

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS – 31 August 2014 #33

“Except We Forget” - Queensland Conference

Camp meeting 15-17 August 2014

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” Life Sketches, p. 196.



Friday afternoon we arrived at camp to find the rain just starting to set in. This did not dampen our spirits, however, and there was much excitement as we greeted family, friends, and interstate visitors, many of whom we do not often get to see.

The topic of this camp was “Except We Forget”, and throughout the camp we were challenged to remember God’s leading, especially over the last 100 years, and the truths that make us a distinct people for God.

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After the opening of Sabbath, which was taken by Br Jonathan Brown and titled “Follow the Master”, we all enjoyed a delicious tea provided by our wonderful camp cook Jessica Brown and her many assistants.

The camp was then opened by Br Graham McMahon with the topic “Last Days Are Here”, after which there was time to catch up and chat a little before we headed for our beds.

Sabbath morning the rain had not let up and the showers continued, becoming heavier through the day. However, despite the wet there was a good turnout for worship, which was taken by Br Jamie Squires on “What is in a Name”. It was brought out that the meaning of a name can be negative or positive and that it is most important for us to contemplate what the name of Jesus means to us and what our name means to others.

After breakfast more people began to arrive in time for Sabbath School which was on “Jonah” and provided an interesting subject for discussion.

The divine service followed, taken by Br Nathan Tyler on “Nothing to Fear”. We were reminded that while it may seem easy for us now, in times of peace, to stand for the right and honour the Sabbath and the commandment “Thou Shalt Not Kill”, we must remember the struggles that our members have had in years past and other Christians are having at the moment and be ready to stand firm and trust God even in adversity should our test come.

Another delicious meal followed, and then came the young people’s meeting, “Old Paths, Good Ways”, taken by Br Jordan Chapman, which I am sure was greatly enjoyed by all, with many lovely items prepared by church groups as well as individuals.

Immediately after the young people’s meeting the Profession of Faith was held, and we were especially blessed to be able to witness three souls take their stand for Christ. When we finished, the rain was still



Jared Chapman

Melissa Chapman

Stephen McMahon

pouring down; but we all gathered our umbrellas and headed for the lake where the candidates - Jared Chapman, Stephen McMahon, and Melissa Chapman - were to be baptised. It was wonderful to see them rise from the watery grave as new creatures in Christ and to know that all heaven was rejoicing with us in



the knowledge that three souls had given their hearts to Him and had joined the ranks of Christ's army, - His church on earth.

Close of Sabbath followed, taken on the topic "Blessings and Curses" by Br Juan Ricardo Amaya. Tea was next on the program before the evening activities began. As the rain continued to fall, our bonfire had to be cancelled, but we all enjoyed playing some games in

the back of the hall. As the evening got later, the participants got fewer until at last all of us had gone to our beds.

Sunday morning dawned warm and sunny, a lovely change from the rain of the last couple of days. Worship was taken by Sr Elisabeth Balarezo and entitled "A Call to Reform".

Breakfast followed, after which there were activities for the children taken by Sr Sandra Barnett. In the main hall the meetings continued with Br Paul Chapman taking the first on the topic "In Remembrance of Me", covering closed communion. Br Jacob De Souza took the second meeting, which was entitled, "Pilgrims and Strangers". He gave some very clear instruction on why we should not be involved in politics or unions, especially trade unions.

After the Close of Conference taken by Brethren Paul Chapman and Nathan Tyler, we enjoyed another lovely meal.

After packing and cleaning up, we began the afternoon's activity of canoeing, which was very enjoyable as we paddled along in the lovely warm sun. Quite a few people also tried the low ropes, which seemed to provide much interest and even amusement for those watching.

Camp had now come to an end and good-byes had to be said, but we look forward to seeing everyone again next year and pray God will be with us all 'til we meet again.



~ Naomi McMahon

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=6165>

Congratulations Matyas Family



Our special congratulations to Brother Csongor and Sister Kaylene Matyas on the birth of their second son Asher Matyas.

