

The Real

Australian



On the Backroads to Glory 5

Never Too Far, Never Too Few – 100 Years of BCA 8

BCA Directory

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Cover:

BCA has a rich history of reaching Australia for Christ

Happy birthday! This edition of *The Real Australian* marks 100 years since the formation of The Bush Church Aid Society and as a treasured supporter and partner in mission you are part of that milestone.

Every day is an opportunity to serve the Lord and bless others but birthdays have their own unique character.

Every birthday is a *time to remember*. As BCA marks its century you may like to recall how God has blessed you through its work. Perhaps you've lived in a location served by BCA Field Staff. Maybe you were inspired by a BCA deputation. Has God widened your horizons as you read and prayed for His work in far-away places? If so, why not give thanks to God and write or email us so we can share your story with others.

Every birthday is a *time to invite*. We want even more Australian Christians to engage in God's mission down under. Perhaps you could purchase a copy of our Centenary book for a friend or colleague (see p 29). You could also use our BCA Centenary video resources with your Bible study or church (downloadable at bushchurchoaid.com.au/100).

Every birthday is a *time to gift*. God has been tremendously gracious to us in so many ways over the past 100 years. He has raised up men and women for the field, He has sustained them in challenging times and He has changed lives for eternity through their faithful witness. Making a donation to our Centenary Appeal is a great way to express your gratitude for the past and your confidence in what God will do in the future.

This will be my last editorial for *The Real Australian* before I finish my time as National Director. The first day of each month will continue to be special for Monica and me because it is on this day that we have been blessed to know thousands of people were praying for us and the rest of the National Office. Thank you so much. We were BCA supporters long before my current role and, God willing, we hope to be so for many years to come. We anticipate peering over your shoulders and marvelling with you at what God does in the century to come.

Mark Short
National Director
2011–2019



God has been tremendously gracious to us in so many ways over the past 100 years. He has raised up men and women for the field, He has sustained them in challenging times and He has changed lives for eternity through their faithful witness

You can help us plant a new community of faith



The Anglican Church has been a major part of the Monaro and Snowy Mountains region for well over a century. In fact, BCA Organising Missioner and founder SJ Kirkby visited the area around the Snowy Mountains early in his travels. In 1936 a BCA mission was established in Delegate-Bonang.

As with so many other places, Christian presence in the region has continued to shrink with two generations of families missing from churches. It is these people who make up the majority of the population and they need to hear the life-saving message of the gospel of Christ.

Jindabyne in particular is a town with an enormous need for the gospel. The town is experiencing rapid growth with new housing developments in several areas, one of which will accommodate an extra 1000 people. There is a current permanent population of 4500 with up to 5000 seasonal workers and visitors plus those seasonal workers who select cheaper

accommodation options further east in Berridale and Cooma.

BCA together with the Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn and the Parish of Berridale & Snowy Mountains seek to establish a viable community of faith and ministry in this growing area.

To establish this church we need to gather and nurture existing Christians in the area who have lost connections with the church, as well as reach out to those who have not heard the gospel.

It is through these people that a vibrant local Christian community can be established with a Christ-centred church which is sustainable into the future.

This Snowy Mountains Ministry Initiative forms the basis of our Centenary Appeal.

To establish a new church in this area requires your prayers and if you are able, your financial support.

You will receive our Centenary Appeal in the mail next month, it is our prayer that through your generosity the good news of Jesus will ring out from the mountains.

These people need to hear the life-saving message of the gospel of Christ

On the Backroads to Glory



I am a great fan of the ABC TV series *Backroads*. Every time host Heather Ewart takes us into the heart of a small Australian community I find myself fascinated by its uniqueness and diversity and prayerful for its people and its future. It's a reminder that some of the best destinations are found away from the main streets and motorways.

In my seven and a half years as National Director I've travelled a number of backroads and spent time in several of the communities highlighted in the series. Let me share with you a few of those journeys and what and who I encountered there.

First, there was the backroad to Coober Pedy. I'd flown in to the outback mining town of Roxby Downs in South Australia, where Mary and Owen Lewis were serving as BCA Field Staff. We were then to drive to the 'nearby' community of Coober Pedy where Geoff and Tracey Piggott were commencing their BCA term. And we had a choice of road. Not so much the high road and the low road as the road less travelled and the road even less travelled. So we took the latter, out past the bilby sanctuary, along the Oodnadatta Track next to the old Ghan Line, and after a brief stopover in William Creek, into Coober Pedy. Where else, I wondered, would you get to gaze at Lake Eyre in flood, change a tyre besides a gibber track and add your business card to the extensive collection in the front bar of the William Creek Hotel all on work time?

However the best part of the journey was the destination. There, at the end of the road, I met men and women who had

Continued page 6



literally gone underground for their faith, living and serving as pastors, teachers and nurses so Jesus might be known there.

Second, there was the backroad to Paraburdoo. In 2017 Monica and I spent almost a fortnight driving over 2500km to meet all our Field Staff serving in the Pilbara. Monica began our adventure by speaking at the Pilbara Women's Convention in Karratha and we then headed off on our circuit. The road from the coast to Paraburdoo is well sealed and sign-posted, but we were lucky to see one other car every two or three hours. So when we pulled into the beautiful Karinjini National Park to camp for the night we mightn't have expected to meet anyone, let alone good friends. But there, in the same place on the same night were BCA Nomads Kees and Cindy Bootsma, on their own journey through the North-West to encourage and serve God's people in the Diocese of North West Australia. As we sat down to dinner together under the vast star-speckled sky we gave thanks for such servant hearted people who would travel all the way from Sydney for the sake of Christ and His mission.

