

The Real Australian



Celebrating
reconciliation
in the Pilbara

6

2026 Biennial
Field Staff
Conference

8

Exciting
ministry
crossovers

13

BCA Directory

**THE REAL AUSTRALIAN IS A REGISTERED
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Front Cover: Holy Trinity
Anglican Church Roebourne.
This church is the oldest stone
building and the oldest church
in North West Australia. Taken
by Greg Harris.

Every person in the bush, Every chance to know Jesus

One of the things that sometimes happens to us as we go through life, is that we lose sight of what God is up to in our world. That can even be true of a missionary organisation like The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia. And that is why, at our recent Field Staff Conference, I took the time to take a step back and remind everyone gathered, of the part we play in God's purposes for our world.

At the very heart of all we do at BCA is the deep conviction that people living in the bush matter profoundly to God – no person is too far, no town too small, and no community is so remote as to be beyond the grace of God.

Our heart's desire is that 'every person in the bush has every chance to know Jesus'.

'Every person'. From those who are First Nations peoples, to the most recent arrivals.

'In the bush' is our way of naming our focus as rural, regional and remote Australia. From mining camps to small rural communities. From red dust to rugged coastlines. From remote towns to growing regional centres.

'Every chance' reflects our commitment to generous gospel witness.

To 'know Jesus' is not to know about Him, but rather to encounter our living Lord Jesus; to trust in Him; live for Him; grow as a disciple and gather with His people.

Of course, to have this in mind as our vision is one thing, how we work to see this deep desire come to pass is another.

BCA's desire to see everyone in the bush have every chance to know Jesus drives us to 'go the distance to share Jesus in the bush'.

We go literally – a lot of travel and lots of work in isolated communities.

And we go metaphorically. Long term faithfulness, resilience, prayerful dependence, sacrificial generosity and the willingness to persevere in gospel ministry over time are in our DNA.

Indeed, you, as our supporters, have demonstrated you share all of these traits of going the distance for over 107 years now. We are so grateful to God for you.

May our great God bless your efforts to partner us so that:

*Every person in the bush (has)
Every chance to know Jesus.*



Greg Harris
National Director

Upcoming BCA events



bcba CONNECT QUEENSLAND

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

9am –12noon

The Anglican Church of
the Good Shepherd, Cairns

SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER

9am –12noon

Ross River Anglican Church,
Townsville

Meet and hear from Cloncurry
Field Staff Simon & Angela
Owen and listen to a Bible talk
from former Field Staff
Simon Reeve (via video)

2026 BCA Victorian Spring Gatherings

GOOD NEWS FOR KATHERINE GOOD NEWS FROM KATHERINE

12 months into his ministry at
Katherine – including two historic
floods – Pat O’Keeffe will reflect on
his biggest lessons and share stories
of how God is at work in
the Territory.

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER

12pm–2pm

Spring Lunch, Holy Trinity Bendigo

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER

6pm

Young Adults Dinner, Bendigo
(address provided after registration)

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

12pm–2pm

Spring Lunch, St Mary’s Sunbury

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

7.30pm–9pm

Coffee and Dessert, St James
Ivanhoe (no charge)

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

6pm–8pm

BCA Dinner, St Paul’s Warragul

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

8:30am & 10:30am

Pat Preaching at Berwick
Anglican Church

MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER

12pm–2pm

Spring Lunch, Glen Waverley
Anglican Church

Cost \$25 (Students free)

For more information email
vic@bushchurcaid.com.au or
phone 03 9457 7556



TERRITORY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

SATURDAY

24.10.26

8.30am –

3.30pm

Nungalinya
College

Speaker: Kristan Slack
Alice Springs Anglican

TCC is an annual conference built
around excellent Bible teaching,
practical encouragement and
food. While aimed especially at
18–40 year olds, we enthusiastically
welcome people of any age who
love Jesus and are keen to think
biblically about serving God, now
and in the future.

\$40 early bird

\$50 full price



**Thank you for
helping us go
the distance
to share Jesus
in the bush**

In our recent appeal, I think many of us were blown away by God's abundant blessings, seen in drawing Ash to Himself through the ministry of Pat & Issy O'Keefe. What could be better than that? Well, believe it or not, it does get better! Ash is herself now inviting people to church so that they too might hear the lifechanging message of the Gospel of Jesus!

And this is just one of many stories of the impact that the Gospel of Jesus is having throughout rural, regional and remote Australia. All of them are only possible because of your amazing generosity.