The healthy, bouncy baby boy was born on Tuesday 19th August 2014, weighing 4.190kgs (9.2lbs). We wish them all God's blessings as they bring up both their children for the Lord.

Psalms 127:3, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=6158>

Valma Alice Rendell – 19 July 1921 to 8 August 2014

EULOGY written by her family:



Valma Alice McMahon was born in Drouin, Victoria on 19 July, 1921 to Robert and Dorothy.

Valma was the second child and ended up having eleven siblings – making a family of twelve children – nine girls and three boys.

During her young life, there was a lot of sharing. One afternoon when family and cousins were out, leaving her on her own, her mother and aunt heard her say, **"I've got a teddy, all to myself – I've got a doll, all to myself."**

When Valma was 8 years old her parents sent the two sisters, Doreen and Valma to Tasmania for a year of schooling. Her aunty had a little church school in Collinsville. In the hills south of Hobart, she lived and learnt many principles that stayed with her for life. Years later, she was able to visit Tasmania and sit in the pew of the little church where she had been taught.

As a nine year old returning home, she loved the outdoors and liked nothing better than to pick peas with her mother instead of looking after the babies in the house.

High school was completed in Sale, Victoria, where she and Doreen boarded during the week and rode home on their bicycles for Sabbath. As the family moved a lot, sometimes it was a long ride, up to 70 miles (112km) – she and her sister got very sunburnt in the process.

After she finished school, she took jobs teaching schools in different localities in Victoria as well as Tasmania. Whilst in Tasmania, her parents learnt of the SDA Reform Movement Church, and her mother came to Tasmania to collect her. This was a big sacrifice for a mother who had to leave behind a tiny baby; namely, Eunice.

Valma was reluctant to leave as she had done the next day's program on the blackboard all illustrated beautifully with drawings (one of her greatest pleasures.) Nevertheless, she returned to Victoria school-teaching and finally an office job in Sydney with the infant church.

Valma worked alongside Br D. Nicolici. She also lived with the Nicolici family for a time. Brother Nicolici and his wife had moved from Romania to Australia a short time before, to bring the SDA Reform Message to this young country. With his zeal and inspiration, many souls were to learn God's true stand for His people in time of war. Valma also learnt that a Christian should dress modestly, yet not extravagantly. One day, Valma went shopping in her lunch hour for a new hat, but returning to the office, and on showing her new purchase, Br Nicolici commented that the accessories on the hat were too showy and not in keeping with their faith. Valma consequently returned to the shop and swapped the hat.

She remained at that job for five years, during which time she learnt typewriting at college and performed many office duties including reports, auditing and writing. Her writing skills were also stretched to transcribing Br Nicolici's broken English. I will add that Valma continued to enjoy her role as a literature proof-reader until late last year.

(Footnote: Soon after this, a number of Valma's sisters moved to Sydney to work in the church health clinic & church farm/missionary school – other missionary enterprises set up under the direction of Br Nicolici. Many youth were trained in the use of natural treatments, hydrotherapy and massage as well as many ministers and workers—Brothers McDonald, Smith, Brittain, Weymark—for future positions of responsibility, some in the General Conference.)

During this time, she met a young man from Victoria. They became very friendly and in April, 1947, she married Stanley Rendell. After their marriage, they shifted to Melbourne where their first daughter,



Dorothy was born. Later they moved to New South Wales to work for Jack Wiseman at Lower Portland, and their second daughter, Valda, was born in Windsor.

When Valda was two years old, Stan was called into the church work and was then transferred to Brisbane where the children grew up, making many lifelong friends, especially with the Barnetts and the Patricks.

Valma helped her husband in his work. Household jobs were sometimes neglected to fit in the necessary things such as train trips to the city. The girls can remember getting on the wrong train and having to go back to the city and start again when Valma would say, "Don't tell Dad."

In 1962, Stan was transferred to New Zealand for two years and then to Melbourne and finally back to Queensland for the final years of his working life.

