

**Ellen White**  
**and the**  
**Avondale Agricultural Experience**

Alan Fisher

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### **Explanatory Note**

This paper contains many more quotations that would normally be necessary. These quotes have been included deliberately, as the author intended to gather together the many quotations on this subject in an ordered fashion, for ease of future reference.

### **Footnotes:**

- References beginning with “Lt” are letters by Ellen White (e.g. Lt 84, 1898)
- References beginning with “Ms” are manuscripts by Ellen White (e.g. Ms 115, 1898)
- References beginning with a number and the letters WCW, followed by a page number, are letters or documents by W.C. White. (e.g. 4WCW 277 refers to W.C. White Letter Book 4, page 277)

The author welcomes comments and corrections. [alanfisher777@bigpond.com](mailto:alanfisher777@bigpond.com)

## Introduction

The founding of Avondale College, and Ellen White's role in that experience, stands out as one of the most significant events in the history of Adventist agriculture. As she later said, "This was to be a sample school. It was organized on the plan that God had given us, and He has prospered its work"<sup>1</sup> This paper will consider the background events leading up to this experience, Ellen White's work in Australia, the actual founding of the Avondale School farm, the results of this experimental venture, and the influence that the Avondale agricultural experience exerted, both locally and further afield.

## The Background to the Avondale Agricultural Experience

The roots of Ellen White's agricultural experience at Avondale can be traced back to her earliest counsels on education. Her earliest writing on education is considered to be her article "Proper Education", written in 1872<sup>2</sup>. In this article she advocated the education of the whole person, including "the physical, mental, moral, and religious" aspects of education.<sup>3</sup> She stated that education "embraces more than merely having a knowledge of books", and that "a portion of [the students'] time should be spent in physical labor". She went on to say that "In connection with the schools should have been *agricultural* and manufacturing establishments."<sup>4</sup> Thus she specifically mentioned agriculture as a necessary part of education for the whole person.

Two years later, in 1874, Battle Creek College, the first Seventh-day Adventist college, was established. In accordance with her earlier instruction, Ellen White favoured a rural location for the college, so that land would be available for agriculture. It is said that James and Ellen White travelled around the district looking for a suitable site.<sup>5</sup> At first a 160 acre site was considered, but was too expensive. Then the fifty acre fairgrounds on the outskirts of Battle Creek became available, at a much lower price. Ellen White wrote "The fairground is a desirable location, and if everything seems clear we think we shall secure it."<sup>6</sup> Before the purchase was made,

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<sup>1</sup> *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p.533. Also in *Special Testimonies, Series B, no.11*, p.29

<sup>2</sup> Douglass, H.E. "Education, Ellen White's Role in Adventist" In Fortin, D, and Moon, J (eds) *Ellen White Encyclopedia*, p.794

<sup>3</sup> *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p.15 (compare with *3 Testimonies*, p.131)

<sup>4</sup> *Testimonies*, vol.3, p.153 (emphasis mine)

<sup>5</sup> Vande Vere, E.K., *Wisdom Seekers*, p.21

<sup>6</sup> Ms7-1873, Diary, May 28, 1873

the Whites left for California. While they were away, church leaders bought a twelve acre property in Battle Creek opposite the health institute, and then sold off five acres for residential development, so as to raise funds for developing the college.<sup>7</sup> It is said that when Ellen White heard of the purchase, she wept.<sup>8</sup>

Thus the church's first college was established, without following the prophet's instructions about the need for agriculture. About seven years later, problems developed at the college, and Ellen White wrote an article titled "Our College"<sup>9</sup>, addressing these problems. In this article she again stressed the need for manual training, including agriculture:

A more comprehensive education is needed ... It would be well could there be connected with our college, land for cultivation and also workshops under the charge of men competent to instruct the students in the various departments of physical labor. Much is lost by a neglect to unite physical with mental taxation.<sup>10</sup>

A little later she wrote another article, "The Importance of Physical Training"<sup>11</sup> in which she asserted that

"Every institution of learning should make provision for the study and practice of agriculture and the mechanic arts. ... While a part of each day is devoted to mental improvement, let a stated portion be given to physical labor, and a suitable time to devotional exercises and the study of the Scriptures."<sup>12</sup>

In this article she stated emphatically that

If the youth can have but a one-sided education, which is of the greatest importance, the study of the sciences, with all the disadvantages to health and morals, or a thorough training in practical duties, with sound morals and good physical development? We unhesitatingly say, the latter. But with proper effort both may, in most cases, be secured.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Vande Vere, E.K *Wisdom Seekers*, p.21

<sup>8</sup> Schwarz, R.W *Light Bearers*, p. 128

<sup>9</sup> *Testimonies*, vol.5 pp.21-36

<sup>10</sup> *Testimonies*, vol.5, p.23

<sup>11</sup> Signs of the Times, 29 June 1882, in *Fundamentals of Christian Education* p.72

<sup>12</sup> *Fundamentals of Christian Education* pp.72-73

<sup>13</sup> *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p.73.

Due to the problems that had arisen at Battle Creek, the college closed for several years. During this time, South Lancaster Academy (later to become Atlantic Union College) in Massachusetts, and Healdsburg College in California, were founded.

Healdsburg College was situated “on an admittedly unsatisfactorily small piece of land”<sup>14</sup>, but being located in a fruit-growing area, college industries were established that included gardening and fruit culture.<sup>15</sup> It was a step in the right direction, but still limited.<sup>16</sup>

Thus it can be seen that the early steps to incorporate agriculture into Seventh-day Adventist schools were, at best, faltering.

### **Ellen White in Australia**

In view of disappointing experience thus far in America, the establishment of a school in Australia offered a new opportunity to carry out the Divine instruction for education, especially the emphasis on manual training and agriculture. When Ellen White was asked to go to Australia, one of reasons given by the church leadership was so that she could assist in starting a school.<sup>17</sup>

It was major undertaking for the small membership of the church in Australasia to start a school, but on 24 August 1892 “The Australasian Bible School” opened at 1 and 2 George’s Terrace, St Kilda Road, Melbourne.<sup>18</sup> Ellen White wrote

The school in Melbourne opens this week. ... There are four tenement houses in the terrace. ... The terrace stands alone, and on either side of the buildings are two acres of land. Everything is favorable in surroundings.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Schwarz, R.W. *Light Bearers to the Remnant*, p.131

<sup>15</sup> Spalding, A.W., *Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists*, vol.2, p. 125.

<sup>16</sup> Later, after her experience at Avondale, Ellen White wrote “If in the past, those in charge of the Healdsburg school had had spiritual foresight, they would have secured the land near the school home, which is now occupied by houses. The failure to furnish the students with outdoor employment, in the cultivation of the soil, is making their advancement in spirituality very slow and imperfect. The result of this neglect should lead the teachers to be wise unto salvation. It is a mistake for so many dwelling houses to be crowded close to the school home. This is working greatly to the disadvantage of the students. A lack of wisdom was shown by the failure to secure the land round the school home. This will make the work of preserving order and maintaining discipline harder than it otherwise would be. But order must be preserved at any cost, and the workers in the school must plan how this shall be done most successfully”. Ms 11, 1901, pp. 6,7. "Words of Instruction to the Church at Healdsburg," February 5, 1901.) Also in *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, pp.323-324:

<sup>17</sup> White, A.L, *Ellen G. White: The Australian Years*, p.42

<sup>18</sup> *Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*, 1 August 1892, p.240

<sup>19</sup> Lt13-1892, to SN Haskell, 22 August 1892

While this temporary school was obviously not in a suitable location for agriculture, it appears that at least some gardening was carried out on the two acres of land. Later, when the school at Avondale was being established, Ellen White told her son Edson, who was back in America, how that

At Melbourne, your uncle, Stephen Belden, ploughed a piece of land, and worked the soil thoroughly, and raised a most profitable crop of sweet corn for the school. Every one told him not to undertake it, but he was determined to show them what could be done. He will come on the school land here and carry out the same plan.<sup>20</sup>

### **The Search for a School Site.**

From the outset, the Melbourne school site was considered temporary. In February 1894 Ellen White wrote an article titled “Where Shall We Locate Our School.”<sup>21</sup> She asked the question “Where shall our Australasian Bible School be located?” She went on to give the example of John the Baptist, who was educated “away from the contaminating influences of the city”.

Then she made a statement that was to be the keynote in her thinking about a school location:

Never can the proper education be given to the youth in this country, or in other country, unless they are separated a wide distance from the cities.<sup>22</sup>

Again she placed an emphasis on the need for agriculture:

He who taught Adam and Eve in Eden how to tend the garden, would instruct men today. There is wisdom for him that holds the plow, and plants and sows the seed....

There must be education in the sciences, and education in plans and methods of working the soil. There is hope in the soil, but brain and heart and strength must be brought into the work of tilling it.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Lt89a-1894 (to Edson White); Still later, writing from Cooranbong, she commented that “Sweet corn has done next to nothing. If we could only have such sweet corn as we had in Melbourne under the management of Stephen Belden we should appreciate it very much, but our land is new, and no dressing is the cause of failure.” (Lt180-1897)

<sup>21</sup> Ms 8a 1894, also in *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp.310-327

<sup>22</sup> Ms 8a 1894, (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp.312)

<sup>23</sup> Ms 8a 1894. Note: Two documents are numbered Ms 8a 1894 – The first of these seems to be the one published in *Fundamentals of Christian Education*

Thus a search was begun for a rural site on which to establish the school. In February 1894 a group of seven inspected a several possible sites in Victoria and New South Wales. These included sites at Euroa and Badiginla,<sup>24</sup> Victoria, and at Ourimbah, Picton, Thirlmere and Dapto in New South Wales. All of these sites had problems which made them unsuitable. For example, a site at Woodburn, between Picton and Thirlmere, was considered unsuitable because of its distance from the railway, problems with water supply, and high cost (£8 per acre).<sup>25</sup> The Picton area was considered because it was reported to have a good climate, which would make it suitable as a site for both a school and a sanitarium, but when the proposed site was found to be in a fog belt, it was decided to be unsuitable.<sup>26</sup> A property of 3000 acres at Dapto was inspected, and was described by W.C. White as being “super excellent in quality”, with “springs and never failing streams”. He exclaimed “Oh! If we were only rich, this would be the place”. But he lamented that “We want so much, and we have so little money, that we are very hard to suit.”<sup>27</sup>

As early as March 1894, Wesley Hare and Ainslie Reekie visited the Morisset area in search of land.<sup>28</sup> In April, W.C. White referred to “several tracts near Morisset.”<sup>29</sup> One tract of land that attracted attention was 1280 acres in the Morisset area, described as having “one third in rolling land suitable for orchards, and the remaining two-thirds rich alluvial land suitable for cultivation ... all lightly timbered” with “one mile of river frontage”.<sup>30</sup> W.C. White wrote “I am quite anxious to see this place.”<sup>31</sup> Evidently this site was on the southern side of Dora Creek, extending from the “Red Hill” area of Cooranbong southward toward Mandalong.<sup>32</sup> Shortly afterward a group of six visited this site, but were disappointed with the land, and also found that there would be a problem obtaining clear title.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> The location of Badiginla is not certain.

<sup>25</sup> “Report of the Proceedings of the Executive Committee of the Australasian Union Conference for the Year 1894.” 5WCW 89,90

<sup>26</sup> 4WCW 257 W.C. White to Messrs Batt, Rodd and Purves, 16 April 1894.

<sup>27</sup> 4WCW 247 W.C. White to A.J. Read, B.J. Cady and E.C. Chapman, 15 April 1894.

<sup>28</sup> 4WCW 210 W.C. White to J.Hare snr, 27 March 1894

<sup>29</sup> 4WCW 251 W.C. White to W.H.B. Miller, 15 April 1894

<sup>30</sup> 4WCW 243 W.C. White to J.M. Cole, 27 March 1894

<sup>31</sup> 4WCW 244 W.C. White to J.M. Cole, 27 March 1894

<sup>32</sup> Apparently Portion 20, Parish of Mandolong, including the area from Dora Creek in the north, east of Crawford Road, Cooranbong, and south east to near the Mandalong to Morisset Road near the present freeway interchange. See note 34.

