



L-R: Pastor Terry Johnson, Mayor Ruth Butterfield, Pastors David Garrard and Darren Garlett.

## Mamarapha dedicates new building

📍 Karragullen, WA | Shelley Poole

During Reconciliation Week (May 30–June 3), Australian Union Conference (AUC) officers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) representatives, and the Mayor of Armadale, Ruth Butterfield met to celebrate the opening of a new building and extension to Mamarapha College on Whadjuk Noongar land (also known as Karragullen in Western Australia).

Coming in under budget—at just under \$A2 million—the pristine new classrooms, student common area, computer lab, administrative offices and Faith FM recording studio will support growth in First Nations ministry and health education at Mamarapha College.

Pastor Connie Toga, ministry course coordinator at Mamarapha, said, “The new spaces have already given a great boost to student morale, as they have been designed with our students in mind—right down to the carpet colour. The buildings have also led to greater recognition that there are church leaders and members lending support to students who want to be equipped to minister to their own people.”

Pastor Darren Garlett, ATSIM director for the Adventist Church in Australia, said, “The Mamarapha experience has been raised even higher. The new buildings represent how much we value the work of Mamarapha College, its students and—more broadly—First Nations ministry.”

Pastor Terry Johnson, AUC president, shared in his dedication speech the importance of Christians leading the way in repairing our relationships with First Nations people: “Central to the Christian message is Jesus’ work of reconciliation which began here on earth. While our Church has formally apologised to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations after the Bringing Them Home investigation into institutions and the stolen generations, and while we are seeing great things at Mamarapha here today, the work of reconciliation has just begun.”

Mamarapha principal Pastor David Garrard is excited for the new ministry opportunities within the space: “The new Faith FM studio will allow us to provide spiritual content in both English and Aboriginal languages.”

He continued, “We are currently working in partnership with another Registered Training Organisation to deliver a Certificate II in Community Services. We aim to add this vocational course in 2024, then progress to the Certificate III.”

According to AUC secretary Pastor Michael Worker, there are plans to add new courses to broaden the impact and influence of the college throughout First Nations communities, including vocational trade qualifications.

## making headlines

### Locks of love

To celebrate Mother’s Day, the Ibes Adventist School in Brazil held a donation campaign for women with cancer. The campaign collected 80 donations of hair that will now be transformed into wigs for patients. Thirty headscarves and 20 personal hygiene items were also donated.—SAD



### Health campaign’s success

An evangelistic campaign in South Philippines has resulted in more than 5000 baptisms. Titled “Healthy journey with God”, the week-long series invited people seeking medical care and provided them with free health exams and talks emphasising the critical link between health and the Adventist faith’s essential values.—SSD

### Outreach in Ukraine

Evangelists from the US and South Africa held programs in Ukraine to share their spiritual experiences and hopes. Program participants received humanitarian aid, as well as moral and psychological support. More than 1000 people attended the first meetings in the five towns with 29 people choosing to be baptised.—ANN

### Healthy and affordable

Research shows that the Mediterranean diet is not only good for your health but also for your weekly budget, saving a family of four \$A1456 per year (or \$A28 per week) compared to the typical Western diet. One of the greatest barriers people have towards adopting a plant-based diet is perceived cost, yet UniSA researcher and PhD candidate Ella Bracci says the research shows that a Mediterranean diet can be a viable and healthy option for cost-conscious families.—University of South Australia