Whilst back in Queensland, Valma had discovered a new hobby - growing African violets. She had a lovely collection and started new plants from a single leaf. For one of the girl's weddings, Valma had an African violet at the end of each pew.

During this time, Stan's health declined. Stan took an early retirement and soon after, Stan and Valma relocated to New South Wales to be close to their daughters. In doing so, they purchased their first home in Junee.

Valma faithfully cared for Stan during those difficult years, driving him everywhere. She also kept a lovely garden in the backyard.

After Stan died in August 1990, Valma enjoyed visiting friends and family, even going to Western Australia to visit her sister and family. During one trip in New South Wales, Valma was involved in a dreadful car accident and was transferred to the Canberra hospital where she remained for several weeks. Gradually her health returned and she was able to move back to her home in Junee.

Her neighbours and friends in Junee helped Valma a lot. Her next door neighbour Maisie, would take Valma to the doctor, bank or supermarket as requested. Valma only recently mentioned she considered Maisie to be her **best** friend.

At the local flour mill, she was known as Mrs Spelt Flour. As the flour mill was discontinuing to sell to the public, Mrs Spelt flour would arrive with a container and they would obligingly fill it for her. With the flour, Valma faithfully made her own bread, first by hand and then was introduced to the wonderful bread-making machine. One of Friday's special jobs was to "make the bread."

In June, 2013, Valma had a fall and the doctors suspected a heart condition, which after two tests proved to be correct. She was advised not to drive again – a big thing as Valma was always very proud of her driving.

A lot of changes happened during that last twelve months. No longer able to drive to church, she appreciated family who especially came around to pick her up. Gradually changes took place. She sold her car to her daughter Valda and kept a watchful eye on what happened to it. One day when Valda was driving her home from church, Valma said, "My car doesn't like driving on dirt roads," to which Valda replied, "Your car has a new mother now, and it has to do what she says."

Valma filled her life with reading and writing in her diary – the last entry being two days before she died.

After another bad fall in December 2013, she was no longer able to live alone. In January 2014, she moved to Coleambally to be with her daughter, Dorothy.

The family prepared a room and had it repainted for her occupancy. In it, she had her own things and pictures, and it made a little haven for her. The last time she slept in it she said, "I love my little room."

During her stay in Coleambally, Valma's health continued to decline. She was hospitalised three times and eventually required the care of a nursing home which she accepted graciously.

She loved her visitors and made note of them in her diary – phone calls were special, and going out for trips was great. She learnt to appreciate the routine of the nursing home and joined their activities.

On her birthday in July, she came out to Coleambally to be with family. In the diary, she mentioned the music which the children played for her, one being her favourite hymn, “Under His Wings.”

The next week she signed the papers to sell her home in Junee. By the next weekend, she was placed in isolation due to catching the flu. A few days later, she made a diary note of how good it was to be back in her own room. Only two days later Valma suffered a severe heart attack, and the nurses noted the peaceful expression on Valma’s face. Her desire had come true - to pass quickly and quietly as her parents had done.

Valma paid close attention to detail. She faithfully filled in her Sabbath School Lesson each day. She always wanted to know what time the sun set on Friday – loved going to church, hearing people’s news, loved checking her birthday book and sending cards to family members. She was always faithful with her church obligations. Valma always looked on the bright side – even finding in the devil something good – his perseverance. We will miss her sunny disposition no matter what path her life took.

We will all miss her. We will miss her consistent loving thoughts sent to us on all occasions. We will miss her keen interest in all our daily activities, children and pets.

