

bca
bush church aid



Going the distance

2025 ANNUAL SUPPORTERS UPDATE

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A WORD FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



As I reflect on 2025, I find myself thanking God for His continued faithfulness to Bush Church Aid, and for your partnership in this work.

This past year has been one of real encouragement. I have again seen the faithfulness of our Field Staff serving in hard and often isolated places, and I have heard story after story of lives being changed as people come to know Jesus. Behind the scenes, there has also been steady work strengthening and supporting this ministry, so that we can continue to go the distance sharing Jesus in the bush.

I am deeply thankful to God for His generosity to us, and for the way that generosity has been expressed through your ongoing support. Because of this, we are seeing ministries strengthened and new opportunities emerging.

And while this last year has seen a number of new things, our focus remains, namely that across rural, regional, and remote parts of this vast land the lost are found, disciples are made, and the church grows.

I hope that as you read what follows, you will be encouraged by what God is doing, and by the part you are playing in it.

Greg Harris
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

2025 IN REVIEW

2025 was a big year for Bush Church Aid, and we have much to thank God for. We saw new faces, new initiatives, and new improvements in governance.

Throughout the year, we welcomed 13 new Field Staff into the BCA community. These Field Staff have said yes to serving Jesus in rural places as far flung as Emerald in Central Queensland, to the west coast and Carnarvon. From Katherine in the Top End all the way to King Island in the middle of Bass Strait.

It really was a year of God's faithfulness in raising up people to fill long-term vacancies and

His grace in allowing us to support new Field locations. We thank God for each of our Field Staff and their willingness to go the distance.

However, as is often the case, we did farewell Field Staff and Office Staff. Most notably we said farewell to Neville & Kathie Naden who retired after 18 years with BCA

Through your support, 10 theological students from

around Australia were equipped for ministry.

2025 saw BCA increase our support of Indigenous ministry through Nungalinga College. For the past two years, BCA has supported the Indigenous Chaplaincy program at Nungalinga, enabling Indigenous graduates to return to the College and serve as Chaplains to current students and staff. This program has been such a success that we were pleased to



NEW FIELD STAFF

13 new Field Staff commenced with BCA



FIELD STAFF FOR 2025

Orientation for new Field Staff was held in Sydney



NEVILLE & KATHIE NADEN

Retired after 18 years with BCA



REGIONAL OFFICERS

The Regional Officer team in 2025



double our support – allowing more chaplains to minister into a much-needed space.

All this is the result of God’s kindness to us, expressed through your generous support. Because of you, we are working towards every person in the bush having every chance to know Jesus, and have stepped out in faith, increasing our support of current and new ministries.

And another reason why it was a big year for BCA was that after many years of work, we adopted a new Constitution at an extraordinary general meeting in November, bringing BCA into line with current best governance practice.

This important step establishes a Board responsible for governance oversight and provides a strong foundation for the future. Under God, we pray

it will help BCA to continue to go the distance to share Jesus in the bush.

2025 was indeed a year of change, of growth and of new things. We remain truly dependent on God for His guidance, wisdom and leading as we move through each year. We remain deeply grateful to you all as we go the distance together.



NUNGALINYA COLLEGE

We doubled our support of the Chaplaincy program



BCA BOARD

A new Constitution was adopted



ROD & AMANDA HAYWOOD

New Nomads Coordinators



VISITING MINYERRI IN THE NT

The National Director and his wife, with Bishop Greg Anderson, visited the community of Minyerri



OUR MISSION:

Going the distance

**TO SHARE JESUS
IN THE BUSH**



Darwin

Nungalinya College

Katherine

Cloncurry

Alice Springs

Port Hedland

West Pilbara

Newman

Carnarvon

Geraldton

Dongara

Perth

Fremantle

Augusta & Margaret River

Adelaide

Kangaroo Island

Goolwa

Melbourne

San Remo

King Island

West Coast Tasmania

Emerald/Blackwater

Gladstone

Brisbane

Norfolk Island

Lightning Ridge

Barwon District

Cobar

Cowra

Kelso

Bathurst

Jindabyne

Sydney

Southern Beaches

Hobart

OUR FIELD STAFF

Every morning, we pray for the Lord of the Harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest field. We saw the Lord answer this prayer in many ways throughout 2025 with Field Staff and new positions. Thirteen new Field Staff and their families joined the BCA community throughout 2025, serving across seven Dioceses and six states.

