

# Good Tidings

Australasian Good Tidings News

December 23, 2022 – No. 77

## Upcoming Events

### **AUC Delegation Session**

Dates: 26 & 27 December, 2022  
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp

### **AUC Spiritual Conference**

Dates: 28-31 December, 2022  
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp  
Contact: AUC Office (02) 9627 7553

### **Camponotus Kids**

Dates: 2-4 January, 2023  
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp  
Contact: AUC Office (02) 9627 7553

### **Ed. Dept. Summer School**

Dates: 2-4 January, 2023  
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp  
Contact: AUC Office (02) 9627 7553

### **Victoria & NSW Bush Camp**

Dates: 7-10 April, 2023  
Location: Coleambally, NSW  
Contact: TBC

### **New South Wales Camp**

Dates: 9-12 June, 2023  
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp  
Contact: P Chapman 0414 495 838

## Farewell Joe & Lidia Voncina

As this issue is being prepared, our staff are hard at work preparing for this year's Conference, as well as the 36<sup>th</sup> triennial Australasian Union Conference delegation session. Like at every other delegation session, there will be changes. And so we are working hard in preparation for this.

To add to the chaos, our AUC office has just spent several days getting a new coat of paint, and some flooring is being replaced, currently disrupting everyone's work space. Yes, it's time for change here too. Change can be good—already the office is looking better!

But changes can also be sad. With this issue of *Good Tidings*, we are saying goodbye to assistant editor Lidia Voncina. She has been a pillar of our office staff since 1999, and it will be sad to see her go.

Lidia's husband Joe Voncina has also been a key part of our organisation, having served as the secretary and treasurer of the AUC since 2003.

Joe and Lidia have been involved behind the scenes in so many of the stories you have read about here over the years.

To both Joe and Lidia we would like to say a special "thank you." We wish you all the best and God's blessings in your retirement, and of course we want you to know you're always welcome in the office. We're sure you'll find ways to continue to assist in the Lord's work whenever you can!



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## Canvassing Seminar

Our Victorian conference was blessed in the month of October with the visit of Brother Jacob de Souza and his dear family – Sister Sandra, Lucas and Isabella. They came and

stayed with us on the weekend of the Sabbath 15th of October when Bro. Jacob shared a message based on Matthew 13:47-51 entitled, “The Net.”

This was a powerful message on our need of being fishermen of souls for our Lord Jesus Christ. He also reported quite a significant amount of literature being distributed in South Australia on a weekly basis, a work done by him together with lay volunteers.

The Lord has blessed some areas of the city of Adelaide with literature being scattered like the leaves of autumn. Right after the sermon, some brothers and sisters approached Bro. Jacob and asked him if he could run a program like the one he is doing in SA, here in Victoria. He accepted the challenge.

On the weekend of the 29th and 30th of October, he and his family returned, and this time, he also brought Brother Andrew Willcox along in order to run a canvassing weekend with the theme, “Dare to be a Canvasser.” Several presentations challenged everyone to become involved with canvassing work, noting that, “As long as probation continues, there will be opportunity for the canvasser to work.” *The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 99.

Brother Jacob shared some short video testimonies, and then a video demonstrating two canvassers knocking on doors with different interactions. A sample rejection was demonstrated, reminding us that not everyone will be willing to accept any literature we take

to their doors. Another scenario was the acceptance, where a person was ready and willing to receive the messages of health and Bible truth for this time.

On Sunday morning we gathered once again for a practical presentation and some training. A couple of people demonstrated how you would interact with people at the door. Then there was a short Q&A session for a chance to ask questions about the activity we were about to embark on.

On that day, we had 19 adults, 2 teenagers, and 8 children who actively participated in the canvassing work. We spent a couple of hours, in teams of two or three, knocking on doors and talking to people using a community survey with five questions.

After we asked each question, depending on the answer, we gave people an invitation for one or more of several programs, including how to stop smoking, cooking classes, Optimise Your Brain seminar, Depression Recovery Program, or free Bible studies by correspondence. We also took their contact details if they wished for us to follow up for a reminder regarding any of the programs. And finally, we would offer them a gift pack (*Shelter in the Storm, What Really*



*Happens at Death*, “The I Am” pamphlet, “The Great Controversy” free book offer, Present Truth Correspondence Course).

After those couple of hours canvassing, we gathered back at the church to share experiences and, believe it or not, everyone had really positive experiences! We were just amazed of the results each team had. Blessing after blessing was shared by the participants, and we praised the Lord for giving us this experience. We shared how many gift packages we gave away and how many people acquired health books on a donation basis.

This was our results for the short amount of time we went out on the day:

- Gift Packs: 66
- Plants that Heal book: 3
- Foods that Heal book: 5
- More Choices cookbook: 8
- Bible Course invites: 1
- Stop Smoking Program: 25
- Program invitations (to various events): 43

I personally think this is one of the best and simplest ways to do canvassing in Australia—who doesn’t want to answer some questions and give their opinion? According to Brother Jacob and Brother

Andrew, 95% of people are willing to answer those questions, and I can tell you that it’s true. We have tested it here in Victoria and had a blessed experience!