Third, let me tell you about the back (rail) road from Cloncurry. One of my hobbies, or perhaps obsessions, is train travel. So when I

needed to travel from Cloncurry, where Rod and Christene Oldfield were serving, down to Townsville to meet with their Bishop, I knew there was only one way to make the trip – by the Inlander train. Now, with a leisurely schedule that traverses the 977 kilometres in 21 hours (or so), and with the sleeping carriages having been removed a couple of years earlier, it was indeed an experience for the connoisseur. And like every connoisseur I wanted to make the experience last as long as possible. So much so that I prevailed on Rod and Christene to drive me from Cloncurry the one hour to where the train began in Mount Isa so I could spend four hours clickety clacking back to Cloncurry on my way to the coast. Michael Portillo eat your heart out! (*For those who are not train buffs Michael Portillo is an ex British parliamentarian and journalist who has a TV series entitled Great Railway Journeys.*)

In truth, it wasn't the train that made the journey but how it began. It was in Cloncurry that I saw the shoots of new life as a church which had done it tough. It was now reaching out to young families through a *mainly music* program. I heard long-term residents and recent arrivals speak with hope about what God was doing, not in



some other place in some other time but right then in their own neighbourhood.

So backroads have taken Monica and me on some of my best journeys and given us friendships and memories that we will treasure for the rest of our lives. Along the way I've been reminded that backroads have played a special place in God's journey to us as well. Hebrews 13:12 tells us that Jesus suffered outside the city gate to make people holy through His own blood. Friends who've been to Jerusalem tell me it's only a stone's throw from the ancient city walls to the most likely location for Jesus' crucifixion. But in those few metres we travel from one world to another.

For Jesus, the path to glory at His Father's right hand was not along the corridors of political power nor through the colonnades of the temple. His was a backroad, overlooked and sometimes despised by humans, but precious to God.

So when God's people follow Him in service, whether to Coober Pedy, Paraburdoo or Cloncurry they walk that way. Monica and I are so thankful for the times God has brought them across our path.

Mark Short

Mark Short concludes his time with Bush Church Aid at the end of March. He will be consecrated and installed as the Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn on Saturday 6 April 2019 at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn. David Crain, BCA Vice-President will work as Interim National Director until a new National Director is appointed.

For Jesus, the path to glory at His Father's right hand was not along the corridors of political power nor through the colonnades of the temple. His was a backroad, overlooked and sometimes despised by humans, but precious to God

Never Too Far, Never Too Few – 100 years of BCA



NEVER TOO FAR, NEVER TOO FEW

100 YEARS OF BUSH CHURCH AID

Robyn Powell

For the past year Christian writer Robyn Powell has been working on a special project for BCA – a coffee table book to mark 100 years of reaching Australia for Christ.

When I first walked into the Bush Church Aid National Office a year ago I already had a feeling of panic, but this soon escalated to utter terror because the archive is so vast.

National Director Mark Short and I had many discussions about what the book should be. Eventually we decided it would be an overall view of

the importance of BCA in the life of rural, regional and remote Australia. We thought of a number of ways we could do it, we could do it by decade, we could do it by state....

I sat in the archive for months, read through every edition of *The Real Australian* since 1920 and looked at hundreds of photographs. In the end I suggested to Mark that the best way forward was to look at areas of ministry. *Never Too Far, Never Too Few – 100 years of Bush Church Aid* covers children's ministry, Indigenous ministry, caring ministry, travelling ministries, supporters,

This book is designed to encourage those who are already supporting BCA and I pray that people who don't yet support BCA will pick the book up and say this is a ministry worth supporting

evangelism, changing communities, and the future.

What I have discovered in researching and writing this book is that all areas of BCA ministry overlap. You can't talk about children's ministry without talking about ministry to Indigenous Australians. You can't talk about evangelism without talking about pastoral ministries. This is a beautiful unity showing that BCA is an organisation that cares for the whole person. For the past 100 years the number one thing has been for people to hear the gospel of the Lord Jesus. But spreading the gospel has encompassed other things such as medical treatment, education and pastoral care.

The book starts with an introduction to the work of BCA. We particularly look at the work of the great man SJ Kirkby. The second chapter is about evangelism because the heart of BCA is bringing the gospel to people. We look at different ways that people have evangelised in word and deed over the past 100 years and then at someone currently in the field. That is how the book continues – each chapter looks at the history of the area of ministry and then focuses on someone who typifies that ministry today.

When those people gathered 100 years ago on that cold and rainy night they had no idea where the work of BCA would go. They just had a reliance on God and that He would make it work. The framework for BCA was created by SJ Kirkby in the first few years and in 2019 nothing has changed. BCA spreads the gospel to people by caring for them, loving them, teaching and preaching to them, or listening to them when they are hurt.

When I have told people that I'm writing this book, they have said I'm glad

you're writing a history of BCA. *Never Too Far, Never Too Few* is not a history, it is an overview of the work of BCA over the past 100 years. This book is designed to encourage those who are already supporting BCA and I pray that people who don't yet support BCA will pick the book up and say this is a ministry worth supporting.

Robyn Powell

Centenary Videos

To complement *Never Too Far, Never Too Few, 100 years of Bush Church Aid*, five ninety-second videos have been produced. They cover ministry to children, travelling ministries, ministry to Indigenous Australians, evangelism, and an overall look at how BCA was then and how it is now.

The Centenary videos have been produced by Robyn Powell in conjunction with videographer Bryce McClellan. They are available to download from our website **bushchurcaid.com.au/100** or you can contact the BCA National Office on 02 9262 5017 if you would like copies sent to your church.

Never Too Far, Never Too Few, 100 years of Bush Church Aid is available for sale on our website. Further information on how to order is found on Pages 29 and 30 of this issue.

BCA commits to joining the National Redress Scheme

The Bush Church Aid Society has agreed to sign up to the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. The Scheme provides acknowledgement and support to people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

It was created in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which estimated that 60,000 people experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Australia.

