

Summer 2004

## Summer 2004

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*Avondale College*

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AVONDALE

# Reflections

Summer 2004



**BUTLERS 3**



**HOME COMING 4-6**



**DE BERG RESEARCHES 12**

# Reflecting on Great days ahead

A look at the history of Avondale College reveals there have been highpoints when significant events determined its direction for the future. Avondale is at one of those high points again. Thanks to the Lord's leading and Federal Government initiatives, the college is on the crest of a wave that will have positive repercussions for the years ahead.

Recent legislation by the Liberal leadership promised new help with tuition fees for Australian students attending any institution of higher learning. With the re-election of the Howard government, that help appears to be on track. The plan provides loans to Avondale students in any degree program, meaning essentially that no Australian citizen need pay tuition fees up front. This fact in itself will mean a surge in enrolments.

This is good news for Avondale. The college will soon pursue initiatives to find scholarship help, on a private basis, for New Zealand students as well. These factors alone present a new period of growth for the college.

But this rapid growth also puts stress on college infrastructure. Dormitories,

academic buildings, roads and carparks will need to be constructed, or in some cases, enlarged. The challenges are great. College administration has learned that a dollar goes very fast these days, but not very far.

We must depend on friends of Avondale to invest in the college's future. Recently the college sent invitations to a number of friends to become members in a new support group called The President's Circle. The counsel and support, especially the combined networking that this group can give will be instrumental in making Avondale a premiere Christian institution of higher learning in the South Pacific.

The support of those who accept the invitation to be members of The President's Circle will give the college administration the impetus needed to bring the college to a new status in the higher education picture of Australia and all of the South Pacific.

Thanks in advance to all of you who think of Avondale first in your charitable giving plan. 🌟

*Dr Allen Steele*  
**Assistant to the President**  
**(Advancement)**

## Voluntary subscriptions to *Reflections*

Thank you to all donors for your continued support. The *Reflections* committee is committed to providing a quality magazine to enable alumni and friends to keep in touch with Avondale.

The mailing list for *Reflections* increases each year and printing, paper and postage are a challenge for the College to meet.

A \$10 gift would be appreciated and would help ensure the same high standard of the publication for each edition.

Cover photo  
by  
Peter Browning  
at  
Avondale  
Homecoming  
2004

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# Four Butlers in the 20th Century

*Joy Butler, wife of Robert Lance Butler, shares vignettes of four generations of the Butler family. They each attended Avondale College exactly 30 years apart, all in the 20th century.*

**Lewis Allan Butler** was the son of Lewis, the first patient at the Sydney Adventist Hospital in 1903. Allan came to Avondale when his father moved the now Adventist family from Wahroonga to Cooranbong. In 1907 Allan studied accountancy and bookkeeping and became a missionary to Samoa and Fiji, and a leader in many parts of Australia and New Zealand. He was an accountant, teacher, business manager, pastor and conference president. His young lady, Hazel, whom he met at Avondale, sailed out to Fiji in 1913 and they were promptly married. His diary of that year shows many entries until the date of the marriage whereupon there are few following entries. Allan translated many hymns into Fijian

for the mission and was loved by the people in those islands.

**Lance Lewis Butler**, the son of Allan, was encouraged by his pastor father to be a plumber. After a night of serious consideration Lance decided his chosen career was to be a branch Sanitarium Health Food accountant. He attended Avondale College and graduated in 1937 from the business course. He proceeded to join the SHF, then became a clerk at the union and division offices, and secretary treasurer of three unions before becoming treasurer of the Australian Division and finally General Conference treasurer from 1980-85. Lance died in August, 2004. He was a dedicated church worker and respected gentleman with a gift for remembering names.

**Robert Lance Butler**, the son of Lance, graduated from Avondale College in 1967 after completing the accountancy course. Like his father and grandfather before him he became a missionary and worked

in Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Africa as an accountant and secretary treasurer. He has been a tireless church worker and dedicated missionary. Bob is now the manager of Adventist Aged Care facilities for the Greater Sydney Conference. He is renowned for his love of the bush and for his fitness, even to scaling tall trees to escape high spirited-elephants.