<sup>33</sup> 4WCW 265 W.C. White to O.A. Olsen, 16 (?) April 1894

As the disappointed group were going away, they met a road contractor who told them about another piece of land that was available. This property of 1500 acres had been offered for sale at auction, but evidently had failed to sell, with the highest bid being £800. He suggested that the vendors would sell it for something between £800 and £1000. This property, known as “Brettville”, had its “southeast corner just across the creek from the northwestern corner of Strickland’s 1280 ac piece”.<sup>34</sup>

Some of the group inspected this land. While it was not the best land, it was felt that it may be a suitable site for the school. Writing to General Conference President O.A. Olsen, W.C. White outlined some of the advantages and disadvantages of the site. The first of the advantages he listed was that “It appears to be cheap, and within our reach.”<sup>35</sup> He also noted a number other advantages, including the low cost of building due to readily available timber and ease of water transport, and the proximity of Newcastle as a market for produce and timber. Interestingly, one advantage that he gave was that “The soil of Brettville [seems] good for that which we wish to go in for, viz. Vegetables, Small Fruit and orchards”<sup>36</sup> – a point that was to be strongly contested later. The disadvantages that he listed included distance from Sydney, poor roads, the sparse population of the surrounding district affording little scope for missionary work, and the fact that being a wet district, any neglected land would soon be overgrown. He added “Much of the land about the district is poor, giving things a sad wild look.”<sup>37</sup> In another letter he wrote that this land was “in a new and wild district”, but added that “If the price is as reported, I think we will take it.”<sup>38</sup>

Ellen White visited the property, evidently on 23 May 1894, in company with Brethren Starr, McKenzie, ... Collins, Daniells, McCullagh, ... Reekie ... Willie White [and] Emily Campbell.<sup>39</sup> Writing from Dora Creek to her son Edson on 24 May, she was enthusiastic in describing the property. She wrote “We are much

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<sup>34</sup> 4WCW 267 W.C. White to O.A. Olsen, April 16(?) 1894. (Quality of scanned letter is very poor). The reference to “Strickland’s” property must refer to Portion 20, Parish of Mandolong, originally granted to John Manning, and later owned by Sir Edward Strickland. See NSW Lands Department, Mandolong Parish Map and “Morisset Farms Estate” sale brochure, 1919.

<sup>35</sup> 4WCW 270 W.C. White to O.A. Olsen, 16(?) April 1894

<sup>36</sup> 4WCW 271. W.C. White to O.A. Olsen, 16(?) April 1894 This part of the original scanned letter is very poor quality, and difficult to read.

<sup>37</sup> 4WCW 269. W.C. White to O.A. Olsen, 16(?) April 1894

<sup>38</sup> 4WCW 247 W.C. White to A.J. Read, B.J. Cady and E.C. Chapman, 15 April 1894. 4WCW 247

<sup>39</sup> Lt82-1894 to J.E. and Emma White, 1 May 1894



pleased with this place as a location for the school.” She described the large trees on the property, and stated that

I cannot for a moment entertain the idea that land which can produce such large trees can be of a poor quality. I am sure that were the pains taken with this land, as is customary to take with land in Michigan, it would be in every way as productive. If the people in this country would take the same pains in cultivating as in America, they would be able to grow as excellent fruit, grains, and vegetables as are raised there. ...While sitting on the log, my mind was actively planning what could be done. The swamp land could be used for cultivating cranberries, alfalfa might be sown to feed the cows, and some kinds of vegetables could be grown. I could see nothing discouraging in prospect of taking the land.<sup>40</sup>

Most of the party had been when walking over the property while Ellen White rested.

They came from their investigations with a much more favorable impression than they had hitherto received. They had found some excellent land, the best they had seen, and they thought it was a favorable spot for the location of the school. They had found a creek of fresh water, cold and sweet, the best they had ever tasted. On the whole the day of prospecting had made them much more favorable to the place than they had hitherto been.<sup>41</sup>

She described her thoughts while on the boat returning to the village of Dora Creek:

While I was riding in the boat, the words of this scripture were in my mind: “But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.” John 21:4-6. I was impressed with the fact that these words symbolized our adventures and experiences in seeking a location for our school. We needed our faith strengthened, in order that we might cast our nets on the right side of the ship, which was the faith side, and we should be successful in seeing advantages in the very things which looked, at first sight, forbidding.<sup>42</sup>

She expressed only one reservation about the site:

Everything about the place had impressed me favorably except the fact that we were far from the great thoroughfares of travel, and therefore

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<sup>40</sup> Lt82-1894 E.G White to J.E. and E. White, 1 May 1894

<sup>41</sup> Lt82-1894 E.G White to J.E. and E. White, 1 May 1894

<sup>42</sup> Lt82-1894 E.G White to J.E. and E. White, 1 May 1894

would not have an opportunity of letting our light shine amid the moral darkness that covers our large cities like the pall of death. This seems the only objection that presents itself to my mind. But then it would not be advisable to establish our school in any of our large cities. ... This is not so far from the city, but that the light can shine forth in clear, bright rays. ... We desire to have our school so located that the students shall have plenty of opportunity to exercise their physical powers, as well as to exercise their mental abilities. We desire that every facility may be afforded for educating and training the students to use their muscles as well as their brains, that we may have well-developed men and women who are sound in body and mind, and who have a good spiritual understanding.<sup>43</sup>

After describing the pleasant climate, and the price at which the land was being offered, she stated “This is, I consider, a rare opportunity, and in the providence of God offered to us, and we ought to have the land.”<sup>44</sup>

That evening, “At a meeting of the committee held at Dora Creek May 23, Brn. White, Daniells, McCullagh, Reekie, and Smith being present, it was voted to purchase the Brettville estate consisting of about 1500 acres for the sum of £900.”<sup>45</sup>  
The next morning, the group was to return to the land for another inspection.

Before starting we had a most solemn season of prayer. My heart was drawn out in earnest prayer for the Lord to guide us in judgment. He alone could indicate to us what was His holy will. The discussion of this day meant much to every one of us; for it would be settled whether or not the school should be located in this place. I also felt most earnestly for Brother McCullagh who has been quite feeble, and prayed that the blessing of God might rest upon him. Our hearts were melted with the softening, subduing influence of the Spirit of God. We did believe that we received the things we asked of the Lord. All present seemed deeply moved and several earnest prayers went up to the throne of grace. My faith increased, and I knew the Lord would teach us and lead us, and this He did do.

There was perfect unity in making the decision to purchase the fifteen hundred acres of land at the price of four thousand, five hundred dollars. Our investigations on Thursday confirmed every one of us in the belief that we had done the will of God in deciding to accept the land for the location of our school.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Lt82-1894 E.G White to J.E. and E. White, 1 May 1894

<sup>44</sup> Lt82-1894 E.G White to J.E. and E. White, 1 May 1894

<sup>45</sup> 5WCW 90 “Report of the Proceedings of the Executive Committee of the Australasian Union Conference, for the year 1894”

<sup>46</sup> Lt82-1894 See also Ms 62 1898, in which she describes McCullagh’s healing: “The Lord gave me the burden of prayer for Brother McCullagh and the blessing of the Lord came into our midst. The room seemed to be flooded with the glory of God, and our brother was healed. He said

Writing to the Foreign Mission Board on 10 June, W.C. White described the property in some detail. He reported that “We estimate 200 acres fit for vegetables, 200 fit for fruit, and 200 good for dairying.” He remarked that the property “is admitted by all to be marvellously cheap”.<sup>47</sup> However, he did mention that

Nearly all of the men of influence, with whom we have come in contact, shake their heads when we speak of the district. The department of Agriculture after examining samples of the soil, said it was sour, and would require a ton and a half of lime to the acre. Then the Government Fruit Export was sent up to examine it, and his report I will enclose with this. True, it was a rainy day, and we were short of time, and and [sic] he did not see the best of the place, and yet, it sometimes makes me feel blue, to hear all of these men who know a great deal, condemn the place.<sup>48</sup>

But he went on to declare

We have prayed most earnestly, that if this was the wrong place, that there would something occur to indicate it, or to hedge up the way, and if was the right place, that the way might be opened up. So far, everything moves most favourably.<sup>49</sup>

However, not everyone felt as favourably toward the proposed as school site as did Ellen White. It was requested that a fruit expert from the Department of Agriculture should inspect the property, to give his opinion on its suitability for fruit and vegetable growing. This officer, Mr A.H. Benson, reported that

I do not consider that more than 500 acres of the land at the outside is available or fit for cultivation, and this would cost a large sum to get in order.

The balance of the land is either a very poor, sour, sandy loam, resting on yellow clay, or very poor swamps covered with different species of mellaleuca. The whole of the land is sour and would require liming and draining to bring it into good condition, ...it is my opinion that the Society will be unwise to select the land I visited, but my advice to them is to obtain the best land they can, for though it may be more costly in the first place, it will be the cheapest in the end, and give satisfaction.<sup>50</sup>

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that the soreness was all gone, and he repaired at once to his home in Parramatta, and continued his labor for months without any difficulty. It seemed as if this was the seal of God upon the decision made.”

<sup>47</sup> 4WCW 420 W.C. White to Foreign Mission Board, 10 June 1894

<sup>48</sup> 4WCW 422 W.C. White to Foreign Mission Board, 10 June 1894

<sup>49</sup> 4WCW 422 W.C. White to Foreign Mission Board, 10 June 1894

<sup>50</sup> 4WCW 411,412 “Report on the Campbell Track Near Morrisset [sic]”

The Foreign Mission Board, in America, after reading the report of the land, advised against the purchase of the Cooranbong property. Some of the church leaders in Australia were also doubtful about the suitability of the land. W.C. White later wrote that “My hesitation about the place selected, the cautions of the F.M.B. and the aversion to the place of Brn. Daniells and Rousseau, put us where there could be no progress.”<sup>51</sup> Thus on 27 August it was voted that “we delay further proceedings at Cooranbong until we have time to consider the question of location.” Ellen White was less than impressed by this decision. On 30 August she wrote that

Brethren Rousseau and Daniells had propositions to lay before us that land selected for the locating of the school was not as good land as we should have on which to erect buildings; we should be disappointed in the cultivation of the land; it was not rich enough to produce good crops, etc., etc. This was surprising intelligence to us and we could not view the matter in the same light. We knew we had evidence that the Lord had directed in the purchase of the land. They proposed searching still for land.

To go back on this and begin another search meant loss of time, expense in outlay of means, great anxiety and uneasiness, and delay in locating the school, putting us back one year. We could not see light in this. We thought of the children of Israel who inquired, Can God set a table in the wilderness? He did do this, and with God’s blessing resting upon the school the land will be blessed and will produce good crops.

We talked the matter over some time, and we found these two brethren very firm and decided. I knew that anything I might say would make no change in their ideas. They left for Melbourne about five o’clock, and we left for Granville at the same time. But a weight was upon my soul. I felt dazed and too amazed to sleep. I knew from light given me we had made no mistake.<sup>52</sup>

The next day she wrote in her diary that

It looked to me very much like the work of the great adversary to block the way of advance, and to give to brethren easily tempted and critical the impression that God was not leading in the school enterprise. I believe this to be a hindrance that the Lord has nothing to do with.<sup>53</sup>

A few days later, on 2 September, she wrote to S.N. Haskell that

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<sup>51</sup> 7WCW 212 W.C. White to Foreign Mission Board (date uncertain)

<sup>52</sup> Ms77-1894 E.G. White Diary, 30 August 1894

<sup>53</sup> Ms77-1894 E.G. White Diary, 31 August 1894

You and others have congratulated us on the securing of land for our school, but it is not yet an assured thing that the school will be located at Dora Creek. There is some hesitancy on the part of the committee in taking up the land for this purchase! ... The question was asked of Moses, Can the Lord spread a table in the wilderness? The question may be asked, Will this land at Dora Creek produce as abundantly as Sister White believes that it will? Time will tell. We must test the matter before we can speak assuredly, but we are willing to risk much, provided we can place the supervision of this enterprise under an understanding American farmer. We do want to demonstrate what will be done with the land when it is properly worked. When once this is done, we shall be able to help the poor who live in Australia in a far better way than by giving them money as we have had to do in the past.<sup>54</sup>

Ellen White had no hesitancy about the Cooranbong land. On 27 August 1894, she wrote

The more I see the school property, the more I am amazed at the cheap price at which it was purchased. When the board went to go back on this purchase, I pledge myself to secure the land. I will settle it with poor families. I will have missionary farmers come out from America and do the best kind of missionary work in educating the people as to how to till the soil and make it productive.<sup>55</sup>

She went on to write that

No one need to regret in reference to this land, for with proper working it will surprise the people in this section of the country. All the regret I have is that we have not money to take in sections of land that would extend the grounds. I have not one doubt in reference to the securing of this land. If the Lord prospers those who occupy it, and who cultivate it, as we believe He will, we shall see a change that will surprise all who look upon it. I can hardly endure the thought that time is passing, and that the work of clearing the land is delayed.<sup>56</sup>

Meanwhile, the brethren hesitated about what should be done, and continued to consider other sites. W.C. White later described the project as being in a “fog”.

