

The Simmons' News

with Eion & Claire Simmons • March 2026



Dear Friends, there have been some developments over the last few months which we're excited to share and ask for your prayers...

We had wonderful Christmas Eve and Day services, with a number of visitors joining us. We rounded off our Christmas celebrations with lunch at our house with some of our church family – what a blessing!

Thank God for the wonderful time celebrating Jesus' birth over Christmas.

At the end of last year Bush Church Aid agreed to come on board and partner with us in the work here in Hedland. This is a wonderful blessing for many reasons...

1. the prayers of Christians all over Australia for our work;
2. significant financial support for the parish;
3. the personal support for our family.

At the end of January, we went for a few days' orientation in Adelaide – it was hugely encouraging as we spent time with National Director Greg Harris, met some of his team, and other new BCA Field Staff.

Praise God for Bush Church Aid's partnership in the ministry here in Port Hedland.

After returning from Adelaide we surveyed our church family to see how they would like to

serve, and what ministries they would like to see happen.

The big news coming out of this is we are starting a Youth Group! We now have nine high schoolers in our church family, and some adults who have put their hands up to help lead it. Eion will lead this team, so please do pray as this is additional work for him. We plan to have our first Youth Group meeting on 29 March!

Thank God for our church family's desire to love the youth of our church and town by starting a Youth Group. Pray that Eion and the leaders will work well together, and that the youth will grow in their relationship with God, one another, and that they will invite their unbelieving friends.

The other exciting development is that we are trialling a change to Growth Groups to have a ladies' group and a mens' group. Eion is leading the men's group, while the leadership of the ladies group is being shared between Claire and two other ladies. Hopefully this change will help those men and ladies who haven't been coming along to get involved, while providing opportunities for Claire and the other two ladies leading to grow in their ability to teach God's Word.

Banner Image: Port Hedland

Circle Image: The Simmons

Middle Image: Ngaire happy in Sydney

Bottom Image: Josiah receiving his Premier's ANZAC Tour Award



The Simmons Crew all together

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Pray that more men & women will join the midweek Growth Groups to spur one another on to love & good deeds.

We recently held an evangelistic movie night, watching *Top Gun: Maverick*. One of our men gave a talk reflecting on forgiveness. **Pray that through the evangelistic movie night unbelievers will be brought by God from spiritual death to life.**

Since we re-opened the church in South Hedland for services, we have been planning to renovate the kitchen and bathrooms. We're going to DIY it with Eion's Dad kindly agreeing to come and help (always good to have a professional cabinet maker on the job!). We'll look at the bathrooms after the kitchen is complete... one step at a time!

Thank God for Eion's Dad's willingness to come and help renovate the kitchen in the South Hedland church. Pray this will go smoothly, and the new kitchen will be a wonderful resource for gospel work.

Finally on the 'church' front, Eion is heavily involved in the Port Hedland Ministry to Seafarers Centre, as the secretary of the management committee. With people leaving town or stepping down, Eion is now the only local member. As a result Eion has put his hand up to be both secretary and deputy chairperson. It is

looking like a big year for the centre, with appointments of both a Senior Chaplain & CEO, and also a merger with the MTSNWA Company which looks after MTS Centres in Dampier & Geraldton. We've been working towards this merger for two years. The new Port Hedland Seafarers' Centre building is also beginning construction. This has been more than 10 years in the making!

Pray for the Mission to Seafarers' Centre; particularly for the new Senior Chaplain, the new CEO, the merger, and the new building.

On the home front

The big news and change for us all is Ngaire's movements. After successfully completing Year 12 she decided to defer uni to move to Sydney to undertake the CRU Summit Program. We flew over to Sydney and spent a week settling her into Dural (a semi-rural area on the northern outskirts). It went well, but was emotional for us all (and still is). We miss her, but are delighted how she is thriving in the Summit Program, enjoying living in a share-house with other Christian girls her age, and settled into the Dural Anglican family where she's involved in children's ministry.

Praise God that Ngaire is thriving in Sydney. Pray that she will continue to grow in her knowledge, love & joy in God.

Josiah has started Year 11 well. It is a joy to see him co-leading the weekly CRU lunchtime Bible Study group at school with a Year 12 girl from our church. During the April School Holidays he is a student ambassador on the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour to Darwin and Singapore. We hope it will be a wonderful opportunity for him to grow in thankfulness to our great God for the privilege we have to live in Australia.

Hayley has hit the ground running in Year 9; she is enjoying school, friendships and the extension art program. She is also looking forward to netball. Hayley (& Caleb) are heading down to Perth during the upcoming school holidays to attend a CRU West camp.

Caleb has started high school well, he's enjoying the variety of subjects and teachers, and hanging out with his friends. He broke one of his toes a few weeks back – went to kick a soccer ball at school, missed the ball and kicked a bench! He is looking forward to the CRU West camp, and one of his school friends is going too.

Aurora is loving being in Year five. She is still recovering from a broken kneecap, and has muscle weakness that she does daily exercises to strengthen – she's sadly not going to be able to play netball this year. She's looking forward to some special 'daddy

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& daughter' time in Hedland when Claire and the rest of the kids are away during the upcoming school holidays.

Thank God for the good start to the school year for Josiah, Hayley, Caleb & Aurora. Pray that their camps (Premier's ANZAC Tour; CRU West camps & 'stay at home camp with Dad') will all go well, and especially that they will all continue to grow more Christlike.

Claire continues her work as an education assistant in the Kindergarten at Port Hedland Primary. She loves working with her teacher but finds the students challenging. She is also very busy at home and leading the Music and Sunday School teams at church. Claire's looking forward to visiting Ngaire for a week during the April holidays, and following that is having treatment in Perth on her varicose veins which constantly ache unless she wears compression stockings, also uncomfortable in the 40+ degree summer days.

Thank God for Claire's work. Pray that God will give her strength and joy as she serves Him at home, church, & school.

After spending much of 2025

with a back injury, Eion is now back on his bike and has also taken up running. Regular exercise is one way he deals with stress, so being able to get back into this is a wonderful blessing, especially with the extra workload.

Gerry, Dale, Anthony, Scott, Lauren, Brooke, Cat, Emily & Juliette and our kids' friends; that we'll be bold and share the Gospel with them, and for God's Spirit to bring them to new life in Christ.



Claire with the four kids who remain in Hedland

Pray that Eion will keep getting regular exercise, and that God will strengthen him to handle the extra work and do it with joy. Pray that one of Eion's unbelieving friends will read a gospel with him this year.

Please also pray for our friends

Thank you for your prayers for our family, church and town. We are grateful to God for you, that He always hears us, and for His answers to our prayers.

We love to pray for you, please let us know if there is anything you'd like prayer for.

Love in Christ,

Eion, Claire, Ngaire, Josiah, Hayley, Caleb & Aurora

Pray for

**our work in
Port Hedland**

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