**Marlon Robert Butler**, the son of Bob, graduated from Avondale College in 1997. Marlon went to Samoa as a 5-week old baby and has inherited his forbears' missionary spirit. He has already worked for 4 years in ADRA Thailand and is now projects officer for ADRA AFRO based in South Africa. He helped to set up the newly formed Keep Girls Safe project in Thailand, which keeps young girls and boys from exploitation and sex slavery. He is an international person with a gentle heart for the hurting and poor people of the world. 🌟



*Lance, Bob and Marlon Butler taken in July, just weeks before Lance died.*

# HOMECOMING 2004



*Class of 1944*



*Class of 1954*



*Class of 1964*

# Alumni from 1934 to 1994



# HOMECOMING 2004 *continued*



*Class of 1994*



*Citations:  
Desmond Hills  
(1954),  
Jean Gersbach for  
Lance Gersbach  
(Posthumous Award  
1964),  
Hector Kingston  
(1934), and  
Ray Stanley (1944)*



*Jaime Jorge,  
guest artist  
in concert*



*Golf Classic:  
Paul Chapman,  
Calvin Goldstone,  
David Chapman,  
Peter Chapman  
and Peter Vaughan  
(tournament organiser)  
take time out*



*Hulman and  
Ellen Sinaga  
from Malaysia  
were awarded the  
2004 Outstanding  
Alumni Award for  
service to their  
fellow countrymen*

# MURDOCH LECTURE

by Arthur Patrick

## A Vision for the Future of Adventist Higher Education

The gentle Scot, Dr William Murdoch (1902-1983), profoundly influenced students of Newbold College, Avondale College and Andrews University. In the later 1960s, when Murdoch was teaching seminarians to read the Old Testament prophets in Hebrew, he invited a young Danish student to his house to say that he “could be of some use to Christian education.” Telling the story as he opened the eighth Murdoch Memorial Lecture on 27 August 2004, Dr Niels-Erik Andreasen remarked: “Though I did not know what that might mean, it was very encouraging. So it is a distinct pleasure for me to present this lecture to the memory of Dr W.G.C. Murdoch in appreciation for his encouragement.”

Dr Andreasen, president of Andrews University since 1995, was chosen to deliver this year’s Murdoch Lecture for two reasons: he lectured at Avondale in 1975-6, and he has impacted Adventist higher education at Pacific Union College, Loma Linda University, Walla Walla College and now Andrews.

Dr Andreasen’s lecture, entitled “Adventist Higher Education in the 21st Century,” reviewed the Adventist commitment to education as a modern example of the historic engagement of Christianity with the mind. A mere thirty years after the

Great Disappointment, only eleven years after they organised a General Conference structure, Adventists established their first college.

“Evidently, it took much less time for this fledgling church to see a need of education than for the disappointed Adventist believers to see a need of becoming a church,” he observed.

The lecture then noted the church’s ongoing commitment to education before profiling new developments in Adventist higher education. But its fitting climax came as Dr Andreasen expressed “three desiderata” for the future: “making Adventist colleges and universities more Adventist”; “improving the quality of Adventist higher education”; finding “alternative ways of funding Adventist higher education.”

One paragraph suggests both the directness and the significance of the lecture:

Adventist education must pay relentless attention to the quality of its work. It is a safe thing to do, for there is no inherent conflict between being a distinctly Christian, Adventist college and being good at it. Can we even conceive of a bad or average Christian college? Not really, for if we dare call it Christian it must be good at what it does, but how is this accomplished? Institution and program accreditation is a good place to start. High expectations



of our faculty in teaching and research; principled administration; adequate funding; some selectivity when admitting students; outcome assessment processes. We should speak of these things often and never make an administrative decision without asking, will it make our education better? For nothing, no matter how pleasing or comforting, will replace good quality in the education we offer our students.

