

*The Real*

# Australian



*Going the Distance*

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# BCA Directory

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Cover: BCA has been going the distance to share the gospel across Australia for 99 years.

In God's economy a little can go a long way. Think of the tiny mustard seed which became a shrub for the birds, or the widow's mite which gave Jesus a powerful teaching moment.

This gospel principle has always been at the heart of BCA's work. Thousands of supporters collect their loose change in our BCA money boxes – a coin here, a note there. But what a difference it makes! Each year we collect over \$400,000 through our money boxes. This goes a long way to support ministries which God uses to change lives and transform communities.

As technology changes we want to give Christians an additional way to invest in God's kingdom through regular, sustained giving. On page 5 of *The Real Australian* you can read about our new Distance Giving Program and how you can join. We hope many of you will be blessed by this opportunity to journey with our Field Staff as they bring the good news of Jesus across the length and breadth of Australia. Of course, our BCA money boxes will continue to play a vital role in supporting God's work.

We see this mustard seed principle in other ways as well. It could be a simple email which God uses to bring encouragement to tired Field Staff; a simple act of service which God uses to bless those attending a Christian convention or a simple prayer which God uses to bring new life and hope. Each may appear insignificant on their own. In God's hands, they are woven into a plan which stretches from eternity to eternity.

Thank you for investing the time to read, in the pages that follow, what God is doing down under. May it bear much fruit in your life, for God's glory.

*Mark Short*  
**National Director**



**We hope many of you will be blessed by this opportunity to journey with our Field Staff as they bring the good news of Jesus across the length and breadth of Australia**

# Your partnership in mission with BCA

**BCA supporters are on mission together because they want to share God's love and the good news of Jesus in their own backyard. This was one of the key pieces of feedback from the BCA supporter survey included in the autumn 2018 edition of *The Real Australian*.**

BCA received hundreds of completed surveys from across the country. We plan to use the information to clarify our priorities as we head towards our centenary.

When asked why she chose to give to BCA, Alexandrina Foley from Mirrabooka, Western Australia said: "Because I believe BCA is a vital body of believing people who are reaching our country towns with the gospel. It's God's heart for our nation, reaching the lost and serving God's people."

John and Noelle Frazer from Rockhampton, Queensland described how they first came across BCA at a church deputation in 2005. Since that time they have served as mission contacts and more recently as BCA Nomads. However, a major point in their spiritual journey came in 2007 at the BCA Bible

Week on Bribie Island.

"The powerful teaching changed the direction of our spiritual lives, renewing us, and pointing us towards the relationship with Jesus that we needed to have, and the commitment to mission and evangelism that we were seeking."

Other supporters shared how God has blessed them through regular BCA communication. Kurt and Bec Langmead

from Armidale, New South Wales said: "God has helped us pray with the quarterly Prayer Notes and blessed us through personal links with BCA workers (Field Staff)."

The feedback we have received from supporters will help BCA keep focused during a season of celebration. It's important that we keep a heart for what matters to God – which is first of all for people to know and experience His love and forgiveness in Jesus. With this information we can move

forward confident that this is the heart of our supporters as well.

*Mark Short*

**The powerful teaching changed the direction of our spiritual lives, renewing us, and pointing us towards the relationship with Jesus that we needed to have**



John & Noelle Frazer



Kurt & Bec Langmead and their family

# Introducing BCA's Distance Giving Program

Your support of BCA means that we can continue to spread the gospel message across remote parts of this country. You may put your loose change into your money box, donate during our twice yearly appeals or give whenever your financial situation makes it possible.

## This month we launch our Distance Giving Program.

The Distance Giving Program gives you the opportunity to support our Field Staff on a regular basis. You will share their journey through monthly giving and prayer, and receive special updates on how your support is making a difference.

"In Central West Queensland, ministry has only ever been possible because of generous donors," says Graeme Liersch who serves with his wife Susan in Longreach. "Today with the costly exercise of maintaining and growing ministry with a regional minister, donors are crucial. Without this support the church would fail and there would be no presence for years to come. Through the great financial and prayerful support from BCA this ministry continues. We thank you for your partnership in helping us to continue sharing the gospel with the lonely, needy and the lost."

By joining the Distance Giving Program you will commit to supporting our Field Staff each month. The amount you give is entirely up to you. Our Field Staff value your prayerful support as well as any gift you can give to ensure the gospel continues to go out.

"We are very grateful for the prayer and financial support of BCA," says James Daymond who serves in Narromine, New South Wales with his wife Brittany. "Your support enables people to be reached for the gospel that might not otherwise be reached. Your support also enables people to be trained in evangelism so they can keep reaching out."

You received a Distance Giving Program flyer with your copy of *The Real Australian* and/or Prayer Notes. We encourage you to read through this flyer and prayerfully consider whether you can join our new Distance Giving Program.

***"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."***

***2 Corinthians 9:12***

*Janine van den Tillaart*



Graeme & Susan Liersch

We thank you for your partnership in helping us to continue sharing the gospel with the lonely, needy and the lost



# How your church can celebrate 100 years of BCA



**In just eight months' time Bush Church Aid will celebrate a century of reaching Australia for Christ.**

It was on a wet and windy night on 26 May 1919 that a Bishop, some clergy and a few prominent laymen gathered in the Chapter House at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. There they shared a vision of sending men and women to the west, beyond the end of the railway line, to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. So began The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia.

The Revd Sydney James Kirkby became the first Organising Missioner of BCA on 1 January 1920. BCA was invited to investigate the needs of the West Darling area in NSW, so Kirkby "at once proceeded on a journey to that far country". It was a time of paralysing drought with kilometres of the mighty River Darling without any life-giving water. It seemed like an inauspicious beginning for Bush Church Aid, but such has been the nature of the challenges it has faced throughout its ministry. The response to Kirkby's visit was encouraging and ministry in West Darling began in earnest by BCA's first representative.

