

The Real

bca
bush church aid
Going the distance

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Australian



Ministry in word, deed and song

Zambia comes to the Pilbara 4

Learning to be utterly dependent on God 20

BCA Directory

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Cover: Members of Grace Academy

As we read this edition of *The Real Australian* many of us will be looking forward to Christmas gatherings and celebrations. Gifts will be purchased, cards will be sent, services will be planned and talks will be written.

Growing up in Australia I was always struck by the contrast between December down under and some of the trappings associated with a northern hemisphere Christmas. It was hard to imagine dashing through the snow in a sleigh as we piled into the family car and stopped and started up the Pacific Highway on our way to the beach.

Christmas is, however, about contrasts. It is about the light shining in the darkness, about hope born amidst despair, about a little baby who came as Lord of all.

What is Christmas like for our Field Staff? For some it is a time of transition. As you will read in the pages that follow some ministries are drawing to a close and others are beginning. For many of our Field Staff Christmas is a time of challenge. The weather heats up and they remain on site while much of their congregation and community head elsewhere to celebrate with extended family. For all our Field Staff Christmas is a time of opportunity. They have the privilege of proclaiming Christ at Carols nights and in church gatherings. They are called to show Christ's hospitality as homes are opened and life is shared.

Will you please pray for our Field Staff this Christmas? Christmas is of course also a time when many families feel the pressure – to make ends meet and, to mend damaged relationships. A big thank you to the many BCA supporters who've already given to our End of Year Appeal to reach and support families in Christ's Name. God willing, in the new year we'll have plenty of stories to share of what our Lord has done through your generosity!

Mark Short

National Director



Christmas is, however, about contrasts. It is about the light shining in the darkness, about hope born amidst despair, about a little baby who came as Lord of all

Zambia comes to the Pilbara



Frank Nicol with the students from Grace Academy

How do you grab people's attention in a town like Exmouth? We live in a town with great beaches, great surf, great fishing and a great lifestyle. As our town motto goes we are spoilt for choice when it comes to leisure activities. What does it take to grab people's attention? Well a choir from Zambia did a pretty good job recently. Let me tell the story of how that came to be.

Many Christians from our church and town are involved with a school known as Grace Academy. Grace Academy was established by the organisation *Seeds of Hope* and is situated not far from Ndola, Zambia. Approximately 160 students board at Grace, and most, if not all of them, are infected or affected by HIV. For many of us in Australia we know HIV exists but have very little first-hand experience with it. This is not the case in Zambia. As the members of this choir made clear, HIV is killing the youth of their county and having an impact on overall development.

Grace Academy was established to provide hope into what seems like a



hopeless situation for many of the children and youth who attend their school. It must first be said that Jesus is the hope that the team at Grace hold out for their students. Through life and death He provides hope for us all, and He is of first-most importance to the Grace community. In His name physical care for the present is offered to all of the students at Grace. With advancements in medicine, sufferers of HIV can now live full lives, have children, be educated, and work. Grace provides a caring environment for their students to live healthy lives, get educated and contribute to their country.

Getting back to Exmouth – the members of our church who are involved in Grace saw an opportunity for a choir to be sent from Zambia to the Pilbara. After much



The children from Grace Academy sang God's praises across the Pilbara

prayer for the many hurdles that had to be overcome, a team of 14 came out to Australia.

After a brief touchdown in the big smoke of Sydney and a concert in rural New South Wales, the choir made their way to the Pilbara. Exmouth was their base of operations, and they made quite an impact on our town. Many, many people who usually have no affiliation with Jesus, came out of the woodwork to engage with these Zambian people. We had concerts in the bush, at the local game fishing club, in the school and impromptu mini concerts on a number of boats. Many people took great joy in showing these students the beauty of God's creation in Exmouth, but the highlight had to be their witness to Jesus. Some of our concerts were explicitly Christian. When we met in Shot Hole Canyon, more than 150 people, most of whom will not regularly step foot in our churches, heard Scripture declared boldly. But even at the concerts that were not explicitly Christian, you could

Their Christianity flowed through their songs and so our whole town heard that there is no one like Jesus, no matter where you search and that He is Number One

not stop these students from singing God's praises. Their Christianity flowed through their songs and so our whole town heard that there is no one like Jesus, no matter where you search and that He is Number One.

Concerts were not limited to Exmouth, people heard Jesus praised in song in Paraburdoo, Roebourne, Wickham, Karratha, Carnarvon, Geraldton and the mid-west coast. I am very

thankful to the *Seeds of Hope* team for putting in the effort to see this trip happen. My ongoing prayer is that you might continue to pray with us that God would bring the fruit that He would like to see from this trip and if it is His will that we might get further opportunity to declare God's praises among the people of our town.

Frank Nicol

Schools ministry — a privilege and a responsibility

Schools ministry, Scripture, RE or RI – I don't know what comes to mind when you think about Religious Education. Was it the first time you heard about Jesus? Maybe you're worried about the future of it. Maybe you fondly remember how you were part of a team that worked for years at your local public school. Maybe you give thanks for the volunteers that teach your own kids.

After 10 months as Bush Church Aid Field Staff working in schools in Darwin and Palmerston, let me share with you three things that come to mind.

Firstly, if it wasn't for Bush Church Aid, there would be no full-time schools ministry worker in Darwin, or the whole NT! It's a privilege to be here but also a great responsibility. There are around 13,000 primary school aged children in the Greater Darwin area. 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few' rings a bell. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will raise up new workers.

Secondly, volunteers want to be trained! In my short experience, volunteers from all kinds of churches have shown interest and participated in a variety of training sessions I have organised. It has been great to see RE teachers trying new things, talking to each other and sharing experiences.

As a result Ashley Patterson, who is recently retired, took his first ever RE lesson in September. Our God answers prayer!