We are really thankful to the Lord and also would like to thank Brother Jacob and his family, and Brother Andrew, for coming to our field to encourage our people to do this wonderful activity to reach out to people in our community.

We would like to encourage each local church to taste and see that the Lord is good. Here is an inspirational message if you are still wondering if you should do this work in your local church:

“Place in the homes of the people papers, tracts, and books that will preach the gospel in its several lines. There is no time to be lost. Let many give themselves willingly and unselfishly to the canvassing work, and thus help to sound a warning that is greatly needed.” *Counsels on Health*, p. 464.

“Publications must be multiplied, and scattered like the leaves of autumn. These silent messengers are enlightening and molding the minds of thousands in every country and in every clime.” *Colporteur Ministry*, p. 5.

God bless you all! ~Miguel Mendoza

## Homiletics Seminar

Coleambally Church was blessed by a visit from Br Miguel Mendoza during the second week of November when he held a Homiletics Seminar in Griffith, NSW. The seminar was a blessing to all age groups, but was particularly geared towards preparing the young people to give presentations. Each evening began with a delicious meal provided by the women of Coleambally Church and an opportunity for the young people to visit among themselves and with Br Miguel before beginning the seminar.

On the first night of the seminar, we learned about the qualities of an orator. We covered topics like how to control breathing, the rhythm of speech, body language and vocabulary. We also learnt about the Biblical qualities of an orator from 1 Timothy 4:12-16.

During the rest of the week, we learned how to prepare our sermon or presentation. Br Miguel showed us the different types of sermons, their characteristics and how to create their outlines. He also engaged us in practical activities where we could experience what we were learning and shared many of his own personal experiences that brought what we learned to life for us.

By the end of the week each attendee had prepared a presentation of up to ten minutes, which they



shared with the church during Sabbath afternoon before being presented with a certificate. We are very grateful to Br Miguel for taking time away from his family and Field to make this valuable experience possible for us. ~Sr Naomi McMahon

### Testimonials

“So grateful to have had the opportunity to attend this homiletics course. It was such a blessing, and I learned so much.” ~Sr Anna McMahon

“It was very interesting to learn about the different types of sermons –topical, expository, and textual. Br Miguel taught us how to organise our presentation properly, which made it easier to present. I also liked all the food.”~Anonymous

“Attending the Homiletics Seminar was an incredibly enriching experience. Studying God’s Word and learning to present it to others brought me closer to God. It was a blessing to fellowship together while Br Miguel helped us prepare sermons to present at the Sabbath afternoon meeting. I plan to put the lessons I learned into practice in my witnessing for Jesus.” ~Br Nathan Wiseman





# Schofields Church Cooking Classes

With Covid restrictions finally gone and things opening up to normal again, it was time to put our cooking demonstration hats back on and get in and amongst our community again. We heard regularly from people who had participated in the past, asking us when we would be holding another series. Our last attempt in 2021 had not been possible due to going back into lockdown just before the scheduled dates, but this time with the help of God, we wanted to push through while the opportunity was available, and God surely blessed the cooking demonstrations that were held.

Sr Lidia Voncina and Sr Rosetta Ilic, who have been at the helm of Schofields Church cooking demonstrations for quite a few years, once again were able to pull off a successful series of great vegan recipes with the help of their usual sidekicks who were always on hand for their opinions and advice where needed.

On Monday, 10 October, 2022, we began the evening with a short presentation from Br. A. C. Sas on “Why I am a Vegetarian,” where he was able to share some of his personal experiences and spoke about the benefits of being on a vegetarian diet and why meat eating is a big contributor to many health issues in our society. The talk was then followed by the demonstration of very simple recipes such as Simple gluten free buns (so easy and delish), guacamole, a lima bean open pie (a must try, I promise!) and a vegan bread pudding which was thoroughly enjoyed by our audience.



It was a smaller group than usual for our first night, where we saw about 35 people in attendance, including our usual cooking demo attendees and also some new faces.

On the following Monday, 17 October, 2022, Br. Paul Chapman shared a short presentation on “Calcium” and the benefits of plant-based calcium. We learned that calcium from dairy in fact did the total opposite to our



bodies than what it was advertised to do. Indeed in consuming cow’s milk we were causing more damage to our bones than good. Calcium through vegetable protein/plant protein was much more beneficial in preventing bone fractures compared to animal protein, and vegetables, nuts and seeds were higher in calcium than cow’s milk. After this informative presentation, chefs Lidia Voncina, Rosetta Ilic and Stela Gules got to demonstrating another very tasty menu that consisted of a Red Lentil Tofu (great for stir fries), Green Bean Salad (so, so good!), Plant-based Vegetable Frittata (a big hit!) and a Fruit Sago (so good for a hot summer’s day). Again, these were very much enjoyed by all.