Next year on Sunday 26 May 2019 churches across Australia will celebrate 100 years of BCA





Next year on Sunday 26 May 2019 churches across Australia will celebrate 100 years of BCA and we are currently producing resources to help in those celebrations. You will have access to a video, a specially written prayer for the day and visual resources. We also have Christian writer Robyn Powell working on a special centenary coffee table book.

As St Andrew's Cathedral was the birthplace of BCA, it will be a central point for celebrations on the day with BCA's Indigenous Ministry Officer, Neville Naden preaching there.

Christian Fellowship Tours are running a three day Sydney Centenary tour from 25–27 May which includes Sydney sightseeing, dinner at Sydney Tower, a hop on hop off bus tour as well as a harbour

cruise to see the lights of Vivid Sydney. The highlight of the tour will be hearing Neville preach at the cathedral. Contact Christian Fellowship Tours on 1300 635 358 if you are interested in joining this trip.

We are also celebrating our centenary with a pictorial BCA 2019 Calendar (see page 28) and are producing a bush-themed Bible in conjunction with the Bible Society.

We encourage all our supporters to join in the 100 year celebrations of BCA. We will send information to our mission contacts in the coming months and you will read more about our centenary in the summer edition of *The Real Australian*.

*Janine van den Tillaart*



# Teens make a stand for Jesus

**Five teenagers from Kununurra made a stand for Jesus when they were baptised at Swim Beach, part of the Ord River, on Sunday 13 May.**

Family and friends supported Carolyn, Jonathan, Elise, Rebekah and Bethany as they gave their testimonies and were baptised by BCA Field Staff Daniel Faricy.

The five teens serve at St James' Kununurra in kids' church as well as in the music and production teams. Carolyn is a leader at KNX Kids – a weekly program for kids from pre-primary to Year 5 who are taught about Jesus in a fun and engaging way.

Fifteen-year-old Carolyn, was blessed to be brought up in a Christian family.

"My family is part of Christian short wave radio station Reach Beyond," says Carolyn. "Reach Beyond used to be based in Ecuador, South America (where I was born), but moved to Kununurra eight years ago."

Carolyn, the youngest of four kids, has been a Christian for more than ten years: "I decided to ask Jesus into my heart when I was around four years old. I was with one of my older sisters and she helped me pray."

In the lead up to their baptisms, the five teenagers did weekly studies with Daniel and wrote their testimonies.

"Being baptised with three of my best friends and my brother was amazing!" says Carolyn. "And our dads got to be part of it too! After the baptism some went for a swim and others just stood around chatting and had afternoon tea. It was great. So many people came. It was so encouraging."

Jesus' good news  
is changing lives  
of teenagers.

Daniel Faricy, Jonathan Sutherland, Bethany Mock, Rebekah Mock, Elise Mock, and Carolyn Sutherland



"When these youth put up their hand for baptism, it was such an encouragement that they wanted to make a stand for Jesus," says Daniel. "Many of them are shy but they still publicly gave their testimony sharing of how their relationship with Jesus is the most important thing for them. I think it goes to show that God's word is living and active – discipling youth is important. Many in our church community could see the fruit of their labour having played a part in their discipleship. It is also a good witness to our community – where there are a number of social concerns for youth – that Jesus' good news is changing lives of teenagers."

*Janine van den Tillaart*

## Carolyn's testimony

I grew up in a Christian home and was always taught about God. When I was four years old, my older sister helped me pray to become a Christian. For the next few years I don't remember thinking much more about God other than learning about Him at home and at church. When I was about eight, I started to doubt if I was really a Christian. I was not sure if God heard me when I asked Him the first time. Every night I would pray to God asking Him to come into my heart. One night I was talking to my Mum and she told me that if I meant what I said when I prayed I could be sure that I was a Christian. Sometimes I feel closer to God than other times, but I certainly have an assurance that I am a child of God. As it says in Romans 8:38–39: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love



Carolyn is baptised by Daniel, surrounded by her father Stephen and brother Jonathan.

of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God has helped me in my life through many ways. He has helped me to cope with being so far away from my family and also when some of my friends moved away. He has also given me a couple of opportunities to share about being a Christian with non-Christian friends.

For a long time I have wanted to be baptised and I am so glad that I have this opportunity. To me being baptised is a commitment and a symbol that I have put my trust in God and am promising to live my life as a disciple of Christ, seeking to be more like Jesus.

# We're not alone!

**A title like this can't help but raise an image of aliens from outer space. But this is not an article about space, *Star Trek*, *Star Wars* or even *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. This is an article about a close encounter of the brotherly and sisterly kind.**

Allow me to elaborate. Recently I ventured to Lincoln, New Zealand, to attend an International Rural Ministry Conference along with The Revd Dr Mark Short and several other ministers from different denominations across Australia.

So often ministry conferences focus on urban aspects of ministry, whether it be outreach, pastoral or worship; very few are rural focused. As a result, much rural ministry can be conducted in a world of perceived and/or real isolation. For example, the cost of travel often is prohibitive in the outback. To attend specialist medical appointments may cost you several days' work, plus airfares and accommodation, something the urbanite doesn't have to deal with. Likewise, to attend a ministry conference of any sort usually means travelling to a capital city or having to use the new medium of webinars. Face-to-face coaching or training is much harder to access. All result in the strange feeling of being all alone, which can play on the mind of any active Christian.