I know that as they hear God's word, it will not return empty, but will accomplish what He desires

Finally, of course, RE would not exist if it were not for the students. To see kids listen to God's word,

sing God's praises and memorise verses is to see God active in our world today. I teach in two schools on a weekly basis. I may never see these children make a decision for Jesus, but I know that as they hear God's word, it will not return empty, but will accomplish what He desires. So, I teach. I plant the seed, water seeds planted by others and wait on God who makes things grow.

Topher Hallyburton



Topher took his friend Syd to talk to the kids

Evangelism is not a dirty word!

In the western world today the word evangelism is often associated with proselytising in a negative way. Chaplains within the state education system, prison system and other public systems have to sign a declaration saying they won't evangelise or proselytise children towards following Christ.

The word 'evangelise' comes from the Greek word **εὐαγγελίζω** which means 'announce good news'. What is the 'Good News'? That Jesus Christ died for us, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to help us live out our lives following Him. It's not rocket science, in fact it is very simple to explain, unfortunately we often complicate it. The reality is that if we don't share this good news (evangelise) then people will not

be able to make a right and just decision in regards to life and faith. It is like learning only half the truth.

How then do we go about sharing this good news (evangelise)?

One example follows. Early in August, out here in the west, we received a visit from a group of young Bible College students from Capernwray

Australia. Their ages ranged from 17–21 years and they were from Canada, USA, Germany and Australia – nine students in all. On the Sunday of their visit we ventured



out to Muttaborra to conduct an evening service. With only a few locals present Sarah asked me if she could go to the pub and bring back a few more. I said: "Of course you can", so off she went. Twenty minutes later she returned with two men in tow, who subsequently sat and listened to the team leader preach about Jesus.

At the conclusion of the service we all retired to the pub for dinner and more dialogue about Jesus. This was evangelism in action, there was no coercion, just sharing of Biblical facts with encouragement to those there to look at their lives and their relationship with Jesus Christ.

The next day the sharing of Jesus continued at the local school where the team spent an hour with the eight students in attendance. They had quizzes, played games, listened to stories about Jesus Christ and heard what Christians believe.

On both occasions sharing was simple, non-coercive evangelism. Evangelism is not a dirty word – it is something we are called by our God to do for His glory and for the benefit of all people.

Graeme Liersch

On both occasions sharing was simple non-coercive evangelism. Evangelism is not a dirty word – it is something we are called by our God to do for His glory and for the benefit of all people

Four years in the wilderness

As I write this Priya, Evie, Lizzie and I are on our way back to Paraburdoo after the biennial Diocesan Fellow Workers' Conference in Geraldton. The journey is about 11 hours' drive (not including stops) so we break it up overnight.

Today we visited a former sheep station near Shark Bay. It has become something of a museum and it was fun to walk past

travel, farm, fish, mine, or otherwise tame this wild land. Aussies in the bush tend to be tough, a prerequisite for living in this environment.

Bush ministry is hard as well. Many people in the bush pour their efforts into storing up treasures on Earth, with varying rates of success. But there are Christians in the bush who seek heavenly treasure as well – a treasure that can't evaporate in

a drought, be burnt up in a bushfire, or washed away in a flood. I understand heavenly treasure to be the one thing you can take to heaven with you – people who have known or grown in Jesus because of you. But just as seeking earthly treasure in the Aussie bush is hard; seeking heavenly treasure is hard too.

It's now almost four years since Priya and I packed our bags and left Western Sydney to become true 'Westies'.

We left the day after our first wedding anniversary, we will return with a host of experiences and two little girls who God blessed us with during our time in the field.

As this issue of *The Real Australian* is delivered to BCA supporters throughout the country, we will be rapidly approaching our return flight to Sydney as we conclude our time as BCA Field Staff.

When I first considered serving with Bush Church Aid, an old friend worried that BCA would not provide proper pastoral care for us. He could not have been more wrong.



During his four years in Paraburdoo Dave Morgan made contacts in the community while volunteering with the local fire brigade

the old homestead, through the shearing shed and the old shearers' quarters. The shearers' quarters were pretty basic – three beds and one shared wardrobe for each of the small bedrooms, a shared bathroom and kitchen, and that's about it. A hot summer sun or cool winter wind would make life there very uncomfortable!

Life in the Australian bush is often hard because the Aussie bush is hard. Unpredictable weather resulting in drought, fire and flood are just some of the natural challenges settlers of this land have faced while seeking to

It has been a huge challenge to be here, but a profound privilege as well. We have learnt things we never would have had we not come, and God has kindly used us to encourage His people and witness to the lost

We have loved the pastoral care we received from the BCA National Office, our WA Regional Officer, our link churches in Sydney, Perth and Newcastle, BCA Nomads and many other regular BCA prayer warriors. Thank you BCA, you make a great team!

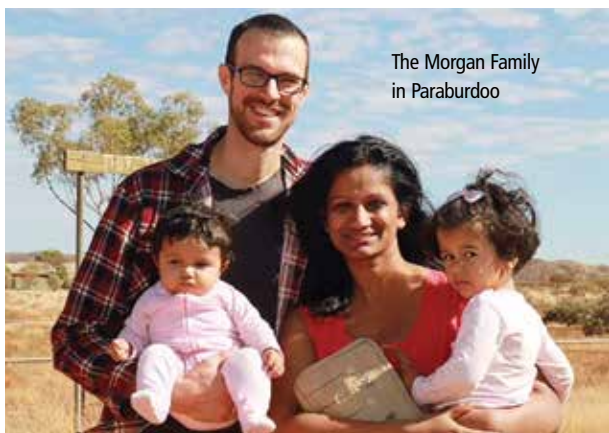
Sometimes in our search for heavenly treasure here we have been discouraged, sometimes I have felt despair. But we have never regretted coming. God has been faithful. Church attendance has been up and down, both in the short and long-term sense of up and down. Evangelistic opportunities have come and gone, with no dynamic conversions. But God has been faithful.