So the 2004 Murdoch Memorial Lecture delivered in the College Church was another creative, stimulating presentation “focusing on issues challenging Avondale College and its constituency to more effectively fulfil their mission in a changing world.”

## CANCELLATION

*Due to unforeseen circumstances the Alumni Southbound tour scheduled for 2005 has been cancelled.*

*We regret any disappointment this decision may cause.*



## Financial help for Australian students

The Commonwealth Government has announced extensive new fee assistance for Avondale students. The package, to commence in 2005, will benefit students in all Avondale higher education courses. Avondale President John Cox, commented, “the financial assistance package is the most significant ever offered to Avondale students.”

The benefits are available to Australian citizens enrolled in all undergraduate and postgraduate courses at Avondale and in Avondale’s Diploma of General Studies.

HECs-HELP and FEE-HELP will give students the option of deferring all or part of their tuition fees. The financial assistance is loan indexed each year to the consumer price index, and is repaid later through the tax system. The funding assistance can only be used for tuition fees.

The Commonwealth Government has also granted an additional thirty funded places for teacher education, and for the first time, forty-two funded nursing places. Thirty-six are in the Bachelor of Nursing course and six in the proposed Graduate Diploma in Midwifery. These, added to the 235 already allocated to Avondale, bring us to a total of 307 Commonwealth funded places.

The funding for FEE-HELP is subject to 15 days parliamentary review. 

## Nursing at the San

### New graduate program

When Sydney Adventist Hospital (the San) launched its new “New Graduate” program in June it reinforced the Hospital’s commitment to nursing, which has helped cement its excellent reputation for quality care over the past 100 years.

“The San has trained nurses on-site since 1903 and we are committed to providing opportunities for our nurses to further their skills and knowledge” said Annette Baldwin, Nursing Executive Officer.

The new “New Graduate” program, a competency based course which can be individualized to each graduate, is one of a host of measures that the San has implemented to support new graduates and maintain its edge as a nursing employer.

### San’s reputation for excellence

With more than 400 beds, the San is one of the largest and most comprehensive private hospitals in Australia and employs more than 800 nursing staff to care for the thousands of patients treated at the Hospital each year.

The Hospital has a long-standing reputation for excellence in health and medical care and offers a broad range of acute medical and surgical services.

San nurses work across the

Hospital’s wide range of specialties including: Cardiac, Orthopaedics, Maternity and Women’s Health, Urology and Cancer services; as well as Emergency Care, Intensive and Coronary Care, Paediatrics, General Surgery Day Surgery, Renal Dialysis and General Medical services.


Mrs Baldwin said the broad range of specialties offered at the San differentiated it from other private Hospitals, as it was able to offer a range of specialties on-site for nursing graduates and staff to choose from.

“The San is an acute care hospital offering a range of medical and surgical services in a not-for-profit Christian environment,” she said.

“We offer flexible rosters and Clinical Nurse Educators in each area to assist nursing staff.”

The Hospital works closely with Avondale College to continue to provide ongoing training opportunities for its nursing staff.

“Having Avondale’s School of Nursing on-site at the Hospital is a real advantage – providing a mutually beneficial skills transfer between both organisations,” said Mrs Baldwin.

“It provides an opportunity for our nurses to take advantage of opportunities to further their education and for Avondale students to gain valuable on-the-job experience.” 

## Une folie de lune de miel!

Sophie and Jean-Marc Risuleo are currently studying at Avondale. The Swiss couple have been married less than a year and took their 'third honeymoon' this time in Australia on a tandem bicycle – *une folie de lune de miel* – a 'honeymoon extravaganza'. They arrived in Brisbane in July, 2004, bought the tandem bike and began the trip south pulling a 50-kilogram trailer. Time ran out as they pedaled into the Gold Coast, so the journey to Cooranbong was completed by bus.

The first honeymoon was a brief one in Switzerland after their marriage in September, 2002, followed by a second honeymoon on the island of Chuuk in Micronesia, where Jean-Marc taught English to grades 4 – 8 primary students. Sophie, challenged by teaching in English, worked hard to keep year three students in hand. It was during this time that they decided to travel a while in Australia, and perhaps attend Avondale. While

in Chuuk they surfed the Web, looking at tandem bikes and arranged to buy one in Brisbane.