This opened the way for many to criticise our plans, and to urge various modifications, or changes. A strong effort was made in favor of getting a small tract, say forty acres, near Sydney, and thus have our School placed where the older Students would have easy access to the city, for missionary work.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Lt29-1894 to S.N. Haskell, 2 September 1894

<sup>55</sup> Lt 14, 1894 to Marian Davis, 27 August 1894

<sup>56</sup> Lt 14, 1894 to Marian Davis, 27 August 1894

<sup>57</sup> 7WCW 212 W.C. White to Foreign Mission Board (date uncertain)

On 10 September 1894 W.C. White wrote: “As to what we shall do with the land, I do not see any prospect of arriving at any final decision until our Camp meeting.” [Referring to the Ashfield camp meeting that was to convene in October.]<sup>58</sup>

It was during the Ashfield camp meeting, Ellen White wrote in her diary that

As I awoke this morning, I was repeating these words to my son Willie: Be careful that you do not show distrust of God in making decisions as to where our school shall be located. God is your Counselor, and we are always in danger of showing distrust of God when we seek for the advice and counsel of men who do not make God their trust, and who are so devoid of wisdom in matters that they will, by following their own judgment, retard the work. They do not recognize God to be infinite in wisdom. We are to acknowledge God in all our counsels, and when we ask Him, we are to believe that we receive the things we ask of Him. If you depend upon men who do not love God and obey His commandments, you will surely be brought into very difficult places. Those that are not connected with God are connected with the enemy of God, and the enemy will work with them to lead us in false paths. We do not honor God when we go aside from the only true God to inquire of the god of Ekron. The question is asked, Is it because there is not a God in Israel that ye have gone to the god of Ekron to inquire?<sup>59</sup>

W.C. White reported that

I regret to say, that the campmeeting was allowed to close without any decisive action being taken regarding the location of the School, and thus our work in Aust. is set back some months. After the C-M a few more places were visited, and after a few days, a minority of the Committee voted to go on with the work on the Brettville Estate, on Dora Creek. When Bro. Sisley came, we argued the question all over again, on the land; and then when we went over to Melbourne, the decision to go on there was confirmed ...<sup>60</sup>

Thus the decision to go ahead with the Cooranbong site for the school was finally made. Later Ellen White wrote

The circumstance of the securing of the land rested with myself. There was so much doubt and perplexity as to the quality of the land, but the Lord had opened up the matter so clearly to me that when they discouragingly turned from the land, I said, “No? You will not take it? Then I will take it.” And with this understanding the land was purchased.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> 6WCW 159 W.C. White to L.M. Laurence [sic], 10 September 1894

<sup>59</sup> Ms 41, 1894 Diary Material, 19 October 1894

<sup>60</sup> 7WCW 186 W.C. White to Foreign Mission Board, 20 February 1895

<sup>61</sup> Lt 126, 1895, Ellen White to J.E. and Emma White, 19 August 1895

One matter that was discussed at the Ashfield camp meeting was the question of subdividing some of the school land, to form a settlement. Earlier, it had been the intention to make some of the land available to families who wished to settle on the estate, so that family members could attend the school. It was also felt that the proceeds from the sale of these blocks would help finance the construction of the school. W.C. White wrote that

When we came to Campmeeting, mother read us many documents telling us what we ought to aim at, and what to avoid. In those messages of counsel, there were facts and principles advanced, that not only discouraged the plans for settling near the City, but also many things to show that my ideal of building up a large Village Settlement was not good. ... it became more and more clear to us, that if we sold only to those having means and ability, that we should tear the backbone out of many churches; and that if we sold to others, our payments would be very slow, and our perplexities great in the matter of collections.<sup>62</sup>

Ellen White later succinctly summed up the delays in deciding on the Avondale property:

When we were investigating the land at Cooranbong, our brethren held off from purchasing for a whole year, thinking to find in some other locality land that would compare well with the rich soil of Iowa. This they finally decided could not be found. But the work was hindered for a whole year because some of the brethren had not the faith to move forward in spite of discouraging appearances.<sup>63</sup>

### **The Furrow Story.**

A well-known story regarding the selection of the Avondale land is the finding of a furrow, that Ellen White had seen in vision. Ellen White described it thus:

Before I visited Cooranbong, the Lord gave me a dream. In my dream I was taken to the land that was for sale in Cooranbong. Several of our brethren had been solicited to visit the land, and I dreamed that I was walking upon the ground. I came to a neat-cut furrow that had been ploughed one quarter of a yard deep and two yards in length. Two of the brethren who had been acquainted with the rich soil of Iowa were standing before this furrow and saying, "This is not good land; the soil is not favorable." But One who has often spoken in counsel was present also, and He said, "False witness has been borne of this land." Then He

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<sup>62</sup> 7WCW 185-186 W.C. White to Foreign Mission Board, 20 February 1895

<sup>63</sup> Lt 350, 1907, Ellen White to J.E. and Emma White, 22 October 1907

described the properties of the different layers of earth. He explained the science of the soil, and said that this land was adapted to the growth of fruit and vegetables, and that if well worked would produce its treasures for the benefit of man. This dream I related to Brother and Sister Starr and my family.

The next day we were on the cars, on our way to meet others who were investigating the land; and as I was afterward walking on the ground where the trees had been removed, lo, there was a furrow just as I had described it, and the men also who had criticized the appearance of the land. The words were spoken just as I had dreamed.<sup>64</sup>

Some have questioned the importance of this experience, as her letters describing the incident were written after the land had been purchased. She did not state the exact time when this incident occurred, and furthermore, the furrow incident does not seem to be mentioned by others such as W.C. White, when the land was under consideration. A.L White, in his biography of Ellen white, suggests that

she seemed to locate the finding of the furrow at a point in time not so early as her first visit to the property, but rather a little later when serious questions were raised by church leaders acquainted with the soil of Iowa, and the whole matter of the land at Cooranbong hung in the balance.<sup>65</sup>

W.C. White later gave the time of this incident as “following the Ashfield camp meeting when ‘a large committee were sent up to give the land another careful examination.’”<sup>66</sup>

Interestingly, in a letter written to Marian Davis on 27 August 1894, Ellen White wrote: “In the dream you have heard me relate, words were spoken of land which I was looking at, and after deep ploughing and thorough cultivating, it brought forth a bountiful harvest.”<sup>67</sup> If this “dream which you have heard me relate” was the furrow vision, it would indicate that it must have taken place before the Ashfield camp meeting.

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<sup>64</sup> Ms62-1898 See also Letter 350, 1907

<sup>65</sup> White, A.L. *Ellen G. White: The Australian Years*, p.155

<sup>66</sup> W.C. White to F.C Gilbert, 22 December 1921. Quoted in White, A.L. *Ellen G. White: The Australian Years*, p.155 (footnote)

<sup>67</sup> Lt14-1894 Ellen White to Marian Davis, 27 August 1894



### **On the Land at Avondale**

With the decision finally made to go ahead with the Cooranbong site for the school, the project could move ahead. By 17 January 1895, W.C. White, writing to Harmon Lindsay, spoke definitely of plans for constructing the school.<sup>68</sup> On 21 February 1895 he wrote “For a long time we have been much perplexed over our school plans, but now matters are clearing up, and there is a good outlook for progress.”<sup>69</sup> A few days later he wrote “Next in importance to the raising of money, is the matter of getting some land cleared, so we can set trees in July, and August.”<sup>70</sup>

### **The Industrial Department**

Work soon started on clearing the land. An “Industrial Department” was opened on 25 March 1895, in which young men studied several hours each day, and spent the rest of the day working on the land.

By June, W.C. White wrote that

Last week I went up to Cooranbong, and found nineteen young men hard at work in the Industrial department. They work five and a half hours in the field each day, and spend half an hour after dinner in domestic work. They take two studies each per day, and this with the Bible lesson given in connection with family worship, is equal to two and a half regular studies. Some of them do a little reading besides. All of them seem to enjoy their home, although some of them are sleeping in tents. They appear to enjoy their field work also, and work much better than I had expected.<sup>71</sup>

The following month he reported that

We find that the work at the school ground is going forward well. There are about twenty two young men at work ... During the last two weeks both companies have been engaged in ditching the large marsh. It has been an unusually dry season, and we have let other work wait, hoping to get the ditching completed before the heavy rains set in. Eld. Rousseau reports that the boys are doing good work in their studies ...<sup>72</sup>

Ellen White saw other benefits apart from the actual work being done:

About twenty-six hands—students—have worked a portion of the time felling trees in clearing the land, and then [they] have their studies. They say they can learn as much in the six hours of study as in giving their whole time to their books. More than this, the manual labor department is

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<sup>68</sup> 7WCW 124 W.C. White to Harmon Lindsay, 17 January 1895

<sup>69</sup> 7WCW 169 W.C. White to Ella and Mabel White, 21 February 1895

<sup>70</sup> 7WCW 200 W.C. White to E.G. White, 25 February 1895

<sup>71</sup> 7WCW 406 W.C. White to W.C. Sisley, 19 June 1895

<sup>72</sup> 7WCW 439 W.C. White to O.A. Olsen, 5 July 1895

a success for the students healthwise. For this we thank the Lord with heart and soul and voice. The students are rugged, and the feeble ones are becoming strong. Such wild young lads as Burr Corliss, under the discipline of labor, are becoming men. He is becoming a Christian, transformed in character. Oh, how thankful are his parents that he is blessed with this opportunity!<sup>73</sup>

She stressed the importance of this combined work and study program in providing an all-round education:

The students work hard and faithfully. They are gaining in strength of nerve and in solidity as well as activity of muscles. This is the proper education, which will bring forth from our school young men who are not weak and inefficient, who have not a one-sided education, but an all-round physical, mental, and moral training. The builders of character must not forget to lay the foundation which will make education of the greatest value. This will require self-sacrifice, but it must be done. The physical training will, if properly conducted, prepare for mental taxation. But the one alone always makes a deficient man. The physical taxation combined with mental effort keeps the mind and morals in a more healthful condition, and far better work is done. Under this training, students will come forth from our schools educated for practical life, able to put their intellectual capabilities to the best use. Physical and mental exercise must be combined if we [would] do justice to our students.<sup>74</sup>

No doubt she was thinking of the experience with this industrial school, when she later she wrote that

I have been warned that the teachers in our younger schools should not travel over the same ground that many of the teachers in the Battle Creek College have passed over. ... The education to be gained in the felling of trees, the tilling of the soil, and the erection of buildings, as well as the studies of the classroom, is what our youth should seek to obtain. ...<sup>75</sup>

The students seemed to enjoy their work. In July W.C. White reported that

Occasionally some one takes cold, and is laid up for a day or two, but aside from this, all are well; in fact, they report themselves as in better health than when they entered the department .... When we presented to them our plans for a vacation during Sept., October, and November, more than two thirds expressed a desire that the school work would continue without interruption. Some of the older ones speak in this way: "We have just got well started in our work. Studying, which was hard at first, is

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<sup>73</sup> Lt 126, 1895, Ellen White to J.E. and Emma White, 19 August 1895 For further information about Burr Corliss, see Fisher, R.A., "J.O. Corliss", unpublished paper, 2009.

<sup>74</sup> Lt47a-1895 To Brother and Sister J.H. Kellogg, 27 August 1895

<sup>75</sup> Lt 60a, 1896 To "Friends of the Avondale School", 20 December, 1896

easier now; we feel that we are making good progress, and we desire to continue.”

This is the best season of the year to push forward our work of clearing, planting, and building; and this, with the desire of the students, has led us to the decision that it is best to go forward with the work, having only a short vacation during November.<sup>76</sup>

By the end of July, W.C. White stated that “Our Industrial Department, which we started as an experiment, has been blessed, and exceeds our expectations.”<sup>77</sup> Work soon started on establishing the orchard. On 29 July, W.C. White wrote that Mr Moseley, an experienced orchardist and nurseryman was coming to advise on “the best positions for the various kinds of trees we propose to plant”. White gave the men who were on the land a detailed list of questions that he wanted them to ask Mr Moseley, and urged them to take notes of his answers. The questions covered such topics as “How should the ground be prepared for planting?”, “How should the trees be managed when they are received from the nursery?”, “Get all the information you can about the value of forest leaves for mulching and manure”, and “Get all the information you can regarding the cultivation of asparagus”.<sup>78</sup>

### **Ellen White Moves to Avondale**

Ellen White was keen to move to Cooranbong to be close to the developing school. As early as February 1895, she was talking of selecting land to purchase for her own home.<sup>79</sup> In July 1895, she described to her son Edson, the land that she had bought.