As always, we said farewell to Field Staff as seasons of ministry and family needs changed. We thank God for our finishing Field Staff and pray that they will continue to be a blessing in their new contexts of service. Please continue to pray with us for even more workers to be raised up to go into rural, regional and remote Australia for the sake of the Gospel.

WELCOMES



ANDERSON
Nungalinga College Dean



BROWNE
Gladstone



BENDESSI
Ministry Trainee



KILLINGBECK
King Island



LEWIS
Kangaroo Island



O'KEEFFE
Katherine



PIPER
Emerald/Blackwater



WALKER
Geraldton



WELHAM
Carnavon & Shark Bay

FAREWELLS



FARICY
Kununurra



HERCOTT
Rockhampton



HURLEY
Broken Hill



KELLY
Kyabram



POHLMANN
Nungalinga College



ROBERTS
Exmouth



WEICKHARDT
Mallee Missioner

MORE ON THE WEB

BCA works in partnership with Anglican Dioceses and other Christian organisations across Australia.

Living and serving in rural, regional and remote communities requires sacrifice, dedication and a willingness to go the distance.

You can head to our website to read more about each of our Field Staff, and sign up for prayer points, Field Staff newsletters and publications.



*Scan the
QR code to
learn more*



STORIES FROM THE FIELD



James & Charly

It has been a real joy to see God at work this year. We started the year with a weekly average attendance of 25 people and that grew to an average of 42 people by December. We started a kids' church which was the first kids' church the parish had in the last 10 years. We had five kids attend most weeks with a high of 11.

Kurt & Bec

We have been blessed in recent times by tangible signs of God's work among us. Christ is at work, calling newcomers in, and building up His people – in the Ridge, on the Rock! At one level, it still feels slow going. As I said above, we are a beautiful, messy church. Progress here looks different to other places. Many of our newcomers struggle with addictions, a history of trauma and abuse, mental health issues, etc. But we see small steps of progress in our people and ourselves. May Christ keep building His church!



Dennis & Valda

It has been a joy to see how students are responding; being so appreciative that Bible training has come to them, and the feeling of being accepted into our programs has our students beaming, because they have the opportunity to learn more about the great God we serve. Students have expressed that they would like to do further studies to broaden their learning to encompass higher degrees of growth for ministry.

Roger & Amanda

We have seen God's kindness in our finances this year. Church finances being in a better position than in previous years has been a tremendous joy for us. Of course, we wouldn't be anywhere near that position without the financial support from BCA. So thank you!!





THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP

Pine Creek is a small town north of Katherine with a population of around 300 people. It takes an hour to drive there, and it's actually a part of our parish (it's a big parish!).

Historically, there is a service on the third Sunday of every month. Issy & I (Pat) were able to go for the first time in mid-January, and a couple of other church members came with us.

There are only a couple of regular attenders at Pine Creek and one of those was away, so the four of us joined with Rosemary to swell the congregation to five members. Rosemary is a local lady with an infectious energy. Together we sang and prayed and read the Bible, we shared communion and chatted over a cup of tea after the service. It was a joy!

In particular, it was so wonderful to see Rosemary's excitement in sharing the service with us.

We didn't just see it; she told us multiple times!

It's easy to take Christian fellowship for granted when you're surrounded by your brothers and sisters at church every week.

Even a so-called 'small church' in Sydney is completely different to Rosemary's experience at Pine Creek. Sunday was a reminder that Christian fellowship is a precious gift from God. It will be a privilege to share it with Rosemary in the months and years to come.

If you are able, can you pray for Rosemary and the church at Pine Creek?

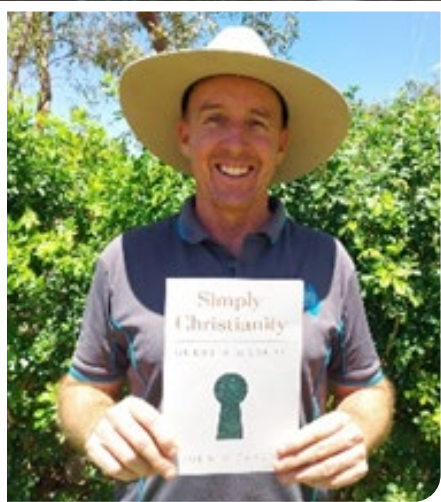
Pray for God to strengthen their faith and give them great joy in our monthly gatherings. Ask God to bring others from town along to church too so that they can hear the Gospel. You can pray similarly for the service in Mataranka, which is another town an hour's drive in the other direction!