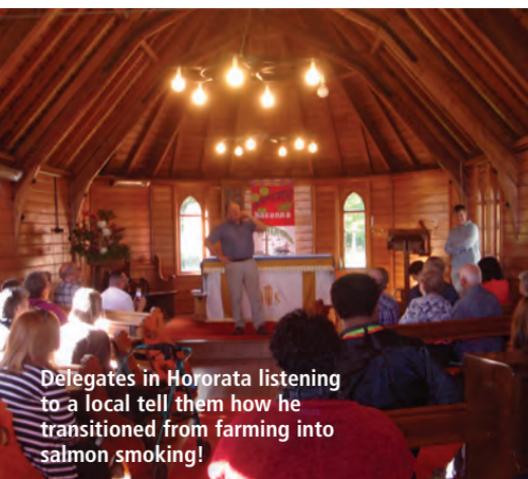
In addition, there is also this inherent feeling that much rural ministry needs and difficulties are misunderstood. For example, visitors from populated regional centres and urban areas will often ask why certain programs are not being used, or make suggestions that are more urban-related and not relevant to

the rural environment. Of course, most people are well meaning and concerned for ministry in rural and remote regions, but unfortunately they often don't have a meaningful understanding of the rural ministry situation.

Enter the International Rural Churches Association (IRCA). As the name implies, it is a world-wide association of rural ministries, an organisation that has the heart of rural ministry as their very focus.

In 1993, a small group of international rural church leaders gathered in England to celebrate 21 years of the 'Arthur Rank Centre' (the ecumenical centre for the

I hope you can appreciate the wonderful feeling gained by those of us who work in rural and remote Australia – the discovery that we're not alone in our task



Delegates in Hororata listening to a local tell them how he transitioned from farming into salmon smoking!



Delegates at the International Rural Church Association Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand

focus of rural work of all the churches in Great Britain). At this gathering, plans were made for an international conference which was realised in August 1998. About 100 people from a variety of countries attended this conference in Durham, England and the International Rural Church Ecumenical Association, as it was then called, was established. Since then, based on a four-year cycle, international conferences have been held in various locations around the world.

The organisation has now grown to the point where regional groups have been established and regional conferences are held on a four-yearly cycle offset from the international conference. Australia is part of the oceanic region that includes the South Pacific Islands, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Returning to the title of *we're not alone* – I hope you can appreciate the wonderful feeling gained by those of us who work in rural and remote Australia – the discovery that we're not alone in our task. In fact, the realisation that other countries struggle with similar issues regarding rural ministry, was a revelation to many of us. It was fantastic to discover that we're not alone.

This year's conference was held at Lincoln University, just outside Christchurch. Entitled *Growing Together*, it included representatives from all but one continent, Africa, whose delegates had issues with their visas.

The week kicked off with two keynote speakers: Dr Rosemary Dewerse who addressed the topic *Living and dreaming God's vision for our world*, followed by The Revd Jenny Dawson who addressed the issue of *Shared ministry: a way of being church at the heart of rural ministry*.

With a learning community approach at its core, participants considered the 'What is?', 'What could be?' and 'What will be?' for their rural church context. Key to these questions was the overarching question: 'What is God doing in my place?'

Rosemary drew a distinct line between what we perceive to be the way ahead (our vision for the world) compared to God's vision for the world. Key to this was an understanding of the Scriptures and Jesus' servant heart. To illustrate this Rosemary used the example of the Maori tribes and their peaceful protests/negotiations with the Europeans in the 19th century, despite the

Continued over...

# We're not alone! (continued)

abuse they experienced. In the end peace was with recognition of Maori sovereignty<sup>1</sup>.

Interspersed throughout the week were excursions to rural communities and properties to gain insight into how Christians were being churched in New Zealand's rural settings. One noted visit was to the town of Darfield where the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches were closed and a new community church, 'Trinity Church', was built to house all three congregations. This cooperation in a small rural town has continued since the mid 1980s. This is something that could, and perhaps should, be considered for many outback towns in Australia.

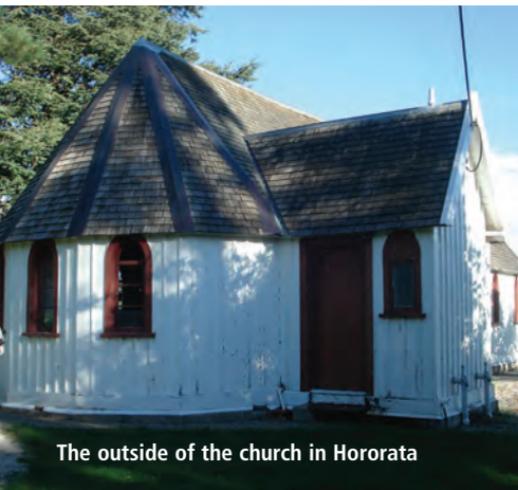
The final conference sessions included planning for the future in our own regions and environments. It was great to have like-minded people to bounce ideas off.

*We're not alone* and this is indeed true when it comes to ministry. Throughout the world there are people experiencing the joys and frustrations of ministry, no matter the setting in which they live and work. Rural ministry is no exception. It was a great joy to encounter Christian brothers and sisters

in a rural setting, share joys and frustrations and come away with new insights and ideas for understanding what God is doing in my environment.

## *Graeme Liersch*

<sup>1</sup> War came when Europeans attempted to take the land around Taranaki (North Island) by force. The new Maori religion incorporated Christianity. They declared peace and the Parihaka community was born. The Maori adapted and made Europeans welcome – they were determined not to allow evil to dominate. [newzealand.com/au/feature/parihaka](http://newzealand.com/au/feature/parihaka)



The outside of the church in Hororata

For more information visit the  
IRCA website at [irca.online](http://irca.online)  
or email Graeme at  
[g.liersch@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:g.liersch@bushchurchaid.com.au)

Our next Regional conference is  
scheduled for 2020. We have been  
asked to consider putting in a  
submission to host it in Longreach.  
Please pray about this.

# Serving the wider body of Christ

**God used this year's Katherine Christian Convention to give BCA several exciting opportunities to serve the wider body of Christ.**

The Convention saw over a thousand Christians gather for a time of fellowship, learning and celebration. Many Indigenous people came from communities across the Top End. Bible readings and songs were in several Aboriginal languages.