Jean-Marc had attended Newbold College, England, from 1996 to 1998 and then by chance volunteered as a pastor in Albury, New South Wales. The short Australian pastoral experience inspired him to study theology at Saleve Adventist University in France for two years. It was during this time that a childhood friendship between Sophie and Jean-Marc developed further and culminated in their marriage. Sophie had finished a primary education degree in Switzerland and a diploma in art.

Jean-Marc will soon finish his first year toward a primary education degree and Sophie is studying art. Sophie has been working on the illustrations for a book, 'Bindi's Big Adventure', an Asian Aid project



initiated by Avondale lecturer, Brad Watson. This has just been published and will be available soon. Proceeds will support 7000 children in Seventh-day Adventist schools in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

“Avondale is a great multi-cultural cocktail. I just love hearing so many different languages. Avondale also offers a great learning environment and the teachers often go out of their way to help me. Sophie and I love being here even though we miss the snow.” says Jean-Marc. The future is unknown – maybe more adventure in Australia, New Zealand or home to Switzerland. 🍷

## Jubilee year for COSMOS

The COSMOS Missionary Club has served in Avondale for twenty-five years. Started in 1979, COSMOS began its outreach by supplying funds to Seventh-day Adventist projects in the South Pacific, but from 1986 most of COSMOS fundraising has been directed to India. In 2001 the ADRA-care Centre in Cabramatta, Sydney, was added to the COSMOS project list.

COSMOS, working through the Asian Aid Organization, has donated almost \$30,000 to the Sunshine Orphanage, \$400 to the Kollegal School for the Deaf in Southern India, and \$26,000 to the Sikkim

School and Evangelistic Centre in Northern India.

The ADRA-care centre in Cabramatta has received \$4,170 from COSMOS, while over \$20,000 has been sent to the Pacific Islands and some funds to other missions including the Aboriginal School at Mirriwinni, Kempsey, NSW.

Charles Pointon, secretary and treasurer for the club, says, “Up to 2003, Adventist Missions have received from COSMOS \$82,000 during the twenty-four years, and by the end of its Jubilee year, this figure should be close to \$90,000.” Walkers

in the 2004 COSMOS Walk-a-thon on 25 September raised an additional \$2000.

*Reflections* salutes Charles Pointon and the many students who have contributed to the outreach of COSMOS for twenty-five years. 🍷



## McDowell Ministerial training scholarships awarded

Several years ago Dr Gordon McDowell and his wife bequeathed the major portion of their estate to Avondale College. Dr McDowell had been the President of the College in 1956, and from 1959–1970. The monies received from that bequest specifically benefit needy theology students.

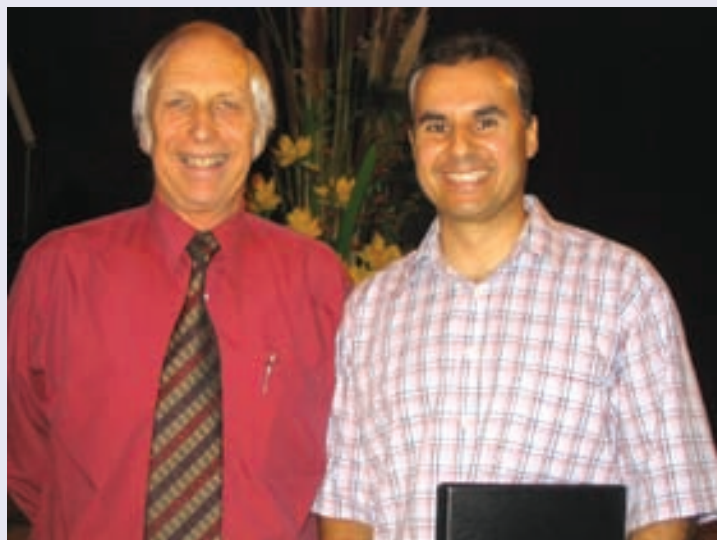
At a special awards ceremony six students were awarded scholarships of \$1500 each. In addition, three grants of \$1000 were provided. While this totals \$12,000 of fee assistance, the McDowell Ministerial Training Scholarship Committee has committed itself to providing continuing assistance to students of another \$18,000 over the next four years. With new scholarships also being provided each year, it is envisaged that total funding will eventually be in excess of \$30,000 each year.