And maybe you can thank God for your church and the joy of gathering together with God's people week after week. What a precious gift!

Pat & Issy O'Keefe



GOD IS AT WORK



At the beginning of 2025, we saw a great encouragement in the life of the church. It was a joy to begin the year with a *Simply Christianity* course, with eight people coming to investigate Christ.

The great thing about *Simply Christianity* is that it really engages you with the Gospel of Luke, and when people missed sessions, they were keen to catch up.

While most of the sessions were done as a group, I also met with people individually, which led to a range of thoughtful questions.

Since then, we have seen two baptisms from that group, with another person at the beginning of 2026 requesting baptism after coming to put her trust in Christ. In October, we were also able to baptise four children from our church who had come to faith.

One man, whom we've known for five years and who had come along to church previously, said at the end of the course, "I'm on board, Jesus is my Lord and Saviour."

Frank & Jo Nicol



GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY

2025 was an encouraging year at Dongara Anglican, with our Christmas ministries being a particular highlight.

We ran a four-week Christmas Kids Club from mid-November through to mid-December. It was a wonderful opportunity to tell the kids that Jesus was born that he might die on the cross to save us. Alongside the Christmas story, the kids made crafts, learnt a Christmas song and played games. Roughly 20 children attended each week.

This momentum carried over into our Family Carols Service. We invited the Kids Club families to come along, as well as the

wider community, and in God's goodness, approximately 120 people attended, including many of the Kids Club families.

As well as belting out some wonderful Carols, they heard of how God's 'prediction' of a Savior, through the prophet Isaiah and the angel, was fulfilled in Jesus' birth (Matthew 1:18-25).

One of our parishioners even crafted a massive wooden 'Bible' which David used to read the

verses out to the congregation. We followed the service with a barbecue where the majority of the crowd stayed around. It was a fantastic opportunity to form relationships with so many people. One local Christian noted she couldn't remember the last time she'd seen such a significant turnout for Carols.

*David & Emma
Thompson*

THEOLOGICAL BURSARIES

A few years ago, BCA relaunched our Theological Bursary program, designed to assist students studying at Bible college who have a specific heart and focus for serving in rural, regional and remote ministry.

In 2025, we saw our largest cohort yet – 10 students from all around the country, four returning students and six new faces to the BCA Community.

2025 also saw one of our first bursary recipients – Malachi Walker – complete his studies and become BCA Field Staff, serving as a Minister in Training at Geraldton Cathedral.

Raising up workers for the harvest field is key to BCA. We want to create pathways for young people and those in Bible colleges to have the opportunity to serve Jesus in the far flung places of our nation.

We are excited that the Bursary program is continuing strong as we partner with theological students with the vision of *every person in the bush having every chance to know Jesus*.



ENGAGING WITH THE BUSH

Across 2025 we had fantastic numbers of supporter-based mission work. We are so grateful for God's provision of faithful, dedicated theological students who are ready to support our Field Staff in the bush.

Early last March, a team from Trinity Theological College in Perth travelled north to Port Hedland on the West Coast. With support from BCA, the team spent time engaging with the ministries there. Port Hedland is now officially a BCA location!

Then in April, a team from Moore Theological College in Sydney travelled down to Tasmania's Southern Beaches where BCA currently supports the Horne family. During their time there, the team immersed themselves in the local community, coming alongside existing church ministries and faithfully serving in a variety of contexts.

The team had the opportunity to listen, observe, and participate in the churches of Sorell and the Southern Beaches area, gaining valuable insights into local ministry, community life, and the unique opportunities and challenges of gospel work in this region.





BCA 4 Kids continued to grow in numbers and engagement throughout 2025.

There are currently nearly 200 children enrolled in the BCA 4 Kids program. They receive an annual magazine, regular updates in *The Real Australian* and other materials to help them engage with Jesus in bush ministry. Are your children or grandchildren signed up yet?

Another growing part of the BCA 4 Kids ministry is the support of rural children's ministry in churches across Australia. Through materials, programs and other support, children all around our nation are hearing about the Gospel of Jesus.



BCA ONTRACK, led by The Revd Tim Stevens, completed its third year in 2025, bringing the number of participants through the program to over 40 young Christian workers.

Some of these graduates have now committed to staying in the bush long term, while others have gone on to pursue vocational ministry in Australia or overseas. The cohort are fulfilling an important role, being a blessing to the town through their work and a blessing to the local church through youth groups, Bible studies, and other outreach ministries. The ONTRACK program, supported by you, encourages these young adults to live, work and serve Jesus in the bush.