Our end of financial year appeal raised just short of \$300,000 towards the support and care of our Field Staff in their many and various places and roles. **Thank you! We are grateful to God for you.**

The impact of your giving is very tangible. While it varies from location to location, and ministry to ministry, \$300,000 is roughly what it costs to keep three Field Staff on location for a year – or one family for three years. \$300,000 is roughly the cost of the Nungalinga Co-Teacher Program, and so on.

However, it isn't just your generosity in giving that we are grateful for. Over twenty thousand print copies of *The Real Australian* and our quarterly Prayer Notes, and many digital copies of these publications

find their way to you. And these publications, along with social media channels and other mechanisms like PrayerMate, facilitate our wonderful prayer supporters.

Thank you for your prayers!

We are so grateful to God for your ongoing prayer support, and we hope that like us, you are excited to see your prayers answered in so many amazing ways.

In the centre of every set of Prayer Notes is a map of Australia with little dots showing our present Field Staff and other ministry locations. As I look at that map, I am reminded that around seven million Australians live outside of our major cities.

Or to put it another way, there is plenty of room for more dots!

Please partner in your prayers and your financial support for those whose heart's desire is that every person in the bush has every chance to know Jesus.

Ted Brush



Celebrating reconciliation in the Pilbara

Each year BCA offers our Field Staff NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week Grants. This year Frank & Jo Nicol used their grant to celebrate the reconciliation God has brought in Christ, together with the faithful from the Pilbara Aboriginal Church.

The Parish of the West Pilbara includes the town of Roebourne which is located around 30 kilometres from Karratha.

"While the Anglican Church has a historic building in Roebourne*, our church hasn't chosen to move into town and use the building

regularly," says Frank. "Instead, on a quarterly basis we partner with the Pilbara Aboriginal Church and our church family travels to Roebourne to fellowship together."

The historic building, which was refurbished when former Field Staff Rich & Tracy Goscombe served in Wickham and Roebourne, is often used to gather, but the Pilbara Aboriginal Church building is better set up for post church gatherings.

"The BCA Reconciliation Grant allowed us to continue celebrating our unity in Christ over a meal, which was such a treat," says Frank. "We were able to purchase barbecue supplies and have a really good feed. The faithful in Roebourne love lamb chops, so that's what we had. The extended time of fellowship allowed us to continue deepening





FAR LEFT:
Holy Trinity
Anglican Church

TOP RIGHT:
Cooking up a feast

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Frank with one
of the faithful
in Roebourne

relationships with our First Nations Brothers and Sisters in Christ."

"In Karratha, we don't get to spend much time with our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters, so it is really great to go out to Roebourne for those services. As relationships deepen, not only are we mutually encouraged by each other, but further ministry opportunities flow."

In a few weeks' time there is a funeral coming up for the Roebourne community. While the Aboriginal minister generally does the bulk of the funerals, this time the funeral being conducted is for a member of the minister's family, so Frank's been asked to come and run the service.

Frank is also the official Roebourne Prison Chaplain, and he partners with the Pilbara Aboriginal Church to share the Gospel with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people serving time there. "We are blessed to be able to minister alongside the family of people who make up the Pilbara Aboriginal Church and are thankful



that they are willing to share their time with us. They have so much to offer us and we are thankful for the wisdom they share with us as we minister in this area," says Frank.

"We're going to be back in Roebourne towards the end of August to once again worship together and have a time of fellowship. It not only gives the minister some respite, but fosters closer ties."

Janine van den Tillaart

*Holy Trinity Anglican Church is the oldest stone building and the oldest church in North West Australia.



2026 Biennial Field Staff Conference

175 people including Field Staff and their children, Regional Officers, office staff, BCA Nomads and children's ministry volunteers converged on the Sunshine Coast in early July for the 2026 Biennial Field Staff Conference.





They were built up in the Word with a series of talks from Mike Raiter, encouraged in their ministry through a number of workshops, and enjoyed a good amount of free time for rest and refreshment. Evening fun included a trivia night (winners are pictured middle left), an NRL State of Origin viewing party, plus a bush dance.

This was the sixth Field Staff Conference for Frank & Jo Nicol who said, "Getting together and being encouraged helps to spur us on to keep serving Jesus in the more remote areas of Australia. We're super thankful for BCA." It was the first conference for Mike & Emma Welham who said, "we absolutely loved it. It was a fantastic week of meeting people, connecting and hearing stories of staff from all over Australia. A real highlight was sitting together under the Word of God. Do pray for us. Pray for the work of BCA; that every person in the bush would have every chance to know Jesus."

* Find out more about what the children got up to in the BCA 4 Kids section on page 16.





Lives are being changed!

Lives are being changed on Norfolk Island through the Good News of Jesus! There is much to report with exciting opportunities to testify of God's goodness to His people here, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A real highlight for us has been the mini revival in UNIT Youth (you may have seen the article in Sydney's Southern Cross Magazine).