BCA's National Director Mark Short said the decision to join the Scheme reflected BCA's core values.

"The BCA prayer refers specifically to our history of supporting young people. One way we can continue to do so is by working with the Scheme to ensure that if anyone has experienced abuse they are able to access the assistance they need and deserve."

Redress is an alternative to seeking compensation through the courts.

The National Redress Scheme can provide three things:

- access to counselling
- payment
- a direct personal response from the institution for those who want it.

The Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.

Bush Church Aid has committed to join the Scheme so people can access redress.

For more information, visit nationalredress.gov.au or call 1800 737 377.

National Redress Scheme

For people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

Find out more at
www.nationalredress.gov.au
or call 1800 737 377



High achiever wins the final April Bottom Scholarship

Since 2004, fifteen young people have benefited from the legacy of the late April Bottom. The scholarship established in her honour has eased their financial burden as they have moved away from home to attend university.

We are pleased to announce that the final recipient of the April Bottom Scholarship is Kelsey Graham of Broken Hill. Kelsey has received \$12,000 to go towards her tuition fees, boarding fees and text books.

"When I received the news that I would receive the scholarship I felt disbelief, happiness and relief," says Kelsey. "I am very thankful to receive the scholarship this year. It takes a significant amount of financial pressure off myself and my family, making it easier to focus on my studies. I really appreciate the scholarship and plan to make the most of the coming year, even more so now with this reduced financial stress."

Kelsey is a high achiever. She was the most outstanding student at Willyama High School in Years 9, 10 and 11. In Year 11 she topped the class in maths, mathematics extension, PDHPE, modern history, chemistry and biology. In 2017 she was the recipient of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute Science Award.

Kelsey has just commenced a double degree in science and arts at Monash University. She plans to major in ecology, conservation biology, archaeology and ancient history.

The Bottom family and BCA wish Kelsey all the best as she settles into life in Melbourne and commences her studies.

"Bush Church Aid has been proud to administer the April Bottom Scholarship," said Mark Short. "It honours the memory of a faithful Christian and keen BCA supporter and reflects BCA's longstanding commitment to serving children and young people in the bush."



Kelsey Graham

When I received the news that I would receive the scholarship I felt disbelief, happiness and relief

Janine van den Tillaart

From homeless to a home in heaven



Chris and Philip Knight

Chris was living in his car when he turned up at St Matthew's Church in Port Hedland last year. I think he was a bit embarrassed by his situation.

But he accepted our invitation to use church kitchen and bathroom facilities while he looked for work to get back on his feet.

Since then Chris has met Jesus and his life has been transformed. He says: "I don't know where I would be if it wasn't for the people at St Matthew's giving me a helping hand.

"Without Jesus keeping me and protecting me I would be lost. He is my Saviour and Lord and I know that when I die I will go to be with Him because He died on the cross for my sins."

Chris has experienced the love of Jesus through practical love and care from many church members. He has learned about the gospel as we have studied the word together each week and he has experienced God's great power and comfort through prayer.

Eventually Chris obtained some casual work and was able to rent a flat with help

from church members. Life was looking up, when suddenly he had a massive heart attack and was airlifted to Perth for open heart surgery.

Yet, during this time he was not alone. Chris talked a lot to God in hospital, thanking God for keeping him alive.

He came home to a fridge and pantry full of food from Christian friends. We visited him daily, took him shopping and to medical appointments.

Chris is a wonderful encouragement for our congregation. He is always thankful. He is generous with his time and is always up to helping anyone who needs it.

Each week Chris joins us for dinner followed by Bible study in our home. He has become part of our family, both spiritually and physically. I feel privileged that he is part of St Matthew's and I praise God that he is our brother in Christ.

Without Jesus keeping me and protecting me I would be lost. He is my Saviour and Lord and I know that when I die I will go to be with him because he died on the cross for my sins

Philip Knight

BCA Field Staff/Minister at St Matthew's Anglican Church Port Hedland. This article was originally published in North West Network, the publication of the Diocese of North West Australia.

Exciting new ministry project to take us into the next 100 years



In this our Centenary Year, a number of exciting new ministries and projects are being launched to lead Bush Church Aid into its next 100 years. The first of these is the Digital Church Pilot Project. Together with the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania, Bush Church Aid is developing a new model of rural based local church for Tasmania's rural and remote Anglican churches.

By using current technologies this project will provide:

- Good quality weekly preaching by theologically well-trained preachers
- External leadership to supplement and train local Christian leadership
- Small groups for spiritual transformation, development and multiplication of leaders, and a shared mission to reach the community with the gospel.

Wayne Chan from Ridley College is working to identify and develop a framework to share teaching and leadership resources from Parishes around Tasmania. A small team of people will also be trained and they will work to capture and edit teaching material.

The Digital Church Pilot Project will begin in the Parish of Break O'Day in North East Tasmania in the first half of 2019. The

parish will have access to recorded material to use in their congregations as required. One or more mission-focused small groups will be formed with external support and mentoring provided by a staff member from St Barnabas' North Launceston, under the supervision of former BCA Field Staff Andy Goodacre.

A suitably experienced ordained minister will also be appointed by the Diocese in the first half of 2019 to provide support and mentoring for locally ordained leadership in the Parish.

In the next edition of the *Prayer Notes*, you will find a new page to pray for the Digital Church Pilot Project. With your prayers and support we pray that after the pilot stage, the project can be extended to another rural Parish in the Diocese of Tasmania.

BCA's National Director Mark Short said the Project builds on BCA's history of using the technology of the day to reach people for Christ. "In our first century BCA pioneered the use of aircraft for pastoral ministry and supported young people in remote locations through the Mail Bag Sunday School. Now we have the opportunity to use digital methods to equip Christians in the bush."