BCA NOMADS



During 2025, our Nomads travelled countless kilometres across our great land.

They travelled through a great many changes, including the changing of the guard. We are very grateful for all the hard work Greg & Jocelyn Lay put into the Nomads as coordinators. With this change, we have been excited to welcome Rod & Amanda Haywood as the new Nomads Coordinators.

A highlight of 2025 for the Nomad Community was the Nomads Mudgee Gathering! This was a great opportunity for the community to connect, share, and pray together.

Nomad Val Ishri (pictured above left) had the following to say about her time with the community: *I was coming out to work at the Catacomb Church in Coober Pedy when I heard about the BCA Nomads. I didn't know about all the different things they did then but I agreed, sympathised and empathised with the beliefs and aims so I joined.*

Since then I've volunteered with the BCA Nomads in Coober Pedy, Lightning Ridge, Katherine, Darwin, Western Australia and Sydney. Coober Pedy is closest to my heart where I get to share the stories about the church with travellers from all over the world.

The best is the story of the fish because I get to share "Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour".



SUPPORTER ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, we wanted to build on the ways we have kept you connected to the work you support. Building on what we've always done, we've worked to bring you more timely and relevant updates through *The Real Australian*, Field Staff newsletters, BCA Connect events, and through print, email, and social media.

Through these, you are seeing stories from the field of lives being changed by the Gospel and the difference your support is making.

Throughout 2025, you also responded with great generosity to a number of appeals, helping strengthen and grow this work across the country.

Now, 25 years into this century, we are looking ahead with confidence to the next 25: the next 25 Field Staff, the next 25 locations, and the next 25 years of ministry across rural, regional, and remote Australia.





63%

In 2025, 1745 new people signed up to receive BCA updates, prayer points, and newsletters, a 63 per cent increase on last year.

7.7%

Throughout 2025, we saw our supporter base grow. With an increase of 7.7 per cent active donors there are now just over 7000 donors generously supporting gospel ministry in the bush.

33,700

Currently, we have around 33,700 individuals and churches in our supporter base. These include those who pray, give and support BCA. Thank you for your partnership!

19%

2025 donation income was strong, being both ahead of budget and 19 per cent better than 2024.

40%

Total income, which includes not only your donations but also bequests and investment returns, was 40 per cent higher than 2024.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2025 was a strong year for BCA with increased donation income.

Because of your growing support and generosity in 2025, more has been made possible across BCA.

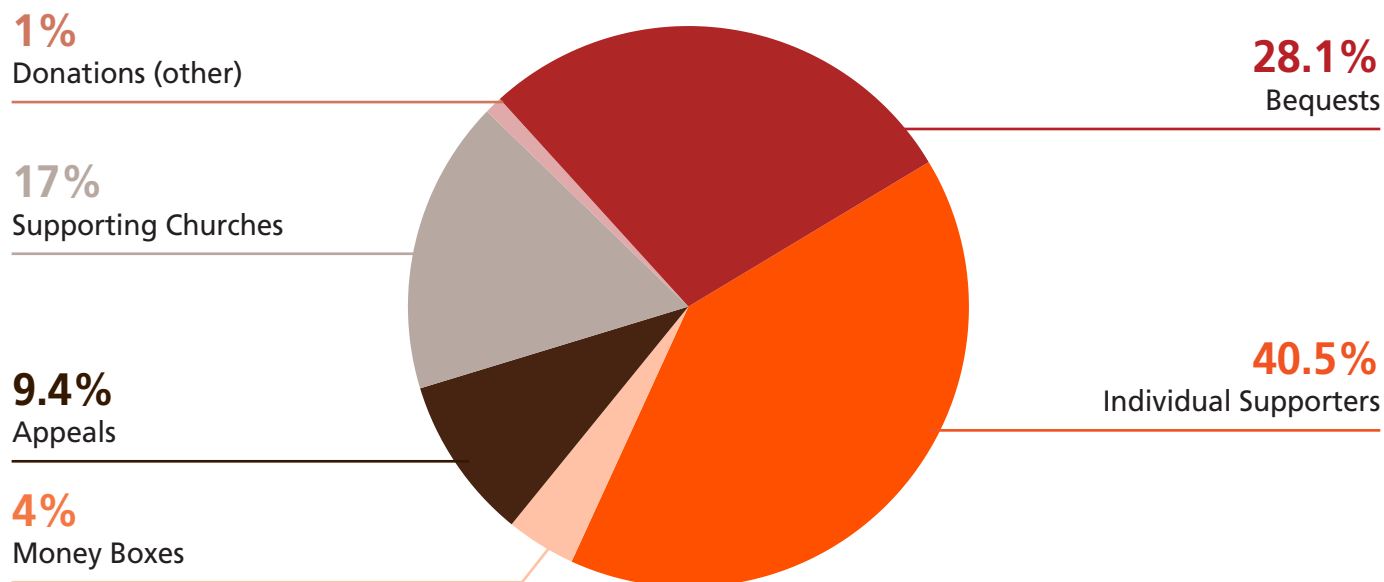
We thank God for the strong financial position BCA is in and thank you, our supporters, for your ongoing partnership. Our prayer is to continue to keep growing so that we can send more Field Staff, support more ministry and see more people reached by the Gospel.