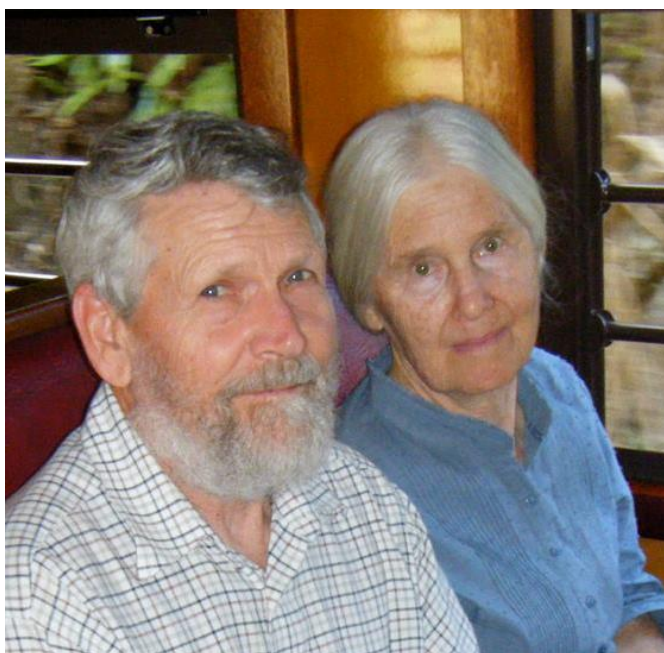
We look forward to being reunited again soon with our mother, sister, aunt and friend on that special day when Jesus comes to gather His loved ones home.

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=6138>

Condolences

August has been a very sad month, as a number of our brethren lost close family members. It is with sorrow in our hearts that we would like to extend our sincere sympathy to these families and pray that God will comfort and strengthen each one during this time of great loss.

Celia and Peter Thiel



The Thiel family are devastated by news of their tragic loss – Celia and Peter Thiel – who were killed instantly in a car accident on Friday 29 August, whilst returning home from a visit to their children and grandchildren in Western Australia.

Our prayers and thoughts are with those whom they’ve left behind – their children Br Ben Thiel (South Pacific Union Mission President, AUC ex-president) and his siblings Amos, Joanna and Rebecca and their families and also their extended family – brothers, sisters and their families. What a wonderful reunion it will be for many at the return of Jesus!

Slavica Dikih

We extend our sympathy to the family of Br Joe Voncina (current Australasian Union Conference Treasurer/Secretary) and his siblings Ben and Jack on the loss of their beloved sister. Our condolences go to Natasha, Jonathan, Ruby-Jean and LeRoy on losing their mother and grandmother. Slavica Dikih passed away at the age of 71 on Tuesday 19th August 2014.

‘Slavi’, to those who knew her, came across to many as a strong individual, but deep inside there was a very caring and thoughtful spirit. Not long ago, during a missionary outreach at the Adventist retirement village where there was singing to the residents, many will remember her hospitality. She made sure each was comfortable upon arriving, and at the end of the program, all were invited to have a drink and some cookies before leaving the village. Her hospitality and kind-heartedness will be remembered by various people.



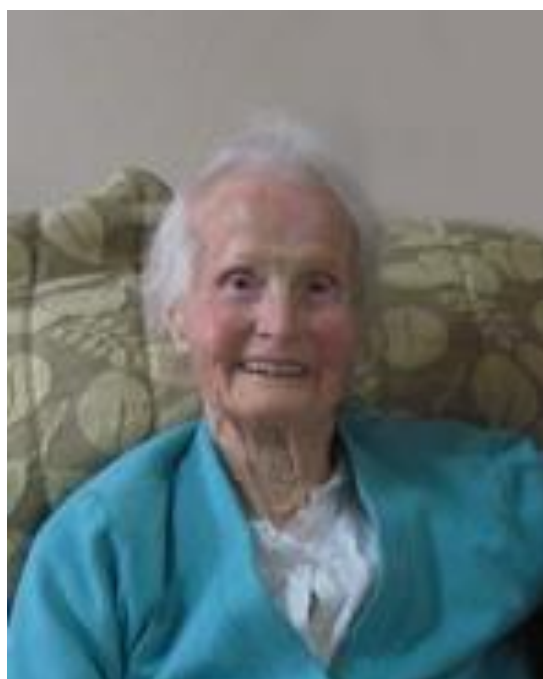
Melisa Jane Lausevic



Our heartfelt condolences also go to Sam and Liliana Lausevic and their family in Sacramento USA, on the loss of their daughter Melisa Jane Lausevic, 18th August 2014. Melisa passed away at the sweet age of 16 years. May God comfort and strengthen you all during this sad time of the loss of your loved one. Melisa now sleeps in Jesus at the Moriah Heights Cemetery.