There was the day a church member pulled me up after a song and criticised its lyrics. His criticism showed that he understood we can only be right with God through Jesus, not works. Or there was the Roman Catholic lady who came to Bible study for a year, and left trusting God's grace more deeply than she had before. There are the many BCA Nomads and visitors from link churches who we have been able to introduce to Christians on the ground, and see them mutually build each other up. There have been opportunities to read the Bible with several men. Priya has had a wonderful impact on many children during Sunday School. One recent delight is that of our 20 or so adults and kids at Paraburdoo Anglican, 10 are of Aboriginal descent. It has been great to see God's grace bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians into fellowship with one another.

It has been a huge challenge to be here, but a profound privilege as well. We have learnt things we never would have had we

not come, and God has kindly used us to encourage His people and witness to the lost. Please keep praying for His provision of gospel ministry for Paraburdoo and throughout the Australian bush. Please uphold our Bishop Gary Nelson and BCA as they consider the best model for ministry going forward.

BCA have always required their Field Staff to be men and women of grace, grit



The Morgan Family
in Paraburdoo

and gumption. Anyone living in the bush needs grit to keep going when it's tough and gumption (street wisdom) to relate well to fellow residents of the bush. But BCA Field Staff need to do all this while showing a grace to others that reflects the grace Christ has shown to them. Please pray that God will raise up a new generation of men and women of grace, grit and gumption to serve Christ by making Him known all over the Australian bush.

Thank you for praying for us and we look forward to continuing as BCA supporters in the years to come.

David Morgan

Kununurra pioneers remember God's provisions fifty-two years on

Since Daniel and Rebecca Faricy commenced their ministry in Kununurra many supporters have signed up to receive their newsletter and prayer points. One couple to sign up caught the attention of the BCA National Office team – Barry and Jan Green.

Barry and Jan were BCA's first Field Staff in Kununurra 52 years ago. They were keen to pray for the Faricy family who follow in their footsteps.

It was while serving in the parish of St



Barry and Jan Green when they served in Kununurra more than 50 years ago

Paul's Cooma in 1964 that Barry and Jan were challenged to consider if God was calling them to outback ministry. The then NSW State Secretary Les Wiggins gave the congregation a glimpse of outback life. "We were zapped by God and applied," says Barry. "We were told of the urgent need in the Diocese of North West Australia particularly Kununurra, Wyndham and the Forest River Mission."

Barry and Jan together with their children Elizabeth and Philip flew to Perth in early

1965, collected a specially kitted out Land Rover and commenced their more than 3200 kilometre journey north to Kununurra. It was an eventful trip with much friendship and fellowship along the way. After a stop in Carnarvon the Greens particularly felt God's special provision.

"We were unable to get ice in Carnarvon to keep our food cool so we set off in hot and dusty fashion," says Barry. "We prayed that we could somehow get ice for our Esky to cool our food and drink, then around a bend in the middle of a dirt road, there it was! Two blocks of ice, no vehicles, no explanation – but a very grateful family."

When the Greens arrived in Kununurra their new home was still an empty block of land but they were offered temporary accommodation in Wyndham some 110 kilometres away.

"The Lord works in mysterious ways... we were able to build a congregation in Wyndham and there were trips by boat to Forrest River Mission," says Barry. "Weekly services were held at Kununurra in the morning and Wyndham in the evening. Trips to Halls Creek and various cattle stations, road camps and travelling tourists presented opportunities for ministry."

Before Barry and Jan left Wyndham to move into their newly constructed home, their ministry and place in the community was cemented when Barry was asked to become the 'Tail Twister' in the newly established Lions Club. The job of a Tail Twister is to instil enthusiasm and good fellowship in meetings and keep harmony. This included being invited to ladies' morning teas where Barry would be filled in on the foibles of their husbands!

In 1965 the population of Kununurra was around 1200. The town was still establishing



itself and it featured a bank, a couple of shops, a club, hospital, hotel, co-op, caravan park and two schools. As there was no church building the Greens and their congregation gathered in an area under their house until the local Catholic Priest offered the use of his church building. "We worshipped each Sunday after the Catholic service and purchased an organ which both congregations enjoyed," says Barry. "We believe this was a 'first' for Australia, or at least, Western Australia."

The Greens received great support after their twin daughters Helen and Jocelyn were born in December 1966. When the twins became gravely ill with Salmonella just five months later the entire community rallied around the family. "A local doctor together with a couple from a local station used the Flying Doctor network to ask for help from cattle stations and the towns of Wyndham

A wonderful part of the Greens' ministry was seeing people come to Christ. There was one particular stand out – Angus McDonald and his wife Anne. Angus was later ordained and served with BCA in Wickham from 1981–1987

and Kununurra," says Barry. "There was an amazing financial response. Jan and the four children (then aged seven, three and five months) were flown to New South Wales so they could recover."

A wonderful part of the Greens' ministry was seeing people come to Christ. There was one particular stand out – Angus McDonald and his wife Anne. Angus was later ordained and served with BCA in Wickham from 1981–1987.

"To sum up, the hot climate, the isolation, lack of phone service, newspapers,



Barry and Jan Green today

television, radio and the high cost of essentials, was made bearable by the strong fellowship and bonds with people both within and outside the Church community," says Barry. "We are still in touch with many of our past parishioners. The bonds are deep and the special circumstances of the North West made this possible.

"We pray that God's outreaching 'hands' will be embraced by our newest ministry team in Kununurra and that they will be aware of all who pray for them as they serve God in that remote area. Only God provides the gifts we need and we certainly need them in places like Kununurra."

Janine van den Tillaart

25 years in the North West

After leaving Sydney for the North West in 1992, Les and Jenny Gaulton are retiring as BCA Field Staff in January 2018. Of our current Field Staff they hold the title of the longest continuously serving in ministry. Their story is one of faithfulness and perseverance:

In the early nineties we knew our time ministering in Springwood/Winmalley was coming to an end so we looked for different options. We spoke to BCA and were originally considering Winton in Queensland. God had other ideas and Bishop Tony Nichols happened to be at the BCA Office at the same time. He told us that the only place he had on offer was Leinster in WA. The first thing we said was "Where's that?"