The group of attendees on this evening grew a little more, and we had about 45 attendees, which was great to see.

On the last Monday evening of the series, October 24, 2022, Br. Paul Chapman presented a short talk on the importance of the 8 laws of health and how these principles aid us in maintaining our health and preventing us from getting sick, in natural ways. The main highlight though was on the importance of sunlight and the benefits of vitamin D, and its role in helping us to maintain bone strength, regulating our blood pressure, in strengthening our immune system and the role sunshine plays in helping with depression. These were good facts that the audience appreciated.

So for this evening we had a packed menu, as our last demonstration was based on “Vegan Party Foods.” We had a few chefs lined up for this evening – Br. Joe Voncina, Sr. Lidia Voncina, Sr. Rosetta Ilic & Sr. Tanya Ah-Ching,

so Br. Joe got us started off by demonstrating Spring Scrolls (Vegan Savoury Strudels) (Just simply amazing!), then followed by the other chefs demonstrating Potato Cheese (great on tacos etc), Sausage Rolls (who doesn’t like a good sausage roll?!), Spelt Flour Spinach Tartlets, Vegan Vege-licious Wraps (its name says it all!), Black Bean Cups, Caramel Slice & Chia & Lime Pudding (both desserts were irresistibly awesome!). We did go just a bit over time on this evening’s menu, but sometimes you just have to leave the audience with something that will keep them coming back for more. On this evening, we did have the most attendees out of this series with an attendance of about 55 happy people who were all so grateful to see the cooking demonstrations on again.

The people in attendance were also happy to explore our Elim Health Store after the conclusion of each evening with many of the necessary ingredients from each recipe that were available in-store being on everyone’s shopping list to trial at home. It was also good to see some health book sales throughout the course of the demonstrations which we pray will be a blessing to those that made the purchases.

In saying all of this, it is also a sad time for the Elim Health Team, as this was the last series that Sr. Lidia Voncina would be in charge of. With Joe and Lidia’s retirement looming at the end of 2022, this will also turn a new leaf for the Elim Health Team and for the cooking demonstrations to come. From humble beginnings about 20 years ago, Sr. Lidia was at the forefront of it all and was very committed to making these demonstrations go a long way, and we are so happy to see the changes and results of great work through the people that have been blessed along the way with the many recipes that have been demonstrated and especially helping many on their journey to good health. We don’t believe this will be the last we will see of Sr. Lidia, as I am sure she won’t be able to help herself and she will be back in one way or another to contribute to the many cooking demonstrations ahead of us, but we thank Sr. Lidia for paving the way, and we hope that those that will continue this great missionary outreach with the Elim Health Team can continue the great work in reaching out to the community through demonstrating the benefits of healthy living through delicious vegan cooking.

By – Tanya Ah-Ching

The recipes and presentations can be found on the Schofields Church YouTube site:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBOs5TVV6J8&t=1792s>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_CPr8H8gyCU&t=648s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CPr8H8gyCU&t=648s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nc-15YqQseU&t=217s>





## Baptism of Fuatino Marie Wily

“The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.” Zephaniah 3:17.

Sabbath 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 was a blissful Sabbath, not only because it was the one day in the week that we got to meet in God’s presence and forget the worries and troubles of the past six days, but because of two other reasons. First, we woke up to the beautiful sun shining (which has been a very rare occurrence over the past few months here in Sydney). Second, we were going to welcome another lamb into God’s fold through the waters of baptism.

It was a very happy day for Sister Fuatino Marie Wily, who resides in the Riverina town of Griffith, NSW. Marie was brought up in the SDA Reform Movement church, and it was always her mother’s prayer that Marie (her only child) would one day give her heart to the Lord. But after some time of living out her life the way she wanted, she met Jerry, and eventually they got married and were waiting on the next phase in life, of becoming parents. For five years they waited and prayed for a child, and God answered their prayers, with their beautiful baby girl Eden, who was born at the beginning of this year.

During Marie’s pregnancy, she and her husband had the opportunity to really consider the future of their unborn child. With so much happening in the world, their number one priority was to give this gift God had given them back to the Lord in such a way that she would grow to know and love God always. So, Marie started her journey by requesting baptismal Bible studies with Brother Larry Ah-Ching. After completing her baptismal studies, Marie didn’t want to wait too long. So she planned to head to Sydney for the baptism to be held on Sabbath August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

But the devil was not at rest. He was adamant in not wanting Marie to get baptised. The day before they planned to head up to Sydney, their car decided to stop working, so they had a mechanic come to have a look at what was wrong. The mechanic told them it would take him until the following afternoon to try and fix the problem. They couldn’t afford to wait until the following afternoon, as they needed to get to Sydney before Sabbath. At this point things were not going as planned, so they prayed for the Lord to help them work out what they should do, and above all they prayed that God’s will in all of this be done. They decided to hire a car and packed up to leave for Sydney on Thursday evening.