The plat of land I am to purchase costs me \$1,350. I have forty acres, and it was supposed I would have twenty; but I want to embrace as much as forty acres, for some must be left as woodland and a portion for grazing and cultivation. Sometimes I think forty is scarcely sufficient. The purchase of this land is really a necessity, for the school, and everything, seems to be struggling to advance.<sup>80</sup>

On this piece of land she later built a home which she named “Sunnyside”. From then on, she frequently described the agricultural activities taking place on her own land, as well as on the school land. In this paper, the agricultural work done at both the School and at “Sunnyside” will be discussed, as they developed at together, and Ellen

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<sup>76</sup> 7WCW 476 W.C. White to Herbert Lacey, July 18 1895

<sup>77</sup> 8WCW 6, W.C. White to S.N. Haskell, 30 July 1895

<sup>78</sup> 7WCW 499,500 W.C. White to W.F. Caldwell. 29 July 1895

<sup>79</sup> Lt 140 -1895, to W.C. White, 13 February 1895,

<sup>80</sup> Lt88a-1895, to J.E. and Emma White, 7 July 1895

White was integrally involved in both. At one time, referring the school and her own farm, she wrote that

We have provoked one another to zeal and good works. The school workers were afraid I would plant the first trees, and now both they and I have the satisfaction of having the first genuine orchards in this vicinity.<sup>81</sup>

At the beginning of August, W.C. White wrote to his brother Edson that “Mother is now at Avondale. They have three tents pitched close to where her cottage [“Sunnyside”] will be erected.”<sup>82</sup>

On 4 August, Ellen White wrote

Today I am rushing the workmen on preparing ground for orchard. ... I came up here really sick, but I am giving orders to my hired businessman to give to the overseers of hands to rush the work with all their ability, for the trees must be planted without delay. Every other business stands aside now. I wish to provoke the workers on the school grounds to do something and do it now and not lose one year by delay. Mr. Mosely, a successful fruit raiser twenty miles from Morisset, is coming in one week to see all the trees set properly and staked properly. I shall have most careful work done.<sup>83</sup>

On 6 August, Ellen White wrote that

The trees are ordered of Mosely, and he will be here on Sunday and he wants every student to be on hand to see how he does the setting of the trees, and help him, and he says he will give talks to the students in the evening upon the subject of fruit raising and vegetable raising, if they wish him to<sup>84</sup>

### **Agriculture Gets Under Way**

At last the time came when the long planned-for orchard finally began to become a reality:

Yesterday, August 18, 1895, the first trees were planted on Avondale tract. Today, August 19, the first trees are to be set on Mrs. White’s farm—an important occasion for us all.<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> Lt47a-1895 to Brother and Sister J.H. Kellogg, 27 August 1895

<sup>82</sup> 8WCW 31 W.C. White to J.E. White, 3 August 1895

<sup>83</sup> Lt125-1895, to J.E. and E. Whit., 4 August 1895

<sup>84</sup> Lt 149, 1895, 6 August 1895, to W.C. White. For a list of trees ordered for the School and for Sunnyside see Appendix A (School) and Appendix B (Sunnyside).

<sup>85</sup> Lt126-1895, 19 August 1895, to J.E. and E. White

There was a sense of urgency in getting the orchard planted:

We have had to put all available help onto the land to prepare for the setting of our trees this week. If not set out this week, we must wait one year..... We have pressed everyone into service we could command. Mr. Mosely came evening after the Sabbath. He is a gardener and furnished us the trees. He has a sample orchard at Orunbro [presumably Ourimbah] twenty miles from here, and he will do his best to give us good fruit trees, for this will be a sample of what he can furnish for others. Every hand is busy today. The plow goes into the ground, and one follows the furrow to dig the holes and plant our trees of every variety. We have three acres cleared. The school planted three hundred trees yesterday. This is only a quarter of what they have on hand to plant.<sup>86</sup>

Then Ellen White added a comment that was a recurring theme in all of her thoughts about the Avondale school farm:

The light given me from the Lord is that whatever land we occupy is to have the very best kind of care and to serve as an object lesson to the Colonials of what the land will do if properly worked. So you see this has been a special, very important period of time for us.<sup>87</sup>

A few days earlier she had written that

It is the most astonishing thing that the thousands of acres of land lie uncleared and uncultivated. We cannot buy a sixpence worth of vegetables anywhere. ... No new trees are planted, but the old trees grow from year to year, yielding their golden harvest. But no new land is cleared, no new orchards planted. No fruit is raised with the exception of oranges. We are now making an orchard and building a small cottage, and in this way giving object-lessons. Already some are buying trees of us to plant. .... We want this part of the country to see what the land will yield under practical, intelligent, persevering labor. The country is growing poorer and poorer because so little use is made of the land. In the name of the Lord we will show them that sowing and planting will yield a harvest.<sup>88</sup>

Shortly afterward she wrote again on this theme:

The cultivation of our land requires the exercise of all the brainpower and tact we possess. The <unworked><sup>89</sup> lands around us testify to the indolence of men. We hope to arouse to action the dormant senses. ...In the school that is started here in Cooranbong, we look to see real success in agricultural lines, combined with a study of the sciences. We mean for this place to be a center, from which shall irradiate light, precious

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<sup>86</sup> Lt126-1895, 19 August 1895, to J.E. and E. White

<sup>87</sup> Lt126-1895, 19 August 1895, to J.E. and E. White

<sup>88</sup> Lt80a-1895, 16 August 1895, to J.E. and E. White

<sup>89</sup> The < > symbols seem to indicate a word that was added by Ellen White after the letter was finished or typed.

advanced knowledge that shall result in the working of unimproved lands, so that hills and valleys shall blossom like the rose. For both children and men, labor combined with mental taxation will give the right kind of all-round education. The cultivation of the mind will bring tact and fresh incentive to the cultivation of the soil.<sup>90</sup>

Toward the end of August W.C. White wrote that

During the last week they have set about a thousand fruit trees. We find it is difficult and expensive work ploughing now, for we have had no heavy rains for six months, but the time for planting is nearly past and we could not delay longer.<sup>91</sup>

Some years later, Ellen White described her method of planting trees, a method that she said “had been represented in the night season”:

While we were in Australia, we adopted the very plan you speak of—digging deep trenches and filling them in with dressing that would create good soil. This we did in the cultivation of tomatoes, oranges, lemons, peaches, and grapes.

The man of whom we purchased our peach trees told me that he would be pleased to have me observe the way they were planted. I then asked him to let me show him how it had been represented in the night season that they should be planted. I ordered my hired man to dig a deep cavity in the ground, then put in rich dirt, then stones, then rich dirt. After this he put in layers of earth and dressing until the hole was filled. I told the nurseryman that I had planted in this way in the rocky soil in America. I invited him to visit me when these fruits should be ripe. He said to me, “You need no lesson from me to teach you how to plant the trees.”

Our crops were very successful. The peaches were the most beautiful in coloring and the most delicious in flavor of any that I had tasted. We grew the large yellow Crawford and other varieties, grapes, apricots, nectarines, and plums.<sup>92</sup>

As well as the orchard, a start was made on growing vegetables. In August, Ellen White wrote about getting “the best quality of seed for peas”. She added “We shall also want asparagus sprouts and [will] set out a bed as soon as we can do so”<sup>93</sup>. On 28 August, Ellen White wrote to her daughter-in-law May: “Will you see if you can get white mustard seed and the seed for the white silver beets I use for greens ...

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<sup>90</sup> Lt47a-1895 27, to Brother and Sister J.H. Kellogg, 27 August 1895 (Published in edited form in *Testimonies to Ministers*, pp.243-244).

<sup>91</sup> 8WCW 133 W.C. White to G.T. Wilson, 29 August 1895

<sup>92</sup> Lt 350-1907, to J.E. and E. White, 22 October 1907

<sup>93</sup> Lt 150-1895, to W.C. White, 7 August 1895

White mustard seed, seed for the silver-leafed beet called spinach by the Chinese.”<sup>94</sup>  
 On 30 August W.C. White wrote to his mother that “Yesterday we ordered seeds for the school and also for you.” He mentions beans, beet, carrot, pea, pumpkins, squash, and sweet corn seeds, and also asparagus, cauliflower, and tomato plants.<sup>95</sup>

1895 had been a dry year, with, as Ellen White later wrote, “no rain from February till October.”<sup>96</sup> . Again she commented “It is not a common season. For nearly one year there were but few showers. Everything was dry; feed for cattle scarce. There has not been such a season for forty years ...”<sup>97</sup>

As the orchard and gardens were established, the need for water became a problem. On 16 September, W.C. White, apparently thinking of the “Sunnyside” gardens, lamented that “I have sometimes feared that while mother was paying out considerable money there was not corresponding results. This is largely due to our beginning the work late, to our being in a hurry about everything, and to the unfavorable weather”<sup>98</sup> The same day he wrote

The continued dry weather puts us in a peculiar position. It is exceedingly favorable to our clearing. The fires have been raging through the bush, and burning that which it would have cost us fro[m] £50 to £100 to clear. At the same time it has burnt some valuable fences. Because of the dryness of the ground, all our farming operation such as planting trees, ploughing, and gardening, are very laborious and expensive. Garden stuffs all through N.S.W. are getting scarce. I have been surprised at the condition of the Sydney market. I have felt that we must make more than ordinary efforts to get those things growing which our big family of students require for food. Therefore I have urged that the ploughing of the swamp be pushed forward with vigor, and I am told that good progress is being made. There are some crops which we dare not plant on the swamp for fear of a flood, and as we cannot succeed on the higher ground without water, Bro. Hare and I decided to purchase a force pump and hose and some iron pipes, that we may begin irrigation on a small scale immediately. My plan is to have the garden stuff planted along the edge of the swamp within one hundred yards of the low ground. Then dig numerous water holes, and take our portable pump from water hole to water hole. Then one is pumped dry go on to the next. We bought a force pump which will draw a two inch stream. There will be room for four

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<sup>94</sup> Lt 155-1895, to May White 28 August 1895

<sup>95</sup> 8WCW 141-142, W.C. White to E.G. White, 30 August 1895

<sup>96</sup> Lt 114, 1896 to Sr Wessells, 16 July 1896

<sup>97</sup> Lt 145-1896 to J.E. and Emma White, 25 February 1896

<sup>98</sup> 8WCW 211 W.C. White to W.F. Caldwell, 16 September 1895

boys to work on it. I shall endeavour to go up the first of next week to see this put into operation.<sup>99</sup>

Evidently the pump was hand operated by “four boys” so pumping water must have been quite a laborious task. The day after writing about need for irrigation, W.C. White wrote from Sydney:

Last evening and through the night we had heavy rain here, and all nature is replying. ... We all hope that this beginning will be followed by frequent and copious showers. I shall be very happy if the rain will so continue that there will be no use at all for the irrigating equipment which we have sent up to you.

He went on to write of their plans for irrigation:

... there is an ample supply of water in the creek and in the swamp land; and if this water could be placed upon the land something could be grown at once, even though the dry weather should continue. In view of these facts we thought that it was wise for us to take immediate steps to procure the pumps that we have talked about, so Bro. Hare and I spent one day in selecting and *purchasing* irrigating equipments [sic] for the school and for mother.<sup>100</sup>

In this letter he then discusses at some length his ideas for a simple irrigation system. He also mentions that he had bought a half-rotary pump for Ellen White’s garden at “Sunnyside”.

By December, the long-awaited rain had arrived. W.C. White described the improved conditions to A.G. Daniells:

I find everything doing real well here now. There has been copious showers, and all nature rejoices. The orchard is looking splendidly, and is bearing some fruit already. There is one little apple and one big fig on the tree.<sup>101</sup>

He went on to express some thoughts about the agricultural situation at the school. Now having had several months experience on the Avondale property, he was beginning to form some definite opinions:

I am fully satisfied that to do successful farming and gardening here, one must understand both the soil and the climate. I see that to ensure the

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<sup>99</sup> 8WCW 214. W.C. White to A.G. Daniells, 16 September 1895

<sup>100</sup> 8WCW 221 W.C. White to L.J. Rousseau, 17 September 1895

<sup>101</sup> 9WCW 100,101 W.C. White to AG Daniells, 29 December 1895



raising of our crops, we must have a good supply of manure, and an abundance of water.

I wish we had used an abundance of lime, as we were advised to do. I have often pled[sic] for the use of lime, but was told that Mr Woodenhead or Mr Somebody had said that lime was not necessary. I think we shall learn by what we suffer, and that next year we will plant a small area and get some good crops, by providing the necessary conditions.