BCA's National Director Mark Short said the Project builds on BCA's history of using the technology of the day to reach people for Christ

Four locations, seventeen years and much to be thankful for



Rod Oldfield was a self-confessed city boy before he first signed up with BCA. He had trained and worked as a carpenter (some bookshelves he built are used in the archives at BCA National Office) and was also a chaplain in a Sydney detention centre. He never imagined where God was leading him. Since 2002 Rod and Christene have served with BCA in Coober Pedy, on Norfolk Island, King Island and in Cloncurry.

“As a detention centre chaplain at the time of the Kosovo trouble I decided I had to speak out,” says Rod. “People were sewing up their lips and there were hunger strikes. There was also trouble in Iraq and I had prayed with and counselled people who were being sent back to their homeland, often to their deaths. After I spoke out I was then ‘persona non grata’ at detention centres across the country.”

This city boy was on the lookout for a new job. In the same week three separate people came up to Rod and said ‘You’d be good at BCA’. The first two times he didn’t take much notice because he thought they didn’t know what they were talking about. The third person though was his Mum, then he had to listen. Rod rang the then BCA National Director Brian Roberts and went to see him.

“When I first spoke to Brian there were vacancies in Tasmania and Coober Pedy,” recalls Rod. “I thought – I know my wife – she won’t want to go anywhere like dusty old Coober Pedy. I went home and told Chris the options and her eyes lit up when I said Coober Pedy. Chris is a science teacher and had been teaching about the landforms around Coober Pedy all her teaching life. Not only were there people who knew me better than me, I didn’t know my wife very well either!”

In the same week three separate people came up to Rod and said ‘You’d be good at BCA’. The first two times he didn’t take much notice because he thought they didn’t know what they were talking about. The third person though was his Mum, then he had to listen



Back in the early 'noughties' BCA did patrol ministry in the top quarter of South Australia. Rod and Christene would travel to some huge stations including Anna Creek, the biggest station in the world. "It's bigger than Belgium!" says Rod. "BCA would pay us to drive around this sort of country, camping by waterholes, meeting people and seeing stuff most people wouldn't see in their lives!"

"Soon after we arrived, a station close to the NT border changed hands and the new owners brought their mother with them and she was a Christian. Because of the roads and conditions it took us about six months to get up there. We arrived and she told us that we were an answer to prayer. She had been praying for fellowship with other Christians. After that visit we would give her notice when we were coming and she would get all the station hands together and we'd have a service."

The Oldfields fondly remember their time in Coober Pedy and while they found it a wrench to leave, God was calling them on...

"Coober Pedy was changing because the Prominent Hill Mine came online and there was an influx of big scale mining. So the ministry changed from patrol work to mine work. Peter Palmer came along and was the ideal person to fill that need."

Rod and Christene became the first Field Staff to go to Norfolk Island with BCA. "It was advertised in *The Real Australian* as the sea change of all sea changes," says Christene. And that it was.

"We had thousands of kilometres to cover around Coober Pedy and Norfolk Island was five kilometres by eight," says Rod. "It was hot, dusty and dry in Coober Pedy and Norfolk was mild and tropical with water all around you."

Rod recalls two main highlights of their time on Norfolk – one was being a DJ on the local radio station. He had a 30-minute segment each Friday where he played modern music and gave a short message at the end. But the thing Rod was most proud of was something he achieved that dated back to convict days.

"There had been a mutiny of Irish Catholic convicts and a dozen or more had been hung," explains Rod. "To punish them for 'all time' they had been buried outside the cemetery to 'deny them their place in eternity'. The cemetery had become too small and the Island wanted to consecrate more land. I mentioned the historical anomaly to the Bishop and he consecrated a new part for the cemetery but also the land where these convicts were buried – to right the wrongs."

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Four locations, seventeen years and much to be thankful for ...continued



From Norfolk the Oldfields moved to another Island – this time in Tasmania. “King Island was a good place to minister to people and to receive ministry from them. We still have friends on King and one lady who was getting married recently asked us back to perform the wedding ceremony.”

“When our time to move came up again we thought every place we’ve gone is a bit south of the next. So we were worried about what our next possible spot could be!” says Rod. But north it was to be...

When the Oldfields arrived in Cloncurry they had a congregation of four ladies with the youngest in her early fifties. Jill Smith, who moved to Cloncurry soon after the Oldfields, was an answer to prayer. “Jill came to church with her young daughter and she started up our *mainly music* program,” says Christene. “*Mainly music* started off small but at the end of last year there could be up to 60 people in the hall.”

The church has grown too and even though people come and go, everyone who has joined the congregation has been in the younger generation.

Now as Rod and Christene move into their next phase of life they ask for your prayers. They are currently in the process of moving to the mid north coast of NSW where they will be much closer to their daughter, son and five grandchildren.

“It’s a big change,” says Rod. “In many ways we are losing our family, job and home to go somewhere else. At the last clergy conference they spoke about retired clergy and the problem we can be. Retired clergy can be critical and say ‘we wouldn’t do it that way’. I would like people to pray that I would be the type of retired clergy that can be of help.”

Janine van den Tillaart

BCA fosters a love for the bush



It was through BCA that David and Joanne Piper developed a love for the bush. They moved from Sydney in 2010 and spent nine years at Lightning Ridge. The north-east New South Wales town of Gunnedah is now their home. David recalls how one of the first people they met in the Ridge returned to faith...

When we first came to Lightning Ridge we did a tour of the town and visited the tourist sites including an open-air stall. It was there we met the stall owner Brian. We stopped for a chat and mentioned that we'd come to work at the Anglican Church. He was very keen to talk and immediately told us how angry he was at God because his wife had died of cancer a few years before. I just listened and told him how sorry I was. Brian would come to our men's dinners but never to church.

