

News from Cobar

with James & Brittany Daymond • January 2026 • [Video update](#)



Banner Image: View of one of the many mines in Cobar

Circle Image: James & Brittany

Middle Image: Cobar Miner's Memorial

Bottom Image: Letterbox for cards and letters of condolence in the mining tragedy

The last three months have mainly been a time of connecting with BCA supporters, a time of seeking to care for our community after a mining explosion, and a time of getting our ISCF Group at Cobar High School off the ground.

In October, we travelled to St Matthew's Anglican Church Wanniassa and St James' Anglican Church Wyong to update supporters on our ministry in Cobar. This was a part of the BCA Connect events spearheaded by NSW/ACT Regional Officer, Paul Sampson and his Admin Assistant, Elza Lee. It was a very encouraging time and a great privilege to meet BCA supporters from these areas.

Please give thanks for the widespread and generous support of BCA supporters enabling Field Staff to go the distance to share Jesus Christ.

At the end of October, there was a mining explosion at about 3am on a Tuesday morning which killed two of our local miners, Ambrose McMullen (59 years old) and Holly Clarke (24 years old), as well as injuring McKenzie Stirling. Ironically, the explosion was just one day after the completion of *The Festival of the Miner's Ghost*, an annual series of events commemorating those who have died in mining. This tragedy cut to the heart of the Cobar community given

that Cobar is a mining town. The local churches responded by visiting the mine site management, opening the churches for prayer, offering chaplaincy to the miners and the wider community, dedicating church services the following Sunday to those who had died, and helping the community to express their grief by relaying letters and cards of condolence to the grieving families. James was particularly struck by just how valuable Christian ministry is in such times and the immense privilege it is to minister to a community in mourning.

Please pray that those grieving the loss of loved ones will be blessed with comfort and strength. Please also pray that miners will be kept safe.



Paul Sampson interviews James at BCA Connect Wanniassa



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The ISCF Lunchtime Group meeting at Cobar High School has now become a recess group called, 'Snacks and Jesus'. We meet for 20-minutes on a Monday morning and we are working our way through a course on Luke's Gospel written by Scripture Union. However, in the eight sessions we have done, in the majority it has just been about creating connections with the students. The group is only just starting to settle. By the grace of God, there has been a hunger to learn which has been slow to emerge but has become very apparent. We are delighted with how things have unfolded. This is run as a joint-church initiative which includes one Christian teacher on school staff who is very helpful.

Please pray that students will continue to come along hungry to learn about Jesus.

In our congregation, we have just completed a Sunday preaching series on Romans 5-8. This was tremendous to do so that we could be quite clear about sin, grace, justification, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the glory which is to come. We also celebrated the service of two

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of our church members, Bill & Loretta Houghton, who have been serving the church in all sorts of ways, in Loretta's case for 80 years since her mother got her started with a feather duster! Their service was overwhelmingly acknowledged by the wider

community once it was shared on social media and written about in *The Cobar Weekly*, our local newspaper. We are so grateful for Bill & Loretta who our bishop has referred to as, "Legends"!

Give thanks for congregation members, Bill & Loretta Houghton, for their service to the Anglican Church in Cobar over many years.

We were greatly encouraged by the visit by Ian & Leisa Davidson, from our BCA Partner Church, Christ Church Lavender Bay. This was Leisa's second visit to us – she came to help us out in Narromine for a month some years ago. It was great to have their supportive and encouraging presence among us for a few days. Their visit was especially



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timed so that they would be able to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary with our church which was a great privilege for us. We're so grateful for Ian & Lesia as well as for our partnership with Christ Church Lavender Bay.

Give thanks for our BCA Partner Church, Christ Church Lavender Bay, and for Ian & Lesia's visit to Cobar.

We also completed one year of visiting Bourke (our neighbouring town and parish to the north) every

two months to hold a Holy Communion service. Our time this year concluded with a Christmas service the Sunday before Christmas. The church is small but committed to meeting regularly.

Thank God for our neighbouring church of Bourke, particularly for their faithfulness over many years. Ask also that God would bless that church with growth.

Thank you once again for your prayers and support!

May the year ahead be filled with great blessings for you.



James & Brittany
P.S. Check out our video update

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