At the end of January 1896, Ellen White described her orchard:

We had but two or three slight showers from January until December, but we have a creek of fresh water near our orchard and we have hired a man to tend the trees—to keep off all bugs and [to] water them from the creek. We find peach trees doing finely, also apricots, plums, and apples, though not as stocky as we could wish. Orange trees doing well; some died out. Some lemons doing well; some died out.<sup>102</sup>

A few days later she gave another report of her garden and orchard, and also of the college farm. She was now starting to come into a position where she could evaluate the results of their agricultural venture:

We have a garden here on a small scale, and it is doing well. We have the testimony that with care taken off [sic] the trees and vegetables in the dry season, we shall have good results. Our trees are doing well. Some of the orange and lemon trees are not doing as well as the apricot and peach trees. These are doing real well, and I can testify by experience that false witness has been borne of this land. On the school ground, they have tomatoes, squashes, potatoes, and melons. The trees are doing well, but have been neglected. We know that the land will do well with proper care.<sup>103</sup>

By February the rain had really set in. On 23 February, Ellen White wrote

The rain fell softly all day. The creek is rising. We fear the water may overflow our garden. We have tomatoes we are just now enjoying from the vines. We hope not to lose them.<sup>104</sup>

The next day she commented

We are thankful this morning that there is prospect of a cessation of rain. A large amount of rain has fallen. Much damage must be the result.<sup>105</sup>

The following day (25 February) she wrote “It has rained nearly this entire month.”<sup>106</sup>

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<sup>102</sup> Lt 141-1896 To J.E. and Emma White, 30 January 1896

<sup>103</sup> Lt 10, 1896 To Bro. And Sr Belden, 3 February 1896

<sup>104</sup> Ms62-1896 Diary, 23 February, 1896

<sup>105</sup> Ms62-1896 Diary, 24 February, 1896

<sup>106</sup> Lt 145-1896 To J.E. and Emma White 25 February 1896

One benefit of the rain was that it softened the dry earth, making it easier to cultivate.

In the drought, ploughing had been difficult:

It costs to begin. We had only the ground broken by an immense plow last July, then the broken furrows were worked by shovel, spade, and hoe, and trees were set. The large space between we left without breaking, for it was so dry it cost to break the turf. But we have now, since the rain, broken this. ... Sixteen bullocks are attached to the plow, and two men work the plow—one at each handle.

The ground is now soft and can be so much more easily plowed. The deep furrows are now made. After this our own horses can plow.<sup>107</sup>

### **Results are Seen**

By this time definite results were being seen. In late February Ellen White wrote that

This is good land to bear vegetables of any kind. We have now plenty of beans and most excellent tomatoes. We—Willie and I—put in peas about one week ago. They are up now. We have more to plant. We put in our potatoes and beans and more cucumbers. We eat the enormous great cucumbers just as you would apples, cutting them up and setting on the table without vinegar. All like them and they are a dish enjoyed at every meal. ...

We have just experimented sufficiently to know that this land, thoroughly worked, will produce pumpkins, squash, melons of all kinds, cucumbers, beets, turnips, and all kinds of vegetables. We shall now plant onions, beets, and a variety of things.<sup>108</sup>

The following month (16 March), she wrote further about the results that were being seen:

All we have done is to experiment. ... But we have found just as good land in this place on which to raise produce, as we could wish. On the school ground they have raised tomatoes, squashes, cucumbers, melons, beans, peas, turnips, and such things, between the rows of trees. These have had a luxuriant growth, and the trees are doing excellently well. All the planting that is done in season, and is well cultivated, will produce earth's treasures.<sup>109</sup>

As the year 1896 progressed, there were further reports of the agricultural progress at “Sunnyside” and at the Avondale School. In July Ellen White wrote

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<sup>107</sup> Lt145-1896 To J.E. and Emma White 25 February 1896

<sup>108</sup> Lt 145-1896 To J.E. and Emma White 25 February 1896

<sup>109</sup> Lt 85, 1896 To O.A. Olsen , 16 March 1896

Our orchards are doing well—the school orchard and my own orchard. It is true; false witness has been borne in regard to this land. We can raise every kind of fruit and vegetable, but oranges, lemons, peaches, apricots, nectarines, quinces, plums, persimmons [do especially well]. We have blackberry rods just set out on our place, strawberries, ground prepared for grapes.<sup>110</sup>

An interesting comment is made by W.C. White in July 1896

To-morrow [sic] night we have our second meeting of the Avondale Agricultural Society.<sup>111</sup>

In September Ellen White wrote to her son Edson that

We are in the midst of planting trees and sowing seeds and breaking up the fallow ground, clearing the land for corn and vegetables. We have quite a vineyard and hope to receive fruit from our peach trees some of which are in bloom now. Spring has come [to be] with us, and showers for the land have been abundant. We feel that the blessing of the Lord is resting on the land, and it will yield its treasures.<sup>112</sup>

Three months later, in December, she wrote to Edson a lengthy description of the agricultural results she was seeing:

Our early peaches ripened—called Early May. I ventured to try them. How delicious to my taste, and cooling! I ate the last peach from the trees yesterday.

This orchard resembles my orchard in St. Helena. And then to think one year ago last July we broke a path with my platform wagon and two-horse team through the brush, driving over logs and breaking down the young, smaller trees, twelve and fifteen feet high. May, Willie's present wife, Ella and Mabel and I made the first fire for clearing the brush. We then left for Granville. The first of August we pitched our four tents and set men to clearing. We located present building and set men to work. We engaged the bullock teams—eight span, with three men—to break the sod after the trees, immense in size, were dug out by the roots.

The perfectly smooth trees, about one hundred feet high, made bonfires. I felt it hurt me to see these trees burned, but they said, "What else can we do?" I wanted a log house built of them, but there was no one to do this. I determined to set my trees, even before the foundation of the house was built. We broke up only furrows, leaving large spaces unplowed. Here in these furrows we planted our trees the last of September, and lo, this year they were loaded with beautiful blossoms and the trees were loaded with

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<sup>110</sup> Lt 152, 1896 To J.E. and Emma White, 5 July 1896

<sup>111</sup> 10WCW 177, W.C. White to M.C. Israel, July 12 1896

<sup>112</sup> Lt 157, 1896 To J.E. and Emma White, 9 September, 1896

fruit. It was thought best to pick off the fruit, although the trees had obtained a growth that seemed almost incredible. The small amount of fruit—peaches and nectarines—have served me these three weeks. They were delicious early peaches. We have later peaches—only a few left to mature as samples. Our pomegranates looked beautiful in full bloom. Apricots were trimmed back in April and June, but they threw up their branches and in five weeks by measurement had a thrifty growth of five and eight feet.

If the Lord prospers us next year as He has done the past year, we will have all the fruit we wish to take care of, early and late. The early fruit comes when there is nothing else, so this is an important item. The peaches are rich and juicy and grateful to the taste. We have quince trees set out, and lemon, orange, apple, plum, and persimmon trees. We have even planted elderberry bushes. We planted our vineyard in June. Everything is flourishing and we shall have many clusters of grapes this season.

We have a large strawberry bed which will yield fruit next season. We have a few cherry trees. The testimony is that the land is not good for cherries, but so many false, discouraging testimonies have been borne in regard to the land that we pay no attention to what they say. We shall try every kind of a tree. We have a large number of mulberry trees and fig trees of different kinds. This is not only good fruit land, but it is excellent in producing root crops and tomatoes, beans, peas, potatoes—two crops a season. All these good treasures that the land will yield have been brought in from Sydney and Newcastle and thousands of acres of land have been untouched because the owners say they will not raise anything. We have our farm as an object lesson.

The school orchard is doing excellently well. If the land is worked it will yield its treasures, but weeds will grow, and those who own land will to exercise ambition to take these weeds out by the roots and give them no quarters. Deep plowing must be done. They let a few orange trees grow in the sod, also the lemons. We get the choicest, best oranges for three pence and two pence, ha' penny per dozen—six cents American money, and four and five cents per dozen for large, beautiful, sweet oranges.<sup>113</sup>

Apart from fruit and vegetables, Ellen White saw the value of ornamental plants. Once again she emphasised that Avondale was to be an example to show others of what could be done with land. Evidently people were taking notice, because she remarked that “Everyone is astonished at the improvements we have made in so short a time”.

We have a large space of land devoted to ornamental trees and flowers. I have scoured the country for different plants, and I have a large bush of lemon verbena honeysuckle. We have a large variety of roses, dahlias,

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<sup>113</sup> Lt 162, 1896, to J.E. and Emma White, 16 December 1896

gladioli, geraniums, pinks, pansies, and evergreens. This must be a sample settlement, to tell what can be raised here.

Brother Hughes told me he had a \_\_\_\_\_ tree for me, but Connell did not come for it. I was then at the post office near Mr. Hughes'. I said, Can I have it now? He said, "Yes." He stepped into my sulky and we went to his place. I thought it took him a long time to get it, but when he came he had a tree ten feet high, a large stocky tree, and several smaller trees. The tree was in bloom. It has a flower some like a lilac, very fragrant. There I was alone, to take care of that tree and take it about two miles. But I did it. Had to get out and open two gates. I tended my tree, giving it every night a pail of water to drink. It never wilted, and this was last September. It is a flourishing tree. Everyone is astonished at the improvements we have made in so short a time.

Just before my window, in my garden close by a beautiful fuchsia, a stalk of corn came up from the seed. We let it alone to grow. We took no pains to enrich it. In five weeks it grew eight feet and now, three weeks later, it has been stretching up until it measures in height, I believe, about thirteen feet, and it is still stretching upwards. It has the ears formed. The corn has tasseled. The ears are revealing the silk. I am seeing how this will develop.<sup>114</sup>

As well as being a benefit to the students, Ellen White saw the value of the "Sunnyside" garden in providing exercise for her staff, who were engaged in literary work,

The garden is the exercise ground for my workers. Early and late the girls are at work in the garden when they are off duty. It is better for them, and more satisfactory than any exercise they can have. I could not persuade Marian [Davis] to ride, could not get her from her writings; but now she has her interest awakened, and I have no fears but that she will get out of her chair and work in the garden. This garden of flowers is a great blessing to my girls, and they are working with the tomato raising, planting and caring for the tomatoes.<sup>115</sup>

The following month (January 1897) she wrote:

We are having very pleasant weather. The rains have come in the dry times, and our vegetables are not doing as well because of the need of dressing which we cannot obtain. The cattle run in the paddocks. The fruit trees are doing well. We would have had a large amount of fruit but some deemed it wise to pick it, and therefore we can have only a taste, samples of what we may expect next year. If the Lord favors us we will not need to buy peaches, nectarines, or apricots. The fruit seems to be of good selections. The first early peaches were very fine and there were enough on the trees to keep me supplied for some weeks.

<sup>114</sup> Lt 162, 1896, to J.E. and Emma White, 16 December 1896

<sup>115</sup> Lt 162, 1896, to J.E. and Emma White, 16 December 1896

We have tomatoes in abundance. We have all we need to eat and all we need to can. We raise our beans and peas, potatoes and squash. Sweet corn has done next to nothing. If we could only have such sweet corn as we had in Melbourne under the management of Stephen Belden we should appreciate it very much, but our land is new, and no dressing is the cause of failure.<sup>116</sup>

The “dressing” she that she speaks of evidently refers to manure.<sup>117</sup> This is evidenced by the fact that immediately after talking about “dressing which we cannot obtain,” she says “The cattle run in the paddocks.” Presumably she is contrasting this with cattle kept in yards, where manure would accumulate and would be easier to gather. Despite the fact that, as she said, “Sweet corn has done next to nothing”, eleven days later she wrote that “We are now eating sweet corn that this land has produced, and we enjoy it much.”<sup>118</sup>

At the end of January, she wrote another report of the agricultural success, in a letter to Brother and Sister Lindsay in South Africa:

I would be much pleased could you see the advancement that has been made in Cooranbong. One year ago last July we entered this place with our horses and platform wagon without road or path. About the last of that month we brought our tents, and cleared a spot for two of them. In September my family tent was pitched and also my dining tent, and the men were set to work clearing. First we had a space cleared for buildings, then for our orchard. We had bullock teams come in and break up the sod in furrows, leaving the unbroken for a more convenient opportunity when money should be more plentiful. This lasted until the last of September, and in October trees were set in the place that had been well prepared for them. But we had no rain from September until December. Everything depended for water upon the water hole which lies near the orchard, near where water could be obtained for the trees. And last February and March we had the bullock teams complete the work of ploughing.

Contrary to anything that I had expected, most of our peach trees were full of blossoms. In September, when we came home from camp meeting, we learned that the trees had been full of peaches, but that it had been thought wisdom to pick nearly all, leaving a few for samples. On November 25 I came home very sick from the conference in Ashfield, Sydney. A few of

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<sup>116</sup> Lt 180, 1897, to Brother and Sister [G. B.] Starr, 20 January 1897

<sup>117</sup> *Noah Webster's American Dictionary*, 1828 edition, gives one of the definitions of “dressing” as 3. “That which is used in preparing land for a [c]rop; manure spread over land. When it remains on the surface, it is called a top-dressing.” (on E.G. White CD-ROM, Comprehensive Research Edition, 2008)

<sup>118</sup> Lt 92, 1897, to Brother and Sister Lindsay, 31 January 1897

these early peaches had been saved for me, and they were very gratefully received. We have been picking the later peaches in January. These are the most beautiful in appearance that I have ever seen, being delicately and highly colored. And they are just as choice in taste as they are in appearance. I think I have never seen larger. Two of them weighed one pound. These same peaches are selling in Sydney at threepence each. If the Lord favors us next year, we will have at this time, beginning with December and lasting until the last of January, all the early peaches, nectarines, and apricots that we can eat and can.