In 2011 a mission team from Glenhaven Anglican came to the Ridge and we hosted a dinner. The minister in charge Mike Keith invited Brian along. The team from Glenhaven were very welcoming and even went out and visited Brian at his home.

We've always felt so supported by BCA. We are thankful for the prayer and personal support of BCA staff, supporters and our link churches

It was after this mission trip that Brian returned to church and he has never looked back. We saw him every Sunday except when he was sick. One day he hadn't come to church and when he didn't answer his phone I went to his place and jumped the gate to see if he was ok. He was very impressed with that small gesture.

Brian is a very sociable person and when our regular welcomer was sick I asked Brian if he could take on the role. He jumped at the opportunity and is now a regular welcomer. It is really one of his gifts.

In our nine years in Lightning Ridge many things have changed for us. We arrived with no kids and leave with three. We've always felt so supported by BCA. We are thankful for the prayer and personal support of BCA staff, supporters and our link churches from West Pymble, Glenhaven, Asquith, Cambridge Park, Freshwater, Wee Waa, Armidale, Claymore and Toowoomba. While we are no longer with BCA we hope to continue serving in the bush.

David Piper

A family of 33 boys!



The Calder family in 1991

Imagine having a family of 33 boys! That was the reality for Broken Hill Hostel parents Laurie and Pauline Calder from 1955–1959. Their son Mark, currently minister at Noosa Anglican Church on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, remembers life as a BCA Field Staff child.

"Dad partnered with BCA in the work of the gospel from 1955 to 1977, first as a hostel parent, then in the National Office as director of the Mail Bag Sunday School and finally as the New South Wales Assistant Secretary.

"I was born in Broken Hill just six months before their return to Sydney. Stories from Broken Hill days were often shared around family meal times. Although there were many challenges, I believe it was also a happy time for Mum and Dad where they could see the difference they were making in the lives of the boys they cared for. In their early years there, they had no help, but in later years, there was domestic help to assist with

washing and cleaning. One of the biggest daily challenges was preparing lunches for the boys to take to school, dad cutting the bread with a rotary slicer."

In 2000 Laurie and Pauline wrote some memoirs for the BCA archives and fondly remembered their time in Broken Hill: *We would have them (the boys) in our care 24 hours a day, seven days a week until the end of term...A typical work day would*

work along these lines: 5.30am rise, check all rooms, stoke the enormous fuel stove, cut bread for school lunches and toast (approx. 280 slices), make sandwiches – there was no sliced bread in those days. Begin getting the boys up at 6.30am. Go back and check as some could slip back in. 7am supervise jobs – each boy would have a light task each day. 7.45am breakfast. 8.45am pick up lunch and ready for school inspection. 9.25am put the kettle on and make a good strong cuppa! The day of course didn't stop after they boys went to school as there was washing, housework,

Some of those who gave Mum and Dad a good deal of trouble would later thank them profoundly for the influence they had on their lives



Laurie in the National Office



Laurie and Pauline

sewing, cooking, office work, accounts, banking, ordering, gardening, maintenance and much more. And then there was the after school routine. A big role for a couple with a young family!

"It was always a delight for Mum and Dad when one of the boys was in touch by mail," says Mark. "Some of those who gave Mum and Dad a good deal of trouble would later thank them profoundly for the influence they had on their lives."

From 1971–1977 Laurie served as assistant NSW secretary and Mark remembers that he often preached around Sydney on a Sunday, undertaking a BCA deputation. "Dad became very creative in putting audio visuals together to use on deputation. He would write a script and record it at 2CH, adding music and effects. Then he would gather slides from the field to use alongside the audio. This was long before carousel projectors and automated slide changing equipment! I well remember assisting Dad for a BCA rally in the chapter house when he designed a slide show with two projectors – Dad operating one projector and me the other! We practised many times at home! If Dad

was out preaching somewhere on a Sunday morning, the rest of us always attended our local church as a family without Dad. But if Dad went off somewhere in the evening to speak, I would beg to go with him and help with the AV set up and pack up. They were great times!"

Mark also recalls coming to the city after school and hanging out in the National Office. "I loved the little phone switching exchange in the back office. Ringing all the phones around the office (after everyone else had gone home) was loads of fun!"

"I'm thankful to God for the exposure through Dad to BCA's unique and exciting ministry," says Mark. "100 years is a great milestone! All glory to God for the vision of those who began the work – and the vision of those who are carrying it on today!"

*Mark Calder with
Janine van den Tillaart*

Faith, hope and love in Regional Victoria

Some five years ago Victorian Regional Officer Adrian Lane published the first edition of his Victorian Regional Prayer Notes. These notes, entitled: *Faith, Hope and Love: Pray for Regional Victoria*, are designed to encourage prayer for each of Victoria's 48 regional municipalities...

Some years before I even worked for BCA I would use my day off to go for a drive in Regional Victoria. God led me to begin praying for each of the regional municipalities. I began by going to each of the Council offices and praying for each Council and particularly for its Councillors, literally at its door!

At the first BCA Annual Dinner I was responsible for in 2013, I wrote notes for a few councils, notably those where we had BCA Field Staff. The project has evolved since then, and in 2014 I had completed notes for all Councils. I have revised them

regularly, usually twice each year, once for our Victorian Annual Meeting in May and then also for the Melbourne Synod in October. I use visits, conversations, Council Annual Reports, media and feedback from BCA supporters for information.