*From left to right (back): Andrew Feaveai, Clifton Glasgow, Hugh Heenan. Awards were presented by Lester Devine a trustee of the Avondale Foundation Ministerial Training Scholarship Trust; (front) Chrissie Cooper and Nalissa Maberly*



## Inaugural Foundation Scholarships

The Avondale Foundation Stanley and Dorothy Paterson Scholarships are each worth \$4000. The benefactors, who have no links with Avondale College, bequeathed over a quarter of a million dollars to the Avondale Foundation with a specific request that the interest from the account go towards the formation of a new scholarship. Maurice Calculli, a business degree student, and Andrew Harris, studying music, received the scholarships in 2004 at the Academic Awards ceremony in March.



*Chris Akroyd, from The Avondale Foundation, following the presentation of a new scholarship to Maurice Calculli, a business degree student*

*Chantal Richardson, a 2003 nursing graduate, displays the ACF Award of Excellence presented on the Wahroonga campus 2003*



# FACULTY AND STAFF

## Will Norm survive?

Avondale College will obviously survive without Norman Young, but will he be able to survive without Avondale? Having taught at Avondale in the Faculty of Theology for thirty-one years, I must admit the break is not without its challenges. A question I'm often asked is what I intend doing in my retirement. I hope to read, write, and spend time with family and friends. Of course, my wife intends that I garden, do odd jobs, hang out the washing and do other domestic chores. It will be all of the above plus some travel.

What shall I miss the most?

Obviously I shall miss most the interaction with young people and the privilege of sharing with them the good news about Jesus. I shall also miss the daily fellowship with colleagues, especially the members of the Faculty of Theology. It has been for me a delight to work with all of Avondale's staff and students over the last thirty-one years. I shall also happily miss committees, subject outlines, examinations, and endless deadlines.

Has Avondale changed since 1973? It's difficult to notice change while one is associated with a place on a daily basis. The simple running of the College has become more complicated and time consuming over the years. Advances in technology have caused much of this. I began with "talk and chalk" and ended up via overheads with Power Point.

Times of spiritual sharing are hard now to maintain. When I first arrived,



*Liz and Norm Young plan a restful and enjoyable retirement*

teaching staff used to sit on the rostrum during chapel, and staff commonly attended Vespers (First Church). Faculties are more isolated from one another now than they were in the 70s. A sense of community is harder to achieve today than when I first arrived. This is due to increases in size, mobility, off-campus living, and improved finances. Students' expression of their Christianity has changed too. In the 70s they were strong on biblical discussion and doctrinal analysis. Today it's more a matter of spiritual warmth and meaningful relationships. Ideally, I guess we should covet both.

Do I have any regrets? Heaps. There are dozens of things I could have done better, or even not done at all. But the regrets are more than offset by the many precious moments of Christian love and fellowship that I experienced. The people of Avondale have given me many wonderful memories and the College (Uni!!) will always have a special place of affection in my heart. 🐣

## New career path for vice president

After three years as a vice president and driving force on the Avondale College administration team, and 28 years of service to Seventh-day Adventist education, Dr Bruce Youlden has chosen a new career

path in the corporate sector. Bruce had been involved in developing a strategic plan for the future growth and development of Avondale, the development of a College Endowment Fund by consolidating the college's property assets for future investment returns, and improving and restructuring Human Resource Management of staff. Dr Youlden said, "I have enjoyed being a part of the Avondale experience because of its inspired beginnings, its distinguished history and its overall sense of mission and purpose. Moreover, being on this campus, I have been inspired by many colleagues and students whose lives are the embodiment of their faith in Christ." 🐣