In 2023, the group dynamics of UNIT Youth began to change, and it became a place where young people became actively involved with the Good News of Jesus in new and unique ways. The group began to grow, albeit slowly, while it continued to be a place that was unashamedly Christian. We saw Jesus changing lives.

Last year we had 14 to 16 kids on average, but this year we've got around 40 kids coming each week! We're so thankful for what God is doing. These kids are mostly from unchurched families and it's a great opportunity to speak the truth of Jesus into this environment.

Our Kids Club held on a Wednesday

is also thriving, but these two groups are being run without a Kids and Youth Minister. Of the five years we've been on Norfolk Island the position has been vacant for four. We are praying that God has prepared the heart of someone to come and take on this role. Currently I'm spending around seven hours a week on programming, prep and being at the programs.

We are also praying for volunteers to come and help, because with growth comes the need for leaders to ensure we make the requirements for adult to children ratios.

EASTER ON NORFOLK

We start each Easter with a production called *Women at the Cross* on Maundy Thursday. This production was written by some friends from Newtown and Erskineville Anglican Church who



FAR LEFT:
UNIT Youth

TOP RIGHT:
Women at
the Cross

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Sunrise service on
Easter Sunday

gave us the opportunity to use it on the Island. It tells the story of Jesus' journey to the cross through the eyes of women who witnessed His life and ministry. It's an outreach opportunity for people to come and hear the story of Jesus' death and resurrection from a fresh perspective. All the monologues are biblically-based and thoroughly researched within the Bible. This year we had around 80 people come from the church and the community.

On Good Friday we held a combined churches event at All Saints in Kingston. The Church of England joins together with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Fijian National Church (All Nations), the Uniting Church, the House of Worship (Pentecostal), and the Catholic Church. It was such a blessing to see all the churches come together in fellowship to celebrate the common faith we share in Jesus Christ. There was a real unity in the fellowship of the Spirit.

Throughout the Easter weekend

we looked at the curtain from the tabernacle and the curtain from the temple, and how the tearing of it in two opened up the way to access God through Jesus' death and resurrection.

On Easter Sunday we celebrated new life in Christ at a Combined Churches Dawn Service. We got up to the top of Mount Pitt at 4.45 am and watched the sunrise. It was a blessing to start Easter Day in this way.

We also held our regular Church of England Sunday Service following the theme of the curtain ripped in two. It was great to finish the story.

We're very thankful for the opportunities we had to speak the truth of Jesus into the lives of Christians (regular and visiting), but also community members who don't normally come to church. Pray that God would be at work in the hearts of those who attended and that we can have gospel conversations moving forward.

Laurie Carleton

Going the distance in Central Queensland

Gladstone Field Staff Zoë Browne went above and beyond recently, exemplifying our mission to go the distance to share Jesus in the bush. Together with a lay leader from Gladstone, she did a 1700-kilometre road trip in just over three days to conduct services in the Parish of Central Queensland that are currently without a minister.

"Bishop Peter does 'western tours' and he's been encouraging clergy to travel and preach across a weekend when they're able," explains Zoë. "Yvonne, one of our lay leaders and I, left on a Friday morning and across three days conducted services in Aramac, Longreach, Barcaldine and Jericho."

This flying trip was a great encouragement to Zoë for a number of reasons, and it wasn't for the huge numbers of people who turned up at church.

"We had five people in Jericho, and we didn't even have power at the church," she says. "I think the biggest service was with about 10 people. We had about 40 of us across the four services."

What was most encouraging to Zoë was the faithfulness of the people and the privilege of serving them. People who've been in these churches for 30, 40, 50, 60 or 70 years, and no matter who's there, they turn up.

"There's also just something about country hospitality," says Zoë. "The care and generosity of the people,

their hospitality and the fact that they're thankful for people coming to visit. But I feel like it's more of an encouragement and a blessing to me, because I learn so much from very faithful people who toil through the ups and downs of the seasons in a way that we don't understand when we're closer to the coast."

Another bonus from the road trip was the time Zoë spent with Yvonne, who has been part of the Gladstone community for close to 40 years. "It was wonderful to hear more of her journey, pray with her and talk with her about our church community and the spread of the Gospel in Gladstone."

Please pray for the communities of Aramac, Longreach, Barcaldine and Jericho. May they be encouraged and equipped to disciple other people and share the Good News. "Please also pray for people to go and serve; whether that's Field Staff or Christians who are doctors, teachers or police, who might be willing to go and be part of those communities and encourage them," says Zoë.