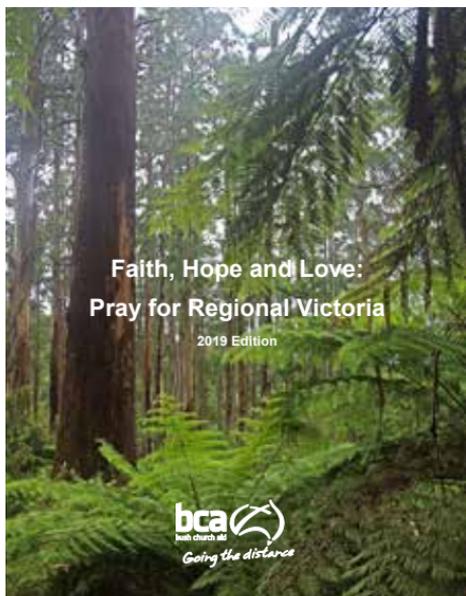
What prompted me to write these prayer notes is the fact that I hope! For many years, I have found the Operation World Prayer Notes extremely helpful, and these are modelled on those. When Victoria merged its shires between 1993 and 1995, there was much loss of identity. Bringing about a new and positive identity for each of the shires was part of the goal. Both Stephen May, our Victorian Regional Chairman, and I have been very influenced by Jeremiah 29:7 – *Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*

The format is simple. Following some brief information on each municipality, there are prayer points around a wide range of issues and themes and there is a short summative prayer or collect at the end.

Themes of prayer include evangelism, mission and churches, but also education, prisons, aging, health, schools, workplaces, refugees and tourism.

These Prayer Notes are sent out with receipts, promoted at deputations, distributed at Synods, sent to Regional Bishops, available on the Bush Church Aid website and promoted wherever I can get an opportunity!

There have been so many answers to prayer. As I was doing the last edition I realised that so many of the prayer requests had turned into answers. Even some of the poorer shires have seen population decline



abating, and positive economic activity. Furthermore, the number of times country Victoria is now in the news, with its issues highlighted, has increased. The big prayer point for me at the moment is that the positive economic and community news will be accompanied by positive spiritual news.

I received a letter recently from Eleanor of Inverloch who attends an ACC church and an Anglican Bible Study. She said "I've just come home from a prayer time with our own church where we prayed for our whole region and now I've just prayed through your really helpful prayer sheet. I'm going to photocopy it and pass it on to a friend who I know will like to pray it too... May God continue to bless your work and BCA's work across Australia."

Just last week I spoke to a parishioner who told me that his local parish of Bacchus Marsh uses the Moorabool collect in their parish prayer notes. Wonderfully, BCA has supporters in each regional municipality. My hope and prayer is that there would be pray-ers in each municipality, and I have absolutely no doubt that we will see much fruit from their prayers both in this world and the next.

Faith, Hope and Love: Pray for Regional Victoria can be downloaded in a PDF format on the BCA website: **bushchurcaid.com.au/vic**. If you would like a printed copy please contact the Victorian Regional Office on 03 9457 7556 or email victoria@bushchurcaid.com.au

Adrian Lane



My hope and prayer is that there would be pray-ers in each municipality, and I have absolutely no doubt that we will see much fruit from their prayers both in this world and the next

Councillor's Column

The parish I grew up in and the five parishes where I was a rector are all long-term BCA supporters so it was a no-brainer to accept the invitation to join the NSW/ACT Regional Committee. One pleasant surprise back then was to see BCA eagerly supporting some adventurous, new style ministries – a policy begun under former National Director Brian Roberts and continued by Mark Short. Some of these experiments, needless to say, have thrived more than others but, if it hadn't been for BCA, these regional and rural ventures would probably not have been tried.

In Brian Roberts' final year a number of ministries were launched including church in the park in Burnie, a ministry among horse-lovers, a regional university chaplaincy that may well lead to a stream of rural church leaders, and a full-time fly-in-fly-out chaplaincy to workers of four scattered South Australian mines.

Under Mark, BCA has teamed with Generate to wonderfully expand high school ministry in western NSW and has taken very deliberate steps to considerably expand our support of First Nations ministry to First Nations people. BCA has also set up a lay evangelist to see if this can be an answer for rural towns. Now we are getting behind a new, thorough investigation into the possibilities and pitfalls of electronic support for rural ministry, especially in small, distant congregations 'where men of religion are scanty'.



Of course most BCA ministry is and will be traditional – a minister in a rural setting that is unable to raise sufficient

Of course most BCA ministry is and will be traditional – a minister in a rural setting that is unable to raise sufficient support on its own. However, enthusiastically exploring other ways to boost gospel proclamation in the bush is exciting and generating hope

support on its own. However, enthusiastically exploring other ways to boost gospel proclamation in the bush is exciting and generating hope. We intend to be at – and even help create – the cutting edge of rural mission. BCA is a great mission to get behind with prayer, money and time on its significant committees.

Right now we ask for your prayers as we select Mark's replacement when he becomes the Bishop of the Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn. As well as an inspiring support-raiser, he must be an effective long distance pastor and quality administrator, we are also praying for a very well-

grounded but imaginative, adventurous experiment promoter.

David Crain

Vice-President and Interim National Director (From April 2019)

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia will hold its Annual General Meeting for the purpose of adopting the audited accounts of the Society for the financial year ended 31 December 2018 and to elect councillors.

Wednesday 15 May 2019 from 9.30am at Anderledy Lodge, 80 William Street, North Sydney

Queensland and Northern New South Wales

including Bush & Bible Day

Saturday 2 March 2019 from 9.30am North Pine Anglican Church, 2 Wylie Street, Petrie

Bishop Greg Anderson will give the key address on 'Celebrating God', with two talks from the Psalms. Also hear from Simon & Alison Reeve, Field Staff in Woolgoolga \$20 includes lunch.