Valma Alice Rendell

Our condolences go to the family and friends of late Valma Alice Rendell who died from a severe heart attack on Friday 8th August 2014 at the wonderful age of 93. We look forward to the time when we will see Sr Rendell once again at the beautiful home prepared for the faithful.



“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9.

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:1-4.

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We thank God for the rich promises in His Word; the hope of meeting our loved ones again nevermore to part.

May these promises in the Scriptures be our hope today, our peace tomorrow and our comfort always.

Dedication – Immanuel Polistina

Wentworthville Church

It was Brother Domenic and Sister Nadine Polistina’s desire to present their firstborn son Immanuel to the Lord at a dedication service in their local church. The ceremony was witnessed by many of their church brethren, family and friends; this took place on a beautiful Sabbath morning, 9th August 2014.

During the ceremony, Nadine shared a special poem before Br Matthias Thiel prayed for Immanuel:

What Do I Want For My Child

Do I seek for him world-wide fame?
Do I treasure him with wealth and riches?
Do I want his life to be just like a game?
What do I want for my child?
Is it power and wisdom and might?
Do I want for him untold blessings?
Do I want everything to go just right?
I'll tell you what I want for my child...
A heart full of peace from above...
A life of serving others...
A heart full of patience and love...
I want him to know my Saviour...
To be free from the power of sin...
This is what I want for my child Immanuel,



I want him to walk with HIM...
I want him to be like HIM.

Children are a heritage of the Lord. He loved to have them around, and He blessed them. We read of this experience in Matthew 19:13-15, *"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence."*

We pray that Immanuel will bring much joy to his parents and to our Heavenly Father as he grows up desiring in his life to honour our Lord.

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=6121>

Singing in Retirement Village

On Sabbath the 2nd August 2014, youth and members of Schofield's Church were able to bring much joy to a number of the residents living at the Adventist Retirement Village, Kings Langley NSW.

Over 70 people gathered together in the dining room listening to various items rendered by individuals, Focus Singers, instrumentalists and groups; also praises were rendered to our heavenly Father by all with community singing. God loves to receive praises from His children. Throughout the Psalms David repeatedly encourages us to sing praises to our heavenly Father. Psalms 95:1 -- *"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation."* Also in Psalms 96:2 -- *"Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day."* We truly had a very blessed time praising God together.

Before each hymn and between items, Brother Joe Voncina spoke a few words about the wonderful love of God towards each one and how we all have an extended invitation to give our hearts to Him.

After the singing was finished, we had an opportunity to mingle with the elderly residents and speak with some of them. They are looking forward to our next visit.



NSW Youth Focus Meeting – August 2014

2 August 2014

How quickly do the months pass by! Once again we were invited to hold our Youth Focus Meeting at Br Danko and Sr Rosetta Ilic's home. After the closing of Sabbath, Br Matthias proceeded with some Bible trivia questions until the rest of the youth arrived.

Due to the importance of the Sabbath, and having it as one of the main pillars of our faith, we decided to have an activity where the youth could research this subject further for themselves. We encouraged them to find Bible verses that would support the keeping of the seventh day Sabbath. Each participated in a group exercise from the Bible. Sister Lidia Voncina divided those who were present into groups of three, and each group was asked to find three specific Bible verses to prove that the Sabbath is still to be observed today. Here are some of the references that were shared:

- Exodus 20:8-11, Hebrews 13:8, Matthew 5:18
- Luke 24:1, Mark 2:27-28, Isaiah 58:13-14
- Hebrews 4:4, Luke 23:56, Nehemiah 13:15-22
- Genesis 2:2-3, Matthew 12:8, Ezekiel 20:12, 20
- Luke 4:16, Matthew 15:9, Mark 15:40-42

The Sabbath is a memorial of Creation; it is also the seal of the living God on which each will be tested on prior to Christ's Second Coming. The fourth commandment is the only commandment that contains the name of the Lawgiver, His title and His dominion. Our understanding of the Sabbath truth and the way we keep it will determine whether or not we will receive the seal of God.

