stigma towards First Nations people and this is a practical way to show who we are as Christians."

Last year, teachers and leaders of the school took part in a Professional Development lead by Australians Together. Through this, they were able to have a better perspective of what Indigenous Australians have gone through and how generational trauma continues to affect students and their families.

"If I am going to call myself a Christian, then I should be living that out by being inclusive of everyone, and what better way to start then close to home, to those who first lived in this Country we call home," stated Mr Hosken.

The school hopes to finalise the artwork soon, creating something that not only brings people together but also serves as a meaningful conversation starter, something that makes our First Nations students proud. They look forward to engaging in other activities with the students, including weaving, storytelling, and spending time on Country, to deepen their understanding of Indigenous culture and recognise their role in building a better Australia.









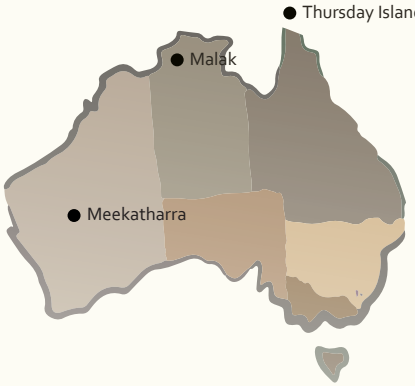




ATSIM Regional *Meekatharra*







The ATSIM Regional for the Meekatharra district came together on Friday March 7 and Sabbath March 8 at Karalundi College.

People travelled from Wiluna, Cue and Meekatharra to be part of this program. Pr Steve Goods (President – WA Conference), Mark Foster (WA Associate Education Director) and Pr Darren Peakall (WA ATSIM) travelled by light aircraft from Perth on Thursday to spend time at the school and take part of the program. Spending time with the staff and students on Thursday and Friday was a highlight for the team.

Mark took the Bible Class on Friday for the students on Friday morning while Pr Darren encouraged the people on Friday evening to rely on prayer as he shared his experience in PNG in 2024. On Sabbath, Meekatharra local Trevor Wingo shared inspiring songs with his guitar and mouth organ during the Sabbath school program, this was followed by Pr Steve, who shared a message of Bringing Hope into our communities.

The students took part in sharing with music with two beautiful items on Sabbath and it was wonderful to share a lunchtime meal together before the Perth team flew home on Sabbath afternoon.

Darren Peakall I ATSIM Director WA Conference







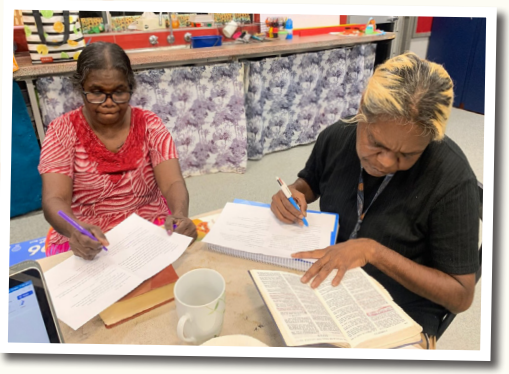
10 Days of Prayer *Malak*

In January this year, Patricia Nundhirribala and Juliet Rankin were invited to the 10 Days of Prayer program at Malak Seventh-day Adventist Church. Church member, Sapeta Savu, invited them so they can learn more about God.

They were touched by the word of God shared every evening and they chose to learn more. On March 12 they began Bible studies with Juliet wanting to continue her studies at Mamarapha College, once she is baptised.

The Spirit of God is moving in Malak. A big thank you goes out to Sapeta for her tireless effort to serving God and her passions to recruit souls for Jesus.

Pr Vaikini Teulilo I Pastor Malak Church



Patricia and Juliet

Discipleship Training *Thursday Island*

On February 14 and 15, the ATSIM and Church Reviatalisation departments for the Northern Australia Conference (NAC) conducted a Discipleship Training with the Thursday Island Church family in the Torres Strait.

The focus of the weekend was "Reviving Discipleship" as part of the Year of Discipleship initiative in the Northern Australia Conference for 2025. Pr Soani Vosalevu, NAC ATSIM Director, led out in a Communion Service on the Friday evening, reminding the church that as disciples we are called to serve others in the same capacity that Jesus came to serve us. On Sabbath, Pr Levi Mote, NAC Church Revitalisation Coordinator, conducted three sessions on discipleship.

"We want to empower church members to participate in spreading the Gospel," explained Pr Vosalevu, "many church members travel to different islands for work or visiting family, and this is a great opportunity for them to share God as they travel."

"Many of the church members occupy spaces and have connections and contacts with people that the local Pastor may never have the opportunity to fulfil, so we are giving them the tools they need to reach these people," added Pr Vosalevu.