We left the BCA Office having been told where Leinster was and went around the corner to the Western Australian Tourism Office. We asked the young lady at the counter to give us what she had on Leinster, Leonora and Laverton. She asked "Where are they?"

We went to Leinster sight unseen. When I (Les) drove through Leonora I thought "what have I done?" but then I got to Leinster and said "Thank you Lord". Leinster was a little oasis.

We looked after three towns that formed a triangle – Leinster, Leonora and Laverton which each had populations of around 1000–1500.

At one stage of our ministry I (Les) was travelling up to 1000 kilometres a week. I was running church services in the towns and visiting schools, Aboriginal communities, stations and mine sites. The people on the stations always knew that I had a pair of



Karratha Anglican Church



boots and overalls in the car and could pitch in and help.

As we were the only church in Leinster and there was not much on for the children we ran two kids' groups every week. We had fifty kids come to each group and around 25 come to Sunday School. We saw lots of children give their lives to the Lord. We

are grateful for the opportunities to go into the schools in Leinster, Leonora and Laverton. The children heard that Jesus loves them, Jesus died for them and Jesus will forgive them.

People don't stay in those types of places very long. The average is about two years. Congregations would leave and then we would start all over again. But what we saw is people growing from having a very basic understanding of the gospel to being really full on in their faith. The faithful teaching of God's Word always bears fruit. Annie and Brian Fyffe (then Mine Manager) reckon they came to a full understanding of the gospel of grace in Laverton under our ministry. Today they serve in full-time ministry in Carnarvon.

After ten years in Leinster we felt it was time to move on and moved straight into ministry in Karratha.

Karratha with its population of 20,000 has been a very different type of ministry. We liken Karratha to an outer suburb of Perth only 1500 kms away. Here you wear your ministry and counsellor hat especially in times of downturn. People need someone to talk to. You give them encouragement and you share the gospel if they let you.

The church at the moment here is a little bit below average. We were sitting around the 50 mark but now we're hovering



around the 35–40 mark. Lots of people have lost their jobs. There are 400 vacant houses in Karratha and around 300 of them are now owned by the banks. People bought at the peak and then when they lost their jobs and didn't have tenants they couldn't afford their million dollar mortgages.

Things have settled down in the last twelve months. Most of the people who were hurting have left. We hope they are being pastored by someone else.

Throughout our ministry we have really appreciated the support of BCA both financially and prayerfully. The prayers from BCA supporters as well as the emails, cards and letters have just been

incredible. Knowing that people are faithfully and regularly praying has been so wonderful. We wouldn't have been able to stay this long without that.

In all our years in the North West we never looked at our time here as temporary. Wherever we've been ministering is our home. People have asked how could you stay that long? Well that was up to God. We were able to persevere and accept changes knowing God is in this with us. Things happen, people come and people go, things will be difficult but God is always the same, He is always there, always faithful.

**Things happen,
people come and
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Les and Jenny Gaulton

Indigenous leaders re-energised at AEF workshop



Pastor Dennis Taylor and his wife Valda

Indigenous leaders from across the country congregated at Moore College in late September for an Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship (AEF) workshop focusing on grief, loss, marriage and relationships.

The workshop was conducted by Pastor Gregory Jackson and his wife Barbara. Gregory is Vice-President of the Lott Carey

had some good pointers about what we don't do that well and what we should be doing. We're going to start doing things better."

What stood out for Dennis at the workshop was that it was fully interactive. "When you come to conferences people don't usually say much, but not at this conference. There has been lots of laughing and nobody has been bored. Dr

The AEF is vital for re-energising and encouraging each other. This workshop was really important because as Aboriginal men we don't take good care of ourselves, and this is so vital in ministry



The AEF workshop brought together Indigenous leaders from across the country

Global Christian Missional Community which extends Christian witness around the world. It aims to support ministries of evangelism, compassion, empowerment and advocacy in Indigenous communities.

Pastor Dennis Taylor who has been with the AEF for 30 years travelled from Perth for the workshop.

"The AEF is vital for re-energising and encouraging each other," says Dennis. "This workshop was really important because as Aboriginal men we don't take good care of ourselves, and this is so vital in ministry. We

Gregory must think we are a crazy mob but we love laughing."

This workshop was the first of what the AEF hopes is many. "The AEF seeks to further equip and empower Indigenous leadership around the country," says Neville Naden, BCA Indigenous Ministry Officer and Chairman of the AEF. "We thank BCA and Moore College for the financial and organisational support to make this workshop a success."

Janine van den Tillaart

Faithful fighters for the gospel of the Lord

New Broken Hill Field Staff Jack and Lill Harradine are faithful fighters for the gospel of the Lord. Having become Christians some 35 years ago, they have served with Church Army and as travelling evangelists. For the past two years they've been in Murrin Bridge.

"Thirty-five years ago I had just come out of alcohol rehabilitation and some Aboriginal Christians from the AEF came to my hometown of Point Pearce. I was dragged along to this mission by Lill. I heard God speaking to me. He said you will go

It shows that if you have faith that is as small as a mustard seed and believe that what you are doing is the will of God, you don't need to try to open doors for yourself because God will provide for you

out, do what this man is doing and preach my Word. That night Lill and I gave our lives to the Lord."

God brought Jack and Lill to Sydney where they trained with Church Army. Jack was in lay ministry for many years before he had a fall out with the church and stopped going for more than a

decade. "By the grace of God an Aboriginal pastor kept knocking on my door and asking me to come back," says Jack. "I did and the rest is history."

Jack told retired Anglican clergyman Chuck Shave of his vision to travel the country and preach the gospel and on the spot agreed to head off on the road. "Later I thought what did I say that for?" says Jack. "I had a car that had done half a



Jack and Lill Harradine

million kilometres and wasn't safe. I didn't even have money to put petrol in the car. I prayed that God would make Chuck forget about it."

Chuck didn't and even Lill agreed to go. "I tried to do a Jonah but God had other plans," says Jack.