It is important to remember that BCA receives no income from either the government or dioceses. It is individual supporters and churches who see the need and act, meaning existing ministries have not only continued but have grown, and new initiatives have commenced.

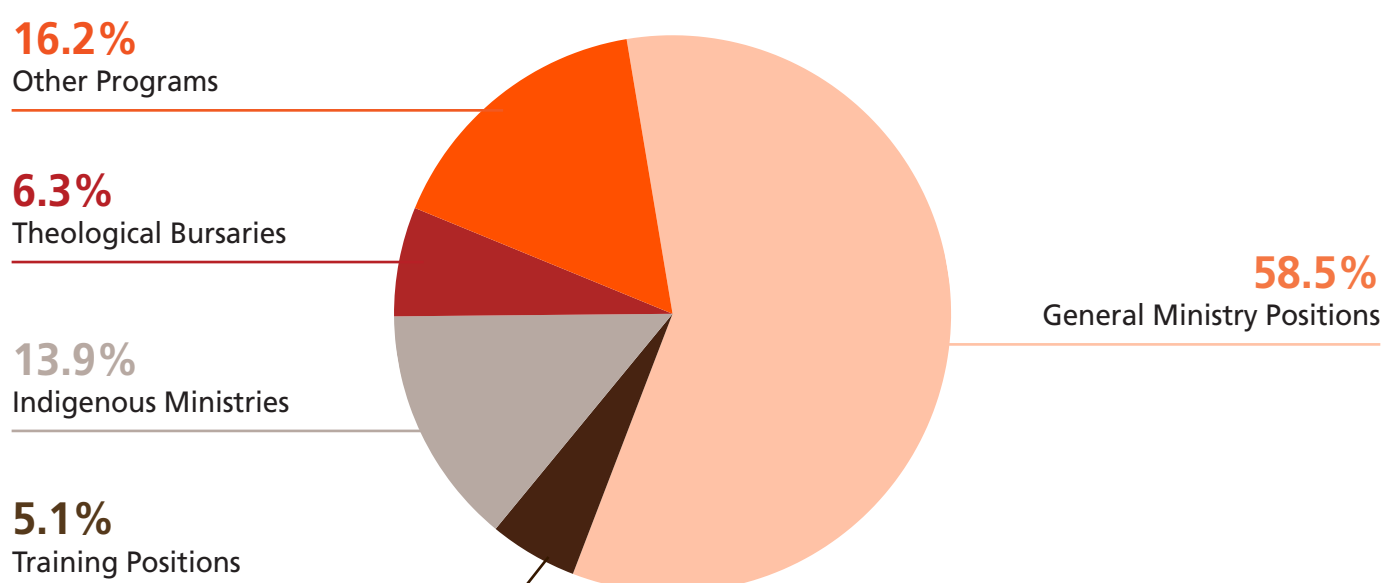
This growth is not just numbers, it represents real gospel impact, with more people across rural, regional, and remote Australia hearing about Jesus and being supported in their faith.

WHERE IT COMES FROM

(individuals and churches)



WHERE WE'RE SPENDING IT IN THE FIELD



THANK YOU!

At Bush Church Aid, we are deeply thankful for the partnership that we share with each of you.

Please continue to pray, to sow into this ministry, and to engage with our Field Staff, our work, and the mission.

Thank you for going the distance as we share Jesus in the bush. Together, we continue this work so that the lost are found, disciples are made, and the church grows.

We know that too often in the bush, services pull back and resources are lacking, but together we push forward because every person in the bush should have every chance to know Jesus.

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