The main speaker for this year's Convention was BCA's Indigenous Ministry Officer Neville Naden. Neville gave four compelling talks on the faithfulness of God, highlighting God's plan for His creation and His people as revealed in the Bible. The talks challenged listeners to reflect God's image in a way that shows His existence and glory to the world. BCA Field Staff Bruce Chapman and Topher Hallyburton helped lead the youth and children's programs.

As the featured organisation, BCA had four mission slots on the main stage. Attendees heard about the ministries of Neville and Kathie Naden as well as the Chapmans in Darwin, the Slacks in Katherine and the BCA Nomads program.

The Nomads had a greater role than just



Neville Naden gives one of his talks

**We were all very thankful for the privilege of serving our Indigenous brothers and sisters so that they had the opportunity to have fellowship together and hear the word of God taught**



Nomads Faye Donaldson & Marion Witten

being introduced on stage. A team of eleven (Faye Donaldson, Lesley Richards, Guy and Sue Freeman, Val Ishri, John and Sue Oakey, Bob and Marion Witten, John and Annie Schipper) made a great contribution up front and behind the scenes.

They served by cleaning the food preparation and canteen area, helping with welcoming and registration, serving tea, coffee and food, assisting with transport and did countless other jobs that made the weekend such a success.

"Our team was called on to do all sorts of jobs, and right to the last day, even though tired, worked willingly and enthusiastically," said John and Annie. "We were all very thankful for the privilege of serving our Indigenous brothers and sisters so that they had

the opportunity to have fellowship together and hear the word of God taught. Everyone went away very encouraged."

BCA hopes to send a Nomad team to the 2019 Convention (4-5 May). If you want to find out more about how you can be part of the ministry of BCA Nomads visit **[bushchurchaid.com.au/nomads](http://bushchurchaid.com.au/nomads)** or contact the BCA office in your region.

*Mark Short*

# Serving a faithful God through the highs and lows

**After seven years of dedicated service to the people of Hay, BCA Co-Workers Peter & Lee Caspersonn have retired to Wagga Wagga in New South Wales. Serving in Hay had its highs and lows but through it all God was faithful and Peter & Lee drew closer to Him. Here is their story:**

We each retired from school teaching about age 60 and travelled as nomads during the winter, doing some voluntary work with isolated school students. We got to know about BCA through Dennis & Lois Quinn and later Bob & Sue Witten. As nomads we visited isolated towns, some without a minister and some where churches had closed. We came from a large church with lots of capable people, and thought we could help by moving to the bush for a few years.

After speaking with former BCA Field Staff Ron and Crystal Spindler, the Bishop of Riverina and our Engadine rector, we went to Hay as self-funded BCA Co-Workers.

At the beginning, we offered to help at the Anglican Church, which was being led by a lay woman, under supervision of the Diocese. The small and elderly congregation of Hay had not had a resident rector for six years. We gradually took on more roles as the Parish asked, playing the organ, leading Morning Prayer and joining Parish Council. In the last two and a half years, the Bishop asked Peter to become the leading warden.

From the beginning we volunteered as SRE teachers at Hay Public School, where we were warmly received. At the end, we were taking five classes between us and volunteering in other roles at the school. Peter organised two SRE intensive programs at the high school, with support from our Bishop and South Wagga Anglican Church. He was also instrumental in organising the appointment of a school chaplain, whose time is shared between the two schools.

Engadine Anglican Church provided amazing support by conducting a Kids' Club in the September school holidays every year from 2012, completely at their own cost. They kept in touch with many locals via social media and home visits. They even supported some Hay students to attend their annual youth camp.

**During our time In Hay we definitely grew closer to each other and to God**

Bishop Rod leading a service at St Paul's



In Term 4 2017, two boys from Lee's Year 4 SRE class approached her separately about wanting to learn more about Christianity. With their parents' support Lee arranged for them to meet on Wednesdays after school in the local library. Before we left the group grew to four. Under Lee's guidance, these children also took up ukulele playing and performed several times in church (see photo below). The single mother of two of these children was also interested and we started reading the Bible with her. She is very eager to learn and is continuing these studies with a mature Christian woman.

For those thinking about serving in God's Australian mission field the need is great, but be prepared to stay for a considerable number of years – especially in smaller communities where it can take time to be accepted. We were in Hay for seven years and saw encouraging signs only at the end. Be well prepared, and make sure both you and the Parish are agreed on your roles and goals.

During our time in Hay we definitely grew closer to each other and to God. We had to work together, often in different roles but with common goals. We made a priority to be together for coffee, chat and prayer each morning. This is something which we have continued.

Continue to pray for Hay, particularly for those who have shown interest in the gospel. In essence, Hay is a mission field. There are great needs and great opportunities, but they need careful and prayerful preparation.

*Peter & Lee Caspersonn*



Kids' Club run by Engadine Anglican



Lee and the children playing ukulele at St Paul's

# Dusty boots 2018 – done and dusted!

**DB18 (no, it's not a futuristic Aston Martin for James Bond in 2050), rather it's Dusty Boots 2018 and it is 'done and dusted'!**

For the fourth year another group of 25 Sydney city-folk, left their shiny shoes and comfort zones to experience life in a remote context. Indeed, the motto for Dusty Boots in the Pilbara is just that – 'Sharing Life' – and the experience leaves everyone enriched and enlivened. All clichés aside, let me try and give you a feel for why it is just so special.

What is Dusty Boots? I don't think I can say it better than Jim and Tanja French, who shared their experience in their last newsletter. Dusty Boots was Jim's last hurrah as a Lecturer at Youthworks College before going to Spain with CMS. He wrote: "Dusty Boots is a combined effort of Bush Church Aid (BCA), Youthworks College, Norwest Anglican Church (Sydney), and the BCA Field Staff in Wickham WA (Rich and Tracy Goscombe who work together with Matt, Naomi, Sol and Zech Warth, and Bren and Kim Corner and their three young children) to reach people in the Pilbara with the hope and love of Jesus.