There have been many answers to prayer along the way. One day out of the blue a woman rang and asked if Jack had a four wheel drive. She told him the Lord had told her to give him money to buy one. That day she gave Jack \$20,000 in cash. "It shows that if you have faith that is as small as a mustard seed and believe that what you are doing is the will of God, you don't need to try to open doors for yourself because God will provide for you."

"When I first went to Broken Hill Neville Naden had been gone for a few months. The people there were like sheep without a shepherd and they were struggling. We're working to pull this ship together and we can minister to each other. It's a joy, honour and privilege to be part of this fellowship."

Janine van den Tillaart

An amazing opportunity for ministry

Four years after they first spoke with BCA National Director Mark Short, Luke and Julia Collings have made the move from Sydney to Moranbah.



"For a number of years we felt that God was calling us to some kind of ministry away from our home but we were not sure about what form that might take," says Luke.

After visiting Moranbah earlier this year, Luke and Julia became excited about the opportunities there. "We have an amazing opportunity to minister to families from all over the country who are generally open to the fellowship that Christian community can provide," says Luke. "We really feel that God has been preparing this place for us to come and share the Word."

Moranbah became home for the Collings family in early September and they've had a wonderful experience so far. Luke shared his story on local radio and children Bede and Tabitha have settled into Moranbah State

School. Youngest son Silas is getting ready to start preschool in 2018. They've even added to their family with chickens Berry, Annie, Strawberry and Large Marge joining Merlin the cat.

"It seems like every day we are meeting new people at various community activities," says Luke. "We pray that these open doors will lead to deepening relationships and the opportunity to share Jesus."

Luke and Julia's plans for the short term are simple – to strengthen the faith of the church family and ensure existing ministries are reaching out evangelistically. "We are blessed with some wonderful people who have kept things running over the last year, but we need to move from maintenance to mission mode," says

Luke. "We would like to see our outreach ministries connect people into our worship services and small groups."

The Collingses ask for your prayers for wisdom and guidance as they work together with the church family to determine how ministries will run in 2018. They ask for a real trust in God's provision and sovereignty. "Also pray that through our op-shop outreach people in real need might see the love of God in action," says Luke.

We have an amazing opportunity to minister to families from all over the country who are generally open to the fellowship that Christian community can provide

Janine van den Tillaart

Glorifying God on the Mid North Coast

Full-time ministry was not something that new BCA Field Staff Simon and Alison Reeve thought about after they were married in 1999 but God had other ideas.

After being encouraged to think about ministry work, Simon and Alison went to Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC). They intended to stay for one year but that turned into further study and then ordination. In 2009 the Reeves left Sydney and started working at Quirindi Anglican Church in the Diocese of Armidale.

Both born and bred Sydneysiders, the Reeves didn't even know where Quirindi was at first. "We were looking at different options for ministry after leaving college but all the doors closed except for Quirindi," says Alison. "The thought of leaving our family network was huge but we decided it was the right decision. As we were driving into Quirindi with 10 week old Zoe and two year old Ella I had a huge sense of peace which was just amazing."

What was supposed to be two years out of Sydney has turned into nine. After three years in Quirindi Simon took up a role at the Cathedral in Armidale and they have now moved to Woolgoolga on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales.

"Woolgoolga is a base for our ministry," says Simon. "We will be serving at Northern

Beaches Anglicans but the other part of our role is across the Grafton Diocese from Port Macquarie to the Tweed. I'll be travelling around one day a week assisting parishes as they think about young families' ministry."

The Reeves pray that their early connections will be long lasting and have



We hope to see some conversions and see the church excited about people coming to know Christ and being involved in church life

long-term effects. "We would love to see fruit from our ministry," says Alison. "We hope to see some conversions and see the church excited about people

coming to know Christ and being involved in church life."

After helping with playgroups and kids' church in Armidale, Simon and Alison are also looking to establish similar young families' ministries in Woolgoolga.

"Most of all we want to see God glorified not only in our lives but in the way we conduct our ministry," says Simon.

Janine van den Tillaart

A job four decades in the making

After seeing an ad for an Operations Manager at the Port Hedland Seafarers Centre on the BCA website, Chris Towsey knew that this was the job that God had been preparing him and his wife Helen for.



The Seafarers Centre shop

Like most mission work, we have moments that make you laugh, make you cry or give you goosebumps..... the Mission is there to carry them through

We were living in the northern suburbs of Brisbane and I had felt for some time that I should be doing something in mission. Having retired from working as a geologist in the mining industry (40 years in 26 countries around the world) I was trying to work out which part of deepest, darkest Africa or South America I should be going to, not realising the mission field was ripe here in Australia.

When I read the requirements for the Operations Manager it seemed that everything I had done in the last 40 years had been training for this job. It seemed

an even better fit that Helen is a retired CPA and they needed help in the accounts section. The local parish treasurer was also leaving so there was somewhere else we could contribute.

Most Seafarers Centres around Australia have a Chaplain as the Centre Manager. We have two chaplains which enables us to separate the chaplains from the operations side. The business only exists to serve the seafarers and pay for the chaplains. The Centre sees 34,000 seafarers and some 9000 tourists a year, turning over around \$4 million. We exchange a further \$5 million in foreign currency which the seafarers spend in local supermarkets and shops, so its basically a \$9 million a year business. As we get no financial support from the government or the Anglican Church, we



Seafarers contacting home

have to be self-funding. To do this we run tours of the working harbour and Twiggy Forest's Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) allows us to run a bus tour of their iron ore stockpiling and ship-loading operations. We also bill the mining companies for running a launch service to collect seafarers from their ships in port.

My job is to make sufficient income to pay the bills but not to lose our focus on the seafarers – we are here for them,

not to make a huge profit or build a business empire.

I think a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on would sum up our most important role. Seafarers sign up for a nine-month contract, so they don't see their families during this time. Loneliness and fatigue are major issues. The travel time from Port Hedland to China is 14 to 15 days, and there is often no electronic communication once the ships are more than about 40 kms offshore. The first thing most of the seafarers want is to phone home. So we ensure we have free Wi-Fi and internet connection for the seafarers, provide SIM cards for the Australian phone networks and recharge cards so they can call home. Shopping, recreation and a drink in the bar usually run a long way second to talking to family.