## New lecturer in Business faculty

In July 2004, Bill Truscott joined the Business and Information Faculty as lecturer in accounting. Bill graduated in 1993 from Avondale with a degree in Business Teaching, and later a Masters in Leadership and Management. He has taught at Pacific Adventist University in Papua New Guinea, and was chief financial officer in the Victorian Conference before joining the Avondale faculty. Bill and his wife, Julie-Anne (1991), have two young children. 🐣



*Welcome to Bill and Julie-Anne*

## Dean of Business appointed to prestigious committee

The Australian Institute of Internal Auditors has appointed Dr Keith Howson to sit as a representative of Australian academics on the Academic Relations Committee of The Institute of Internal Auditors Inc. (IIA Inc) in the United States. This professional body represents internal auditors around the world, with a certification program much like that offered by CPA Australia. The Academic Relations Committee of IIA Inc. is made up of academics and internal audit practitioners, and normally meets twice a year.

Under the guidance of the Academic Relations Committee, the Institute “encourages, supports and assists in the implementation of internal auditing curricula at colleges and universities, and promotes high-quality, state-of-the-art internal auditing education worldwide.”

Dr Howson says that it is a real privilege to be invited to become part of this committee, which plays an important role in the development of Internal Audit curriculum in educational institutions around the world. “The other good thing is that my involvement places Avondale College centre stage along with significant other educational institutions.”

## Avondale icons finish on high note

The Avondale Singers and Chamber Orchestra have been part of the Avondale culture for many years. For Alan Thrift, choir director, and David Clark, orchestra director, a trip to New Zealand in October was the

finale of many years of touring. “The choir has toured during the past fifty years interstate and overseas, but we haven’t done one overseas for a few years,” Mr Clark said.

Funding for the tour was made possible by Avondale College, concerts, church offerings and member payments for airfares. Overall, the group numbered nearly fifty. David said, “I think it’s the largest overseas touring public relations venture sponsored by the Music Department of Avondale College.” He also added nostalgically, “I suppose this was the last annual tour Alan Thrift and I will do together with the choir and the orchestra.”

The choir and orchestra provided the music for the 2004 Homecoming church service which was highly appreciated by the attendees. At the service’s conclusion, Alan and David were presented with framed certificates of appreciation for their contribution to music, specifically to the Homecoming programmes (photo below).

Many graduates have special memories of the Avondale Singers and the Chamber Orchestra. We honour and thank Alan and David for their immense contribution to Avondale music and wish them all the best in their retirement.



## Research opportunities

Dr Kevin de Berg is currently a visiting professor in the chemistry department at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA. Dr de Berg and his wife, Marian, left Avondale’s Faculty of Science and Mathematics in July, 2004 to spend six months at Purdue carrying out research.

Purdue has an enrolment of 40,000 students, with approximately 17,000 living on campus. The university specializes in engineering (all disciplines including agricultural and astronautical), science, mathematics and computing, and has expanded into health sciences, veterinary science, humanities and education. Purdue has Nobel Prize winners on its faculty. The chemistry department is home to Nobel Prize Winner, Professor H C Brown, known for his work on Boron chemistry, and also has many visiting prize winners from other universities giving lectures.

Dr de Berg has been trialing instructional chemistry stories he wrote in first semester this year and is due to give a presentation at the university. He has also worked with graduate students doing their PhD, and on the chemistry of tin oxides.

Kevin writes, “We worship at the local Lafayette church which has about 90 members and a little school of 15 children. The local culture here in Indiana has some unique features for the US and we have been capturing some of its energy.”

“We do often think of Avondale and are so grateful to the administration for the opportunity to experience another institution and culture this year.”