"The major focus is working with the 'First Nations People' providing children's programs in Wickham/Roebourne and in Wakathuni (an Indigenous community out of Tom Price). It was an amazing privilege to witness and share God's love in a very isolated but beautiful part of His creation which is so different from what we are used to on the East Coast of Australia. This is the place of *Red Dog*, iron ore and FIFO's (fly-in/fly-out mine workers) but most of all of the First Nations people. A feature of the area is the red soil hence the name, Dusty Boots (we're still getting the red out!). The issues are complex but communities



like the Pilbara Aboriginal Church in Roebourne reflect the love, unity and freedom God's Word can bring to a beautiful people who face many challenges."

The Pilbara Aboriginal Church refers to the time of fellowship we share on the first Sunday morning of every Dusty Boots trip, which always leaves everyone encouraged, humbled, and full of praise to our great God and Saviour. This year, Neville Naden (BCA's Indigenous Ministry Officer) preached on Ephesians 1. The DB18 team led the service with music and interviews. The interaction between locals and the team – generosity, trust and mutual encouragement – was rich. Each year I see the team journey across the cultural divide and it is amazing.

Amidst tours and orientation on the Monday, the group found most precious the time spent with Yindjibarndi elder, Allery Sandy. Allery is a wonderful witness to the work of God's Spirit and Word. He has sustained and strengthened her through so many trials for her people. She sat in the middle of what was the Old Reserve (now 'scorched earth') where all the Pilbara Tribes settled when they came off the stations to Roebourne. The team, both young and old, hung on her every word, as she recounted her life which began in Roebourne Hospital in the 1950s. This may sound normal to us, but she was the first of her siblings not to be born under a tree by the Harding River. She was converted in the Old Reserve at almost 30 years of age, when she saw the angriest man she ever met pacified by faith in Jesus. It was then that she knew she needed a Saviour like that.

Tuesday to Thursday saw kids' clubs in both Roebourne and Wickham with enthusiastic kids reveling in the genuine love and care of the team. It is great to see normally rough kids stop

Continued over...

25 Sydney city-folk left their shiny shoes and comfort zones to experience life in a remote context



# Dusty boots 2018 – done and dusted!

bullying, play sport and care for the younger kids. It is equally special to see 4–5 year olds wanting nothing more than to snuggle on someone's lap. The team really grappled with how best to share the gospel in ways that are outside what they are used to. They relished these challenges and did well. It was the start of an important journey to understand the first Australians and what they need to see – the supreme relevance of Christ and His Cross.

Each afternoon after lunch and devotions back at their digs, the team worked on the houses for Wickham Community Projects. This soon-to-be-opened ministry space is the first community centre the housing area of Wickham has ever had. Over three days, a heap of painting, cleaning, scraping, and moving of food, clothing and household items (for the pantry and op shop) took place.

Wednesday night of Dusty Boots was particularly special. The Team served a meal to the community around a big fire. The presence of a Dusty Boots Team year-on-year really provides such encouragement for folk not to give up. As food was enjoyed, the Word shared, conversations had, and songs sung, the bond of fellowship saw many smiles and a few tears. Please pray that the ministry team here will be conscious that, even without the Dusty Booters, the Lord can, will and is building His Kingdom and Church.

After finishing their week on the coast, the Team headed inland on a six-hour drive up to the spectacular Hamersley Range. Two days were spent camping in Karijini

exploring this majestic part of our Lord's handiwork, before accepting a welcome into the communities of Wakathuni and Tom Price. The kids in the outlying community of Wakthuni just love the 'Busty-Dooters'.

The team stayed in the only community centre in Wakathuni but one that had been without power for the previous eight months. This proved no problem as the support team from Norwest Anglican,

travelled complete with everything from generators to LED lighting and a portable gas hot water system to provide hot showers. Their boots may be dusty, but with this resourcefulness, life is tame compared to pioneering days.

The team was up each day at the crack-of-dawn, cooking brekkie for the local kids and travelling on the bus with them to school in Tom Price. While they are becoming more accepted here, this is the one time of the year when the 'Waka kids' walk taller because the Dusty Booters are their special friends. I just keep

seeing our Lord smile. At last bell each day, the kids headed back to Waka for Kids' Club, followed by dinner and a gospel presentation at the Yarning Circle in the middle of the community. This year, it was a great encouragement to see adults in the community coming in the evenings to share a feed, hear the presentation, and talk with the team over supper back at the Centre. Pray for those who took Bibles, and for opportunities for them to grow in faith as a number of them seek Jesus and put their trust in Him.

Well, as with each year, the fortnight

**The last four Dusty Boots trips have made an amazing impact in the Pilbara. As we are willing to get 'Dusty' – trust, credibility, and a readiness to share in the important and deep things of life develops and grows**

(continued)

came to a close all too quickly but the Dusty Boots theme of 'Sharing Life', leaves an indelible mark on both the team and the communities they've touched. It is always moving and praiseworthy to see tears inspired by love – as a team member shares about one of the kids, as they are embraced by the kids at the end of their stay, and as they intercede in earnest prayer for each one, lifting each name before the Father of all.

All of us know the way a return to routine can dilute the 'mountain-top experience', so please pray for the team, as they seek to apply lessons learned; retain expanded horizons; and keep their Indigenous brothers and sisters before the throne of grace.

Please pray that each year will bear more and more fruit, and give thanks that another couple from the Dusty Boots Team – Chris and Marilyn McEwen – are seeking to follow God's call to serve in the Pilbara, specifically, Roebourne, when they finish their studies at Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC).