Now another difficulty arose. Throughout the week leading up to August 6<sup>th</sup>, there was forecast heavy rainfalls in Southern NSW which affected the Riverina and surrounding areas. Sydney was



fortunate enough to have stayed dry, which was very much needed as we were just coming out of some major flooding from a few weeks earlier. By Thursday the rains had settled down in Southern NSW, but had left many roads in and out of the Riverina areas flooded. Now a trip that initially should have only taken about 6 or so hours ended up taking them all night. They only arrived in Sydney around 6am on Friday morning. There were many roads cut off by water and a lot of detours that needed to be taken, and at some points they had to cross flooded roadways with a lot of faith, praying the car wouldn’t get stuck. But all praise and glory to God because He is so merciful to His loved ones, and they made it by God’s grace.

Sabbath started out with beautiful sunshine. Many were in attendance for Sabbath School and Divine Service which was followed by the Profession of Faith for Marie. All were very happy to hear her Christian experience and what had led her to decide to give her heart to the Lord.

During combined lunch the winds picked up and it got a little chillier than what the baptismal candidate and the church elder would have wanted, let alone everyone else that was going to be at the river.

We all headed out to be at the Yarramundi Reserve River in Richmond by 3pm and the Lord was so good that by the time we arrived at the river, the wind had disappeared. It was just a glorious sunny afternoon-perfect for a baptism (well, I am sure the water would have told a very different story). It was a beautiful start to a journey that all heaven is rejoicing in. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless Sister Marie as she continues to journey with the Lord each and every day, knowing that she will be in our prayers and have our full support in helping her grow in God’s amazing grace.

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” Luke 15:10.

~ Tanya Ah-Ching

## New Zealand Baptisms

Baptism is an important turning point experience in the believer’s walk with Jesus Christ. The Bible talks about it in which the believers make a public declaration of their faith. Jesus set the example and led the way in baptism.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38.

Our church family and friends in New Zealand joined together on the 3rd of September 2022 to welcome Br. Kevin Holland and Sr. Te Aruru Beniamina as they embraced Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and publicly confessed their faith through baptism.

We praise God for leading these souls to the care of our church and appreciate the workings of the Holy Spirit in the heart of these souls.

~Arnaldo Pedrosa



## East Timor Fundraising Tins

After learning of the needs of the East Timor Mission, one of our sisters in Melbourne had the idea of getting some donation tins for people to take home as a modern equivalent of the “self-denial box.”

The self-denial box was an initiative created by Seventh-day Adventists in the 1800s to raise money for missions. Members would have a self-denial box in their homes. Any time they were able to add spare change to it, they would. Sometimes this would mean doing without something that they were going to buy, and putting the money in the box instead, hence the “self-denial” part.

With a supply of donation tins secured, a label was printed with instructions on how to reach the web site for the East Timor Mission. The tins were spread all over Australia, and families took them home to have their own “self-denial box” experiment.

The tins that were distributed in Melbourne were collected by the Maranatha Church in late September, just before Luke and Anda Phillips returned to Timor. The contents of tins returned plus the donation box in the church foyer was counted by young volunteers and found to be \$1,859.45. What a success!

While on the way back to Timor, Sr Anda informed us that with other direct donations, including bank transfers, a total of \$16,439.72 had been raised for the East Timor Mission.



The work in East Timor is ongoing, and development of the property is still in need of funds. Please keep the mission in your prayers, and remember that work when you decide where to give your offerings.

You can follow the progress of the work in Timor at their blog site: <https://fromtimor.com/>





# Prophecy Seminars

## September 2022, Auckland, New Zealand

The church at New Lynn, Auckland planned for a series of prophecy presentations in September, 2020. The theme was, “A New World Order.”

First, we distributed more than 12,000 flyers in the nearby community. Then we put up a statue of King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream from Daniel chapter 2, for passers-by to see, with banners advertising the seminar.

The program went well and everyone who was present enjoyed our company. Besides the regular church attendance, there were thirteen new faces that responded to the invitation. Some told how they decided to come:

“My friend happened to pass by the place, and he saw a big statue, took a picture, and sent it to me. And I asked him, ‘Where is this?’ He replied, ‘It’s in New Lynn.’” – David.

“I checked out my letter box and I found an invitation for the prophecy seminar. It happened that it is near my place. So, I decided to come.” – Tele.

Once again, we praise the Lord for leading us in this work as we witnessed the tokens of the working of His Spirit in the hearts of men.

“There is far more being done by the heavenly universe than we realise in preparing the way that souls may be converted. We are to work in harmony with the messengers of heaven. We want more of God; we are not to feel that our talking and sermonising can do the work. Unless the people are reached through God, they will never be reached. We are to rely wholly upon God, pleading His promise: “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 50.2.