Janine van den Tillaart



Exciting ministry crossovers bring great encouragement

Meeting for the first time at the BCA Field Staff Conference last month, David Browne and Simon Owen soon discovered two ministry crossovers which illustrate how God works through His people across distances and over years.

About five years ago, David officiated a wedding in Chinchilla where the bride was moving to a cattle station near Julia Creek where the groom was living. "It was wonderful to disciple them, pray for them and encourage them to connect with a church once they moved," says David. "I sent an email to Simon, introducing him to the bride and letting him know that they were coming his way."

"I was excited to get David's email," says Simon. "And I had the opportunity to reach out to this couple once they settled in. They have come along to church services when they have been able which is encouraging because it is a two-hour trip for them."

Mum and kids also attended *mainly music* over the years and there were other opportunities to connect at Cloncurry events. Last year they asked Simon if he would conduct baptisms for their two children on their property.

"They gathered their family and friends, and we did a bush baptism," says Simon. "It was a wonderful afternoon which also provided the opportunity to share the Good News of the Gospel with everyone present."

The second crossover that David and Simon found was somewhat unexpected. David took a wedding for another couple who wanted to be married at Jimbour House in Dalby but lived on a station in Camooweal around two hours northwest of Mt Isa. David encouraged them to link in with a church near them.

"I mentioned this couple to Simon, and we twigged that they had been in touch with him," says David.

This couple were having a problem finding someone to baptise their baby because there is no permanent Anglican minister in Mount Isa.

"We were the next closest – four hours away!" says Simon. "So just after Easter this year we travelled to their property to do a remote bush baptism."

When baptisms like these happen in the middle of nowhere from contacts shared over thousands of kilometres it certainly exemplifies going the distance to share Jesus in the bush.

"Meeting Simon was a wonderful reminder that we're part of the Bush Church Aid Society, the priesthood of all believers, and we all have a role to play," says David.

Janine van den Tillaart



A life of faith shaped by **BCA Missioners**

BCA Nomads Guy &
Sue Freeman met Sue
McCredden (centre)

A BCA couple serving at Cook sixty years ago were instrumental in shaping a life of faith in a woman that Sue and I met at church in Manjimup, WA in June this year.

Sue McCredden was a five-year-old girl when she lived at Cook, a remote locality on the Trans-Australian Railway in remote South Australia. There she met a BCA couple.

Sue remembers attending a screening of *Pilgrim's Progress* and decided she didn't need to carry such a heavy load on her back and that she could follow Jesus and be free.

"I was obviously a very serious five-year-old; I can remember the feeling of giving it all to Him," Sue says.

The BCA couple from Cook also had an amazing ministry of following up.

"Every year, on the anniversary of when I became a Christian, I received a letter from them," Sue says. "This continued until my early twenties."

Sue, with her husband John went on to faithfully serve the Lord in various places in Western Australia.

We met Sue at the Warren Valley Community Church, a Foursquare

Gospel Church, in Manjimup, where she's lived for the past 35 years. For a time, she had the privilege of pastoring that church.

Sue became a widow several years ago when John died in a car crash in which a kangaroo came through the windscreen.

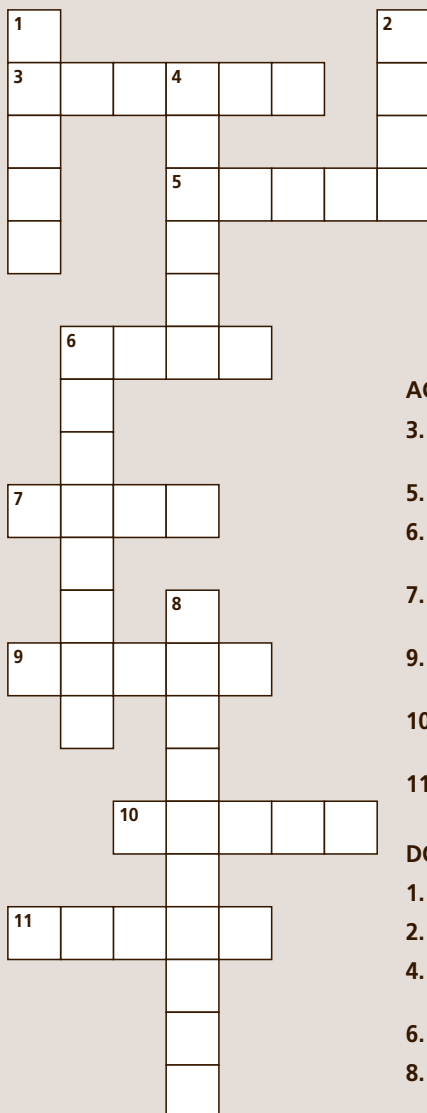
Tragedy has not dented her ardour for the Lord who, Sue declares, is good ... all the time. Sue continues to serve in various ways in the community and with the church at Manjimup.