Despite the obvious limitations of contact just once a year, this is no 'flash-in-the-pan'. The last four Dusty Boots trips have made an amazing impact in the Pilbara. As we are willing to get 'dusty' – trust, credibility, and a readiness to share in the important and deep things of life develops and grows. Please pray for all Indigenous Australians, both those who are already brothers and sisters in Christ, and those who are yet to find Him as their Saviour.

*Rich Goscombe*



# Reaching out to kids at Easter



Teaching time at Cosmic Carnival

**Easter is a wonderful time of outreach for our Field Staff. In Strathfieldsaye and Katherine, Steve Weickhardt and Kristan Slack were involved in reaching out to primary school aged children...**

## **Cosmic Carnival**

In Strathfieldsaye, part of our mission is to reach out to young families in the area, and the twice-yearly children's Holiday Program is one of the ways we do this. Programs are created for primary school aged children and led by a team of teenage and adult volunteers.

The theme for our April program was 'Cosmic Carnival'. We taught the children that although we cannot see God, His unseen work is all around us in creation, church and above all in Christ Jesus.

Our puppet friends taught about 'visible invisibles' (Bluetooth and Wi-Fi, electricity, gravity and wind), seeing the effects of unseen forces. The drama was based on a quirky space ship crew assisted by a couple of hapless kids who had stunned their mum.

During the daily programs we had small groups, craft and cooking, games and main sessions included a teaching time, singing (very actively!), puppets, and drama. All activities were oriented to the teaching point of the program – that no matter how big space is, God is closer.

On the final day we invited families to join us for the last session, then to enjoy a family festival with a barbeque, jumping castle and to see some of the finished craft. Times such as these build relationships with the families and invitations are extended to explore the theme further.

**We taught the children that although we cannot see God, His unseen work is all around us in creation, church and above all, in Christ Jesus**



Space Crew Drama



Spacey Chocolate Crackle Creation time

By the time you read this, we will be preparing for our September program (keep an eye out for the theme in our prayer news). We would love you to pray for the team, for the children and their families: that all would grow in love and knowledge of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

### Joining together to present Jesus

One of the privileges of ministering in Katherine is the opportunity we have each Easter and Christmas to run a Christian Option program in a local primary school. By 'we' I mean town Christians. This year four pastors from the different denominations (Anglican, Baptist, Australian Christian Churches and Salvation Army) along with a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, combined to present God's good news about Jesus' death and resurrection to the kids at Macfarlane Primary School.

We ran the program over three days – three different year groupings, three sessions for each group, each an hour long. This year we tried something a bit different – an assembly style program for the kids in Years 4–6, which included drama, singing, storytelling, memory verses and quizzes. The kids really got involved and listened – some of the teachers even joined in singing from

time to time (especially with the modified version of the secular song *What if God was One of Us*).

Macfarlane School has the highest proportion of Indigenous kids in town and they particularly enjoy singing – the Baptist pastor Ernie goes there for a weekly lunch time song session. Colin Buchanan's *He is Risen* became a new favourite – for both the students and the pastors!

A couple of times one or two students would linger at the end of the session and tell one of us about their trust in Jesus or reflect on something we'd covered. Another great joy was that the kids remembered many of our names (and details of our lives) from last year.

We would like to pursue offering this to other schools and the assembly style makes it easier to do so with less people. Please pray for the kids (and teachers) who heard the good news about the living Lord and pray for more open doors (and willing volunteers) to share this news more broadly to the kids (and adults) of our region.

*Steve Weickhardt &  
Kristan Slack*

# BCA's irreplaceable volunteers

**Bush Church Aid has been blessed over the years with faithful volunteers who come in to the National Office to answer phones, cut stamps, proofread, fold receipts, label money boxes, work on our database and help with mailouts. The work of these volunteers cannot be underestimated and the National Office team greatly value their friendship, insight, gifts and heart for the work of BCA.**

One person in particular has the title of being our longest serving volunteer. Fred Daniels has come into the National Office every Tuesday for 17 years.

Fred first walked in the doors of BCA in July 2001, responding to an advertisement for volunteers.

"I had volunteered at the Sydney 2000 Olympics and Paralympics – the first time in my life that I had volunteered for anything. I worked in the Australian Village and ran messages. While I didn't do a lot it was a great experience and gave me an idea of what volunteering was all about –

**I do it because I want to do something positive to help others. BCA has got tremendous outreach around Australia. While I don't see the Field Staff I know that they are committed people who take the gospel to the wider parts of Australia**

supporting others – and I felt that I could help elsewhere."

After chatting with his wife June, and deciding that he'd like to volunteer for a Christian organisation, Fred came across our advertisement in the Sydney Anglican publication *Southern Cross*, and the rest as they say is history.

Fred started his volunteering career with BCA cutting up stamps – a very important fundraiser for the Society. With a background as a printer and compositor, Fred was later asked to put together the large print format of *The Real Australian* and Prayer Notes. Each quarter Fred spends a day working on this task; something that is greatly appreciated by those who are no longer able to read the regular format Prayer Notes.

So why does Fred come in every Tuesday at 8am? "I like coming in because of the nice people that work here!" says Fred with a smile. "I do it because I want to do something positive to help others. BCA has got tremendous outreach around Australia. While I don't see the Field Staff I know that they are committed people who take the gospel to the wider parts of Australia. June and I pray for BCA every day because I think it's such an important, worthwhile organisation."

We thank Fred and all our wonderful volunteers, past and present, for their service to BCA. If you have some gifts that you would like to share with us we'd love to hear from you at [info@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:info@bushchurchaid.com.au) or on 02 9262 5017.

*Janine van den Tillaart*



Fred Daniels and his wife June. Married for 60 years, they have three children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren

# Don't miss out on applying for the 2019 April Bottom Scholarship

Past April Bottom Scholarship winners



Emma Camilleri



Sarah Charlton



Ellie Chrisakis



Maddie Hoysted



Hayley Lawrence



Jessica Midgley



Sophie Nelson



Matthew Schmidt

## Next month is your last chance to apply for the 2019 April Bottom Scholarship.

This year \$12,000 will be awarded to a student who needs to move away from the region to achieve their potential.