Our apples will not bear for a year or two. The trees were very small when set out. We have been living off our vegetables this year. Last we had but few tomatoes; but this year we have enough for ourselves and a good supply for our neighbors also. So we testify that the school land will yield abundantly this coming year if the Lord's blessing shall attend our labors. We are now eating sweet corn that this land has produced, and we enjoy it much. I wish I could pass around to Mother Wessels and your family the products of our experiments in farming this first year in the bush. The Lord has prospered us indeed. ...

I thought I ought to write of these things, because I am sure that impressions have gone to South Africa that are not correct. This seems too bad when we are struggling so hard to make a beginning. We are seeing the exact fulfillment of the light the Lord has given me, that if the land is worked thoroughly it will yield its treasures. I was never in a more healthful place than this. There seems to be health in the very air we breathe. I do not think I should have had that severe sickness had I remained here. I had my greatest suffering between twelve and four o'clock. It was agony; but thank the Lord it is now past. ...

Much has been said in regard to expending money in order to clear land and cut ditches to drain the swamp; but this is the very thing that must be done for the healthfulness of the location. Of course it cost money to clear land and cut ditches; but it is much better that this should be done before several lose their lives from the damp arising from the swamp. And although it will take time for the swamp land to produce, yet, if worked, it will make the most profitable land of all.

The orchard and vegetable garden are doing splendidly. They had some fruit and a large yield of vegetables from the orchard and garden both last year and this. At first everything had to be transported from Sydney or Newcastle, and thus our fruit would spoil before it could reach us, and vegetables also would wilt and spoil. This will not occur again, but at that time we had no money to work the school grounds and raise crops, so we took up only a portion of the land. We felt bad to have to let it lie, but it will be worked this year.<sup>119</sup>

By the middle of 1897, more wet weather was experienced.

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<sup>119</sup> Lt 92, 1897, to Brother and Sister Lindsay, 31 January 1897

We have just experienced the heaviest rain we have had in this country. All our garden was a lake. The high ridge where corn was planted last year, we had planted with potatoes; and everything—beans, peas, potatoes, etc., were all covered. The water has now gone down, and we can look across and see the red potatoes out of the high ground. We shall have to replant. Otherwise the rain has done no damage.<sup>120</sup>

As the year 1897 came to a close, the Avondale School farm was becoming better established and more productive. At the beginning of 1898 the *Union Conference Record* reported that

As regards the agricultural work, about ten acres of the swamp land are being thoroughly subdued, and a portion planted for fodder. We have substantial evidence of the productiveness of the soil in a good crop of potatoes and other vegetables. Two and a half acres of maize and large fields of melons and pumpkins are demonstrating that the soil will produce if properly cultivated.

The fruit-orchard is doing well, and is in a thrifty condition. Although the trees are only twenty-eight months old, twenty-five boxes of various kinds of fruit have been gathered, and still there is much more on the trees. This indicates that, if properly cared for, the land can and will be self-supporting, and in time contribute towards sustaining the school.

The twelve swarms of bees purchased have increased to twenty-two, and already a quantity of honey is ready for the large family we shall have next winter.

Education is given in each of these lines as well as in book knowledge and music, both instrumental and vocal, the Bible being the foundation of all. It is the aim of the school that those who attend will receive an all-round education, and will be able to follow the instruction of the Lord, “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”<sup>121</sup>

Here again we see the emphasis that was placed on all-round, practical education. In May 1898, the principal, C.B. Hughes, described the working hours of the students:

At three o'clock, students and teachers may be seen in their work-clothes wending their way to work. The young men engage in the various duties of farm, garden, orchard, and carpenter work. The young ladies find employment in the kitchen, laundry, and garden.. Work closes at 5:30.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> Lt 140, 1897 To W.C. White, 6 June 1897

<sup>121</sup> *Union Conference Record*, January-February 1898, p.8

<sup>122</sup> C.B. Hughes “The Avondale School” in *Union Conference Record*, May 1898, p.64



In June 1898 Ellen White wrote again about the agricultural results seen at “Sunnyside”:

The land speaks for itself. The trees that were planted the last of September bore fruit in less than two years. The most beautiful peaches I have ever looked upon and most delicious to the taste, many of them weighing one-half pound each, have been produced on the land. From the first crop many of the peaches were picked off, for we feared that it would hurt the trees to let them bear so early. This last season our peach trees were so loaded with fruit that we had to prop up the branches. We have had all the vegetables we wanted for our own use, and have supplied the family of W. C. W[hite] and Brother James, our farm manager. The orchard on the school [land] bore well, and the fruit was of a good flavor.<sup>123</sup>

### **Agricultural Success Brings Changes of Opinion**

In May 1898 the *Record* published an article by Metcalfe Hare, one of the first workers on the Avondale property, in which he told of his change in opinion about the school land.

The orchard, which comprises about ten acres, has cost the school a great amount of attention, and much money has been spent in preparing the thickly timbered land for use in this direction. The prospects are that it will turn out a very profitable investment, and it will be just such as the school requires. The trees bore an abundant harvest this year although they are all young. This country is particularly adapted to fruit-growing. It surpasses anything I have seen in this respect. With proper attention, the land produces well in almost every line of agriculture. I have given some attention to this matter in experimenting, and have had very satisfactory results. We could not, therefore, have a better place in which to train our young people in lines of agriculture. When coming here three years ago, I entertained very different views in regard to the productive nature of the soil, and I was led to experiment, with the result that I am now quite satisfied that, with judicious care and ordinary attention, we have nothing to fear, but everything to encourage us in this industry.<sup>124</sup>

A few years later, the *Union Conference Record* described Metcalfe Hare’s experience with the school land:

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<sup>123</sup> Ms62-1898, “Selection of the School Land at Cooranbong” 28 June 1898 (Also in *Manuscript Releases*, vol.16, pp.154,155. The punctuation of the *Manuscript Releases* printing has been used in this document).

<sup>124</sup> Metcalfe Hare “The Avondale School for Christian Workers”, in *Union Conference Record*, March 1898, p.30

Brother M. Hare related that when he came to settle in Cooranbong seven years ago, the people who had been living here for forty years told him that it was impossible to grow vegetables. His heart sank into his shoes at the news. But, he was glad to say, it was not long before he proved their words to be false. In his own garden he raised excellent vegetables. Some of his sweet potatoes, in fact, were so large and heavy that it was almost as much as one person could do to carry a single tuber. His experience was that the ground improved with cultivation.<sup>125</sup>

Metcalf Hare was not the only one to change his opinion. It will be recalled that A.G. Daniells and L.J. Rousseau initially had an “aversion” to the Cooranbong site for the school.<sup>126</sup> In fact, Ellen White wrote that (in the early stages) “Brethren Rousseau and Daniells backed as clear out of the matter as possible...”<sup>127</sup> and that “At the first, through the united influence of Elders Rousseau and Daniells, the school was hindered for two years.”<sup>128</sup> However, she was later to write that

After the period of trial, I was much pleased to hear from the lips of Brother Rousseau that whereas he had been very doubtful in regard to this location of the school, he would say that from the experience of the practical working of the land, and all things combined, he was well satisfied for himself that the Lord had been leading us to this place, as the best place, all considered, for the location of our school. The higher priced lands we were unable to touch because there was not money in our hands to invest in large-priced lands, and the small sum paid for this land, made it possible to secure a large tract which would give work to the very men and students who needed work. He decided that there were rare facilities in some things connected with this land that the many other lands they had inspected did not give.

In 1903, a few years after both he and Ellen White had returned to America, A.G. Daniells wrote the following about the Avondale land:

During the long, terrible drought that has devastated Australasia, our school at Avondale has been spared. A letter recently received from Brother E. W. Farnsworth, contains this statement: “Our school is of the Lord. We have bountiful harvests of all kinds right in the midst of the most distressing drought you ever conceived of, a little green oasis in a vast stretch of desert extending for hundreds of miles, the only green spot in New South Wales, as the Sydney *Telegraph* said.”

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<sup>125</sup> Minchin, H.E.A. “The Avondale School for Christian Workers. Beginning of the New School Year.” In *Union Conference Record*, 15 January, 1903, p.5

<sup>126</sup> 7WCW 212 W.C. White to Foreign Mission Board, Date uncertain – probably 11 March 1895

<sup>127</sup> Lt 126-1895, to J.E. and Emma White, 19 August 1895

<sup>128</sup> Lt 3-1898 to “Brethren”, 2 February 1898

Not once since this school has been established have the crops failed. God has shown that he is still able to spread a table in the wilderness.<sup>129</sup>

### **God's Ideal for the Use of the Land**

In September 1898, Ellen White was given a vision regarding the use of the college farm land.<sup>130</sup> She warned against using the college land for residential development, and emphasised that the farm was to be a “lesson book,” and outlined some of the lessons that were to be learned from it.

Some persons were selecting allotments of land on which they purposed to build their homes, and One stood in our midst and said, You are making a great mistake which you will have cause to regret. This land is not to be occupied with buildings except to provide the facilities essential for the teachers and students of the school. This is the school farm. This land is to be reserved as an acted parable to the students. They are not to look upon the school land as a common thing, but as a lessonbook which the Lord would have them study. Its lessons will impart knowledge in the spiritual culture of the soul. For you to settle this land with private houses and then be driven to select other land at a distance for school purposes would be a great mistake, always to be regretted.

All the land upon the ground that is not needed for buildings is to be considered the school farm, where youth may be educated under well-qualified superintendents. The youth need all the land around the school. This land is to be planted with ornamental and fruit trees and garden produce. It is to be regarded as their lessonbook in nature. It is to be regarded as nature's farm from which the teachers may draw their object lessons. Christ, who created the world, and all things that are therein, is the light and life of every living thing. The life of every child and youth who is willing to grasp the opportunities for receiving a proper education will be made thankful and happy in the school by the things upon which his eyes shall rest.

This land is to testify that false witness has been borne in regard to it, and that, with the blessing of the Lord resting upon it, it will yield its treasures. If those who are connected with the school as teachers will keep themselves humble, meek, and lowly in heart, if they will not in any way exalt themselves and depend upon their own wisdom, they will see and enjoy the blessings that God longs to give them....

On several occasions the light has come to me that Avondale is to be used as the Lord's farm. In a special sense there is to be connected with this farm land that shall be highly cultivated. Spread before me was land

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<sup>129</sup> Daniells, A.G., “Another Word in Behalf of Our Brethren Across the Sea”, in *Review and Herald*, 30 July 1903, p.24

<sup>130</sup> Ms115-1898, “The Avondale School Farm,” 14 September, 1898

planted with fruit trees of every kind that will yield its fruit in this location. Seeds for vegetables should be sown and cultivated. If the managers of the farm, the teachers in the school, will receive the Holy Spirit to work with them, they will have wisdom to manage. God will bless their labors. ...

The planting and sowing, the gathering of the harvest, is a wonderful lesson for all the students. Invisible links connect the sowing and the reaping. But the goodness of God is not appreciated. The Lord gives the virtue and power to the soil and to the seed. Were it not for His divine agencies combined with human tact and ability, the seed sown would be useless. There is unseen power constantly at work as man's servant to feed and to clothe him. The parable of the seed is to reveal that God is at work in nature, and to represent the kingdom of heaven.

Let the land be retained. Those who come in can, if they choose, find for themselves a home on a portion of the purchased grounds. But the light given me is that the section of land from the school orchard to the road, and extending on both sides, should become a farm and a park, beautified with fragrant flowers and ornamental trees. There should be fruit orchards and every kind of produce cultivate [sic] that is adapted to the soil, that the place, close and farther off, may be an object lesson. It is better for private families, however devoted they may be in serving God, to be on other ground than where the school is located.

Much was revealed to me in regard to this matter, which I have not time to fully give. And it is not necessary, for all can see that this is the right thing to do. The school is to stand alone. There must not be this one and that one claiming personal property. This is God's property, His farm, where the great Sower can best sow His seed and make His garden the lesson book. And results will be seen for this work, "first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear." The land will yield its treasures, bringing the joyousness of an abundant harvest. The produce garnered through the blessing of God is to be used as nature's book, by which application can be made of the spiritual lessons for the necessity of the soul. ....