~ Arnaldo Pedrosa



## November 2022, Melbourne, Victoria

Matthew 24:14 “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

A prophecy seminar that was planned way back before the pandemic hit the world took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of November at Maranatha church.

This series focused on the final events—it incorporated current events and changes taking place in the world right now which are setting the scene for what is to come.

Our guest speaker was Brother Paul Chapman, director of the AUC Missionary Department. He visited us together with his dear wife, Sister Deborah Chapman. Brother Paul took us through three different studies. The first one, presented on Friday evening at 7 pm, was entitled, “Now is the End.” In this study Bro. Paul shared with us the different biblical signs that precede the coming of our Lord and the importance of an individual preparation for such a long-awaited event.

On Sabbath he presented the topic, “One Last Warning,” highlighting the importance of the Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14, including the investigative judgment, the keeping of the commandments with a special emphasis on the Sabbath as a day of worship, and the mark of the beast. In the world today both, religious and secular leaders are pushing for the establishment of a worldwide day of rest for the environment and families—Sunday. As God’s people, we need to be prepared and make the right choices every single day to be faithful to the Lord and keep His commandments, by His grace so that we may say with Joshua, “but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15.

On Sabbath afternoon at 2pm, Bro. Paul presented his last topic, “Here Am I; Send Me.” In this presentation he made it clear that every individual is unique in the sight of God and has a calling from the Lord, based on Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee.” He also urged the church to wake up and accept God’s call to serve and to save souls. Christ’s purpose was to bless others, and this needs to be our purpose in life in whatever line of work we find ourselves, Jesus left us His example—“From His earliest years He was possessed of one purpose; [Christ] lived to bless others.” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 70.

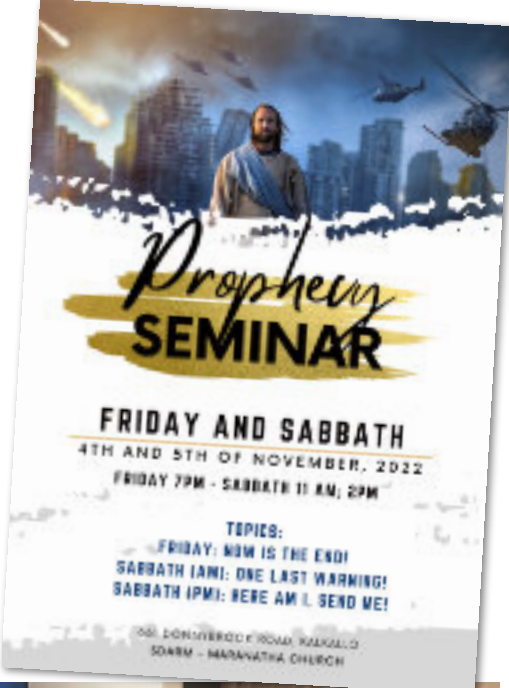
Brother Paul ended his series of presentations by taking a quick survey. The purpose of this survey was to encourage the church to make time to work for the Lord by participating in different missionary activities. Everyone participated in the survey and by God’s grace we hope that the survey results will help us to work together more efficiently.

Proverbs 29:18 reads, “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” Our hope is to see a revival and a reformation in our midst, and for that reason we consider that the ongoing studies of prophecy are vital to God’s church.

We praise the Lord for this weekend prophecy seminar and thank Bro. Paul for making the effort to visit us and taking us through all those topics. God bless you all!

~ Miguel Mendoza

You can watch the series of three presentations by looking for the “Now Is the Time” playlist at [www.youtube.com/sdarmaustralasia](https://www.youtube.com/sdarmaustralasia)





# Camponotus Kids

## West Australia

Psalm 32:8 “I will instruct thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye”.

It was time for another exciting Camponotus program. The children had especially been looking forward to this event, not only because of all the activities, but also because there was going to be a sleepover.

On Sabbath afternoon we all made our way to Br Luke and Sr Jade's home where the program was all going to happen.

The theme for this event was “Lessons from Jonah”, and the objective was to understand the purpose of instructions and the reasons for following them.



The worship for close of Sabbath was centred around the Jonah story. Jonah received very clear instruction from God but chose not to obey. He was met by some terrible experiences that could have been averted had he been faithful to God in adhering to God's explicit command.

The first activity was a guided drawing activity. Some children faithfully followed the instructions, whilst others decided to add more to their picture.

Next was a paper cup whale where they got to shoot a pompom out of it. This was especially exciting as the children tried to see who could shoot their pompom the furthest.

The following day, after a hearty breakfast, the children all gathered around the table for a Lego activity. In this activity the children began constructing objects without looking at instructions. Sometimes we tend to move ahead without taking the time to consider instructions. These experiences can easily lead to disaster.

Orienteering was our next activity. They had to bring to remembrance some of the lessons and skills acquired previously. It's important to keep these skills alive. The children enjoyed their time in the outdoors searching out notes leading to their next destination.