This is the fifteenth year that the April Bottom Scholarship will be awarded to an eligible student from the Broken Hill and Menindee area. Past winners have moved to study in Wollongong, Adelaide, Bathurst, Sydney and Darwin.

April and David Bottom experienced the difficulties of having their children educated. Before passing away from cancer in 2003, April expressed her desire to establish a fund to assist families from the Parish of the Far West and Broken Hill with the education of their children. Bush Church Aid is proud to administer this scholarship in her honour on behalf of the family.

2018 scholarship winner Sophie Nelson is studying a Bachelor of Pre-Medicine, Science and Health and hopes one day to become a cardiothoracic surgeon and work in the bush: "The April Bottom Scholarship has taken a major weight off my shoulders in regards to the financial pressures of uni. I would definitely encourage others to apply."

To be eligible for the 2019 April Bottom Scholarship you must:

- Be a resident of the Parish of Broken Hill and the Far West
- Undertake study outside the Parish in 2019
- Submit your completed application by the closing date and have it verified by your parents/carers
- Provide academic records from the previous year and any information to support your application including club memberships, sporting or academic achievements.

The winner of the 2019 Scholarship will be notified in mid-October 2018 and the amount of \$12,000 will go towards their tuition fees/boarding fees/text books etc as they commence their studies in 2019.

If you know someone who would benefit from the April Bottom Scholarship or you require further information please email BCA's Chief Operating Officer Greg Bridge – [greg.bridge@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:greg.bridge@bushchurchaid.com.au) or phone the BCA National Office on 02 9262 5017. Applications close on 14 September 2018.

*Janine van den Tillaart*

# Councillor's Column

***Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass. Psalm 37.5***

I was born in Horsham, Victoria on 14 October 1928, where my father was a hairdresser – having being trained under the Repatriation Commission after serving in WWI. It was in Horsham that he met my mother, the daughter of a Ballarat miner. They married in 1926.

Being born in the height of the depression and my father being thrown out of work, in 1931 we moved to Romsey, where they were lacking a hairdresser. In those days we went up to Grade 8 in primary school and then gained a merit certificate. After Grade 8 I went up and down to Sunshine Technical School by train – leaving at 7am and returning at 8pm ready for tea!

World War II was well under way (my father re-enlisted in 1942) when we moved to Lancefield to be near relatives. I gained the Intermediate Technical Certificate in 1943, and after working on a farm for three months, became an apprentice Armature Winder in the Victorian Railways in February 1944. After three years of the trade course, on the advice of Bishop Donald Barker (then Principal of Ridley College) I did two years night school at Taylor's Coaching College to gain the Leaving Certificate.

I had known God was calling me to ordained ministry from fourteen years

of age, and I remember saying "Yes" to God and wondering how I was going to get there. In the providence of God two things happened. Firstly, my mother had given me a booklet of daily thoughts containing

a text for each day of the year when I was in the second year of my five-year apprenticeship. Looking for God's guidance on being ordained, one of the verses made it clear – Psalm 37.5. There was the answer! Secondly, having committed my way to the Lord and being on home leave, I spoke to The Revd Alf Donnelly about what was involved in being ordained. The Revd Alf had been Victorian Secretary of BCA (1943–5) and informed me that if I was prepared to serve the Society for five years and was accepted by their Candidates Committee, they would pay my fees through Ridley College.

When my father returned from WWII, we moved to Williamstown and it was there at Holy Trinity Church, that The Revd Tom Jones, BCA Organising Missioner, preached and showed slides that made it quite clear to me that God was calling me to serve through the Society. I was accepted as a candidate for BCA in 1949 after being interviewed by Canon Wensel and the Victorian Committee. I entered Ridley College in 1950. I was also accepted as a candidate for the Melbourne Diocese and was ordained by Archbishop Booth, serving a curacy at Holy Trinity Coburg. I was sent to BCA's Otway Mission in 1955, having

**I had known God was calling me to ordained ministry from fourteen years of age, and I remember saying "Yes" to God and wondering how I was going to get there**



Tom Morgan with some of his congregation at Beech Forest

married Doreen in 1953.

The Revd Tom Jones told me – “Well Morgan, you have five years to make this parish self-supporting.” Again I remembered Psalm 37:5. Under God’s gracious enabling the Otway Parish with its ten centres and most of the Great Ocean Road in its territory, became self-supporting in five years. I stayed on for a further 18 months until God called me back to the Melbourne Diocese. We went to Beech Forest with one child and returned to Melbourne with four.

Dear friends, when we celebrate the centenary in 2019 I will have the privilege of serving the Society for seventy of those one hundred years.



Tom & Doreen Morgan and family at Beech Forest

Is God calling you to serve the Bush Church Aid Society at this time? Remember Psalm 37:5 and God will bring it to pass.

*The Revd Tom Morgan*  
**Vice-President Emeritus**

## Post & Rails

### WELCOME

**Lucy Valentine** has commenced work as the Executive Assistant to NSW/ACT Regional Officer. She previously worked as a ‘Howie’ – undertaking the Howard Guinness Project, a ministry training program with the Evangelical Union at Sydney University. Lucy attends church at St Barnabas’ Anglican Broadway with her husband Sam.



### FAREWELL

**Peter & Lee Caspersonn** have finished serving as Field Staff in Hay NSW. During their seven years there they were involved in ministry at St Paul’s Hay as well as teaching SRE at the local school. Each year Engadine Anglican Church provided support by travelling to Hay to run a kids’



club in the September school holidays. Peter and Lee now reside in a retirement village in Wagga and attend a local Anglican Church.