To register: email qld@bushchurcaid.com.au or call 07 3349 9081

Western Australia

**Saturday 9 March 2019
12 noon AGM, 12:45 pm Luncheon
St Alban's Anglican Church, Highgate**

Guest speaker The Revd Dr Mark Short, BCA National Director and Bishop Elect Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn \$30 (\$20 concession)

To register: email the WA Regional Office rob.healy@bushchurcaid.com.au or call 1300 554 025

**South Australia/Northern Territory
Saturday 16 March 2019 from 12 noon
Christ Church, 62-67 Jeffcott Street,
North Adelaide**

Hear from Topher Hallyburton, Field Staff Darwin/Palmerston
Lunch included
(cost to be advised on booking)

To register: email sa@bushchurcaid.com.au or call on 08 8221 5444

New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory

**Thursday 4 April 2019 from 11.30am
St Philip's Anglican Church,
York Street, Sydney**

Hear from Kristan Slack, Field Staff in Katherine, Northern Territory
Lunch provided – donation to cover cost

To register: email Lucy in the NSW/ACT Regional Office lucy@bushchurcaid.com.au or call 02 9262 5017.

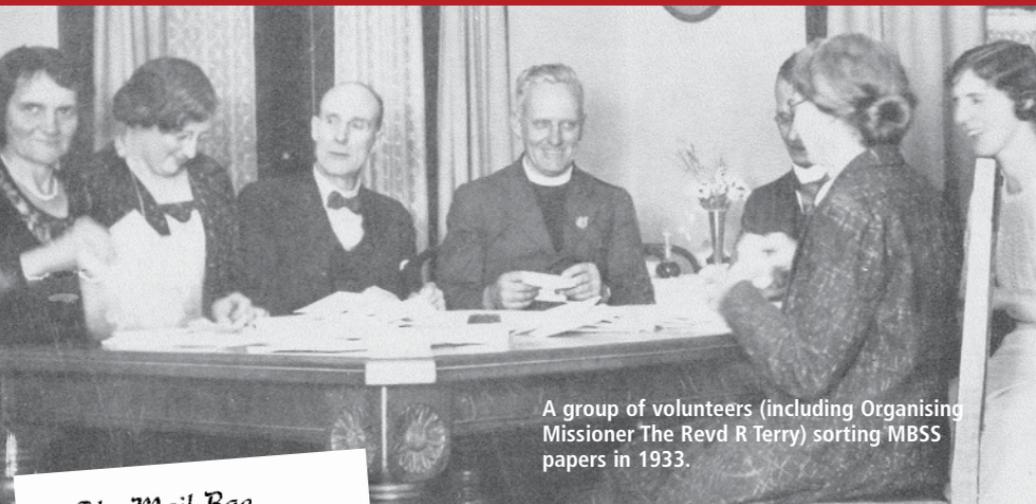
Victoria

**Saturday 4 May 2019 5:30 pm for 6pm
Glen Waverley Anglican Church,
800 Waverley Rd, Glen Waverley**

Hear from Brad Henley, Field Staff on Kangaroo Island, South Australia
\$45 for a spit roast meal

To register: email victoria@bushchurcaid.com.au or call 03 9457 7556

From the Archives: Mail Bag Sunday School



A group of volunteers (including Organising Missioner The Revd R Terry) sorting MBSS papers in 1933.

The Mail Bag Sunday School



S. Kirk, Vancouver, B.C., Mod. Vis.

**BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY
of the
CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

**THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY
CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

Mail-Bag Sunday School



Confirmation Lessons

Address
**Diocesan Church House, George Street,
SYDNEY**

Name

Christians with a vision for spreading the good news of Christ to this vast land have always been the backbone of BCA. Whether paid or unpaid, these godly men and women have cared for, guided, instructed and inspired men, women and children across Australia.

It was instruction for children that was found lacking in the early years of Bush Church Aid's ministry.

SJ Kirkby visited Canada where a correspondence Sunday School had been in operation for many years and he was so impressed with the concept he wrote to supporters with his idea of commencing such a scheme in Australia.

The 17 August 1922 edition of *The Real Australian* calls for practical support for the scheme: teachers to prepare lessons, helpers to dispatch the lessons and helpers to correct the lessons once they were returned.

So, just three years after BCA was founded, children in remote areas became the focus of the new program – Mail Bag Sunday School (MBSS).

Volunteers came from all walks of life to help run the program, and a correspondence school, part of the NSW State Education system, gave its assistance. By 1933 there were primary and upper grade lessons. From Kindergarten to Confirmation, children had the opportunity to be led through lessons covering every aspect of the Christian way of life.

This program, solely run by volunteers had 4500 students by 1939. Volunteer Rose Campbell was asked to become the full-time director of the Mail Bag Sunday School by 1946. It was then the program was rewritten and there were between 500 and 600 lessons across eleven different grades.

By the 1950s MBSS was used not only across Australia but also in some Pacific Islands. Rose Campbell (who stayed in the position for 22 years) was devoted to her work. She wrote and updated lessons, contacted parents, consulted with teachers, visited outlying areas and kept in touch with schools, parents and clergy.

There is a great deal of correspondence in the archives of the BCA National Office from students who received lessons from Mail Bag Sunday School. One such correspondent was Camellia Flanagan who lived near Alex Campbell, brother of MBSS director Rose. Even though they lived in what is today suburban Sydney, they did not have a church in their area. Camellia and her brother would do their lessons on the lounge room floor together with Alex Campbell's daughters.

"I remember we had many activities, colouring in, and questions. I looked forward to the mail packages arriving with our marks and star or verse cards as rewards. There were even recipes sent out to children," recalls Camellia. In 2009, some sixty years after she had been part of MBSS Camellia was still using a recipe she received for a chocolate Christmas pudding!

Val Mather who lived on the outskirts of Goulburn was another Mail Bag Sunday School student. Her overriding memory was of the volunteer who marked her lessons – Eva Raphley. "I always received a lovely birthday card from Eva. I have very fond

memories of this lovely lady who wrote encouragement."