We have also undertaken fundraising to support families of seafarers who die at sea from natural causes – quite often these people are not covered by workers compensation or insurance. In these cases we often get good contributions from the mine workers and mining companies. BHP and FMG held a charity cricket match that raised money equivalent to an 18-month salary for a Romanian seafarer. Recently FMG donated an emergency stretcher for us to remove injured or deceased seafarers.

Like most mission work, we have moments that make you laugh, make you cry or give you goosebumps. The chaplains deal with parents who have lost children while their ship was at sea, workers who have lost friends to accidents or died of natural causes while at sea. The Mission is there to carry them through.

The rewards come for us in the beautiful moments. I heard the piano being played recently, and looked in to see a young Filipino guy playing without sheet music



Chris Towsey (right) with a ship's captain

– flawlessly and with passion. Then I noticed he had his phone on Facetime – his wife was putting the kids to bed in the Philippines and daddy was playing the piano for them from Port Hedland.

We also had two brothers from different ships meet up in the Centre, not realising they would both be here on the same day, and they hadn't seen each other for several years.

These are the magic moments when you see God's love at work.

We ask that BCA supporters pray for safe travel for all seafarers, and especially for those who come through our Centre. Pray for opportunities for us to spread God's Word and make disciples for Him. Pray for continued financial support from the mining companies, tourists and local customers. And pray for God's work to be done here and His vision fulfilled through our Centre.

Chris Towsey

Learning to be utterly dependent on God

Margaret Douglass was not so keen when her husband Don decided to become BCA's first Missioner in Port Hedland 60 years ago. But she wasn't ready to have him go without her so she packed up the kids, her belongings and joined him. Life in the North West in 1957 was not easy but Margaret says her time there had a profound affect on her.

When Don first decided to study at Moore College he was going to apply to BCA to

parish that Don came home after a BCA deputation and said there's a place in Australia that's so hot people live underground. He said they have a doctor, a teacher and a post office but it's too uncomfortable for clergy to go. The next day he was still talking about it. He volunteered to jump out of aeroplanes in World War II and I suspected he was going to volunteer for this. And he did. Instead of asking Don to go to Coober Pedy, BCA asked him to go to Port Hedland and cover the whole Pilbara.

The beginning of our time was very difficult. It took us four days to get there from Perth. The roads were just red dirt. The heat was so dry. As soon as we got there Don went off. He had the habit of visiting Marble Bar, Roebourne and Wittenoom every month. He left me with an empty house. I was terribly lonely. I had two small children and there was no communication of any sort back then. When the ship came in every six to eight weeks there would be magazines and letters from home.

I wrote to six close friends in Sydney and asked them to please pray a Christian into this town, I didn't think I'd survive if they didn't.

I have to say after being there six months I was ready to go home. I was so alone. Every month Don would go to Marble Bar for four days, come home cut wood, attend to the kerosene stove and refrigerator for me and then go again for another ten days. Cutting the wood was so important because there was only DC power the first year. I had nappies to wash and I needed hot water for the copper. With no AC power we didn't have a fan. I'd walk the house at night because of the heat.

I joined every organisation that there was



Margaret Douglass is still a faithful BCA supporter sixty years on

get his fees paid and then serve with them. As he was filling in the forms he suddenly looked up and said: "I don't feel called to this work at all. I'm really applying to get the money and that isn't right." I heaved a sigh of relief because I had no desire to go to the outback.

It was when we were in our first



Margaret Douglass took this photo of Don and the kids on their way to Port Hedland in 1957

– hospital auxiliary, parents and friends association, CWA – and got to know people.

The second year we were there I became close friends with the wife of the garage owner who was a keen Baptist Christian. The new teacher at Roebourne was a Christian and the teacher in Marble Bar was a Christian. In each of the towns I had someone who I could share, pray with and talk about my faith. It was a real answer to prayer.

The first women's meeting I had in Port Hedland we had a mixture of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. I came out with the tea and asked 'how many whites and how many blacks?' I wasn't thinking but luckily everyone roared with laughter. Out of that meeting we started a regular women's meeting, a Bible study and a Mother's Union group. I also formed a women's group in Wittenoom and we met in the pub – I think people in Sydney were shocked but there was nowhere else to meet! I also made contact with the wives from the station

Needless to say even though I was just 27 and only there for four years, it had a huge effect on my spiritual life. I learned to be utterly dependent on God

properties and met quite a few of them.

In the North West we faced the huge realities of people who tried to take their lives, people who had drinking problems and people who had very little. There were some pretty tragic stories and we were involved in most of them. I really grew up in Port Hedland and that's why my time there was so significant. I think I dealt with issues that I wouldn't have anywhere else.

We stayed in Port Hedland for four years but my health necessitated our move back to Sydney. I think Don would have stayed forever and by this stage I would have stayed longer too.

I still take a particular interest in the Pilbara. Needless to say even though I was just 27 and only there for four years, it had a huge effect on my spiritual life. I learned to be utterly dependent on God.

Margaret Douglass



North West Australia

The Ultimate Outback Pilgrimage

Christian Fellowship Tours and BCA 28-day Holiday
Departing 3 August 2018

*The tour will take you to Darwin *Kakadu *Katherine *Kununurra
*Fitzroy Crossing *Broome *Port Hedland *Newman *Tom Price *Karratha
*Exmouth *Carnarvon *Denham *Kalbarri *Geraldton *Perth*

The tour cost includes

- Return domestic airfare
(Flight to Darwin/return flight from Perth)
- Quality accommodation with private facilities
- 27 breakfasts 20 lunches 26 dinners
- A Christian Tour Leader
- Sightseeing and all entry fees



If you are unable to make the entire 28 day tour, CFT is also offering a Darwin to Broome package or a Broome to Perth package.

