

The Connells in Cowra

with Ben & Alissa Connelly • June 2025



In May, St John's launched a new musical playgroup, which is currently the only musical-based playgroup in Cowra. Within two weeks we had made contact with five families not currently connected with a church, as well as families regularly or semi-regularly connected with our church or other churches in town.

The group is meeting every fortnight in the St John's Church hall, with music and dancing, musical instruments, a parachute, morning tea, free playtime and stories for kids under six and their carers. We were so pleased to see growth in the playgroup between the first two meetings.

It's great to see how God is already growing this group and using it to break down barriers with younger people in town. We have already received feedback on how fun the playgroup is, and how much children enjoyed it.

Praise God that through Christian songs and books, we can share with these little people and their guardians how much God loves them and wants to know them.

We also pray that through relationships with families at the playgroup, we can share our faith and encourage families to come and try church on a Sunday.

A big thank you to BCA supporters, Bathurst Presbyterian, and our partner church, St Alban's Lindfield (in particular, David & Trudy Robinson), for helping us to source items to start this musical playgroup.

The St John's congregation was also able to donate a large amount of pre-loved toys, so that we had very few purchases required to get the playgroup

going. We have been greatly encouraged seeing how willing people are to support this new ministry, both in our congregation and outside of it.

Praise God for the encouraging start to the new Playgroup.

Pray that God allows gospel conversations at Playgroup that lead to growth in His Kingdom.



BCA Nomads Gathering

In mid-March, our family felt privileged to join the BCA Nomads' Gathering in person in Mudgee. We all enjoyed staying at the caravan park with the Nomads and joining in with the all-in barbecue and other parts of the program.

Josiah and Vivienne also found time to scout out a local playground (see above).

Banner Image: Cowra

Circle Image: The Connelly family

Middle Image: Playgroup

Bottom Image: Autumn in Cowra



St John's Cowra

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On the Friday night (15 March), we were interviewed live by Greg Harris about our ministry in Cowra, and three other Field Staff couples were interviewed via Zoom across the nation.

It was wonderful to meet so many BCA Nomads in person and encourage them in their work. We hope and pray that we were also an encouragement to them by our presence!

Praise God for all the support we receive from BCA supporters, BCA Nomads, partner churches and individuals in our partner churches. We praise God for the prayers of many for Cowra to be won for Christ!

SRE

In March, SRE, (Scripture) also resumed for the year. SRE is taught

in both of the public schools in Cowra, for all year groups.

This year, Alissa commenced teaching school Scripture at one of the public schools in Cowra. Alissa teaches Years 3 and 4, and whilst she has found it somewhat

Please pray for wisdom in preparing the material for Scripture, and that we would both be able to demonstrate and model God's love to these children as we teach them



Learning a memory verse in church

challenging to take on 25 students in a classroom setting, she has also enjoyed the opportunity to teach so many kids, who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to hear about the Bible and about the God who created them and loves them.

Ben continues to teach Years 5 and 6 at both public schools, and he loves that he sees his students outside the classroom, as well as building relationships with the teachers and principals at the schools through SRE teaching.

Praise God for the opportunity to teach SRE and a good start to teaching for Alissa.

Please pray for wisdom in preparing the material for scripture, and that we would both be able to demonstrate and model God's love to these children as we teach them. Pray for our relationships to deepen with school staff. And pray that God



Family walks

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would work in the hearts of these children, through His Holy Spirit, to come to a saving knowledge of his son, Jesus Christ.

HOPE25

Praise God that the HOPE25 series has been very well received by the whole Parish.

This is a series that is being done across multiple Anglican dioceses in Australia between Easter and Pentecost, based on the theme 'Hope for...'

We praise God for the opportunities that congregation members have had to share more openly about their sufferings because of this series, and that we have had the opportunity to get to know them better.

We are also grateful to God for visitors during Easter returning throughout our HOPE25 series. Please pray that these new people to come along as we start our next series which is a Biblical Overview in six weeks.

Praise God for returning visitors at St John's, please pray that God would work in their hearts, through His Spirit by His Word.

Pray that God will continue to grow the Cowra parish in their

desire to serve His church.

Pray that God will raise up a bookkeeper to help the church adjust to the new accounting software that we are using.

Family

In mid-March, Ben graduated with a Masters of Theology from Moore Theological College.

Although we weren't all able to attend, Alissa and the kids were able to watch the ceremony from our living room in Cowra, through livestream.

Praise God for helping Ben complete his Masters, whilst working full time and parenting our children.

And praise God for all the things that Ben has learned and can apply as he ministers to the people of Cowra and the surrounding areas.



Ben's Masters graduation photo

Blessings in Christ,

Ben, Alissa, Josiah, Vivienne & Ezekiel

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