The God of nature is perpetually at work. His infinite power works unseen, but manifestations appear in the effects which the work produces. The same God who guides the planets works in the fruit orchard and the vegetable garden. He never made one thorn, one thistle or tare. These are Satan's productions, which he plants among the precious things. It is through God's immediate agency that every bud bursts into blossom. When He was in the world, in the form of humanity, Christ said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." So when the students employ their time and strength in agricultural work, in heaven it is said of them, "Ye are laborers together with God."<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> Ms115-1898, 14 September, 1898

On 22 July the next year, she presented this to the people at the Avondale church. She wrote

I spoke in the afternoon, reading from a testimony things which the Lord had revealed to me in reference to the Avondale farm. There was a large congregation.<sup>132</sup>

A copy was later printed in the *Union Conference Record*.<sup>133</sup>

It seems this vision was given at just the right time. Shortly after receiving the vision, she wrote

During the past week business arrangements have been canvassed and what must be done considered. .... important matters come up in the board meetings, and these are laid before me. Plans were laid to build cottages on the school campus. I was glad I was here at the time that this subject was brought up, for I had something to say. I told them that the grounds were not to be occupied by buildings.<sup>134</sup>

Her son W.C. White summarised her message thus:

In the testimony referred to, she warned us against selling land near the school buildings, or anywhere along the road between the school and the church. This is to be a school farm, cleared and planted with fruit and ornamental trees. We were told that this school farm [is] to be an object lesson, to teach students about the works of God, and to teach the people near and afar off what the Lord will do for [us] by bestowing his blessing on our efforts to cultivate the soil.

With these things before us, we desire to give to Bro. Farrant a strong corps of workers, so that he may press forward with the farm work.<sup>135</sup>

### **Iram James - Ellen White's Farmer**

Toward the end of 1896, or early 1897, Ellen White employed Iram James as her farm manager at "Sunnyside." She frequently referred to him as "my farmer."<sup>136</sup> She had met the James family in 1894. Iram James and his wife accepted the Adventist message under the preaching of Robert Hare and David Steed at Kellyville, near

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<sup>132</sup> Ms188-1899, Diary 22 July 1899

<sup>133</sup> *Union Conference Record*, 31 July 1899, p.11. This article also appears in edited form in *Testimonies*, vol.6, pp.181-192, titled "The Avondale School Farm".

<sup>134</sup> Lt 84-1898, to J.H. Kellogg, 5 October 1898

<sup>135</sup> 12WCW 221, W.C. White to Eld. A.T. Robinson and Leading Brethren in Tasmania, 22 October 1898.

<sup>136</sup> See, for example, Lt 99 1897; Lt 175 1897; Lt 176 1897; Lt 216 1897, Lt 171 1898, Lt 48 1899, Lt 23 1900

Sydney.<sup>137</sup> When he started to keep the Sabbath, he lost his work as a stage coach driver. He tried farming, but times were very difficult, with Australia in the grip of an economic depression. Unable to meet his mortgage repayments, he was forced to sell his farm. Ellen White wrote

Brother James, I understand, has four children and some days has had nothing to eat but wild berries. But we have sent them flour, beans, peas, cornstarch, cabbages, turnips, and potatoes enough to last them a little time. Perhaps help will come.<sup>138</sup>

The James family went through very difficult times, even though, as Ellen White put it, “He has tried every way he could to get employment and has lived in the most spare manner.”<sup>139</sup> Eventually Ellen White invited him to come to “Sunnyside” as her farmer.

In January 1897, Ellen White wrote that

I instructed Brother James to attend first to the school orchard and see the special necessities there. When he has done this he will come to my orchard and see what is needing to be done there, and when these are done he will have a plan for [a] barn and see that a rough building is put up to accommodate horses, carriages, and feed for stock.<sup>140</sup>

By May she was able to report that “Brother James is doing excellently well. He is a faithful worker, and we are pleased with his qualities.”<sup>141</sup> Iram was appointed a church elder,<sup>142</sup> and was active in missionary work in the Cooranbong district.<sup>143</sup>

Such was Ellen White’s respect for Iram James that after she returned to America, she invited him to come to work as her farmer at “Elmshaven.” The James family accepted the invitation, and arrived there in January 1901.<sup>144</sup> A few years later she wrote

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<sup>137</sup> Galusha, D. *Iram James*, p.12.

<sup>138</sup> Lt 147-1894, to W.C. White, June 1894. Also quoted in White, A.L. *Ellen G. White: The Australian Years*, p.141.8

<sup>139</sup> Lt 133-1895 to W.C. White, 10 January 1895

<sup>140</sup> Lt 167, 1897 to W.C. White, 14 January 1897.

<sup>141</sup> Lt 141-1897 to W.C. White, 5 May 1897

<sup>142</sup> Lt 216, 1897 to Brother and Sister Farnsworth, 7 September, 1897

<sup>143</sup> See letter by Iram James to Ellen White, 24 September 1900, regarding mission work in Martinsville. In Galusha, D. *Iram James*, pp.26,27

<sup>144</sup> Lt 15-1901, to Brother and Sister [G.] James, 22 January 1901. For further information on Iram James, and his work in the U.S.A, see Galusha, D. *Iram James*.

Brother and Sister James have an excellent family. ... Religious interests are always made first. I would not be willing to exchange my farmer for any other person that I know of. I could not have a better helper than Brother James.<sup>145</sup>

### **Ellen White's Final Years at Avondale**

In October 1898, writing to Dr J.H. Kellogg, she gave a brief description of the state of her gardens at "Sunnyside."

My orange trees are full of blossoms. My peach and apricot trees are laden with fruit. If the Lord prospers us, we shall have fruit in abundance upon our trees this year.

Three years ago the last of this month the trees were planted. Last year and the year before we had the most beautiful peaches and nectarines I ever tasted. Our mandarin trees bore abundantly last season, and are full of blossoms this year. Our passion fruit has borne continually through summer and winter for a year. My navel oranges, planted a year ago, are now in blossom. We have a very sightly flower garden. Some of the plants are in the very height of their glory. I wish you could see these things. This is the work my helpers in the literary line do. They work in the garden. Each has a spot of land, to care for and to beautify.<sup>146</sup>

The time came, in 1900, when Ellen White had to return to America. On 13 August, 1900, she wrote to the Haskells

Be assured that we do not leave this field willingly. We intend to return as soon as it seems that God wills it. The climate agrees with me, and the hearts of the people are with my heart. I am loth, very loth, to leave at this time, when the sanitarium is going up and we are so much needed here. But I have sold my farm and all my farming implements, my furniture, and the stock and goods required on this place—cows, horses, carriages.<sup>147</sup>

The following day she wrote in a similar vein to her son Edson, and included a brief description of her garden:

It is quite cold this morning. I can hardly hold my pen in my hand. I did not think I should be able to write to you this mail, but I will write a few lines.

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<sup>145</sup> Lt 284-1907, to Emma White, 16 September 1907.

<sup>146</sup> Lt 84-1898, to J.H. Kellogg, 5 October 1898. This letter also contains a good summary of the Lord's ideal for the Avondale school land.

<sup>147</sup> Lt121-1900, To Brother and Sister [S.N.] Haskell, 13 August 1900.

We have been having some beautiful weather here. The frosts have been heavy, but in spite of this we have cauliflower ready for eating. Oranges, mandarins, and passion fruit are now ripe, and there are plenty of thistle greens, which I eat. These are something like dandelions. They are a healthful food. I use lemon juice on them.

We expect, the Lord willing, to leave Cooranbong in two weeks. The boat leaves Sydney a fortnight from tomorrow. My farm, and all that appertains to it, is sold.<sup>148</sup>

Thus ended Ellen White's "hands on" experience with agriculture at Avondale. The agricultural work that was commenced largely through her influence and example continued for many years. About two years after her departure the *Union Conference Record* reported on the farm activities then being carried on at Avondale:

2/3 acre fine sweet potatoes	1/2 acre black-eyed peas
1 acre sweetcorn	3/4 acre Haricot beans
7 acres oats (some over 6 feet high)	1/3 acre soy beans (a splendid new bean)
12 acres corn	1 acre Lima beans
2 acres tomatoes	40 acres pasture
1 acre blackberries	1 acre sorghum
2 acres pumpkins	

Also conveniently-sized patches of carrots, parsnips, beet, rhubarb, marrow, squashes, cucumbers, French and butter beans, cabbages, peas, and turnips. About fifty bushels of peaches have been sold, realising up to 5/6 per half-bushel case.<sup>149</sup>

The same article also stated that

This year, peanuts, taro (a Fiji potato), soy beans, and broom millet are being tried. This season 2,000 quarts of blackberries were produced. The school now has 154 stands of bees. Last winter the orchard was thoroughly drained, and all the trees were fumigated.

### **The Influence of Ellen White's Avondale Agricultural Experience**

This agricultural work instigated under Ellen White's guidance exerted a lasting and far-reaching influence. This influence was seen in a number of areas:

<sup>148</sup> Lt 123-1900 To J.E. and E. White, 14 August 1900. For a listing of the orchard trees at Sunnyside at the time of its sale, see Appendix C.

<sup>149</sup> Minchin, H.E.A. "The Avondale School for Christian Workers. Beginning of the New School Year." In *Union Conference Record*, 15 January, 1903, p.5



***Personal Influence on Students.*** A recurring theme in Ellen White's writings concerning agriculture is that it was to be a means of character development for students. It is clear that she

had a perception that there was significant intellectual and moral development gained by having students involved in agriculture (totally apart from the fact that it provided food, etc.).<sup>150</sup>

For example, she wrote that

Useful manual labor is part of the gospel plan. ... Now, as in the days of Israel, every youth should be instructed in the duties of practical life."<sup>151</sup>

Early in the establishment of the Avondale school, when the first students were working in the "Industrial Department", she wrote that

This is the proper education which will bring forth from our schools young men who are not weak and inefficient, who have not a one-sided education, but an all-round physical, mental and moral training.<sup>152</sup>

Later, in describing "Missionary Education", she wrote that

Such an education as this can best be worked out where there is land to cultivate, and where the physical exercise taken by the students can be of such a nature as to act a valuable part in their character building.<sup>153</sup>

Writing about the agricultural program at Avondale, she declared that "The spiritual lessons to be learnt are of no mean order."<sup>154</sup> Elsewhere she wrote that "The cultivation of the soil will prove an education to the soul."<sup>155</sup> She summed up the benefits of the agricultural program by saying that "no line of manual training is of more value than agriculture."<sup>156</sup>

The benefits on the students have already been noted. For example, when the "Industrial Department" was operating, she observed that

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<sup>150</sup> Bob Jorgensen. Personal email to Alan Fisher, 9 November 2007

<sup>151</sup> *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p.307

<sup>152</sup> Lt 47a-1895, to Brother and Sister J.H. Kellogg, 27 August 1895 (Also published in *Testimonies to Ministers*, p.241)

<sup>153</sup> Ms 59 1907, "A Missionary Education," 18 June 1907. In *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p.533 Also in *Special Testimonies, Series B*, no.11

<sup>154</sup> Lt 47a-1895 to Brother and Sister J.H. Kellogg, 27 August 1895 (Also published in *Testimonies to Ministers*, p.243)

<sup>155</sup> *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 88

<sup>156</sup> *Education*, p.219

the manual labor department is a success for the students healthwise....  
The students are rugged, and the feeble ones are becoming strong.<sup>157</sup>

They are gaining in strength of nerve and in solidity as well as activity of muscles. This is the proper education, which will bring forth from our school young men who are not weak and inefficient, who have not a one-sided education, but an all-round physical, mental, and moral training.<sup>158</sup>

Many generations of students gained these benefits from the agricultural program that Ellen White instigated at Avondale, and carried these benefits with them into their future lives and work.

***Influence in the community.*** One of Ellen White's aims that she stated repeatedly was that the Avondale school was to be "an object lesson to the Colonials of what the land will do if properly worked",<sup>159</sup> especially in the Cooranbong area. She wrote that

We mean for this place to be a center, from which shall irradiate light, precious advanced knowledge that shall result in the working of unimproved lands, so that hills and valleys shall blossom like the rose.<sup>160</sup>

From early in her time at Avondale, people started to take an interest in what was happening in agriculture at the Adventist settlement. For example, when the first orchards were being established,

Mr. Smith, who has recently moved to Cooranbong, [and] [t]he keeper of the police station was on the ground, and both these lookers-on begged for Brother Rousseau to sell them a few trees ... which he did.<sup>161</sup>

The influence in the community continued after Ellen White had gone. Over the years, the Avondale farm was looked up to as a leader in agriculture in the local area. Such was its success and reputation that about twenty years after Avondale was established, when another property in the district was being sold, the advertisers referred to Avondale as a model of agricultural success:

To the North of the Estate, and separated only by the waters of Dora Creek, lies the famous Avondale Settlement of the Seventh Day Adventists, with its spacious College, Church, roomy Sanatorium, numerous well-kept Homesteads, Agricultural Buildings, Silos and Barns,

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<sup>157</sup> Lt 126, 1895, to J.E. and Emma White, 19 August 1895

<sup>158</sup> Lt 47a-1895, to Brother and Sister J.H. Kellogg, 27 August 1895

<sup>159</sup> Lt 126-1895, to J.E. and E. White, 19 August 1895

<sup>160</sup> Lt47a-1895, to Brother and Sister J.H. Kellogg, 27 August 1895 (Also published in *Testimonies to Ministers*, p.244).

