

The Connellys in Cowra

with Ben & Alissa Connelly • December 2025



There has been much to praise God for over the last few months: newcomers at church; the opportunity for Alissa and two members of the congregation to attend the Diocesan Women's Conference; the St John's Book Fair; and a successful end to the year for our playgroup.

Newcomers' Lunch

On Sunday 30 November we held our first ever newcomers' lunch at the Rectory, as there have been so many people that have started at St John's in the last couple of months! We felt that we needed to have a larger event to ensure that we could meet with all these people over a meal and get to know them. We had six attendees from four different households, and a lovely time was had by all.

Praise God for the growth that He is bringing to the St John's congregation, and that it is not just transfer growth, there are also new Christians and seekers, as well as lapsed Christians who are returning.

Please pray that God also brings growth in maturity, not just to these newcomers, but also to the wider St John's congregation, as the Word of God is taught.

Please continue to pray for wisdom for Ben as he sets the agenda for teaching, and that he preaches faithfully and clearly.

Diocesan Women's Conference

The Bathurst Diocese ran its second ever Women's Conference on Saturday 25 October. The

conference was held at the Bathurst Cathedral, and women from all over the Diocese attended. This year a bus was hired to provide transport for people travelling all the way from Dubbo! We had a great time of fellowship and teaching from the book of John and it was a lovely encouragement for all. Mrs Bryant and Mrs Jansen from our congregation attended the conference with Alissa and only had positive things to say about the day. We are looking to convince more people to join us at the conference next year!

Give thanks for an encouraging time at the Diocesan Women's Conference.

St John's Book Fair

In early November the St John's second-hand book fair was held. This has been a regular occurrence at St John's for many years, where a significant amount of money is raised towards the church's budget. A street stall held twice a year also allows some fundraising for the church.

This was the first book fair since a second-hand bookshop opened in Cowra (the first bookshop we've ever had in Cowra), so the number of people attending was a bit lower than normal, but over

Banner Image: Cowra

Circle Image: The Connelly family

Middle Image: Mrs Bryant, Alissa and Mrs Jansen at the Women's conference

Bottom Image: Our new church sign advertising our book fair



A Cowra sunset from the lookout

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\$2000 was raised in only three days of selling books.

Give thanks for the funds raised for our church even though the amount was a little lower than in previous years.

Musical Playgroup Wrap-Up

We have now wrapped up the year for our musical playgroup. Our final playgroup & Christmas party was held on Thursday 27 November. This term we had the theme of Transport. This led into the Christmas story and Mary and Joseph walking (and using a donkey), to get all the way to Bethlehem to be counted for the census. Our Christmas party was an opportunity to sing Christmas Carols, share the story of the first Christmas and give out individually wrapped Christmas stories to all our playgroup attendees. The team are so pleased and thankful to God that the playgroup has started so well, with an average of 12 children each time we meet.

Please pray that more families would join our playgroup in 2026, particularly new families that we have not yet connected with.

Praise God for the many regular attendees of musical playgroup, and the opportunity we have to tell so many little ones how much God loves them! Please pray that irregular attendees would come more often.

Please pray that many come to this event, and are touched by the real message of Christmas, perhaps even for the first time

Upcoming: Combined Christmas Carols and Christmas services

As we head into the Christmas season and summer holidays, there are some events we'd like you to pray for. This year, as per the last two years that we have been in Cowra, the Combined Churches' Christmas Carols is the only Carols event for the town. It features games, a sausage sizzle, then Carols and a Christmas message, all run in a local park.

Please pray that many come to this event, and are touched by the real message of Christmas, perhaps for the first time.

Please pray for the Christmas services in Cowra across the churches. We have many visitors to church at Christmas, some family members, but also those who only attend church at Christmas and Easter. Please

pray that these very irregular attendees would be encouraged to come to church more often because of their Christmas visit.

Please pray that as churches we would be very welcoming and display the love of God to all visitors, pointing them to Him.

Upcoming: 'Breakout' holiday club – please pray!