After a well-deserved lunch, we got the tyres on the bikes all pressured up and took a drive to the bike park. The park had numerous signage, giving our young bikers opportunity in decision making as they engaged in on-road activity.

Our next Camponotus program was held on the 25th – 26th of September. This event was centred around the life of Daniel and his early training and understanding how Daniel's early training guided him in decisions he made in his later life.

Some of the activities included experimenting with magnets and metals and teaching the children ways in which magnets attracts metal. Similarly, we are to be attracted to Christ.

Other activities included a salt dough model of the statue from Nebuchadnezzar's dream, orienteering and tie-dye towels. Each of these activities came with lessons in Christian growth. To finish the day off we played some team games in the outdoors.

~ Michelle Payet



## Queensland Camponotus Activity Day

On a bright sunny morning a few energetic, enthusiastic children gathered on the Sunshine Coast, eager for action.

The program commenced with a prayer and a couple of “Getting to Know You” activities. We were surprised to learn some things about each other that we did not know before. We shared a story that emphasised the importance of being diligent and helpful and discussed ways that we can cultivate these qualities.

Br Markus led the group through their orienteering activity. The first lesson, which was very practical, was on finding directions and learning how a compass works. A short informative video on magnetic fields and how they work was shown, after which Br Markus made a compass. The children were then divided into two groups. Br Markus took the older ones on their orienteering adventure while Sr Adrilyn and I assisted the younger ones with their craft activity. The two groups then swapped and completed the alternate activity.

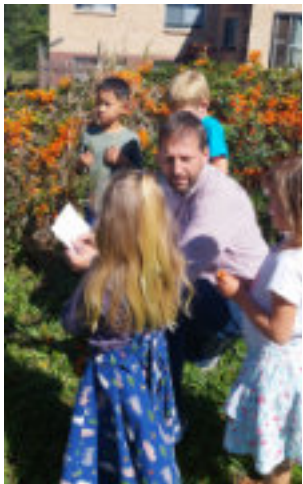
We enjoyed a nice lunch together and the children were keen to test the obstacle course. They were timed to see if they could improve the second time around. They did very well. We decided to try doing the same obstacle course again, this time with a backpack filled with a bag of sand. This helped the children understand how sin can weigh us down and make things more challenging for us. They were rewarded by finding some gemstones in the sand, which they got to keep.

In order to provide some time to cool down, the children experimented with some play dough for a while. We then demonstrated the Newtonian theory by trying to roll some logs uphill. This activity proved that a lot of force is required to stop the log from rolling down hill, and likewise it takes effort to resist temptation.

The last activity was a Tug of War. The children really put all their energy into it. Even though the sides were quite uneven, it was a tough challenge. Br Randy explained that when we face challenges bigger than we can handle, Jesus is there to help us. Br Markus then challenged one of the younger boys to a tug of war; who do you think won? It looked like Br Markus would win, but all the other children decided to help their friend, and they won. Br Markus emphasised the importance of working together and helping each other so we can succeed.

The program was concluded with singing and prayer. We thank the Lord for the wonderful day and pray that He will bless the children and help them to love Him always and be willing to help others.

~ Ethel Stoyko





**NSW/Vic Camponotus Kids Camp**  
27-30 September 2022

Setting up a tent after dark in the rain was never my idea of fun. But watching the delighted anticipation of the children made up for the inconvenience. We started our Camponotus adventure in Seymour sloshing through soggy grass in our gumboots while praying for enough dry weather to continue with our planned activities.

God blessed us abundantly with plenty of sunshine, and although a couple of our activities had to be postponed, the children had an amazing time working as a team, being creative and exploring the local riverside.

Although the cycling and BMX jumping wasn't a planned part of the event, I know it was one of the highlights for the children. Testing their abilities and challenging one another to extend themselves was a delight to observe. Amelia also treated the children to pony rides – a special experience for all.

The children completed a series of experiments with magnets. Understanding how magnets work, testing the strength of different magnets and discovering iron in cereal were just a few of the science activities the children explored. This was related back to how we, as children of God, need to be drawn to God as iron is drawn to a magnet, but become unresponsive to the temptations which surround us in this world.

We discussed Daniel and his friends – they “purposed in their hearts” – made a decision, a choice to follow God. This is a decision each child will make in their life. As they determine in their hearts to do right, God will entrust them with His work, just as He did Daniel.

Both young and old had fun demonstrating their creative side through tie dying towels. The object lesson woven into this lovely craft compared the towel, absorbing the beautiful colours to create a lovely pattern, and the precious truths of God's Word being absorbed into our lives, weaving a beautiful picture.

Another analogy we explored was the river, twisting and turning, its course determined by the ground, rocks, trees, flooding and other environmental factors. But regardless of where the river runs, it gives back in abundance to the earth through providing water and nourishment. Although Daniel didn't choose the life of a Babylonian captive, he didn't allow it to change his determination to serve God and his fellowman.