**Donna (Howard) Thiher** graduated from Avondale in 1980 as a Primary teacher. After teaching for four years in Newcastle, Donna moved to Minnesota, USA, as a taskforce worker. She spent 15 years in Minnesota, but now resides in Wisconsin living on the bluffs along the Mississippi River. Married to Jim, a financial adviser, they have four lovely children, Nicole, Rachel, Andrew and Michelle. 🌟



**Dr Ernest H J Steed** (1944) formerly assistant to the General Conference President, has raised up a church of seventy members in his retirement. The church and facilities at DeBarry, Florida, USA were built at a cost of 1.2 million dollars (US). Ernest was presented with a Distinguished Medal Award by the Health Department at the General Conference Annual Council in 2003. 🌟

## Around the camp meetings

Avondale representatives attended the West Australian, South New South Wales, North Australian, South Queensland and the North New South Wales camp meetings over the past six months. Friends of Avondale meetings were held at each of the camps with good attendance by Alumni and Avondale Foundation investors. Dr John Cox attended the North Australian and North New South Wales camps, at which he was able to share current developments, a vision for the future, and the needs of Avondale. 🌟

## PRESIDENT VISITS AVONDALE GROUPS IN USA

Some alumni and other friends of Avondale in the United States met college President Dr John Cox recently at several places on his route to the Adventist Self Supporting Institutions (ASI) convention in Ohio. He stopped first at Loma Linda University where a large group met to hear an update from the president on Avondale and to enjoy a fellowship dinner. On a side trip, Dr Cox met for discussions with La Sierra University directors of development and alumni affairs.

A second meeting with friends and alumni of Avondale took place at Pacific Union College. A third group met at the ASI convention in Cincinnati, where a dozen people visited with the President. Assistant to the President (Advancement) Dr Allen Steele accompanied Dr Cox on the trip. 🌟



# THE AVONDALE FOUNDATION

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2004

The Annual General Meeting of the Foundation was held on Sunday 17 October 2004 and new Officers for the year 2004/2005 were elected as follows:

*President: Gavin Currie; Treasurer: Todd Saunders; Secretary: Jim Williams*

The Foundation operates several businesses to generate profits so funds can be given to Avondale College. The Board of Governors has pledged an annual gift to Avondale each year of \$200,000 in the form of grants for buildings, scholarships and financing student loans. The following highlights of the past year were shared with the members in attendance.

### ACF INVESTMENTS LTD

In the past year depositors funds increased from \$29.38 million to \$40.31 million, an increase for the year of \$10.93 million. In the year 2000 we had \$15.73 million of depositors funds so in four years deposits have grown by more than 250%. Profits before extraordinary items have grown in that time from \$274,000 to \$622,000. The company aims to provide first class personal service to its depositors and security of investment while offering superior interest rates for term deposits. We are able to do this because we do not have an expensive branch network to support, so we share some of the savings with our depositors.

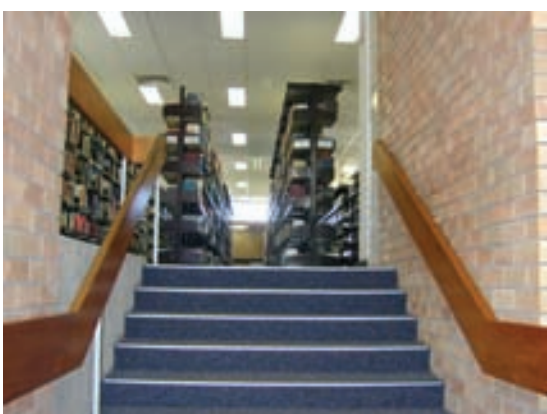
### AVONDALE NURSERIES LTD

The Foundation has operated Avondale Nurseries since 1980. In that time it has grown to be the largest propagation nursery in New South Wales and sells its products in all states of Australia. This past year has presented serious challenges to the Nursery with another year of drought resulting in severe water restrictions in Sydney, the main market for our products. The result for the year, however, was the highest dollar value of sales ever at over \$2 million and the second highest unit sales ever. This achievement was the result of hard work by our dedicated staff and God's blessing. The Nursery has made a profit every year for the last decade except for 2001 when a loss of \$28,000 was incurred.

