

Broadwater Bulletin

with Marinus & Hannah van Meerten • August 2026



Welcome to our first BCA newsletter! We have now settled on Broadwater Avenue, right by the beach on beautiful Phillip Island. We are so grateful that you are partnering with us, and we feel privileged to be lifted up in prayer by so many people around the country. If we are to see fruit in this place it will only be through prayer and God's grace.

Ministry at St Augustine's San Remo

Marinus is now an Assistant Minister at the Anglican Parish of Phillip Island/Bass, placed at a lovely little blue and white church in San Remo. We have been introduced to the mysteries of rural, small-town ministry. It is very different to what we're used to. Our congregation has 15–20 adults with an average age of 75–92. There is no kids program, and our two kids are usually the only children in the building. **Please pray for us as we have very little experience ministering to the generations above us, so it has been a big adjustment.**

Ministry here is very relational and slow. During the week there are no small groups, programs or prayer meetings. We spent the first couple of months slowly visiting all the parishioners in their homes to get to know them. At the back of the church is an Op Shop which is open four days a week. There is also a weekly Emergency Food Pantry run from our church facilities by two local non-Christians. On

Wednesday mornings you'll find Marinus drinking cups of tea in the Op Shop as the people of San Remo, visiting tourists and those in need of food relief flow through the church. It is a great way to slowly build relationships in the community.

Pray that God would guide us to those people 'destined for eternal life' so that God's Word might spread 'throughout this region' (Acts 13:48–49). May He bring many more through the doors at St Augustine's.

Pray for discernment as we consider whether to start a small group and how to best reach local young families.

Life on Philip Island

Hannah's main role is caring for the kids, which is no small feat with a toddler and newborn in a new place. She spends a lot of time at playgroups, playgrounds, local cafes and going for walks. She has already connected with many local Mums and other Christian families (who mostly attend the local Pentecostal Church) in our neighbourhood. Many families have moved here for the lifestyle but still seem to be

Banner Image: Philip Island by reisetopia on Unsplash

Circle Image: The van Meertens

Middle Image: Marinus preaching

Bottom Image: St Augustine's

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lacking deep relationships and any real community.

We love how friendly the locals are. Everyone is always up for a chat, and we have been getting to know several of our neighbours. However, the high number of tourists and holiday dwellers from Melbourne is a challenge to the social fabric on the Island.

We are exploring how to live more vocationally – that is, to simply live our lives here as God's people and to witness to His grace. The boundaries around ministry are much blurrier as a key part of our role is to be building relationships within the community. We are learning to embrace ministry as a lifestyle, rather than focusing purely on Sunday worship and church events. We really enjoy weekly visits to Churchill Island Farm with Sammy, family walks and whale watching on sabbath and regular trips to the beach to rest and unwind. However, these activities all inevitably lead to wonderful conversations and sharing life with locals. We feel privileged to be set apart for ministry in this beautiful place and continue to pray that He would use our ordinary lives to draw people to Himself.



Pray for wisdom, patience and good sleep as we raise two young children and for the provision of more relational and practical support.

Pray that when we feel lonely or isolated, that we would suffer gladly and count it all joy to give our lives away for the sake of others.

Pray that God's love would flourish and take root in our hearts, marriage and family and that we would continue to depend entirely on Him.

BCA Field Staff Conference

We attended the BCA Field Staff Conference in July on the Sunshine Coast. It was a joy to meet others serving with

BCA across the country. We met so many extraordinary people, doing ministry in very hard, remote places and we felt incredibly humbled to be numbered among them. We came home thoroughly exhausted, with full hearts and a much greater sense of belonging to the BCA family.

Family News

Marinus has been accepted for ordination as deacon in the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland. His ordination service will be on 7 November in Sale. This has been a most welcome confirmation of his calling and has provided reassurance that we are on the right path here. You are warmly invited!

We entrust ourselves to God and to your love and prayers,

Marinus & Hannah

Pray for

**our work in
San Remo**

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Going the distance to share Jesus in the bush