A big thank you to all those who worked to make this program a success and especially to the Duna family for the use of their property and amenities and to Sr Natasha for taking charge in the kitchen. We look forward to joining the children again for another Camponotus Kids the first week of January.

~ Ruth Rodionoff





# Schofields Church BBQ

The Schofields Church leader contacted Benny and Amy Gules to see whether they would mind hosting a BBQ at their property for the members of Schofields Church on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2022. This provided the perfect relaxed atmosphere where members could come together to fellowship and to discuss ways and means to improve our spiritual life and missionary work within the church and the local community.

Many were delighted to see Br. Paul cooking up a storm and serving his congregation with a delicious BBQ.

After lunch, the members were divided into two groups, over 50's and the younger generation. This gave the opportunity for all to pray together and give some suggestions on how to make the church grow and prosper. Many points and ideas were discussed; some have already been implemented.

One of the needs felt was for the members to have more social time together and more visits with one another to encourage each other in the faith. It was also agreed to continue our cooking demonstrations.

To make it easier for parents with young children to be at Sabbath School on time, it was suggested that we start the Sabbath School at 10:00am. This gives the members opportunity to hold a song service and prayer bands at 9:30am prior to the Sabbath School. So far this has been a blessing to many.

A big thank you to Amy and Benny, for their hospitality. The event was enjoyed by all.

We thank God for providing this opportunity so we could share our thoughts, and may He bless us as we fellowship and work together to serve as Jesus did.

~ Lidia Voncina



# Queensland Camp in Pictures

Photos from the camp held in rural Queensland, October, 2022.





# 90 Years Young

On the occasion of her 90th birthday, two of Sr. Katarina Risko's daughters pay tribute to their mother.

Our mother, Katarina Risko, was born Katarina Lada on the 17th November 1932. She was one of seven children in the town of Vukovar/Borovo, Croatia, Yugoslavia.

She grew up during World War II and lived in Germany and Croatia. She took her stand for the Seventh Day Adventist truth in her mid-teens and was opposed, ridiculed and taunted for her beliefs in the workplace, but she stood firm to the Bible truth during the post-war years of Communism and Socialism. She met our father, Vaso Risko at a church Convention in Osijek, Croatia, and they married on the 7th of August, 1952. Branka (Brenda) was born in 1953 in Osijek, and then plans were made for the three of them to resettle somewhere,



either Canada or the USA, and they travelled to Italy and stayed in Trieste at a refugee camp while paperwork was being prepared. At this time, Zeljko (Jacob) was born in 1956, and they were granted visas to come to Australia. They travelled by sea to Australia in 1957

and were met in Sydney from the ship by the late Brother Haynes, who helped them find accommodation and work. Life was busy with two young children, and our parents lived in Crystal Street, Petersham. Dad was a shoemaker by trade and opened his store-front business with a house where we lived at the back. Helen was born in November 1958 and Rosetta in



and were met in Sydney from the ship by the late Brother Haynes, who helped them find accommodation and work. Life was busy with two young children, and our parents lived in Crystal Street, Petersham. Dad was a shoemaker by trade and opened his store-front business with a house where we lived at the back. Helen was born in November 1958 and Rosetta in



August 1961 in Sydney. The family moved to a little country cottage in Riverstone, which was an idyllic place to bring up the children, with a huge garden and creek, and was surrounded by rural properties. However, God had other plans. Our father was asked to join the church ministry, and he started to labour for the Lord as a Bible worker. We moved to Melbourne at this time, which was in 1966 and 1967.



Mum was always industrious, working outside the home. She was a very organised and competent homemaker, as well as a loving mother. She would always accompany our father on evening Bible studies to people's homes, and often we children would tag along as well. In this way we all got to know lots of people who were interested in the truth.

The family was spreading its wings, and Brenda married Daniel Lalach in 1974 and moved to Canada. Their first child, Loretta, was born in 1978. In 1980 there were three family weddings: Rosetta to Danko in Metkovic, Serbia; Helen to Predrag in Melbourne, Victoria; and Jacob to Blanka in Sacramento, USA. It was a happy year, but also a sad time for Mum and Dad, as all the children had flown the coop, and they were left alone.

From 1980 until 1992 Mum and Dad lived in Perth, Western Australia, and Dad continued to spread the gospel there. Dad sadly suffered a heart-attack at this time. Mum and Dad moved back to Sydney, and they were blessed with a few more years together. Dad passed away on 17th March 1997, at the age of 66.

Mum has continued to be strong in the Lord, and although at times has had health concerns and struggles, she has found the Lord faithful. He continues to sustain her. She will often share her favourite saying with others – "The Lord looks after His own."

The family were blessed by coming together for our mother's 90th birthday to celebrate this milestone in her life. May God continue to bless and keep her strong in Him.

