



Kingsley Wood and Ben Thomas.

New SPD leaders for tech and development

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Juliana Muniz

The South Pacific Division (SPD) has appointed two new directors on May 16. After prayerful discussion, Ben Thomas was nominated as director of technology, operations and strategy, and Kingsley Wood as the new director of Pacific capacity development.

Mr Thomas is replacing Eva Ing, appointed associate officer earlier this year. Prior to his appointment, Mr Thomas held the position of director of Pacific capacity development.

Assuming the role immediately following his appointment, Mr Thomas highlighted the importance of his new position: “technology pervades all aspects of our lives, and I believe that it is critical for the Church to utilise technology as a strategic enabler of our mission”.

Mr Thomas’s career spans more than 20 countries and several sectors. He’s held roles within organisations such as Microsoft in Singapore and New Zealand, Pacific Adventist University in Papua New Guinea and Adventist Technology in Australia.

Replacing Mr Thomas is Mr Wood. In his new position, Mr Kingsley will assist island unions and missions to adopt and follow good practices in governance. This includes a thorough understanding of SPD policy and local legislative regimes.

“Good governance practices, consistently followed—from finances to personnel selection and professional development of personnel—are key drivers to stable administration,” he explained.

Mr Wood’s professional journey in the Adventist Church began in roles such as cashier/clerk and computer programmer at Avondale University. He progressed to serve as an accountant for several institutions within the Church before taking on the role of CFO at the former Central Pacific Union Mission, Australian Union Conference and later at the Trans Pacific Union Mission. More recently, he has served as the secretary and CFO of the New Zealand Pacific Union Mission.

Kheir Boutros has accepted the call from the NZPUC Executive Committee to be the new NZPUC Secretary-Treasurer. Mr Wood and Mr Boutros will now work on a transition process over the next couple of months.

“Kingsley brings huge experience from across the Division to this role,” said Mr Thomas. “He has worked in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, and has held roles at most levels of the Church. He is one of the few people in our Division who intimately knows our policies,” he added.



Scan the QR code to join 24-hour praise, prayer and fasting session on Zoom.

San to hold 24 hours of praise, prayer and fasting

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Brett Goods/Steve Stephenson

Sydney Adventist Hospital (the San) will host 24 hours of praise, prayer and fasting from Friday evening, June 23, as an expression of gratitude for the way God has blessed the organisation in the past and faith in His leading for the years to come.

The prayer chain will start at 5pm on Friday with a program in the San chapel, and continue through to Saturday evening. The San chapel will be the hub of this event, with music, prayer and Bible readings led by one person each hour. However, those who can’t be there in person can participate via Zoom, and via the hospital’s in-house TV channel for patients and staff on the wards.

As well as participating in the 24-hour prayer session, people are invited to fast

in a way that is appropriate for them. The season of prayer, fasting and thanksgiving is open to all who would like to join.

“The hospital looks after more than 200,000 patients each year,” said Adventist HealthCare CEO Brett Goods. “We have a deeply loyal and supportive community, and this is our opportunity to pray for them and our patients, staff, doctors, volunteers, families and suppliers. We welcome you to join us in person or online. Together we can experience the profound source of peace and hope that comes with community in relationship with God.”

For more information, contact San Spiritual Care Services: phone +61 2 9480 6160 or email <SpiritualCare@sah.org.au>.