Meeting Sue and hearing her story was such a blessing and encouragement for us as we travel about as BCA Nomads.

Thank you Lord, for leading us to that church to meet Sue, who is a wonderful testimony to the ministry of faithful people who have gone the distance to share Jesus in the bush.

Guy Freeman

PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

3. Went to Heaven in chariots of fire
5. Abraham's wife
6. Jesus' closest friends: Peter, James, and _____
7. Was blinded by a light for three days
9. Tricked his father with goat hair
10. The promised son of Abraham
11. Killed a giant with a stone

DOWN

1. Walked on water with Jesus
2. Married Boaz
4. His brothers put him in a well
6. King Saul's son
8. Third person in the Trinity



The most wonderful week!

At BCA 4 Kids we just had the most wonderful week in the lovely Alexandra Headland on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland. As our Field Staff gathered for a week of learning and encouragement, the kids got to have some of their own special time learning from the Bible, growing in their faith and developing friendships across the deep partnerships of BCA Field Staff. Friends from one end of the country to the other.

For many, one of the greatest highlights is witnessing kids reconnect with friends they have bonded with over years of being involved in the Conference, and a real joy to see them welcoming new friends into the fold.

We were blessed with a great team of leaders who invested in the kids, leading singing, coordinating fun games, crafts and activities. We studied alongside the parents from Matthew 13 and considered what Jesus was saying through His Word about who He is and who we are.

We began the day outside, with the Queensland weather being very kind to us, exploring some of the fun outdoor activities the conference centre had to offer. Rock climbing, archery, ropes courses and a sugar glider, which for those wondering, is

kind of like a flying fox, though you go up rather than across.

Our days ended with dinner in a gloriously loud dining hall filled with stories of the day, told over meals with friends that feel like family. After dinner we headed into some fun family time, competing with one another over trivia, the final State of Origin game and raucously laughed the night away to some good old country and western bush dancing.

It is always an immense joy to spend time together growing in deep gospel partnerships. May this week of encouragement bless our kids for the road ahead, and may friendships across the distance continue to grow stronger.

Can't wait for 2028!

Rachel Dirks







HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

SEPTEMBER

Jett A	Luke M
Ezra C	Grace-Ella N
Alaska C	Daisy O
Charlie C	Thomas P
Jack F	Clara S
Oscar F	Jesse S
Evelyn G	Noah SB
Elise H	Paige T
Lillian J	Isaac T
Aria KS	Arthur W
Maggie L	Georgie W

OCTOBER

John BT	Banjo L
Ethan B	George O
Caitlin B	Grace O
Jessica F	Tabitha S
Georgie H	Laura S
Abigail K	Boaz S
Aaron L	Toby W

NOVEMBER

Joel A	Harry K
Harper A	Amity McG
Lily A	Hunter McG
Amos C	Jimmy M
Kailey D	Josiah O
Fred F	Ellie R
Frankie F	Eva R
Elki J	Knox S



I WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF



If you are in pre-school or primary school and would like to join BCA 4 Kids, ask your parents to fill out the form below and return to:

BCA 4 KIDS
GPO Box 5389
Sydney NSW 2001

OR

Email your info to:
BCA4Kids@bushchurchaid.com.au

Every member receives a welcome letter,
 a welcome certificate, a drink bottle and
 a copy of our BCA 4 Kids magazine!



Name _____

Parent/Caregiver _____

Age _____ Birthday _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Boy or Girl _____

What church do you go to? _____



BCA MONEY BOXES

Kids give great support to BCA, and every dollar you put in the box is a dollar which goes to help tell people about Jesus. Thanks to our wonderful young supporters!



Around the country



HAMERSLEY GORGE, WA:

The three Pilbara-based BCA ministers caught up with the Bishop of North West Australia at their Archdeaconry meeting.



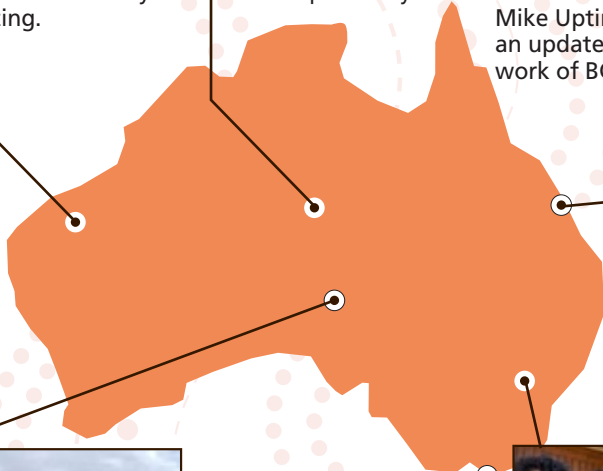
ALICE SPRINGS, NT:

The SU Outback Youth Camp took place for the second year. Ben from Connect NT shared from God's Word and is pictured with Topher Hallyburton.