There has been a time and season for a variety of BCA ministries over the past 100 years. When BCA's work planting, running and growing ministries runs its course it has moved on to its next mission area. Like the flying medical service and our hostels, the life of the Mail Bag Sunday School program ran its course by 1972 and was incorporated into the Anglican Board of Education.

The impact of 50 years of the Mail Bag Sunday School cannot be underestimated. Many former pupils testified to the fact that lessons learned about the love of Christ as well as the care of those who volunteered as teachers and markers had a lasting impact on their lives.

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Janine van den Tillaart



CONGRATULATIONS

Daniel & Rebecca Faricy welcomed Emily Grace into their family at 8pm on Saturday 5 January 2019. Rachael and Jessica are delighted with their new little sister.



QLD/Nth NSW Office Manager **Craig Buchanan** married **Alexandra Grace** on Saturday 4 August 2018 at St John's Church in Wishart.



FAREWELL

Peter Volkofsky continues to teach Scripture in and around Dubbo but has finished his role working with BCA and Generate in Distance Scripture Education.



Nathaniel Naden has completed his theological study at Moore College and together with his wife Pip have moved to Tamworth. Nathaniel is working alongside Rod Chiswell and George Ferguson at St Peter's Anglican Church.



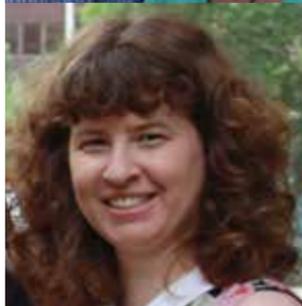
Ali Williams (formerly Champness) finished her time serving with BCA in Goulburn at the end of 2018. Ali has moved to Newcastle and is looking for new opportunities to serve God in New South Wales.



After nine years serving in Lightning Ridge (six as BCA Field Staff) **David, Joanne, Daniel, Luke and Matthew Piper** have moved to Gunnedah in north west New South Wales. David has taken on the role of Associate Minister at Gunnedah Anglican Church.



After 17 years of continuous service with BCA in Coober Pedy, Norfolk Island, King Island and Cloncurry, **Rod and Christene Oldfield** have retired to the mid-north coast of New South Wales.



Social Media Officer **Melinda Law** has left BCA National Office Team after five years to take up a role at Australia for UNHCR.



WELCOME

Larissa Simpkins has joined the National Office team in a support services role. Larissa worships at St Barnabas' Broadway and has joined the team after completing studies in musical theatre.



Helen Caterer with Mark Short in 2015

VALE

Helen Ruth Caterer MBE OAM (14 March 1914 – 4 November 2018) journalist and lifelong supporter of BCA wrote the book *Australians Outback – 60 Years of Bush Church Aid*. One of Helen's fondest memories was an exciting flight in a BCA plane out of Ceduna. She spent a month going through the archives in the BCA National Office researching and writing the book which has so many wonderful stories of men and women reaching Australia for Christ. Helen is remembered as a remarkable and godly lady by her many friends.



2019 CFT BCA Centenary Tours

Outback NSW BCA Centenary Celebration Tour

**10 Day Holiday
Departs 23 May 2019**

To celebrate BCA's Centenary Year Christian Fellowship Tours offer a tour of Outback NSW – you will visit BCA Centres and meet up with the Field Staff you support through prayer.

John Cronshaw created the first BCA Outback Tour in 1977 and went on to serve on the BCA Executive and Council for over 30 years. He will lead this special tour.

**Sydney * Blue Mountains * Bathurst
Dubbo * Gulargambone
Lightning Ridge * Bourke * Cobar
Willcannia * Broken Hill
Western Plains * Nyngan * Parkes
Young * Yass * Canberra**

BCA Sydney Stay

**Three-day Tour
Departs 25 May 2019**

Join CFT for a short stay in Sydney to commemorate BCA's Centenary in the city where it all began. Sightsee in the Harbour City and enjoy memorable dinners at Sydney Tower and on a Vivid Lights Dinner Cruise.

During the tour you will join others at St Andrew's Cathedral for a special service on the day Bush Church Aid was founded 100 years ago. The day's address will be given by The Revd Neville Naden, BCA's Indigenous Ministry Officer.

This is a birthday party you won't want to miss!

**For further information on both tours
contact Christian Fellowship Tours on 1300 635 358.**

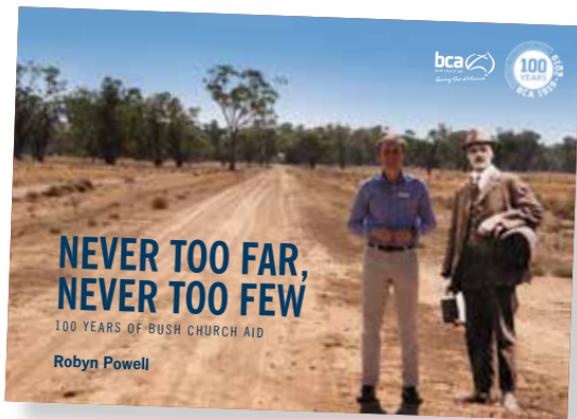


BCA Centenary Catalogue

Never Too Far, Never Too Few: 100 Years of Bush Church Aid

This hard cover coffee table book, written by Christian Writer Robyn Powell looks back at the various ministries of BCA over the past 100 years.

BCA 138 \$35 for pre orders received by the end of April 2019. \$40 thereafter. Postage and handling \$8.50



Bygone Days Cards

BCA 011

Six assorted cards from 'bygone' days \$6

* Only four cards pictured here



BCA 018

Banjo Billy \$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 for both direct deposit and BPAY (or, for anonymous donations, the reference ANON followed by the first letter of your State).



My details

Rev'd / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms (initials) _____

Last name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

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