Unfortunately, due to bad weather not all members from the surrounding Islands were able to be present, however, members from the Kubin Church on Moa Island were able to join the meetings via Zoom.

Overall, it was encouraging to see the engagement and excitement within the members and leaders of the church for discipleship. We thank Richard Warden and his family for their ministry and leadership in the Torres Strait and we look forward to seeing the Seventh-day Adventist Church, it's ministry and the expansion of God's Kingdom in the Torres Strait through intentional Discipleship.

Soani Vosalevu I ATSIM Director Northern Australian Conference













The First Aboriginal, Pastor Don Ever Met

It was 1974 and I arrived at Avondale College (now University) to study to be a Pastor. To help pay off our fees, most students were involved in a work programme as well. I worked on campus mowing lawns, picking oranges and picking strawberries. My campus work boss was a fellow Tasmanian by the name of Charles McKay. We got on really well and often he would invite me home to his place for Sabbath lunch. He had five children, the eldest one was an adopted child called Ruth. She was the first Aboriginal I had ever met. I got on well with all the children including Ruth.

Ruth had been born on Cape Barren Island where many Tasmanian Aboriginals had been taken. She ended up in an orphanage in Launceston. Charles McKay heard that there were children there who needed a home. He called in one day to have a look and was introduced to a group of about 10 children. This little Aboriginal girl came and hopped up on his knee and looking at him asked, "Are you going to take me home?" Charles took his wife, Josie, back the next day. Ruth's sweetness and the sadness of her situation touched their hearts. That was it – they decided to adopt Ruth.

When they moved to Avondale she came with the family and that's where I met her. She did everything the family did including coming to church. She eventually made her decision for Jesus and was baptised by Pastor Len Hay in the Dora Creek Church.

The family eventually shifted back to Tasmania. Ruth married and sadly her husband was killed in a work accident which really rocked her. She experienced a number of troubles which ended up leading her off the track and she ended up drowning her sorrow with alcohol.

I never forgot Ruth but didn't know how to find her.

Then around September 2023 I got a phone call and it was Ruth. I was so happy to hear from her and then she told me she was in hospital and had been given two weeks to live. I was really saddened. I prayed with her. I decided I would ring her every day or so to try and support her during her final days. The next day I rang and asked her would she be willing to accept Jesus. She said, "I am willing". I told her that because of her acceptance of Jesus she had real hope. She had a future to look forward to in heaven with Jesus and with Charles and Josie and her McKay siblings. I quickly sent her our ATSIM postcards.

Her siblings and mum, Josie, and many of her McKay relatives came to visit. After a few phone calls I told her she didn't sound like someone who was going to die in a few days. She said she didn't feel like it either and wanted to go home. We prayed that might happen. The Lord answered our prayers, and Ruth was able to go home to her daughter Belinda's place.

Pastor David Maxwell, Launceston Pastor, and the elders and family members anointed Ruth and the Lord has wonderfully blessed Ruth in her health. Mum, Josie, comes regularly to see Ruth, they had been estranged for many years but there has been a sweet re-union. Ruth just hugs her Mum and is so glad she is back in her life. All the McKay family are rejoicing to have Ruth back and are so good to her.



The McKay Family with Avis on the far left

Ruth now goes by her original name of Avis. (Avis used in the rest of this article).

One of her McKay aunties, Margaret Anderson, faithfully visited and encouraged Avis in hospital and when she got home. Margaret encouraged Avis to follow the Lord, she prayed with her and gave her Bible studies every week. Avis never looked back from when she said she "was willing" to accept Jesus – she was serious about her commitment to Jesus.

She still has some trouble breathing at times but praise God that after 18 months Avis is still living. Her doctor and nurses can't believe she is still living. And now the latest news - she has improved so much that from February 2025 she no longer needs to be on oxygen. Her oxygen cylinder and apparatus are sitting in the corner!

Avis decided she wanted to be re- baptised. However, due to her breathing difficulties at the time it wasn't possible. So, Pastor David Maxwell organised a special ceremony at Launceston Church on the 21st of December 2024 and Avis was welcomed into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on a Profession of Faith. She was so happy to be home with Jesus once again and looking forward to the Second Coming of Jesus when she will be fully restored.
I have been involved in helping many Aboriginals across Australia find Jesus as their Saviour but what a thrill to be involved in helping the first one I ever met come home to Jesus.

I sent a video message to be played at her welcome in ceremony. I concluded with these words,

"Avis, we have been friends for 51 years but because of your decision for Jesus we will be friends for eternity. May God bless you Avis in the days ahead until Jesus soon returns to take all His children home. Jesus says, "Hold fast…till I come." Revelation 2:25"



Don Fehlberg I Retired Pastor

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