ROCKHAMPTON, QLD:

A good crowd attended BCA Connect in June where the Pipers talked about their ministry in Emerald and Blackwater and Mike Uptin provided an update on the work of BCA.



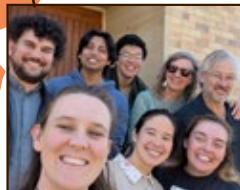
COOBER PEDY, SA:

Dave Wood had the opportunity to address this year's ANZAC Day service.



INVERLOCH, VIC:

Adrian met up with locum Drew Mellor while on deputation. Drew previously served BCA as a nurse locum, and his parents ran a BCA Hostel.



COWRA, NSW:

A team from St Michael's Wollongong travelled to Cowra to help run the Anglican Church's first ever stall at the Festival of International Understanding.



A significant God moment

Those times when the Lord puts the right person in your path are sometimes described as 'God moments'.

In 1976 my dad, John Cronshaw, was sitting in Leura's little St Alban's Church in the NSW Blue Mountains, unaware that his life was about to change. The guest speaker that day was The Revd Reg Langshaw who, using images on an overhead projector, was attempting to 'fly' the audience to BCA locations in the bush.

The Revd Langshaw spoke passionately of the dedicated Field Staff who were bringing God's Word to the outback. Dad, who had never heard of BCA, went home inspired and keen to help promote this important ministry. As it happened, my parents had set up a small family bus company just two years earlier and Dad had the idea of creating an itinerary taking BCA supporters to meet the Field Staff they had been praying for. He hesitated, not wanting to be seen as one of the 'money changers in the Temple', and so after much prayer, he approached

BCA. In 1977 the BCA Outback Adventure was born!

Next year it will be 50 years since those first passengers got to experience a truly unique holiday; one where they were journeying with purpose, visiting amazing outback locations whilst also connecting with people doing God's work in these remote areas. Dad wrote, organised and drove that inaugural tour that visited Field Staff in Broken Hill, the Flinders Ranges, Leigh Creek, Adelaide and Mildura. The tour proved so popular it was repeated that very same year! These BCA outback tours became an integral part of my childhood.

In 1979 we did our first Central Australia trip and stopped off in Coober Pedy, South Australia's most famous outback town. I found the 'Opal Capital of the World' a surreal and exciting place to stay with its underground labyrinth of houses, hotels, shops, and the



FAR LEFT:
2024 Salt and
Light Tour

TOP RIGHT:
1979 BCA
Centenary Tour

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Opening of the
Catacomb Church

recently opened Catacomb Church. BCA's Kerry & Julie Medway were so welcoming, and I had fun playing with their kids and was amazed, and more than a little envious, of their 'dugout' house, with holes that went up through the cave roof to the outside world – it was like something out of Star Wars!

In 2027 the Catacomb Church turns 50 and, since our company will also mark 50 years of working in partnership with BCA, we thought it was time to celebrate with a one-off Golden Anniversary BCA Tour!

Together we have created a very special eight-day holiday departing 9 June 2027; staying three nights in Coober Pedy, sharing fellowship and a special Sunday service in the Catacomb Church and enjoying a Celebration Dinner. This Outback Adventure offers unique experiences and varied scenery – from the greenery and Christian heritage of the Barossa Valley to the salt pans and mesas of Outback SA, from the colourful Breakaways National Park to the Pichi Richi Park in the

Flinders Ranges. Visits will include the Old Union Chapel in Angaston, Woomera's National Aerospace and Missile Park, the Steamtown Heritage Rail Centre, touring an Opal mine and, as a final hurrah, riding on the iconic Coffee Pot Train through the Pichi Richi Pass. Not only is this the only locomotive of its type operating anywhere in the world, it also only runs publicly four times a year.

Since this is the outback, we need to finalise numbers by the end of September 2026 so **Book Now** in order not to miss out (limited availability) call 1300 635 358.

I am sincerely grateful to BCA for partnering with us over these many years; it's been both inspiring and a unique privilege to be able to connect so many people with BCA Field Staff across Australia. It certainly was a 'God moment' for my family when He brought The Revd Langshaw to Leura 50 years ago.