~ Helen Milosavljevic and Rosetta Ilic

# Jodie and Murray Brown Wedding

5 October 2022

Jodie Matthies and Murray Brown tied the knot in Wagga Wagga on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. Originally planned for the outdoors, the wedding had to be moved inside due to the weather. This didn't dampen the spirit of the day at all, and many family and friends gathered to see the pair exchange vows and to wish them well in their new life together.

Congratulations, Jodie and Murray, and may God bless your marriage.



# New Arrivals

In March 2020, Davor and Sonja Borovnica proudly welcomed their daughter Scarlett into their home.



In December 2021, Miguel and Daiana Mendoza were delighted with the arrival of their son Matteo.



Congratulations to both families, and we wish you the very best, that you may raise your little ones for Jesus.



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

# Life Events Reports

Good Tidings will be happy to print life events announcements such as weddings, births and significant birthdays. From 2023, all such items will be inserted only on request. If you would like to have yours appear here, please send the information and photos to [goodtidings@sdarm.org.au](mailto:goodtidings@sdarm.org.au).



# Farewell to Staudingers

For the past couple of years it has been our privilege to have the presence of Brother Fritz and Sister Suzi Staudinger. At first they stayed in Sydney with one son, then they spent time in Adelaide with their other son.

Fritz and Suzi have dedicated many years to the pastoral work in Germany, and they were no less interested in church life while they were with us. To recognise and thank them for all they have done for us and their wonderful company while they stayed in Australia, the Adelaide church put on a special event to say goodbye.

About 35 people gathered on Sabbath afternoon, the 1st of October, for a meal and social evening. Many memories were shared, and we made sure to take a group photo to remember the day. Fritz and Suzi were their usual smiling, laughing selves of course.

They will be sorely missed, but we are grateful for their extended visit and wish them all the best. We look forward to the heavenly home where there will be no more goodbyes!



# In Memory of Ilonka Janicek

6 October 1929 - 3 October 2022

Aunty Ilonka Janicek was known to many by her smile and kind words. She was often seen together with some of our other dear ones at Kings Langley retirement village, and our workers would visit with her and chat about life and spiritual things.

Once in recent times, when told by nursing staff that she could not leave the building to attend church, Aunty asked with a grin, "Excuse me, is this a prison?" The flustered staff didn't know what to say, and Aunty went to church. She loved people, and she also believed in doing what is right.

Now Aunty Ilonka is resting and awaiting the resurrection. We wish to express our sincere condolences to Sisters Margaret Ciric and Ethel Stoyko and their families on their loss. May God give you comfort and strength as you farewell your loved one.

*"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 4:16-18.*



Ilonka and her husband Janos, who passed away in 2014

# Voting Information

## Our Stance

The Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement teaches that we "cannot participate in any political plan" (Principles of Faith, 1925, number 20). This includes being members of a political party, advocating for or against party policies, and voting for party candidates in political elections.

However, this does not mean we should not exercise our vote on moral questions or those questions that determine laws that govern our nation. There may be laws of a constitutional nature where a referendum is conducted or where our direct viewpoint on an issue is called for via a plebiscite. In such cases our influence and vote should be cast on the side of morality and virtue.

The position of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement does not specifically forbid a person to exercise their democratic right to cast a vote. Our focus is on the principles connected with involvement in politics and the agitation of political issues.

In Australia and New Zealand our people avoid voting in state and federal elections, due to the intrinsic conflict of principle created by the fact that these are political-party based. By involving ourselves in political plans, voicing our political opinions, or agitating for political parties or candidates, we yoke ourselves up "unequally with unbelievers" and threaten the harmony and unity that God wants to exist among His remnant people.

## Failure to Vote

In Australia, voting is compulsory. Every eligible Australian is required by law to enrol and keep their enrolment details up to date.

If a person who is eligible to vote fails to vote at an election in Australia, they may receive a penalty notice for "Apparent failure to vote." For federal elections, the penalty is a \$20 fine, while states impose different penalty amounts.

The options on the notice are, to advise the returning officer where you voted, or if you have a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote, to state that reason, or else pay the fine as per the notice.

## Valid and Sufficient Reason

Subsection 245(14) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, and section 13A of the Referendum Act, provides that "the fact that an elector believes it to be part of his or her religious duty to abstain from voting constitutes a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote."

Members have often stated as reason for failure to vote that it was due to their "conscientious religious convictions."

## Research and Assistance

The AUC Ministerial Committee has a research paper available, entitled "Politics and the Remnant," which can be provided on request to any member wishing to study this topic further.

If you have any questions regarding voting, or would like assistance with how to respond to a Failure to Vote Notice, please contact your local pastor.

~ AUC Ministerial Committee

# AUC Delegation and Spiritual Conference

Uplift  
Serve  
Proclaim

Delegation Session: 26 & 27 December  
AUC Conference: 28-31 December  
Outing: 1 January  
Summer school & Children's programs: 2-4 January

A full report will appear in the next issue of *Good Tidings*, meanwhile we hope to see you there!





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