It was then time for information on the upcoming events: NSW Youth day outing, which will be a bike riding day at Lady Carrington Drive, Royal National Park; and the long-weekend camp, 3-6 October at Abercrombie Caves.

Dinner is always welcomed, and hot winter soups with garlic bread were just what each one needed after a long and cold day. To finish our meal we were treated to some of Rosetta's homemade pancakes with fillings provided by the youth.

We all had a wonderful time as we socialised for the rest of the evening. Thank you once again, Ilic family, for your hospitality!

May God help the youth to be faithful along life's Christian journey.

~ NSW Youth Department Leaders

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11. Come Let Us Reason Together
12. Delay No Longer
13. Who Shall Be Able To Stand
14. Before the Sun Sets
15. Thousand Years of Desolation
16. The Saints' Inheritance
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32. Baptised into Christ
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35. Biblical Tithing System
36. Fig Leaves or Lamb's Wool
37. Wedded to Christ
38. Marriage – a Lifelong Tie
39. The Joy of the Lord
40. It Is Worthwhile

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Invitation to the WA Spiritual Conference - September 2014

Jesus Knocks - Christ's Message to Laodicea

WA Field invites you to our 2014 Field Spiritual Conference, 26-29 September, 2014. The title of our conference is "When Jesus Knocks – Christ's Message to Laodicea". The counsel of the True Witness to Laodicea is more relevant to God's people today than at any other time in the history of the Christian church. We will consider the most important elements of this message found in Revelation Chapter 3 and how they apply to us today. We hope you will be able to come and join us at this important and refreshing time together.

Venue

The conference is being held at a beautiful Christian campsite named Camp Logue Brook located just 1½ hours' drive south of Perth (between Yarloop and Harvey). The address is: Logue Brook Dam Road, HARVEY WA 6220.

For more details and to register: www.sdarm.org.au/wa2014 or call Luke Kneebone on 08 9453 1756

Invitation to AUC Youth Convention – 2014

Elected 4 Glory

22-28 December 2014

Elim Heights Youth Camp

5760B-5760D Putty Road PUTTY NSW 5670

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood"

Further information coming soon!

Summer School Is Back!

A 10 days Summer School will be held at Elim Heights Youth Camp, January 2015. Will keep you posted with exact dates in the next issue of GT e-Newsletter. For all those, young and old alike, who are keen on studying God's Word, you will soon have the dates to mark down on your calendar. Watch for more information available soon.

For further information email: education@sdarm.org.au

Coming Events Calendar

26-29 September, 2014 Western Australian Mission Field Spiritual Conference

Location: Camp Logue Brook, Harvey

Western Australia

Register online at wa@sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +61-(0)8-9377-3283

Download Invitation Here: www.sdarm.org.au/wa2014

3-6 October, 2014 NSW Youth Camp

Location: 85 Grange Avenue Schofields.

For Further information

mthiel@sdarm.org.au or lidia@sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +61-(0)2-9627-7553

Matthias Thiel mob: +61-(0)424 430 329

26 October, 2014 NSW Youth Department Seminar - Communication

Location: 85 Grange Avenue Schofields.

For Further information

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Matthias Thiel mob: +61-(0)424 430 329

22-28 December, 2014 AUC Youth Convention 2014 "Elected 4 Glory"

Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp, NSW

For Further information go to

www.sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +61-(0)2-9627-7553

January, 2015

Summer School 2015

Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp, NSW

For Further information email info@sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +61-(0)2-9627-7553

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