Jason Cronshaw
CFT Managing Director

Celebrating 50 years of the UMOONA COMMUNITY



Three local Umoona leaders – Deano Williams, George Cooley and Ian Crombie



George Cooley with Arnold McCormack

Hundreds of local First Nations People, dignitaries and the Deputy Premier of South Australia Kyam Maher gathered together to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Umoona Community in Coober Pedy as part of NAIDOC Week in early July.

With Dave & Margie Wood away at the BCA Field Staff Conference, we were honoured to be invited to represent them. Dave & Margie have done lots to encourage and work with the Umoona Community.

It was an inspirational, God-honouring day with a local minister starting with a wonderful introductory prayer. The only surviving member of the original founding board, George Cooley, started his address by reading 2 Chronicles 7:14 and spoke of Jesus often through his address.

It was so good to see the Catacomb Church lectern, which is made of mulga wood, borrowed for this special occasion.

After the official part of the ceremony there was traditional dancing and a big lunch.

It was so thrilling to see Arnold & Deidre McCormack and their



Dinner at the Outback Roadhouse with Julie & Kerry Medway, Andrea, Arnold & Deidre McCormack, and Catacomb Church stalwarts Brian & Judy Underwood

daughter Andrea, who were flown up from Adelaide for the occasion. Arnold was the first Umoona CEO 50 years ago. Arnold & Deidre were also stalwarts of the Catacomb Church and had a lot to do with the digging of the Church and later the Rectory.

We were so thrilled to be part of the occasion.

Kerry & Julie Medway

Going the distance for BCA



Mount Sonder (elevation 1380 metres) marks the western end of the Larapinta Trail in the West Macdonnell Ranges, Central Australia.

Although I had completed well over half of the Larapinta Trail in 2019, I was denied the opportunity to climb Mount Sonder because of heavy September rain. On that occasion, the Anglican congregation of Arawang (Canberra) and others in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn sponsored my hike, raising over \$1000 to support the ministry of BCA.

Intent on tackling other sections of the Larapinta Trail and reaching the summit of Mount Sonder before turning 80, I again sought sponsorship from the Anglican congregation of Arawang and from others in the Diocese.

BCA's ministry was highlighted with BCA's logo displayed on my backpack for the week-long hike. Those pledging support were particularly keen to see BCA's ministry among Australia's First Nations People flourish. The result was a contribution of over \$8000 towards the ministry of BCA.

Fellow walkers on this hike were all followers of Jesus Christ. Many joined me before the hike at Alice Springs Anglican Church, meeting the team there including BCA's Topher & Chica Hallyburton.

Going the distance was challenging, particularly the four-hour pre-dawn climb of Mount Sonder. Five of the ten walkers completed the ascent and gathered with others at the summit for sunrise and the breathtaking views, as light caught the surrounding mountains.

The next day's visit to Memory Mountain with its high steel cross, erected to symbolise the spread of forgiveness from the Centre to all parts of Australia, was a fitting conclusion to my visit to remote parts of this wide brown land.

The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in Him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand.

Psalms 37: 23–24

Peter Rose



A night of thankfulness and expectation

BCA Victoria's 2026 Annual Dinner was characterised by thankfulness and expectation as we looked forward to what God would continue to do through the Society.

Over 100 supporters attended the gathering, which was generously hosted by Glen Waverley Anglican Church on Saturday 2 May. Featured speaker, Bishop Rod Chiswell, from the Anglican Diocese of Armidale, spoke of BCA's long-term partnership with the Diocese, notably at Lightning Ridge, Walgett & Collarenebri, and with the Coledale Frontyard Church in Tamworth.

Rod also reported on the recent mission in Lightning Ridge and Walgett, which among many well-attended events included a Youth Night with 60 young people. He also spoke of the Diocese's commitment to training ministers, with the goal of sending 50 per cent of those trained to other Dioceses or overseas. Samuel & Grace Ogg are currently training in Lightning Ridge, supported by BCA.

Greg Harris also updated the gathering on BCA's recent initiatives,

including its significant commitment to Nungalinga College, where BCA is supporting Emily Quinn and Annette Anderson on staff, the Indigenous Chaplaincy program, and the Indigenous Co-teacher program.

I also presented the 2025 Annual Report, giving great thanks to God for the service of Field Staff, the prayerfulness of supporters and the significant financial giving, which was well above budget. However, I also noted the deep longing for more Field Staff in Victoria, including a replacement for Jude Benton in Mallacoota, and a minister for the Central Mallee parish, based at Ouyen, which has been vacant for more than a year.

Copies of the Annual Report are available from the Victorian Office and can also be found online at bushchurchaid.com.au/vic

Adrian Lane

Post & Rails

CONGRATULATIONS



Scott Thomson was ordained in Diocese of Bunbury on 27 June. He's pictured with Greg Harris & Eilidh. Mike Welham and Malachi Walker also travelled to be there.