### AVONDALE BUSINESS SERVICES LTD

About a year ago the Foundation had the opportunity to purchase Macadamia Oils of Australia, the leading manufacturer of macadamia oil in Australia, with its products exported all over the world. In its first twelve months of operation, the business made a profit of \$170,000 on sales of \$1.75 million. We believe this business has unlimited potential in the food market but more so in the cosmetic industry. Why not give some of the products a try? You may order by visiting the web site [www.macadamiaoils.com](http://www.macadamiaoils.com).

*The Foundation thanks all members and alumni for their support in the past year.*



# THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

## Plans for the future

As Avondale is administration faces the challenge of turning the college into the South Pacific's premier protestant institution of higher learning, it has invited numerous friends of Avondale to become members of a select group that will come on campus to give advice and plan strategies for the future. The new group is called The President's Circle and will meet twice a year to

map out plans for expansion of the campus to meet the challenges of increased enrolment and expanding infrastructure.

Members of The President's Circle come from all over Australia and New Zealand and will have their inaugural meeting on graduation day, 5 December 2004. Next year they will participate in the college's Opening Convocation on 2 March.

"We are excited about the potential of this group," says Avondale President John Cox. "The expertise and collective wisdom of such a group will have a major impact on the future of Avondale." He says several Australian universities are also organising such groups as they see their potential and realise the importance of involving their constituency in an endeavour that benefits the community at large.

The college is thankful for contributions to the annual appeal that have been designated to help with the new student residential complex on campus. Plans for this project have proceeded to the point where the college now has architect's drawings and concepts for the site that has been selected – near the staff houses and the College Farm on Central Road. The college has requested a rezoning of the

Avondale  
thankful  
for  
support

area from agricultural to residential status from the Lake Macquarie City Council, and is now awaiting response to this application. Once this is granted, the architects will proceed with final drawings and blueprints to enable a building application to be submitted to the city council. The project is a priority for the college and will proceed as funds are available and permissions from the city are granted.

## Financial report

The year 2004 as predicted, when we prepared our 5 year business plan in 2003, was going to be a tough year with an expected operating deficit, due to factors such as payroll tax, research and development, repairs and maintenance. The deficit has increased unfortunately during the year, but steps have been taken to reduce the overall deficit result for 2004.

With increased government funding in 2005, through the increased

government supported positions for students at Avondale and the introduction of FEE-HELP, it is expected that Avondale's enrolment will increase and produce a close to balanced operating budget for 2005.

Your continual prayers and financial support is greatly appreciated and required more so for the coming year.

Thank you and God-bless,

*Rob Ellison*

**Vice President (Finance)**

### Donation analysis to 31 October 2004

Residential – offering and donations	\$154,580
Other donations	\$ 49,193
	\$203,773
Bequests	\$ 71,552
<b>Total donations and bequests</b>	<b>\$275,325</b>



## *Do you recognise these persons?*



We need witnesses who

- suffered under their impositions
- are prepared to come and give anecdotes against them
- wish to recount tales of their own dissolute youth
- are sorry for their misdeeds in Science Labs
- want to confess mischief and practical jokes from wasted years

## **A Celebration of Science at Avondale**

A reunion for students who studied subjects in science/maths/food technology/pre-med at Avondale in the past 50 years

**Friday–Sunday, 10–12 June 2005**

(Queen's birthday weekend)

For information email

Peter Morey on [peter.morey@avondale.edu.au](mailto:peter.morey@avondale.edu.au) or Bob Hosken on [hosken@kooee.com.au](mailto:hosken@kooee.com.au)

*ALL WELCOME*

## **HOMECOMING**

### **2005**

### **AUGUST 26–28**

*Honour years*

1935, 1945, 1955, 1965,  
1975, 1980, 1985, 1995

*Friday*

*Murdoch lecture and vespers*

*Sabbath*

*Worship, reunions and concert*

*Sunday*

*Golf classic*

Registration forms and program information available April 2005

Check alumni website:  
[alumni.avondale.edu.au](http://alumni.avondale.edu.au)