This outback ministry touring holiday allows you to be part of a group of like-minded people. CFT has operated tours of outback Australia for BCA for the past forty years. Having visitors share in fellowship with both BCA Field Staff and local church communities is invaluable to the continuation of these centres as well as spiritually enriching for all.

For further information go to **christianfellowshiptours.com**
or call **1300 635 358**

Praying for BCA

The support that our Field Staff receive from faithful prayer warriors is so vital to their work across the country.

Former Roxby Downs Field Staff Mary Lewis was so appreciative of the prayer support she received while part of the BCA family: "It is such a privilege to be a member of a mission society where one is supported by daily prayer and gifts for growing the kingdom."

Countless supporters use our quarterly *Prayer Notes* to pray for Field Staff and there are also groups across the country that meet regularly to pray for the work of BCA.

In New South Wales supporters meet in the National Office every two months for an update on what is happening in the field and to pray. The National and NSW/ACT Office staff use the quarterly prayer notes to pray for Field Staff every Tuesday and Thursday.

In Victoria, Doreen and Tom Morgan lead a monthly BCA prayer group at St Mary's in Sunbury, an outer suburb of Melbourne. "We pray sincerely for BCA personnel and needs and I am confident that our Heavenly Father hears our stumbling words, refined by the Holy Spirit," Doreen says. "We are five ordinary earnest Christians with a desire to win 'Australia for Christ' and to support in prayer those out in the front line, working to bring this to pass."

Ernest Horth leads a group who meet at Melbourne's St Paul's Boronia each month. They use the Victorian Regional Prayer Notes put together by BCA Victorian Regional Officer Adrian Lane as well as email prayer updates sent out by the National Office. "As the Holy Spirit prompts and leads, we pray," says Ernest.

There is now a new way to pray for

BCA's mission and Field Staff around Australia. *PrayerMate* is a mobile phone application (app) designed to help you organise your prayer life. It allows you to add prayer points about your church, community, family and personal walk with God. You can also subscribe to receive prayer points from charities and mission organisations. That's where you'll find BCA. The daily prayer points for our Field Staff,



offices and vacant parishes – currently available in the *Prayer Notes* or via our daily prayer emails – are now available in this app.

PrayerMate is available for both iPhone and Android mobile phones. Simply download *PrayerMate*, click Add a Subject and under the section entitled World Mission & Bible Translation click on the BCA feed.

Post & Rails

WELCOME



Luke and Julia Collings together with their children Bede, Tabitha and Silas have moved to Moranbah in Central Queensland. Luke is the minister at St Francis' Anglican Church and Julia looks to reach young families with the gospel.



Simon and Alison Reeve have commenced as BCA Field Staff in Woolgoolga, New South Wales. Simon has been

involved in Young Families' Ministry at the Anglican Cathedral in Armidale for the past six years. His new role with families will be both in the Parish of Woolgoolga and across the Diocese of Grafton. He and Alison have three children – Ella, Zoe and Joel.

Jack and Lill Harradine have commenced as BCA Field Staff at the Living Waters Indigenous Church in Broken Hill. Jack trained with Church Army and has been involved in evangelism across the country for decades. They've moved to



Broken Hill from Murrin Bridge in Central West New South Wales.

Janice Ackland has joined the BCA National Office team as office chaplain. Janice is a trained social worker and long-term BCA supporter who previously supervised social work students doing placements with us.



CONGRATULATIONS



Frank and Jo Nicol together with siblings Lydia and Eli welcomed baby Silas Charles on Sunday 24 September in Perth. Silas and mum Jo now share a birthday!

The Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) acknowledged the accomplishments of **The Real Australian Magazine** at its annual Awards Dinner in late August. *The Real Australian* won the Gold Award for Best Cover for the spring 2016 edition (Designer Bruce Nicholson), the Silver Award for Best Original Photography (Emma Collett –



Youthworks) and the Bronze Award for Best Feature: Multiple Authors (Val Ishri & Janine van den Tillaart).

FAREWELL

Helen Spring has stepped down as Administrative Assistant in the SA/NT Regional Office after eight years in the role.



David and Pryia Morgan complete their term as BCA Field Staff in Paraburdoo/ Tom Price at the end of the year. David has accepted the role of Rector at St Mark's Sadleir, a suburb in south west Sydney.

VALE

Helen Thorne (31 August 1930 – July 2017) together with husband Stewart (deceased) served with BCA at Orroroo in South Australia from 1961–1965 and the Parish of Winton in Central Queensland for two years from 1982–1984. Helen is survived by her children Kathryn, Douglas, David and their families.



Richard Leslie

Thornton (28 March 1936 – 18 September 2017) was a faithful BCA supporter and volunteer who helped the National Office team with its stamps. Richard is survived by his siblings, great nieces and nephews.



The Revd Paul Dew

(18 May 1949 – 22 October 2017) served as the NSW/ACT Regional Officer for BCA from 2000–2006. He held appointments across the state before serving with BCA including in the Dioceses of Grafton and Armidale. He joined the BCA family as he wanted “to fulfil my heartfelt desire of sharing the glorious gospel across Australia.” Paul is survived by his wife Heather, their children Duncan, Peter, Annabel and their families.



The Revd David Hand (29 October 1939 – 18 October 2017)

served for 32 years in parish ministry before commencing in the role of BCA Regional Officer for the province of South Australia in January 2000. He served for six years before retiring from ministry in December 2005. David is survived by his wife of 49 years Jennifer, sons Nicholas, Christopher and their families.



From the Archives

The first issue of *The Real Australian* was published in September 1920. It was a four-page text only Quarto publication. In this first issue Sydney James Kirkby outlined his hope to publish it once a quarter. Ninety-seven years on we still have the privilege of bringing you news from the field four times a year.