Matt & Annika Winter together with Lucy, Eleanor and Sophie welcomed **Oliver George** on 8 June. Please pray for them as they adjust to being a family of six.

VALE



The Revd Ian Forsyth (24 July 1938 – 1 July 2026) served with BCA in Port Hedland from 1996 to 1999. During retirement he also served as a locum in Lightning Ridge for an extended period. Before going out with BCA, Ian served as a Children's Court Magistrate in NSW (1984–1985). Until recently he had been doing some work as a minister at South Wagga Anglican

Church. Together with his wife Margaret, Ian continued to be a committed supporter of the work of BCA. Ian is survived by Margaret and their children David, Karen and their families.

Touring with CFT



Connect with like-minded people and meet BCA Field Staff on a CFT Australian holiday full of fun, faith & fellowship.

Flinders Ranges & Arkaroola 11 days – departs 23 October 2026

Norfolk Island (Foundation Day Celebrations) – 9 days – departs 2 March 2027

Coober Pedy – Golden Anniversary – 8 days – departs 9 June 2027

Book online at christianfellowshiptours.com or call 1300 635 358



From the Archives

Bert Broadley – from Dreadnought Boy to BCA Missioner

Bert Broadley was one of hundreds of British teenagers who voluntarily migrated to Australia between 1911 and 1939, under the Dreadnought Scheme. These teenagers had some farm training before moving to work on rural properties.

Bert left home at a young age after an incident with his father who had frequent alcohol fuelled rages. He found lodgings around London, but, for 10/- per week, soon ran out of options. When the need of accommodation was urgent, Bert was allowed to lodge at a club, on the condition of helping in it. While there, Bert came to a strong and clear Christian faith and thought about becoming a minister but had no idea how he could afford it. When a club visitor, just home from Australia, was discussing Bert's plans he said, "Why not go to Australia?". Once told about the Dreadnought Scheme, Bert arranged to go.

Bert and a group of boys were taken to Scheyville Training Farm and after ten weeks, he accepted a position near Tabulam on the Clarence River. Eighty milking cows were mustered and milked twice a day. Other farm jobs included cutting saccharin for cow feed, castrating piglets, pig feeding and cleaning sties.

Bert then worked at different farms in Griffith and taught Anglican Sunday School at nearby Hanwood.

It soon became clear that it was time to do something about his desire to become a minister. Bert arranged to leave his job and go to Sydney. The local rector in Berala gave him a full-time catechist's job. He returned to his studies at Sydney University where he passed first year Arts. During this time, he was living at Moore Theological College and working as full-time catechist. On 21 December 1933 Bert was ordained as priest and, in January 1934, while curate at St Paul's Castle Hill, was married to Thelma Cunningham.

Early in 1935 he was appointed to St Philip's Church Hill in the city. However, his rector died in July and Bert faced another move. After discussions with the Bush Church Aid Society, Bert left St Philip's and together with Thelma went across to South Australia in October 1935, to take up the vacant Ceduna Mission. The next four and a half years were spent in ministry to the farming communities scattered around the mission area (Bert understood rural life from his experience as a Dreadnought Boy). He also



LEFT:
Bert Broadley
on the field

ministered to BCA staff manning the hospitals and operating its Flying Medical Service. He returned to Sydney for twenty-two months at St Mary's parish in Western Sydney, before he was asked back to Ceduna.



This time, there was extra work. The Penong area, visits to the big sheep stations and the Trans-Australian Railway, were included in the 'Parish'. This meant that every three months a long trip was taken, over the tracks or barely formed roads across the Nullarbor. It included going out to homesteads, then up to Cook on the Trans-Australian Railway calling at sidings and camps along the line, holding services wherever possible. After following the line all the way to Zanthus in Western Australia, the trip went back via other homesteads, then to Fowlers Bay, Penong and home to Ceduna. The trip of over 2300 kms took three to four weeks.

In July 1946, after another four and a half years, it was back to NSW with Thelma and three children, and the start of 27 years of parish ministry in Sydney. Bert maintained his link with BCA serving for about 25 years on the BCA Council. He died on 23 November 1976, in his 70th year.

This was adapted from the Australian Dreadnought Boys blog. You can read Bert's whole story at: <https://thedreadnoughtboys.blogspot.com/2020/07/bert-broadley.html>

You can find other stories about Bert in The Real Australian Archive bushchurchaid.com.au/archive (March 1940 and June 1977).

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Orders must be received by Friday 4 December 2026

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BCA 315	Christmas Cake: 700g		\$47	
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