<sup>161</sup> Lt 126-1895 to J.E. and E. White, 19 August 1895

and extensive Factories for the production of the widely-known Vegetarian Foods; a model village, in fact, lighted by Electricity, and having a fine system of irrigation. Here Mixed Farming, Dairying and fruit culture are carried on, and the lay-out and success of the Settlement are tributes to the wisdom and foresight of the originators of the scheme.<sup>162</sup>

The reputation of Avondale in agricultural circles continued to be high for many years. In the 1940s or early 1950s the College estate was chosen as the venue for the annual field days of the Junior Farmers' organisation.<sup>163</sup> The dairy, in particular, gained prominence for the quality of its cattle. For example, in the 1940s it was reported that the college had

cows that are recognized from standard government tests to rank amongst the highest butter-fat testing and milk-producing Jersey cattle in this state. The awards gained at the Maitland Agricultural Show range from some champions and reserve champions to many first, second, and third prizes.<sup>164</sup>

As recently as 1967 the College dairy was "the most successful exhibitor among Jerseys at the Maitland Show."<sup>165</sup>

***Influence on Other Adventist Schools.*** As noted earlier, the establishment of Avondale College was the first opportunity that Ellen White had to put into practice her philosophy of all-round education, with a strong emphasis on agriculture and practical training. It was her intention that Avondale should be a model or "sample" school, to demonstrate how the Lord's ideal for our schools could be put into practice. One writer states that

By March 1897, some seven descriptive articles about the experimental institution appeared in the *Review* and their impact on Seventh-day Adventist thinking in America proved incalculable.<sup>166</sup>

Another writer states that

Avondale School for Christian Workers set a pattern that heavily influenced the development of future Seventh-day Adventist schools.

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<sup>162</sup> *The Morisset Farms Estate* (sale brochure), 1919

<sup>163</sup> Sonter, L.O., *History of Avondale College Orchard and Poultry 1929-1953*. Unpublished paper

<sup>164</sup> Jenkins, D.I., "History of the Dairy Herd" In *Australasian Record*, 7 June 1948, p.8.

<sup>165</sup> Bingham, J. (ed.), *Jacaranda*, Avondale College, 1967.

<sup>166</sup> Vande Vere, E.K., *The Wisdom Seekers*, p.73

Among other things, it demonstrated (1) the practicability and advantages of an ample campus located in a rural environment, (2) the feasibility of a strong work-study program, (3) the value of school industries both as a source of student labor and as a help to the school's operating budget ... and (6) the practicability of Ellen White's counsels on education.<sup>167</sup>

The influence of the Avondale experience is clearly seen in the educational reforms carried out by Edward A. Sutherland and Percy T. Magan, in the early 1900s. They led out in the moving of Battle Creek College to a rural location at Berrien Springs, Michigan. It has been said that “It was Sutherland and Magan’s goal to develop a school that would be ‘the Avondale of America.’”<sup>168</sup> The school they established in this rural location, known as Emmanuel Missionary College, eventually became Andrews University. It is interesting to note that Andrews University still operates a farm, and is one of the few Adventist colleges that currently teaches agriculture at the tertiary level.<sup>169</sup>

The influence of Ellen White’s agricultural experience at Avondale is perhaps best exemplified by the founding of the Madison School. After establishing Emmanuel Missionary College, and with the encouragement of Ellen White, Sutherland and Magan moved to the southern United States and established a self-supporting college in Tennessee. From its inception, this school had a strong agricultural program, and “Student labor, rather than cash, was accepted for tuition.”<sup>170</sup> Although Madison College closed in the 1960s, it has provided the inspiration for numerous other self-supporting institutions around the world, most of which incorporate an agricultural program of some type.<sup>171</sup>

Another example of the influence of the Avondale agricultural experience would be the founding of Pacific Union College. Founded in 1909, its first Principal was C.W. Irwin, who had recently been Principal of Avondale College. Like Avondale, this college was on an extensive tract of land in a rural location, and Irwin led in the

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<sup>167</sup> Schwarz, R.W., *Light Bearers to the Remnant*, p.203

<sup>168</sup> Schwarz, R.,W. *Light Bearers*, p.301

<sup>169</sup> See Andrews University Agriculture Department website, <https://www.andrews.edu/cas/agriculture/>, accessed 20 November 2017

<sup>170</sup> Schwarz, R.,W. *Light Bearers*, p.246.

<sup>171</sup> For further information on Madison School, see for example, Spalding, A.W., *Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists*, vol.3, pp.168-185, Schwartz, *Light Bearers*, pp.244-248; Gish, I, and Christman, H. *Madison God's Beautiful Farm*,. For information on Madison-type schools currently operating, see the various issues of *OCI Reports*.

development of a strong student work program.<sup>172</sup> No doubt he was heavily influenced by his experience at Avondale.

***Influence on Adventist Schools in the South Pacific.*** Since the early days of Avondale College, its graduates have been appointed to establish and lead out in Seventh-day Adventist Schools in the South Pacific nations. One who spent many years in agricultural work at Adventist schools in the Pacific observed that

I doubt that many would attempt to argue against the statement that the work-study program initiated at Avondale at its inception would produce graduates who would have the same attitudes when they found themselves working in the mission field.<sup>173</sup>

Most of these mission schools have operated agricultural programs of some type. (Often the agriculture program has been necessary to the school's survival). Allen Sonter, a former teacher and administrator with decades of experience in the Pacific, points out that while other schools in the Pacific have been involved in agriculture,

The Seventh-day Adventist education system in the Pacific is ... unique in that it considers the work-study ethic to be part of its basic educational philosophy. ... The vital role of Avondale has been the provision of generations of teachers who have experienced first hand the benefits of work coupled with study. This philosophy can be directly attributed to the philosophy of education advocated by Ellen White. ... I believe that the work-study program has been successful because the work component has not been seen as a necessary evil, but as an integral part of the education; a healthy balance to the pressures of study.<sup>174</sup>

***Influence on Adventist Agriculture Generally.*** As noted previously, Ellen White's agricultural experience at Avondale had an "incalculable" influence on Adventist thinking in America, leading to the establishment of other schools on the Avondale model.<sup>175</sup> However, this influence extended beyond the establishment of new institutions. Much or most of what Ellen White wrote about agriculture was written in

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<sup>172</sup> Schwarz, *Light Bearers*, pp.325, 326

<sup>173</sup> Voigt, A.L. *Agriculture, the Full Circle*, Paper presented at Sev-Ad Historical Society, Cooranbong, 9 March 2003

<sup>174</sup> Sonter, A. "The Influence of Avondale College on the Work-Study Ethic of Adventist Schools in The Pacific", In Oliver, B., Currie, A., and Robertson, D. (eds.), *Avondale and the South Pacific*, Cooranbong: Avondale Academic Press, 1997. p.92

<sup>175</sup> Vande Vere, E.K., *The Wisdom Seekers*, p.73

connection with the Avondale experience, and these writings have been a source of instruction and inspiration to Adventist agriculturalists and gardeners to this day.<sup>176</sup>

### **Conclusion**

The establishment of Avondale College was a unique event. It was the first occasion in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, when the educational philosophy given to Ellen White could be fully carried out. Her emphasis on agriculture was a major part of her educational philosophy, and with the Lord's leading, was well demonstrated at Avondale. The influence of her agricultural experience at Avondale has had a major and far-reaching influence, that in many ways continues to this day.

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<sup>176</sup> I am indebted to Darren Greenfield for this thought. Lecture at "Cultivate Agriculture Conference", Yarrahapinni, NSW, 29 November 2017.

## APPENDIX A

Order for Trees for Avondale College<sup>177</sup>

Plums	10 Old Black Cluster 10 Black Diamond 20 Angeline Burdell 30 Prun et Agen 15 Kelsey Japanese 15 Septuma 12 American Reeds 12 Green Gage
Guavas	6 Purple
Figs	15 Black Turkey
Mulberries	10 Cape
Jap. Persimmons	3 Yeman 3 Nashi
Raspberries	100
Oranges	25 Parramatta 5 Navel 10 St. Michaels 5 Seedlings
Mandarins	15 Emperor 5 Thorny
Lemons	25 Lisbon 5 Varigated [sic] 5 Genoa Thornless
Limes	5 West Indian
Citrons	3 Best
Peaches	20 Brigg's Early May 10 Early Braddocks 10 Beatrice 20 Early Rivers 10 Second Newington 20 Early Crawford 20 Muir 15 Faster 15 Late Crawford 10 Warlington's Admirable 5 McRoberts Reed 5 Bellamy
Nectarines	10 Irrawarra 10 Elruge 10 Stanwich
Apples	10 Scotch Apple

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<sup>177</sup> 8WCW 85,86

	10 Nobles Regal
	10 Triumphe de Luremburg
	20 Five Crown Pippins
	10 Framptons Seedling
	10 Granny Smith
	10 Northern Spy
	10 Prince of the Pippins
	10 Irish Peach
	10 Tricketts Seedling
	10 Winter Pearmain
Pears	12 Beune Base [Beurre Bosc?]
	12 Winternellis
	15 Williams Ban Cretian
	5 Long Bakers
Loquats	12 Common
	6 Mammoth



## APPENDIX B

Order from Mr Moseley for Mrs White<sup>178</sup>

Peaches	10 Briggs Early May 6 Early Rivers 6 Early Crawford 10 Muirs 5 Shanghai
Nectarines	6 Irrawarra 3 Elruge 4 Stanwich 2 Meek's Scarlet 2 Reiner's Orange
Apricots	5 Moreparks 3 Orange 3 Large Red Reiners 3 Willis' Early 3 Large Red Reiners [sic]
Cherries	3 May Dukes 2 Marilles
Apples	5 Five Crown Pippins 3 Granny Smith 5 Northern Spy 5 Irish Peach 5 Winter Pearmain 2 Astrachans
Oranges	10 Parramatta 3 Naval [sic] 3 St Michaels 6 Seedlings
Mandarins	3 Emperors 3 Thorny 1 Scarlet
Lemons	6 Lisbon 2 Thornless 2 Varigated
Limes	5 West Indian
Pears	4 Williams 2 Winternellis 2 Beune Base [Beurre Bosc?] 2 Tinks Butter
Loquats	5 Common 5 Mammoth
Figs	5 Black Turkey

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<sup>178</sup> Source: 8WCW 83,84

Raspberries	25
Blackberries	25 Lamton
Strawberries	100 Marguerites 100
Chestnuts	4 Spanish
Walnuts	4 Common
Pomegranates	4 Common
Chinese Raisins	2 Marrenia Dulcis

## APPENDIX C

“Sunnyside” Orchard - Description at time of sale by Mrs E.G. White<sup>179</sup>**Orchard – four acres***One and two years old – About ¼ acre – 20 trees*

5 Navel oranges  
 6 Peaches  
 4 Apples  
 2 Pears  
 2 Lemons  
 1 Quince

*Three years old – ¾ acre – 78 trees*

36 Peaches,  
 6 Apples  
 5 Pears  
 4 Plums  
 4 Chestnuts  
 5 Persimmons  
 6 Figs  
 4 Quinces  
 2 Nectarines  
 2 Loquats  
 1 Chinese Raisin  
 2 Lemons  
 1 Mulberry

*Four Years Old – 1 ¼ acres – 117 trees*

23 Lemons  
 18 Emperor Mandarins  
 22 Thorny Mandarins  
 3 Figs  
 15 Navel Oranges  
 8 Parramatta Oranges  
 1 Cherry  
 2 Quinces  
 4 Nectarines  
 24 Peaches  
 3 Persimmons

*Five Years Old – 1 ¾ acre – “In very fine bearing condition”*

21 Oranges  
 12 Mandarins  
 4 Lemons  
 5 Limes  
 26 Apples  
 15 Pears  
 14 Peaches  
 12 Nectarines  
 5 Apricots  
 5 Pomegranates  
 30 Plums  
 6 Almonds  
 1 Shaddock  
 5 Cherries

*Vineyard – 200 grape vines, three and four years old**Passionfruit – 135 vines, just beginning to bear*


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<sup>179</sup> Quoted in Galusha, D. *Iram James*, 2017 edition, p.119

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