In this inaugural issue, which cost one shilling and sixpence, supporters learned about how they could provide practical support to the Society and received news from Wilcannia and Cobar:

Supporters of the Bush Church Aid Society will be glad to find that they are sharers in a great undertaking of the Church which extends to the furthestmost limits of the great state of New South Wales. It is real home mission work which they are so generously assisting, an enterprise which is not confined to some well-established township with ordered parochial life but that which takes in the far flung spaces of the West and North-West, stretching right up to the Queensland and South Australian borders. Parenthetically it may be said that it is the ambition of the Society to find men and to support them for work in the most distant outposts of the Church in all the states.

In the mother state the Bush Church Aid Society is assisting the Rev. F. W. Harvey* in his work in the West Darling area which centres at Wilcannia. This is no mean and circumscribed parish. Besides the above-mentioned centre it comprises the townships of Menindee 100 miles away, Box Tank 120 miles, Ivanhoe 100 miles, White Cliffs 60 miles, Tibooburra 200 miles. It is country into which no railway enters save at its southernmost point by the line that runs from Broken Hill to Menindee.

It's not remarkable for its population; in some parts neighbours live up to thirty and fifty miles apart. It is a land of novel sights; the traveller will see more camels than horses as he passes through the country. And the borders of the parish are reached only by coach journey from Cobar covering



Fred and Violet Harvey with their children Ken and Pat. Wilcannia 1922

I believe that God has called us to the place, and will give us both the necessary courage and grace to perseverance

about 170 miles. Extracts from letters received from Rev Harvey will be read with interest. Surely the reader will be able to visualise the country, abounding, as it does, with strange experiences, but

also will sense something of the spiritual need that exists. The letters are at once a call and a challenge to us.

Wilcannia, July 26, 1920. We reached Cobar safely on Friday. Mr Hawkins had a car to meet us and carried us off to his vicarage to tea. After that I found accommodation for my wife and baby and took the coach for the 170 mile trip to Wilcannia. Your friend Curly was not the driver but another youth Billy, as fine



Our Organising Missioner Sydney James Kirkby in the Far West



a motor driver as one could wish to travel with. I was the only passenger. About ten miles from Cobar we ran into wet country and it was touch and go then for 45 miles whether we should get through or not. The road was simply a bog and the engine had to strain and roar for hours but thanks to the skill of the driver we got through without mishap. We met one motorcyclist broken down on the road. He had left Wilcannia a week before but the heavy state of the road had blocked him and his travelling was very slow. At last his engine gave out and he was stranded miles out of Cobar, camping there until something turned up to give him a lift into the township. Wilcannia was reached the next day, Archbishop Godfrey Smith was there to meet me. He had come out from Broken Hill, 120 miles distant to offer me welcome.

The people appear to be delighted to have someone here. They feel glad to have a married man in charge. Altogether I think

that we shall be happy here. The life will be hard and the work most difficult; but I believe that God has called us to the place, and will give us both the necessary courage and grace to perseverance. I shall need a faith deeper than I ever had before but I know that you are all praying for us. We do long to bring hope and joy into the lives of the people who have so bravely faced the conditions of the Far West. Maybe the days will come when we shall sigh for the comforts which we enjoyed when we dwelt in the 'inside country' but now we have set our faces to the West for Christ's sake and want to count it all joy to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Praise God for Fred Harvey and all the faithful soldiers of the Lord across Bush Church Aid's long history.

**The Revd Fred and Violet Harvey served with BCA from 1920-1922 in Wilcannia, White Cliffs and Menindee.*

Following her return to Christ, my mother blessed me by encouraging attendance at our local Anglican Church during my childhood and youth. However, I drifted away.

It was through a Bible study and God's grace that in my twenties I knelt at my bed and prayed a simple yet profound commitment to Christ. My wife Gayelene also committed her life to Christ at that time. We give thanks that ever since we have lived together in the joy and comfort of God's embrace.

We became BCA supporters while serving with CMS in Argentina for nine years. During that time we felt we should continue our concern for mission in Australia. We joined BCA and began receiving information and encouragement to support 'Australia for Christ'.

Our support for BCA continued upon our return to Australia and involvement in parish ministry in Melbourne. This involvement deepened during our 15 years in Tasmania as BCA is a long-term partner in the mission and ministry of the Diocese of Tasmania. As Bishop of Tasmania I was privileged to work closely in developing new

opportunities for mission. Because we saw so clearly the vital support of BCA Field Staff in areas of need, I willingly accepted the invitation to serve as President of BCA. It is a privilege and joy to continue in that role and give to BCA a little of the great gifts I saw given to Tasmania.

Now in Melbourne, we attend BCA functions and continue our support for BCA, including running a monthly prayer meeting in our home. What a joy it is to serve God through such a visionary, strategic and prayerful family such as BCA!

May God continue to bless the Bush Church Aid Society and all who minister through her fellowship in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Right Revd
John Harrower OAM*

**President Bush Church Aid
Bishop Assisting the Primate of the Anglican Church
of Australia**

**May God continue
to bless the Bush
Church Aid Society
and all who
minister through
her fellowship in
the Gospel of the
Lord Jesus Christ**

Order for Christmas

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2017

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

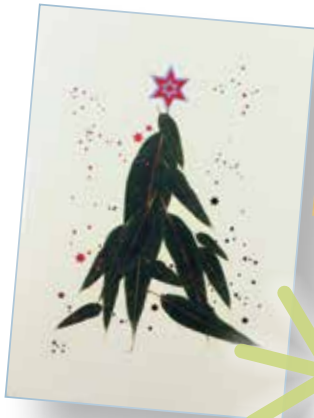
700g Cake \$40

Christmas Cards

BCA 016 2017 Designs

Pack of 6 – 2 each of 3 designs \$5/pack or \$4.50/pack for 3 or more

BCA 018 Banjo Bilby \$15





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Yes, I would like to help share the gospel and provide care to isolated families across Australia.

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

☐ Please tick here if you need a tax deduction
(Donations to tax deductible funds cannot be used for general gospel ministry.)

I would like to give by:

☐ Cheque/Money Order ☐ Credit card – please complete details below

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

Name on credit card _____

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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 no. (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**

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