### VALE

**Rhianon (Rhi) Jones** (24 June 1948 – 3 June 2018) immigrated to Australia when she was seven years old, the sixth of seven children born to Dutch parents. She married Greg in 1970 and they worked in ministry together in Victoria and Tasmania. They served with BCA in the Murchison (QLD) and Mt Magnet (WA) before returning to ministry in Victoria. Rhi supported Greg in his role of BCA Victorian Regional Officer from 2003 until his retirement in 2012. She was well known for her servant nature, compassion, care and hospitality. Rhi is survived by Greg and her daughters Jemima, Naomi, Sarah and their families.



**The Revd W Duffy wrote the following piece 'The Bishop Goes to Prison' 72 years ago for the March 1946 edition of *The Real Australian*. BCA has always worked in far flung places and this article shows the Bishop's dedication to the work of the Society.**

The most important event since our last issue has been the annual visit of our Bishop.

We are always glad to see Bishop Johnson in our district and this visit we were doubly glad as it was his first visit since his recent severe illness. The interest the Bishop takes in our BCA district is shown quite clearly in the way he attempts to crowd in as many services as he can during his weekend visit. He drove from Ballarat to Cobden, 80 miles after lunch on Saturday and had to await the return of the Vicar. Unfortunately this particular Saturday afternoon was the occasion of the crowning of the 'Queen' who was successful in the recent hospital effort. The Missioner, who has quite a loud voice, had been selected to act as Chancellor at the crowning ceremony, so therefore was away at the Lower Heytesbury Showgrounds 30 miles away. Returning about 5pm the Missioner found the Bishop waiting and at 5.15pm they set out for tea at the Coorimungle Prison Camp, 30 miles in the opposite direction.

After tea at 7pm we had arranged a service for the prisoners as usual. We were astonished, whilst having tea, to find that the Roman Catholic prisoners had asked to be allowed to attend the service. This was granted by the Bishop, and also by the warder in charge, so for the first time all denominations worshipped together. What a service it was too! The men had chosen their own hymns as follows: *Abide with me, Lead Kindly Light and Pass me not, O Gentle Saviour*. The Bishop was astonished at the volume of music these men produced. Accompanied by the Methodist minister on the little harmonium, they fairly shook the building. The Bishop told me afterwards that he could see the veins in their necks bulging as they let it go. What a pity we don't get that inspiring congregational singing in our churches.

The Bishop's address on 'The light of the world' was certainly appropriate

Congregation at Timboon



for these men, who try unsuccessfully to blunder through life without the Light of God to lighten their path. Many of the men came up and thanked the Bishop for his helpful address and also his interest in them, for they do feel that they are outcasts of society. After supper with the officers we journeyed home another 30 miles, arriving about midnight, very tired but thrilled. It was well worthwhile because it showed two things. First, that the church does mean something to these men and they do love the services, and secondly, that they love our Bishop. I would say that he is the most popular visitor to the prison camp.

The following day was very hot and muggy – one of those days when it is hard to feel really enthusiastic. After 8am Holy Communion at Cobden we left for Peterborough 32 miles away for Holy Communion at 11am. Back 18 miles to Timboon Public Hall for 2.30pm and then back another 18 miles for Evensong at Cobden at 7.30pm. At this service six of our girls were received into full membership of the Church by Confirmation. A social hour afterwards concluded a crowded but happy day. At 9am the next morning the Bishop returned to Ballarat to attend a welcome to a Chaplain prisoner of war. It is interesting to note that the Chaplain was The Revd Aubery Pain, who had for some years worked in the Beech Forest Parish, one of our present BCA areas. So ended our Bishop's annual visit – almost 300 miles for the weekend. Was it worth it? Ask the prisoners – ask the people – ask the Bishop.

**These men...  
love our Bishop.  
I would say that  
he is the most  
popular visitor to  
the prison camp**

Timboon/Port Campbell

The Revd Walter Duffy and his wife served in Timboon and Cobden with BCA. When they had to leave the district due to family health concerns he was given a farewell in the town. Speakers at the function came from the RSL, Ministers' Fraternal, Catholic Community, local school and the Police Force. The Revd Duffy said that he found much joy in his work at the Cooriemungle Prison Camp. *(From Camperdown Chronicle May 1946)*



# Order for Christmas

## Christmas Puddings

### Newcastle Pudding Lady Traditional Christmas Pudding

Suitable for microwave

**BCA 312** 500g Pudding \$30 **BCA 313** 1kg Pudding \$45



### Newcastle Pudding Lady Plum Pudding Log

Wrapped in calico and suitable for diabetics/coeliacs in controlled portions; gluten free

**BCA 314** 500g \$32



### Newcastle Pudding Lady Christmas Cake

**BCA 315**

700g Cake \$40



**BCA 021** 2019 BCA Centenary Calendar

Spiral bound pictorial calendar \$15

## Christmas Cards

**BCA 017** New Designs for 2018

Pack of 6 – 2 each of 3 designs \$5/pack



**BCA 018** Banjo Bilby \$15



# Donation Form

**Yes, I would like to help share the gospel and provide care to reach Australia for Christ.**

**Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to BCA's ministry**

## I would like to give by:

Cheque/Money Order     Credit card – please complete details below

Mastercard     Visa     American Express

Name on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number

Expires on \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate to General Ministry **OR**

I would like a tax deduction

(A tax-deductible gift can only be directed to a narrow range of ministry areas)

## Other ways to give:

Online **bushchurchoaid.com.au** • Phone **02 9262 5017**

Direct Deposit **Westpac BSB 032 008 Account 000706**

Donations can be made directly into our bank account. PLEASE use your supporter number as a reference (or, for anonymous donations, the reference ANON followed by the first letter of your State).



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Supporter number\* (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Supporter number (can be found above your name on the back cover of this magazine)

## I would like to receive:

The *Real Australian* magazine & *Prayer Notes*

A money box for my donations

Information about how I can support BCA through my Will