In the summer holidays, during the week of 12 January, the Breakout holiday kids/ teens club will happen again in Cowra. This has been run for over 20 years in Cowra, as a combined venture of both the Baptist and Presbyterian

Cowra Community Carols

Friday 12th December
 5pm > activities, food & fun
 6pm > Carols
 Brougham Park, Cowra

FREE EVENT!

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE, DRINKS & GAMES!

COWRA TOWN BAND & COWRA CHURCHES BAND

Hosted by the Churches of Cowra

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churches, with support from a team of people that come from some churches in Sydney. Although we have attended Breakout in the past, this year is the first year that our church has officially been part of planning the event.

Praise God that this year the holiday club will be once again run for five days, rather than just three. Praise God for the ability to partner with the Presbyterian and Baptist churches in this venture.

Please pray that the kids and teens attending Breakout who haven't yet understood the Gospel, are able to understand the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for their sins, and that this understanding brings about a life change for them.

Please pray that whole families will be impacted by Breakout, and not just the kids/teens who attend. Pray especially for the new evening events that are happening this year, including a men's night and women's night. These are in addition to the family trivia night that is held each year.

Family News

November was a month of quite a lot of sickness, so please pray

for health and energy as we head into the busy Christmas season. This month Vivienne will graduate from preschool, as she heads off to big school next year. This will be a big change for her as well as for us!

Please pray for all of us, but particularly Josiah and Vivienne to get some good rest over the summer holidays so that they can be energised and ready for 2026 and all their learning.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. We wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Christmas.



COWRA SUMMER BREAKOUT

KIDS PROGRAM K-6 TEENS PROGRAM 7-12
JANUARY
12TH-16TH 2026 9:30AM- 12PM
2 BOURKE ST- COWRA BAPTIST CHURCH HALL

WHAT'S HAPPENING

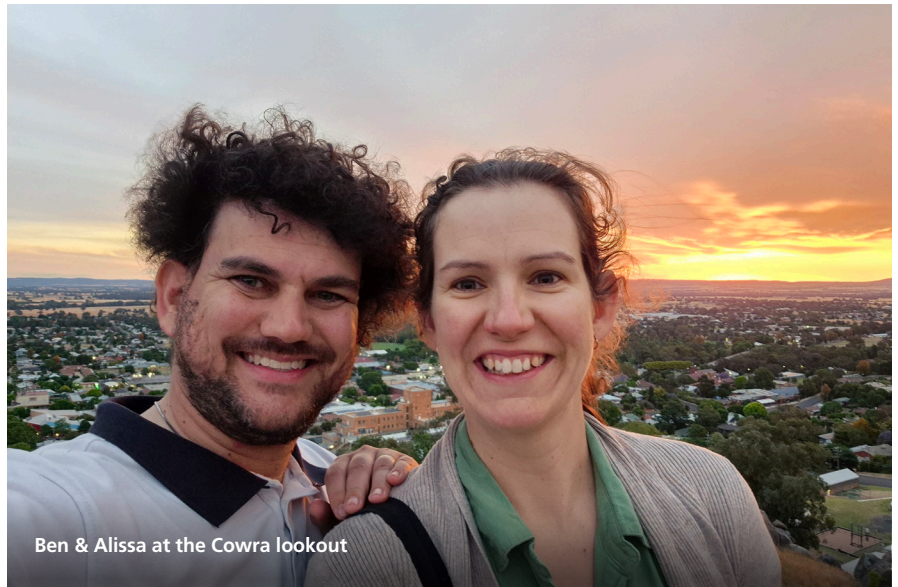
GAMES CRAFTS LIVE MUSIC

THE NARROW ROAD- MATTHEW 7:13-14

CUPPA AND CHAT FOR ALL AGES

REGISTER HERE
ALL FREE!
MORE INFORMATION

BEN- BCANNELLY87@GMAIL.COM LEN- LEN.WOONINGS@OUTLOOK.COM
JJ- JJ@COWRABAPTIST.ORG



Ben & Alissa at the Cowra lookout

Blessings,

Ben, Alissa, Josiah, Vivienne & Ezekiel

Find out more

about Bush Church Aid who support us in Cowra

Donate

Would you consider giving to support gospel ministry here and across rural, regional and remote Australia?



Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919