

Outback Owens

with Simon & Angela Owen • October 2025



Your support and prayers are bearing fruit, and we've been greatly encouraged to see God's hand at work in Cloncurry and Julia Creek over the past few months. In addition to our regular ministry activities, this has involved several ministry firsts: our first Equip Conference livestream, Simon's first funeral in Julia Creek and our first bush baptism!

On Saturday 21 June, five ladies from Cloncurry and Julia Creek gathered for the livestream of the Equip Women's Conference. With gift packs and booklets in hand, we joined in the singing, prayer and Bible teaching from Revelation, enjoyed fellowship over a shared lunch, and all finished the day feeling strengthened and refreshed in our faith. We give thanks to God for the encouragement this provided our ladies, who have never previously had the opportunity to attend a Christian conference, and we look forward to doing it again next year.

During June, Simon had the opportunity to run a *Christianity Explored* session with two congregation members. This was a great help and encouragement for the attendees, as they discussed the Gospel and how the whole Bible story fits together. One attendee moved away for work not long after but shared that his short time at St Andrew's Church had really helped him grow in faith. The month ended with Simon's visit to Synod in Townsville. Meanwhile, Angela held the fort by leading the Sunday service while Simon was away, utilising a *Christianity Explored* video in

place of a sermon, which proved to be a great encouragement.

In the first week of the July school holidays, we were blessed and encouraged by some friends from Sydney who visited us for a week. This also overlapped with the arrival of a BCA Nomad team from one of our partner churches – Kurrajong North Richmond Anglican (NSW) – and another individual from Ross River Anglican in Townsville, who had all come to help serve and run a kids' club the following week.

From Monday to Wednesday, with 10 volunteer leaders and 30 enthusiastic primary-aged kids, we had three action-packed days of food, games, crafts, songs, and Bible teaching centred around the theme of *party*.

Fun activities included a 'lost sheep' scavenger hunt, rock painting and remaking the nativity scene using painted rocks. All activities reflected teachings like 'let's party because God made the world' or 'let's party because Jesus was born at Christmas', etc.

The kids absolutely loved the three days and were enthusiastic to know more about God.



Banner Image: Julia Creek

Circle Image: The Owens

Middle Image: Angela with some of the ladies at the Equip Women's Conference livestream

Bottom Image: Simon leads actions during kids' club



Simon sharing a gospel message at the Friday evening BBQ

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Parents also gave us some encouraging feedback. Some highlights were watching individual kids stand up in front of the group and share the Gospel with the Jesus cube, as Simon had taught them. One Prep-aged girl said, *"This is the best day ever"*, and another child told her parents that she really enjoyed praying to God and feeling His peace.

The week ended with a Friday night Hope BBQ at the local dam playground, where several families from the kids' club joined in. Simon shared a gospel message for both kids and adults during the evening, providing an encouraging opportunity to engage with our community.

Later in July, National Director Greg Harris and his wife Karen came to visit us and conduct our four-year review. It was a great encouragement to spend some quality time with them, and they

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blessed our congregation with preaching and leading music at our Sunday service.

Soon after farewelling Greg & Karen, Simon received a phone call about conducting a funeral for a long-time resident of Julia Creek and an Anglican church member who had recently passed away. Being Simon's first funeral at Julia Creek, it involved some extra preparation. So, after driving to Julia Creek for our monthly service on

Sunday, Simon drove back down on Monday to prepare for the funeral the following day. With thanks to God, the funeral service went extremely well, even though Simon was feeling quite unwell by the end of the day. The family was very happy and pleased with how everything went, and it was a great gospel opportunity to remind all of the comfort and hope that we have in Jesus through Psalm 23 and John 14:1-6.

Despite sickness and busyness leading up to the first week of August, we managed to get away for our holiday, which involved a few days in Townsville (800 kms from Cloncurry) and 10 days on Magnetic Island (just off Townsville) with Angela's family. Highlights include Simon being just well enough to run the 10km in the Townsville Running Festival, celebrating both our 40th birthdays and Esther's 7th birthday while on Magnetic Island. We enjoyed quality family time, swimming, snorkelling, bushwalking and enjoying stunning views. We were grateful to God for this refreshing time away. It was an enjoyable way to mark our milestone birthdays.

Upon returning from our holiday we made an intentional decision not to commit to any extra events for the rest of Term 3 so we could focus on our regular activities (Sunday services, Religious Instruction classes, Friday school pancakes, *mainly*



Simon & Angela with Greg & Karen Harris

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music, weekly prayer group, monthly women's Bible study, soccer coaching and monthly PNC meetings) as well as attending to various pastoral and practical needs of members of our congregation and community. Simon has been preaching through the book of Acts, which has been encouraging for all. We were blessed and strengthened to have our previous Senior Minister from Eagle Vale and his wife (Craig & Sandra Hooper) spend a week visiting us.

Please join us in giving thanks to God for the fruitful opportunities we've had during this busy event season of the year, despite the lower attendance at our Sunday services, as many have been involved in rodeo events, horse competitions, and mustering.

During September, Simon had the unique privilege of conducting his first 'bush baptism' for two children on a cattle station two hours out of town. It was a big day out for us all, and an extraordinary experience driving a couple of hours on dirt roads, past cattle, kangaroos, emus and brolgas, and arriving at a beautiful property in the middle of nowhere. Around 60 people were present, dressed for the occasion, and Simon had the great privilege of sharing

the Gospel with them all. It was a special and memorable experience, and we give God great thanks for the incredible opportunities He gives us to be present in people's lives and to witness to Christ and His Gospel.

We're currently away at Mission Beach (approximately 12 hours from Cloncurry) catching up with family and attending the North Queensland Christian Convention. This brings together evangelical churches from the North Queensland region. Pray we have a refreshing and energising time away before we return to the heat and await what God has planned for Term 4.

Pray for our perseverance as the weather heats up and continue to pray that God would be at work in the church and communities of Cloncurry and Julia Creek, drawing people into saving faith in Christ.



Exploring with Craig & Sandra Hooper



Bush Baptism

Blessings and thanks,
Simon, Angela, Grace, Esther & Josiah

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